

our friend, Rev. W. S. H. Fielden, to attend the opening exercises of Hackney College, and to listen to an address to the students by C. H. Spurgeon. He spoke of some of his deacons; of one especially, who was ever after souls. A stranger and his wife had been attending, singly, one or two Sabbaths, and were comparing notes. Said the husband, "At the door, a gentleman said to me—'Glad to see you here, sir! Come again. Hope you have had a blessing!'" "What kind of man was he?" asked the wife. The description was given, and she replied, "That was the man that welcomed me!" This they related to Mr. Spurgeon, when they applied for fellowship. "That deacon found no time to criticise the sermon." It is very common here to find a deacon taking part in the service; announcing the hymn, reading a lesson, and praying. A happy combination of work.

I believe that this activity is enabling men to cast themselves more heartily on Christ simply, and to leave behind largely their speculations which we have inherited from the schoolmen; much to our division and loss. "I have no theory," I heard Mr. Spurgeon say, "about original sin, conversion, or redemption. I know human nature is depraved; I know there is conversion and redemption in Jesus' blood."

Trade Unions, lapsed masses, poverty, all the perplexing facts of life, are here; but I believe that England is on the way of seeing them solved. I think while here, I can feel an undercurrent, strong and determined, calm and thoughtful, saying, "These problems must be solved. God helping us, we are on the way of solution!"

More anon. Meanwhile fraternally,

JOHN BURTON.

### CONGREGATIONALISM IN TORONTO.

DEAR BROTHER,—Every number of your excellent paper is full of interesting matter; and much that calls for our admiration and for thanksgiving, as we view the past. I, for one, think we ought to look forward with brighter hopes, and go forward with renewed courage.

My dear brother Black appears to be alarmed at the onward march of Congregationalism in this great city of Toronto. In reading his letter dated

Montreal, October 3rd, he reminded me of the beloved John, who leaned on Jesus' bosom: oh how he loved his Lord and Saviour; but perhaps no more than my brother Black. If that loving John, who had just returned from "one of the most interesting, and impressive prayer-meetings ever held, could so soon after say, "Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and we forbade him, because he followeth not with us, (Luke 9: 49)." James now joins in with John, and they said, "Lord wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, even as Elias did? (v. 54)." "But he turned and rebuked them, and said, ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of: for the Son of Man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them, and they went to another village," (call it Toronto, if you please). If John should get so excited as to forget himself, and to speak so harshly of those whom the dear Lord loved, why, we must pardon our brother Black, if he should be overcome at some unguarded moment.

It does sound a little strange to hear my brother say it is his duty to protest against appeals being made, either to the Colonial Missionary Society, or to our churches. Until now, I had always thought that any one may ask for help for any object, if they felt so inclined. "Yes," says my brother, "but it is to kill our own College!" What is it that you so much fear, brother? "Why those self-constituted officers of a rival college in Toronto?" Now, how does he know that these officers are self-constituted? He admits, by the questions he asks, that he is in the dark, in regard to the whole matter. He asks, "Who called this meeting? How was it called? To whom were the calls sent? Who attended the meeting? Did it ever have the sanction of the Toronto churches!" Surely somebody has failed to keep brother Black posted in regard to the doings of brethren in the city of Toronto. Very strange things are heard of in these times of ours! They say that "history repeats itself," well, it looks like it. I have read somewhere, of a high-priest saying, "Did not we strictly command you, that ye should not teach in this name? and behold ye have filled Jerusalem (or Toronto), with your doctrine." Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, "We ought to obey God