

By this means we as a denomination would be rid of a burden, from the carrying of which there is no denominational profit and no glory to God, and be free to turn our attention and energies to the unoccupied and promising fields of Ontario—"Muskoka, Parry Sound, Manitoulin and St. Joseph," and to "the most desirable openings of Manitoba," taking care, in our new advance, not to make the same blunders which almost everywhere mark the missionary movements of us Canadian Congregationalists in the past. X.

## News of the Churches.

WINNIPEG.—Success is attending the efforts to raise a building fund, and the church would thankfully acknowledge the receipt of forty-eight dollars and a half toward this object from the Coldsprings church, through its pastor, Rev. H. Pedley. It is hoped that this good example will be followed by other churches.

FOREST.—The Congregational church of Forest, Ebenezer, and Lake Shore having given a unanimous call to the Rev. C. H. Frazer, of Wallaceburgh, formerly of the State of New York, he has now commenced his labours in our midst, in place of the Rev. Robert Hay. Mr. Frazer appears to be a young man of superior abilities as a speaker, of quiet power, and unostentatious piety; and has kindly volunteered to labour at a reduced salary for a time, till the field, which is comparatively weak, may possibly become stronger and more united.—D. C.

COBOURG.—The friends here have lately been making several improvements in their church and school-room. In the church, the choir has been moved to the front of the building, where a new platform has been erected adjoining that of the minister, from which position it is thought they will better lead the congregation in the service of song. Another advantage is the larger number of sittings obtained by the late alterations. To meet the necessary expense attending these needed changes, a series of Penny Readings has been arranged for. The first of these was held last Friday. It was patronized by a large and intelligent audience, and was, in every respect, a success. These entertainments consist of music, readings and recitations, and will be held fortnightly.

TORONTO.—CHESTNUT STREET MISSION.—On Tuesday evening, Feb. 3rd, the school held its annual festival. Tea and cake was served to the children; the parents were also invited to take with the teachers. At eight o'clock the literary and musical part of the entertainment began. Jas. Fraser, Esq., took the chair, and read a letter from the pastor, Mr. Handford, stating he was sorry he could not be present owing to his having to attend another meeting. The programme was gone through, consisting of choruses by the children, songs, dialogues and recitations, after which an address was given by Mr. Jas. Thompson, the school visitor, on the duty of the parents to the school. Mr. Goulding, an old friend of the school, was present and gave a short address; also Mr. Francis Robinson, Superintendent of the Bond street school. After having spent a pleasant and profitable evening, the proceedings terminated with "God bless our Sunday school," by the scholars. Mr. Potts, Superintendent, conducted the singing.

GUELPH FIRST CHURCH.—The annual meeting of the church and congregation was held on Wednesday evening, Jan. 21st. A social tea was, as usual, first enjoyed by a large company, after which the exercises proceeded as follows: praise and prayer, an address from the pastor, reports on finance, church statistics, and Sabbath school. The deacons' report shewed the contributions for all denominational purposes to be \$2,032.97, the debt incurred several years since for completion and improvement of church edifice lacking only \$150 of liquidation, and the general fund in a good state, allowing for the stringency of the times. The membership report gave a net increase to the church, for the year, of twenty-seven members, partly due to the evangelistic labours here of Rev. E. P. Hammond last spring. The Sabbath school report spoke of many removals, yet of numbers kept up by new enrollments, shewing, as last

year, an average attendance of about 182. The hearts of the teachers had been much gladdened by the reception into the church of twenty-seven of the scholars during the year.

HAMILTON.—The annual meeting of the Hughson street church, was held on the evening of Wednesday, the 28th ult. Tea was served in the school-room at seven o'clock, after which the company adjourned to the lecture-room. The pastor, Joseph Griffith, presided. Reports were presented from the pastor and deacons, from the treasurer, the Sunday school superintendent, the Ladies' Sewing Society, and the Mission recently begun. It was found that twenty-two had united with the church during the year, making the present number in fellowship 170. Several honoured brethren had been taken away. The treasurer's report was encouraging. The contributions of the church were far in advance of the previous year. The Ladies' Sewing Society had contributed \$400, and the Mutual Improvement Society \$135, toward the extinction of the church debt. The late Dr. Laing had also left the church \$100 in his will, which was applied to the debt. The mission in the south-western part of the city was gaining ground, and those more immediately concerned in it were full of hope. Altogether it was felt that the outlook was good, and a great deal of enthusiasm and earnestness was displayed at this meeting. Very cordial votes of thanks were passed to the different officers of the church, especially to the choir and its leader.

STRATHROY.—Rev. M. Lowry appeals to the churches for aid in his work here. He says: Let me call the attention of the members and adherents of our Congregational Israel to a few facts which I wish to bring before them, and see if we cannot evoke some liberal responses in the matter of pecuniary aid to assist us in building up our weak and struggling cause in this place. I came here in October, and have been labouring with this people since. We have not organized a membership here yet, and our pathway thus far has been uphill work. We have the use of the Orange Hall, free, in which to worship. We have held prayer meetings for a few evenings only. Those who have been Congregationalists heretofore are now connected with other churches, and therefore we lose their aid. All I have received since October in the way of support is \$300 or \$350 and board, and even this last item seems very difficult to keep paid up, so few and weak are we. I have myself and family to support and have no private means, and besides I am about to undergo the expense of moving family and furniture here in a week or two, a distance of about 200 miles. Through the kind favour of our brother, Rev. Mr. Colwell, of Watford, the Grand Trunk Company will bring my family to London from Bowmanville for half fare. Will our dear friends of the churches kindly forward us money from time to time to save our cause from collapse? Contributions sent to Rev. M. Lowry, Strathroy, will be thankfully received and acknowledged.

COLDSPRINGS.—The people of the Congregational church, Coldsprings, never seem tired of doing liberal things. It is only a few weeks since they sent the proceeds of their annual soiree, close upon fifty dollars, to the Winnipeg church, and now they have come to the front once more. On the evening of the 26th ult., a large company of them "surprised" their pastor, at his residence in Cobourg. Their host, for once in his life, felt himself in the difficulty of the man who had not where to bestow his goods. Both cellar and granary were strained to their utmost. Before tea was served by the ladies of the party, Mr. G. H. Ash, the secretary of the church, read an address, which was accompanied by a purse of money. Mr. Pedley replied in a few words, thanking the people for their kindness, and congratulating them on not only being free from debt but able to make up to their minister nearly the whole amount he had subscribed towards wiping out the debt of the church. Tea was then served, and the rest of the evening devoted to speaking and singing. One of the speakers was Mr. Jas. Ford, who referred to his approaching departure to settle in Manitoba. The singing was furnished by

members of the party, and by Miss Appleby, one of the Cobourg congregation, who, on being sent for, kindly came. About 10.30 p.m. the proceedings were closed with a few words of prayer, and the long cavalcade of buggies and waggons rattled along the homeward road, making the occasional straggler wonder what in the world was up. Some of the people had a long ride, but the tediousness of the drive must have been relieved by the consciousness of having done a generous deed. They had left their pastor richer in money and other valuables to the extent of about \$80.

THE Western Association will meet at Southwold, on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 17th and 18th. The train leaving London at 2.30 p.m. connects with the Canada Southern train for Shedden, where the first session will be held on Tuesday. The Rev. J. Howie, of Guelph, is to preach the Associational sermon. Papers are being prepared on the following subjects: "How much Truth is requisite to Church Fellowship," "How to enliven the Prayer-meeting," "Unconscious Sin," "How to [develop Lay Help]," "Church Extension," etc. A Sabbath school question drawer will be one feature of the meetings. Let there be a grand rally of all the brethren within the bounds of the Association. Applications for membership should be in the Secretary's hands a few days previous to the gathering.—R. W. WALLACE, Secretary.

## Religious News.

MR. McALL's work in Paris is gaining steadily. One hundred and eighteen meetings are held every week under the direction of this indefatigable worker among the working classes. A mission has also been established at Boulogne-sur-Mer.

THE Continental Committee of the Pan-Presbyterian Council propose to raise \$60,000 so as to add \$100 to the income of each of the twenty-two pastors of the Waldensian Church, who now receive \$300 a year. The Scotch have raised \$15,000 toward the amount.

IN the Madras Presidency the Arcot Mission of the Reformed Church has during the past year welcomed to its fellowship over 5,000 who have abandoned the worship of idols and professed themselves adherents of Jesus. On one Sabbath the Rev. Jared Scudder baptized 307, and on the next 227 converted Hindoos.

A MOVEMENT is on foot in Scotland to erect in Edinburgh a suitable monument to the memory of the great Scottish reformer. The Committee of Management has for its Presidents the Moderators of the three Presbyterian Churches in Scotland,—Established, Free, and United Presbyterian,—and also the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

A TRILINGUAL inscription has just been discovered in the ruins of an ancient church in Zebel, on the north-east of the Syrian desert. The first inscription is Greek; the second Arabic, in the most ancient ante-Mohammedan kind of writing; the third is in an unknown character. It contains a dedication of the church, and is probably of about the fourth century.

THE Russian Synod has caused an address to be read in the churches of the western and central provinces proclaiming the everlasting punishment of the revolutionists, and declaring that "Russia being ruled by the Lord's anointed, it is the sacred duty of every subject to obey the behests of the sovereign and to contribute toward the extermination of the rebels."

THE Bishop of Manchester in a recent sermon in his Cathedral, remarked that in national and political affairs the past year was not marked by much of which as a nation we could be justly proud. He said the question must force itself on Englishmen: "What business had we with our armies either in Zululand or Afghanistan? Could it be pretended that either of them was just or necessary?" He added that unless we were to abandon all pretence to justify a recourse to arms, he, as a Christian Bishop, must distinctly say, if he was to be faithful to his message, that as a nation we had misdoings to repent of for having been the first to draw the sword in those two wars.

THE Rev. John R. McDougall writes from Florence that he has just secured, at a moderate cost, a most central building in Venice for the Free Italian Church work in that city. The principal entrance to the building is from the great square of San Marco. Although the premises have been purchased for the Italian evangelization, Mr. McDougall hopes that the Gospel will likewise be preached in English in this easily-found building, through the agency of one of our evangelical denominations, to the crowds of American and British visitors who through the renowned City of the Sea. More than six thousand dollars have been secured in this country, during the past year, in small sums by the Rev. Antonio Arrighi, the agent of the Free Italian Church in America, for this most excellent work.