

also slow but certain progress in almost every portion of the field." He notes the further fact of extended usefulness of our ministry among the people generally, because they are the representatives of a true catholicism, and are hence wanted by all parties to perform occasional work for them. Thus, he proceeds to say, "an estimate in figures and denominationally cannot be made."

The narrative of the state of the churches, issued by the Congregational Union will doubtless contain deeply interesting sketches of precious refreshing from the presence of the Lord, enjoyed by some of our Missionary Churches, as well as by those which are self-sustaining. Ottawa, Markham and Warwick have been much blessed, as well as the stronger churches at Brantford, Scotland, and London. Let us be instant in prayer that there may be enjoyed a wide-spread outpouring of this mighty Divine influence.

Places of worship are rising up in different parts of the country, some of them to supersede old and delapidated structures, and others to meet the requirements of new congregations. It is seldom that these can be erected without some outside assistance, and yet to have them is often a necessity of the case; there can be no growth or efficiency without them. The question how this outside help can be best obtained on the one hand, and ministered on the other, has become of much importance. Most objectionable, in every point of view, is the plan of laying the burden of collecting from town to town and from house to house upon the pastor, who has other and higher work to do, and who ought not to be subjected to the humiliations and annoyances often connected with such a mission. There is needed amongst us a "Chapel," or according to our nomenclature, a "Church Building Society," having funds to lend for a few years without interest, and also to afford occasionally a small grant in aid of local efforts. Friends who would create and sustain a society such as our English churches have found of so great value, would confer an inestimable benefit upon the Denomination.

While two or more of the fields which have been for some time vacant, have been re-occupied during the year, there are several others which are still vacant and demanding attention, and there are rising towns in several of our districts into which an entrance