

occupied with something to compel him to take exercise, and having already studied some of the subjects, such as botany and chemistry, he entered into a regular medical curriculum at the University of Aberdeen, to which he walked over two miles every morning, and after attending all day at classes, the hospital and dissecting-room, walked home again in the afternoon. He graduated as an M.D. in 1855. In 1859 he removed to Canada and settled in Hamilton. He was for many years an active office-bearer in the Congregational Church, till failing health unfitted him for active service. He quietly passed away at noon Thursday, in the 67th year of his age. The remains were interred on Saturday afternoon, the pastor of the Congregational Church in Hamilton, Joseph Griffith, conducting religious services in the house and at the grave.

## Correspondence.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

DEAR EDITOR,—Is Congregationalism adapted for pioneer work? This question is often asked, and is sometimes answered in the negative by those who still believe that a church composed simply of a spiritual membership, managing its own affairs, is the Scriptural Church.

While on the way to engage in pioneer work I have endeavoured to gain light on this question, not by theory, but from actual facts.

Most of us know something of our churches in Michigan and Illinois, yet when we come to Chicago and see the magnificent church edifices, large and well attended seminary, and learn of the influence for good wielded by these organizations, by the Congregational press and other institutions—an influence second to no other in the West—we feel convinced that a band of Christians, simply united together for work, recognizing no other Lord than Christ and no other law than the Gospel, forms the best organization for carrying on pioneer or any other kind of Christian work.

We have still a better opportunity of noting aggressive work in the newer settlements, of Minnesota, which lies alongside of our own prairie province and is very similar to it. About twenty years ago the first Congregational Missionary began his work in this State. Now there are 131 Congregational churches. Many of them are in very new and backward villages, but most of them the leading churches in the place. In real influence and usefulness it is generally conceded that we are surpassed by none. This has been a thoroughly pioneer work. With but one or two exceptions these churches have been started by missionary effort. Many of them now are self-supporting. In the State there are now raised about \$4,000 for Home Mission work. This fund is every year rapidly increasing. Our manner of organizing churches has been found just to meet the need of new and mixed communities. The present flourishing condition of the churches is largely due to the Christian zeal and wisdom of Rev. Mr. Cobb, the State missionary superintendent, who furnished me with much valuable information, and notwithstanding the great pressure of his own work kindly offered to come over any time he could to assist in our province. Brethren in Chicago and Minneapolis showed a deep interest in the movement to the North-west, and in a most kindly manner bade me God-speed. Especially I may name Gen. Howard (editor of the "Advance") and Dr. Savage, of Chicago, Rev. Mr. Cobb and Rev. H. A. Stimson, of Minneapolis. As to the work here I can say but little yet. I arrived Saturday night. Yesterday I received a most kindly welcome by ministerial brethren in Emerson. They assure me that "the harvest truly is great and the labourers are fair." After the usual services we had an opportunity of speaking to a large and very attentive audience in the street.

There is plenty of work to do here. Already the "Macedonian" cry has come from several quarters. Will the brethren in Canada pray for the success of the work here and also that true workers may be raised up for this enormous field?

Yours in the truth, W. EWING.

Emerson, Manitoba, June 30th, 1879.

## CANADA CONGREGATIONAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

I have received payment of *two* shares from Guelph Church, erroneously entered as subscribers only for *one*. I find that the same error has been made in regard to Embro, which subscribed not *one* but *two* shares. Since my last Mrs. Learmont, Montreal, has taken one share. Thirty-one shares have been paid up to this date. *Twenty-five* shares are wanted to complete the one hundred and to obtain 17½ contingent on that completion. HENRY WILKES.

Montreal, July 5th, 1879.

We trust that all the churches will vigorously take hold of this matter and cancel the debt. There is not a single church from Quebec to Sarnia that will not respond if the pastors and officers put it clearly before them. The debt is small. Let all unite. Do something, and do it now.

## News of the Churches.

SARNIA has begun to build a new church.

REV. H. D. POWIS has returned to his work after a month's vacation with his old friends in Quebec.

TILBURY.—The new church looks very trim with its new coat of paint. Matters are very auspicious at this station.

TORONTO.—Zion and Yorkville Sunday Schools took their annual excursion and picnic to Lorne Park on the 7th inst., on the "Empress of India."

REV. R. W. WICKETT has accepted a call to the churches of Pownal and Durham, Maine. Nearly forty persons have been added to the church in his present field during the past two years.

LONDON.—The pastor of this church has returned from his holiday trip, refreshed in body and mind. He resumed his work last Sabbath. A flower-service is to be held next Sabbath evening, when the sermon will be on "The Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley."

ACTON.—From the "Times" we learn that a festival and lecture was given in the Drill Shed by the Congregational Church on the 25th ult. After refreshments Rev. R. W. Wallace, of London, delivered his lecture "Latest Advices," which, says the "Times," was "a treat and well received."

LISTOWEL.—A well-attended and pleasant social was given by G. S. Climie, Esq., at his residence, on Monday, June 30th. After a short programme of music and readings, ample refreshments were provided. A collection amounting to \$28 was taken in aid of the Choir Fund of the Church.

WATFORD.—The Sunday School of Zion Church, with other schools, spent a pleasant day at a picnic on the shore of Lake Huron on the 21st ult. This church has lately introduced the new Congregational Hymn Book. The pastor reports the purchase of a new communion service, and a hopeful outlook for future prosperity in the Church.

THE London "Standard" announces that in consequence of the treaty recently concluded with Portugal, for the development of the freedom of commerce and civilization in Africa, a British man-of-war has already been ordered to Mozambique to co-operate with the Portuguese for the suppression of the slave trade.

IT is little more than a truism to say that it is easier to stop an evil in its beginnings than at any other part of its course. It is so with Sabbath desecration, as the church-going people of New York are just finding out. It is almost too late to cry out when Sunday trains on the elevated railway are thundering past the church windows while the services are going on. The "Christian Intelligencer" bitterly complains of the injustice, and, apparently without any intention of playing on words, calls it "highway robbery." But if the church-goers of New York had been more faithful in using their power and influence to keep people from breaking the fourth commandment they would find it somewhat easier to keep them from breaking the eighth.

## Religious News.

THE Church Missionary Society of England has commenced work in Gaza.

FATHER HAGINTHE's lectures in Paris on Religious Reform are crowded to overflowing.

THE "Jewish Times" computes the whole number of Jews in the world at 6,503,600.

TIMARU, New Zealand, has a new Congregational Church, opened on the 9th of February.

OBERLIN has a larger junior class than any other of our American Congregational Theological Seminaries.

It is estimated that there are 7,000,000 people in France who have renounced the Roman Catholic religion.

THE Congregational Church in Holliston, Mass., celebrated its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary recently.

WE see that the Rev. John Allworth, B.A., has closed his labours in Utica, Mich., and at latest date was about to return to Canada.

PROF. CONTI has founded at Florence a society of National Catholics, based on the acceptance of the abolition of the Pope's temporal power.

AFTER thirty-four years of service, Mr. W. Edwyn Ship-ton, is about to retire from the Secretaryship of the Young Men's Christian Association of London.

NEW schools have been opened in connection with the Congregational Church at Todmorden, England, under the pastorate of Rev. J. Constance.

REPORTS from Rome say that Dr. Newman is so ill that there are fears that he will not be able to do much more than to be buried in his new Cardinal robes.

BANGOR Theological Seminary held its fifty-ninth anniversary on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of June. A class of thirteen members graduated this year.

WE see that the Rev. Dr. H. N. Burton, of Kalamazoo, Mich., who recently supplied the Northern Church, Toronto, has resigned his pastoral charge.

WE learn that the sum of £2,700 has been collected and invested for the widow and children of Rev. Wm. Braden, late pastor of the Weigh House Chapel, London.

THE present Dr. Storrs, of Brooklyn, is the third bearing the same name. His father and grandfather were both Richard Salter Storrs, and both were Congregational ministers.

THE "Reformateur," a Protestant paper recently established in Paris for the purpose of inducing conversion from Catholicism, suspended publication with the twentieth number.

CANON FARRAR is to appear as an author once again. His "Life and Work of St. Paul," will be published next month by Messrs. Cassell, Petter & Galpin. It will be in two volumes, uniform with the Library Edition of the "Life of Christ."

THE Rhode Island Congregational Conference held its annual meeting in Providence, beginning on Tuesday, the 10th of June. The chief topics discussed were "The Relation of the Church and the School," and "Our Sabbath, and how it shall be Redeemed."

THE "drink bill" of Great Britain for 1878 foots up to the enormous figure of \$710,944,500, an increase of \$908,350 over the bill for 1877. To this may be added \$500,000,000 of indirect expenditure. During the last seven years the British and Irish people have drunk \$4,936,603,345 worth of liquor.

THE Congregational Association of Kansas held its twenty-fifth annual meeting in Ottawa, beginning on the 11th June, and closing on the 16th. An increase of 1,006 was reported in membership during the year. Resolutions of welcome to the coloured refugees were passed, and a Committee appointed to look after their welfare.

THE Ragged School Union of London expends about \$130,000 a year in endeavouring to elevate the lowest and poorest classes. It has 30,500 children in Sunday-schools, 5,849 in day schools, and 9,267 in night schools. It maintains 75 ragged churches, manages 82 lending libraries and 75 penny banks, besides superintending mothers' meetings, men's clubs, Bands of Hope, and a variety of children's meetings.

A CHINESE mission is at present in Spain on the subject of coolie emigration to the West Indies, which is much in need of regulation. By the convention agreed to at Peking some months ago, which the mission now desires to ratify, it is provided that the coolies shall be taken only from the population of the southern provinces of the Empire as being most fit to resist a tropical climate. The coolies will be engaged for five years and not for seven years, and at the expiration of their terms they will be taken home at the expense of the Chinese Government.

ON Friday, June 20th, Queen Victoria reigned forty-two years, a period longer than any English Queen since Elizabeth. Since she ascended the throne there have been eight prime ministers, and there have taken place some notable historical events in connection with the English people—the repeal of the Corn Laws; the Irish Famine and Emigration; the Chartist agitation; the Crimean War; the Indian Mutiny; the assumption of the direct government of India; the Confederation of British America; the disestablishment of the Irish Church; the Alabama Claims Treaty; the introduction of the Ballot; the Abyssinian and Ashantee Wars; and the assumption of the title of Empress of India.