

THE approaching jubilee of Her Majesty's reign called forth several addresses on nonconformity under the Queen. On the spiritual power of nonconformity some interesting facts were given. Mr. John Brown, of Bedford, said that in Scotland, forty-three years ago, there were only 1,200 churches; in that year 474 ministers resigned all their interest in the Scotch Establishment; the 474 ministers of the Free Church had increased to 1,094. Three millions have been expended in building 1,100 churches; and altogether seventeen millions sterling have been raised in support of that movement. Nonconformity has saved Wales from heathenism. The Primitive Methodists, who at the commencement of Queen Victoria's reign had 5,000 local preachers, have now 16,000. The Wesleyans have in the same period added 120,000 to their members, and the Baptists had increased their membership from 71,000 to 316,000. The state of things, not disgraceful, in the Established Church, may be gathered from the following anecdote of a venerable rector. With him a favorite subject of discourse was the serpent in the garden of Eden, to a consideration of which the clergyman declared he had devoted many years, and had arrived at the conclusion that the serpent, previous to the fall, had not its present mode of progressing, but had walked on the tip of its tail. Complaint was made to the Bishop, whose secretary replied:—"I am afraid we can do nothing for you: I regret to say that the mere fact that the man is an idiot is no disqualification." The people must have grown spiritually under such instruction.

WE regret that our Superintendent, Mr. Hall, had only twenty minutes for to instruct the friends on Canadian needs, and much more that no opportunity was afforded for discussion upon the subject of Colonial work. Our brethren do not understand us, we perhaps misunderstand them. Yet six months among our home churches by Mr. Hall will do more to enlighten our brethren on Canadian work than hours spent at a busy Union gathering. We have read our Superintendent's speech, we wonder how he contained himself within twenty minutes, but he did yeoman service therein.

THE entire tone of the Norwich gatherings was such, we should judge, as to give a great impetus to church life and work; and the en-

tire spirit was evangelical. Without any heresy cry, meddling or interference, the English Congregational churches are preserving the faith in its entirety. They are at work, they have work to do, and they are realizing the truth as the Christ propounded it:—If any will to do my will, they shall know of the doctrine.

OUR brother, Mr. Hall, may rest assured that the churches here will not forget him as he pleads for them, we shall always hail his general gossip letters with pleasure, and read with profit.

## Correspondence.

### MR. HALL'S LETTER.

(FROM ENGLAND.)

Dear Editor. My first work in this country was in connection with the Congregational union of England and Wales. The Autumnal meetings have just been held in the ancient City of Norwich, county of Norfolk. The lovers of antiquities will find a veritable Eldorado here. Norwich is the oldest city in England. Here was the British *Caer Gwent*, the Roman *Venta Icenorum*. Upon the lofty hill fort of the *Icene*, the invading Angels built a rude castle, below which, alongside a broader river than now exists, grew up the townships of *Cyning's (King's) Fiord*, (now *Conisford*), where the kings of the East Angles had a palace, marauding north men in the 9th century founded further townships higher up and on the other side of the river. One of these was *North-wic*, soon shortened to *Norwich*, which gave its name to the whole burgh. The burgh was destroyed in 1002 by the victorious Danes who overran East Anglia. Except one or two towers of churches, notably *St. Julians* in *Kings street*, which are Saxon, the castle keep is the most ancient building. It was probably begun, if not finished, in the time of *Edward the Confessor*. The Cathedral was founded in 906. *Herbert de Losinga*, Bishop of *Thetford*, removed the See to *Norwich* 1101. It is said that he built the Cathedral and other churches as a penance for having paid *King Rufus* for the *Bishopric*. Before the west front of the Cathedral stands the magnificent *Erpingham gate*, enriched with many figures of *Saints*, &c., and fine mouldings. It was built, it is said, in penance for supporting *Lollardy* by *Sir Thos. Erpingham*, an *Agincourt* hero. Many of the streets contain good examples of old domestic architecture. But to the Congregationalist there are still more interesting reminiscences in this ancient