

more personality, in a word; more of the life, energy, and enthusiasm that inevitably follows the divine illumination of the Spirit of God in the heart and brain of a man.

We of the Congregational pulpit are doomed and our occupation is gone, if the slow paralysis contained in that article touches our tongues; if we are content to become, either for ritualist or conservative, priestly functionaries or pious phrasemongers. The man that has neither piety nor poetry in his soul, and is not capable of receiving in his own spirit the revelation of God's truth for the present day, and when he gets it, cannot put it into the crucible of his own thought, is as unfit for the christian pulpit as a Hottentot for professorship of Hebrew.

I am, yours truly,

DAVID BEATON.

St. Johns, Newfoundland.

## News of the Churches.

**BOWMANVILLE.**—A very successful Christmas festival in connection with the Sabbath school was held here on Tuesday, 29th December. After a capital entertainment, consisting of recitations, songs and instrumental pieces, given wholly by the children, the Xmas tree was unloaded—every child received some gift. Teachers, superintendent, the pastor and his wife were also remembered—the pastor's present was a handsome seal cap, presented by the people, and accompanied with an address expressive of their love. This school has grown wonderfully considering the circumstances of the place. There are now over a hundred scholars on the roll, of whom twenty are in the pastor's Bible class. Other indications of growth in connection with the church is the recent reshingling of the parsonage, and the placing of a new coal furnace in the basement of the church. We wish our friends continued prosperity.

**COWANSVILLE.**—The Sunday school festival held in the Congregational church on Christmas eve, was quite a successful affair. The church edifice, which had been decorated with evergreen mottoes, Chinese lanterns, &c., presented a beautiful appearance, and was packed to the doors with children and friends of the congregation. The superintendent, W. P. Carter, Esq., presided, and after devotional exercises gave a short address. Christmas carols and anthems were sung by the school, and scriptural recitations were given in concert by the several classes. The pastor, Rev. Geo. Willett, made a few remarks upon the progress of the school during the year, and announced the gratifying fact that \$112.25 had been contributed by the school for missions. Two large trees laden with gifts were then stripped to the delight of both teachers and scholars. Among the numerous presents was an elegant silver tea service which was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Willett. At the close of this meeting the young men of the Congregation deputed two of their number to visit the parsonage which they did, leaving behind them a beautiful wilton carpet, with rugs, curtains, &c., for the pastor's study.

**ENGLAND.**—From the *Christian World* we clip the following:—Special services were held in Markham square church, Chelsea, on Sunday last, to mark the third anniversary of the settlement of the pastor, Rev.

J. Lawson Forster, L. L. B. Rev. Andrew Mearns, secretary of the London Congregational Union, a former minister of the church, preached in the morning, and the pastor in the evening. During the past three years 277 persons have been received into fellowship; and although great losses have been sustained by death and removals from the locality, the roll of membership has steadily increased. The different organizations have been maintained in a state of efficiency, and, despite the hard times, there has been no financial strain, the weekly contributions fully meeting all requirements." We heartily congratulate our old friend on these marks of blessing.

**LONDON.**—The Sunday school of this church celebrated their anniversary Dec. 27th by rendering a Christmas service entitled "The Children's Messiah," with 300 children, assisted by the choir of the church. A short address by Rev. H. D. Hunter was given in which he spoke of the various trade marks or distinguishing characteristics of the bygone and present ages. He said that if he was asked what was the great trade mark or characteristic of the present age he would reply that it was the worth and value that men placed on childhood. He urged upon the children the cultivation of three T's, truth, tenderness and temperance. He claimed that it would be far better for a man to have the reputation of a blunt, outspoken person than to be known as one whose word was only to be depended on occasionally. He urged tenderness to parents, to the aged, and to all persons, and said in regard to temperance, they should be temperate in study, work and amusement, and total abstinents from profanity, tobacco and liquor. The closing chorus was then sung entitled, "List! the Christmas bells are ringing."

**TORONTO.**—Our foreign missionary elect, Mr. Currie, has visited his old home and preached with great acceptance in the Western, Northern, Parkdale, Zion and Riverside churches. His straightforward earnestness and outspoken advocacy of mission work will leave a lasting impression behind. His description of the prospective field of labor was exceedingly graphic and interesting.

## FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The Treasurer of the Canada Congregational Foreign Missionary Society has pleasure in acknowledging the following contributions:—

**YARMOUTH, N. S.**—Miss Walker, \$1; Miss Scott, \$1; Boy's Association, \$1—Total, \$3.

**MILTON, N. S.**—Miss E. Tupper, \$4; Miss D. Tupper, \$2; W. H. Freeman, \$1; E. H. Freeman, \$1; Collection, \$4.30—Total, \$12.30.

**MAITLAND.**—Mrs. McDougall, \$1; Capt. McDougall, \$1; Collection, \$3.07—Total, \$5.07.

**LOWER SELMA.**—G. W. Corbett, \$1; Collection, \$3.41—Total, \$4.41.

**NOEL, N. S.**—Mrs. L. O'Brien, \$5; R. Faulkner, \$1; Rev. J. W. Cox, \$1; Rev. J. W. Cox's children, \$2.45; collection, \$3.17—Total, \$12.62.

**ECONOMY, N. S.**—Collection, \$16.27.

**LANARK, (per F. J. Day).**—Monthly collections, \$18.81; collections during Mr. Currie's visit, \$12.97; Mrs. A. W. Smith's S. S. class, \$2.67; Miss Watts' S. S. class, \$3.35; Rev. B. W. Day, \$2—Total, \$40.