

two years ago. To accommodate this increased membership, the already handsome church, in which the Conference of 1878 was held, has been enlarged at a cost of \$3,500, all of which will be paid in the present ecclesiastical year. Nor is this extension at the expense of the Connexional funds, the increase to these during the year being \$450.

Mr. Benson has also very largely enjoyed the advantages of travel, both throughout the Dominion of Canada and in foreign lands. In company with the Rev. Dr. Punshon, in 1871, he crossed the continent, and beheld the wonders of the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevadas, the Geyser Springs, the Yosemite, and Salt Lake City. He also enjoyed the pleasures, or endured the pains, whichever it was, of a sea voyage on the Pacific, and visited Victoria, New Westminster, Fort Yale, and other places on the Pacific coast. During the past year Mr. Benson crossed the Atlantic and made a still more extended tour through France, Italy, Switzerland, South Eastern Germany, Belgium, Great Britain, and Ireland. He was, by invitation, the guest of Dr. Punshon in London, whose many kindnesses assisted him much in "doing" old London.

Mr. Benson has not been content to enjoy the spirit-stirring scenes and associations of foreign lands without sharing with others the advantages to be derived from them by a thoughtful mind. He has communicated pleasure and profit to delighted audiences in the principal towns and cities of Western Canada by his eloquent lectures on "The Wonders of the Yosemite," "Across the Continent," "British Columbia," and more recently on "Memories of Rome," "Switzerland," "In Rhineland," and on London, Paris, Italian cities, and other allied topics. He is also an earnest worker in the Temperance reform, the Sunday-school cause, and every good object. Mr. Benson is still young, and if life and health be granted him gives promise of great and growing usefulness in the Church of his choice and of his ardent attachment, from which offers of greater emolument in other communions have failed to detach him.

Since he left school in his boyhood, he has "paddled his own canoe," having supported himself during the long period of his preparation for the higher duties of life and for the Christian ministry. He is thus, in an emphatic sense, a self-made man.