

News of the Churches.

LANARK.—The weekly offering system has been on trial in this church for four months and has proved a success.

REV. W. MANCHEE has expressed his intention to resign the pastorate of the Guelph church. The church has requested Mr. Manchee not to resign until a successor is found to take his place.

SPEEDSIDE.—The Church at the place is to be repaired and enlarged at a cost of about one thousand dollars. This includes reseating, heating by hot air furnaces, new roof, and sixteen feet added to the end of the building. The money is subscribed. The contract will be let this fall, and the work done in the early spring.

REV. JOHN BURTON, pastor of the Presbyterian Church has accepted the *evangelical* call of the Northern Congregational Church of this city. Mr. Burton will enter on his duties at once. Rev. J. F. Stevenson, LL.D., of Montreal, will preach the installation sermons next Sunday. A recognition service is to be held on the following Monday evening.

REV. JOHN BROWN, pastor of the Lanark Church, has tendered his resignation, which has been accepted to take effect on the first of January, nine years from the time of settlement. The reason assigned for this action on the part of Mr. Brown, was that he thought a change desirable for all parties concerned. It is his wish to remove to the new North-west next spring if the way opens.

TWILLINGATE, NEWFOUNDLAND.—The children of the Congregational Sunday School here had their picnic on the 11th September. Captain Strachan, of the "Maggie" of Fraserburgh, was in our port at the time—a thorough Congregationalist, who at all times and in all places deems it his duty to work for the Master—and sent his crew ashore to decorate the grounds with flags, and well they did it. God bless the brave sailors. The day's arrangements were a success, being carried out under the superintendence of the beloved pastor, the Rev. J. Wilson, assisted by Captain Strachan and the teachers.

ANNIVERSARY SERVICES.

There were several anniversary services held in the city churches yesterday, 5th inst. We notice the following:

WESTERN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

Three services were yesterday held at the Western Congregational Church, Spadina avenue, the occasion being the third anniversary of the church. There was a numerous congregation at each service.

In the morning the pastor, Rev. J. B. Silcox, preached from Matthew iv. 19, "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." Christ came into the world to save men. In the accomplishment of this He saw it wise and good to employ human agency. These men of Galilee were called of Christ to share with Him the toil and the joy of saving men. They were to follow Christ in order that they might lead others to follow Him. Their work was to bring men to Christ. The reward held out was success in this work. Their work is the work of the followers of Christ today. The Church must keep prominently before her that her divinely appointed work is the glory of Christ in the salvation of men. He would remind himself and the members of the Church that the very aim and purpose of the ministry is the salvation of men. A church's usefulness is to be measured by this, "Are men saved?" This work must be felt as a duty pressing on the heart and conscience of each. We, as saved men are individually responsible for the salvation of others. Necessarily is laid upon us. If we felt the pressure of this work more, each would go out and "compel men to come in." If we highly prize the blessings of the Gospel, we will be anxious to bring others to the enjoyment of God's forgiving grace. The efforts we put forth for men's salvation is the measure of our appreciation of the Gospel. The preacher further spoke of the honour

of this work. These Galilean fishermen immortalized themselves by this act of consecrating themselves to the work of Christ. No names in history shine more brightly than theirs; and such honour have all who "save a soul from death." "They shall shine as the stars forever." In concluding he urged the members of the Church to give themselves more wholly to this work of saving men. The dying are around us, men living Christless lives. Christ would have all men to be saved. Let us bring the sick, lame, blind into His presence, and let our joy be the joy of the angels, who rejoice when one sinner repenteth.

In the afternoon Rev. T. W. Handford preached an impressive service from Mark v. 41, "He took the damsel by the hand." His theme was Christ's power to save. Christ's miracles were not to manifest power so much as to bless and gladden human lives. He had power over nature—He stilled the sea; power over devils—He cast the unclean spirit out of the demoniac; power over disease—He cured the woman with an issue of blood; power over death—He called the young girl back to perfect health. Christ in His ministry was taking all kinds of men by the hand. He took the hand of the doubter and led him into the clear sunlight of faith. He took the hand stained with sin, and helped the man into holiness. He took the blind by the hand and led them in a safe way. The hand of Christ was yet reached out to help men. The preacher in closing earnestly urged his hearers, old and young, to grasp that reached out hand of sympathy, and Christ would lead them along the way of life, through the valley of death, up through the gates of glory to the very Throne of God. The sermon was listened to with earnest attention throughout.

The pulpit in the evening was occupied by Rev. D. Mitchell, pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, who took his text from John xvi. 32, "Alone, and yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me." The preacher illustrated the solitude of every individual, arising from the very nature of his existence—physical, moral, intellectual and spiritual; arising also from occupation, every man having some special duty to do; arising further from his view of the salvation provided by Christ, and requiring him to believe for himself, pray for himself, and to repent for himself; arising lastly from the suffering to which he is exposed, and death, which marks the close of his career. The preacher described the solitariness of Christ in fulfilling His work as the Messiah, and in suffering the ignominious death of the cross. He enjoined every one so to live that while he would necessarily be alone he might yet not be alone, having the Father's presence and blessing. He concluded with a picture of the awful solitude of a lost soul.

NORTHERN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

Large congregations attended the services in this church yesterday, when Rev. F. H. Marling, of New York, occupied the pulpit, the occasion being the twenty-first anniversary of the Sunday school.

Mr. Marling's sermon in the morning was based on Acts xxvi. 22. The discourse was principally confined to a history of the Sunday school, from its commencement in 1858 to the present time. He said the school was first established as a mission school, and the place of meeting was on Church street, between Ann and Carlton streets. The scholars were few at first, but the attendance gradually increased until a new room had to be procured at the corner of Carlton and Church streets. The school had continued growing until the present building had to be erected for its accommodation. From the first the mission had been more than a school. For more than eight years different ministers had preached at the mission station to hearers who were a nucleus of the present congregation. When Rev. William Thomas was inducted as the first pastor there were thirty-five members. During the twenty-one years the school had been in existence 2,000 scholars had attended it, 275 of whom were known to be members of Congregational churches, and a considerable number of the remainder were adherents of other churches. There were at present 225 members on the roll, and a staff of twenty-two teachers. The reverend gentleman concluded by urging the teachers to persevere in Sabbath school

work, reminding them that there was a prize awaiting them for their endeavours.

In the afternoon there was a large attendance of scholars at the Sunday school, there being besides a number of adherents to the church.

Mr. J. H. Clark, superintendent of the school, presided. He related a few incidents which had come under his observation in connection with the school for the last nineteen years. He hoped that at the expiration of another twenty-one years some of those who were scholars now would be present to speak at that anniversary.

Addresses were delivered by Revs. H. Powis of Zion Church, and Mr. Marling.

The proceedings terminated with praise and prayer. In the evening the pulpit was again occupied by Rev. Mr. Marling, who preached an eloquent sermon from Galatians v. 4, 5.—*Globe, 6th inst.*

Religious News.

SIAM proclaims religious liberty.

THERE are 20,000 Congregationalists in New Hampshire. ROBERT COLLYER is now in New York, in the Church of the Messiah.

THE Mennonites are about to establish a mission in Alaska.

THERE are now 854 Young Men's Christians Associations in the United States.

THE Jews of the world are said to number now between six and seven millions.

THE Presbyterians of England gave Dr. Talmage a wide berth during his recent visit.

THE Rev. Samuel Scoville, of Norwich, N.Y., has decided on going to Stamford, Conn.

Canada has been visited recently by George Jacob Holyoake, the English freethinker and politician.

THINK of it! A Jew entertains Dr. Parker, of London, at a dinner, and the compliments on both sides are profuse.

THE American Episcopal Church is to hold a Congress in Albany, N.Y., on the 21st of October and following days.

OUR old Canadian brother, Mr. G. C. Nedham, was to commence a series of meetings in Moody's Church, Chicago, about the first of October.

STATISTICS collected by the staff of the "Glasgow Daily Mail" show that there are at least 30,000 fewer people at work in that city than there were two years ago.

THE Free Church of Scotland proposes to observe this year as a Missionary Jubilee, as it is fifty years since Dr. Duff was ordained the first Scotch missionary to India.

A BROTHER of Mr. Charles Spurgeon, now visiting America, told the Baptist ministers of New York, at their meeting last week, that in London his brother was known as Mr. Spurgeon and he as Mr. James Spurgeon.

THE President of the Cincinnati, Sandusky, and Cleveland Railroad has issued orders that no excursion trains be run on the Sabbath hereafter. Good for the community, and good for the company wise enough to ratify such a sensible rule.

THE Chilian Reformed Congregation in Valparaiso has purchased the "Old Church" of the Union Society, which was erected in 1855, and was the first church edifice for Protestant worship on the western coast of South America from Panama to Cape Horn.

A CORRESPONDENT of the London "Christian World" gives the following comparative estimate of the benevolent contributions of the leading denominations of Scotland for 1878. The Established Church, with a membership of 515,786, raised (exclusive of \$1,734,295, received by virtue of its State connection) \$1,911,670; the Free Church reported sums amounting to \$2,755,625; and the United Presbyterian Church with 175,066 members reported \$1,836,940.

THE Evangelical Alliance held its seventh conference in Basle, Switzerland, the week ending September 6th. No more fitting place could have been chosen for such a meeting as was lately shown, by a correspondent of the "Banner" in two lengthy communications. A large number of delegates from all parts of Europe and America were in attendance, and at least fifteen hundred visitors. The sessions were held in St. Martin's Cathedral. During the week the churches and halls were constantly filled with auditors from all parts of Europe and from America. Pastor Ecklin, on behalf of the city of Basle, welcomed the guests in the Great Hall of the Vereinshaus. Dr. Philip Schaff, of New York, represented the Anglo-Americans, and Prof. Vignet spoke for the French Delegates. Councillor Sarasin, a layman of Basle, was elected President of the Conference. The Vice-Presidents were elected from various countries. The first day of the gathering was devoted to addresses on the religious state of Protestantism in various countries. The most important action of the Alliance was the appointment of a delegation, consisting of a president and vice-presidents, for the purpose of soliciting the Austrian Government to afford relief to the Protestants of Bohemia, who are at present suffering under severe disabilities.