

discounting the demand for sensational humbugs, and lead men to have more faith in the every-day truths of common life the grand old book presents than in hare-brained scientists and "Doctors" of dubious degree.

WE clip the following from the *Canada Presbyterian*. It may have its application to Congregational churches too. We premise that we, by endorsing the same, do not make any invidious comparison between young and old. Both are in God's world, have their respective excellences and their place. Youth and age are complementary, not opposite, but the remarks are worth pondering:

"The Hon. Oliver Mowat, Premier and Attorney-General of Ontario, is sixty-three years of age. Mr. Mowat was returned the other day for North Oxford by acclamation. There are several excellent Presbyterian congregations in North Oxford. Presumably Mr. Mowat is the choice of these good people as their representative in Parliament. They consider him well qualified to discharge the duties of Premier and Attorney-General. He is their choice as first minister of Ontario. Had Mr. Mowat been a minister of the Gospel instead of a minister of State, no congregation in his constituency would give him a call at sixty-three. It is doubtful if he could have even got a 'hearing.' He is young enough to govern the Province, but he is altogether too old to get a pastorate if he were a preacher. Sir John Macdonald is sixty-eight. Sir John was returned for two constituencies in June. There are several Presbyterian congregations in Lennox and Carleton. Not one of them would think of calling a pastor ten years younger than the first minister of the Dominion, but nobody would trust him with a supplemented congregation. People have queer notions about clerical efficiency."

FOR some time past our Congregational churches have to many showed a dearth in the matter of souls gathered in. It is cheering to read such items as the following from an American exchange:

"At the Chicago Ministers' Meeting this week nearly two hundred additions to the several churches were reported for the first Sunday of March. It cannot be said that this has been a winter remarkable for revivals, yet, if I do not misread the signs, there has prevailed throughout our churches in this whole region a distinctly deepened earnestness and spiritual apprehension. The study, in all the Sunday schools, of the truths and means and forces which, at the beginnings of the Christian Church, wrought so mightily, has had something to do in causing this quickened sense of what are—after all that debate may emphasize or progress may have to show—the supreme things, to hold to, to teach, and to do."

We had clipped a similar piece from the east, which has been mislaid, and we are glad to

note signs of revival times among our own Canadian churches. The awakening missionary feeling which led to Mr. Hall's appointment, and which he is assiduously cultivating in return, the stirring up regarding our College too, are healthy signs, and betoken, we think, a brighter and better day. Beating against adverse winds and a threatening lee-shore, the clouds are breaking, let our sails be now set to heaven's favouring gale, and soon shall we, under our pilot, Christ, be sailing free. Churches, awake! shake yourselves from the dust, enlarge your sympathies, strengthen your faith, and hear the voice above the roar of tumult, "Tell the children of Israel that they go forward." Let croakers sing, and they who have grievances, to the end, that they may not impede the onward march!

THE Toronto Ministerial Association has been discussing a question of some practical importance introduced by Mr. Parsons, of Knox Church, Toronto. Mr. Parsons deplores justly the great lack of scriptural knowledge among the churches, for certainly our Puritan and Covenanting fathers were more familiar with the Bible than the present generation appear to be; and feels that the word of God is, to many hearers, little more than the word of Shakespeare, being received not as the word of God but only as it commends itself to individual tastes and inclinations. He desiderates, moreover, Sunday evening home instruction, and questions whether the churches are not preached to too much. Thus far his views find sympathy with the brethren generally. As to the lack of Scripture knowledge, Dr. Nelles, of Cobourg, who was present at the second discussion, told an amusing, and in some respects a typical anecdote, relating that only three years and three months of his ministerial life had been spent in the pastorate. A brother observed, "A strange coincidence; that is just the time Jonah spent in the whale's belly!" There are many equally well informed as to Scripture facts. Nor is it a new thing for people to hear the word of God as the voice of one that can sweetly play on an instrument; and home life, Christian home life, is being we fear reduced to a minimum. To counteract in some measure these evils, Mr. Parsons, in places where a morning and evening service is held, would close up the even-