

News of the Churches.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

The Rev. Henry Gill is doing good service in the Bible cause by his visitation as the Society's representative of the auxiliaries in British North America. The bonds of affection are drawn closer and the interest in this great and good cause is strengthened by intercourse of this character. Mr. Gill has already visited many of the Branch Bible Societies in Upper Canada, and will proceed to visit Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in the fall, returning to Lower Canada in the winter. We heartily wish him "God speed."

BRANTFORD, C. W.—FIRE.

We have learned with extreme regret the sad disaster which has happened to our brother the Rev. J. Wood, of Brantford, and the people under his charge, in their loss by fire, on Sabbath 14th August, of their church edifice. The *Brant Expositor* says—

"On Sunday morning last, about 6 o'clock, the Congregational Church of this town, under the pastoral charge of the Rev. J. Wood, was discovered to be on fire. The alarm bell was rung, and the firemen and citizens generally, rushed to the scene of the conflagration. The most vigorous efforts were made to extinguish the flames, but without avail, and the edifice with all its furniture was destroyed in about two hours from the time the fire broke out. As there had been no fire used in or about the building for months previous, it was clear that the destruction of the building could not be the result of any kind of accident. It was believed, too, that it was the same hand that applied the torch to the church that kindled the numerous other fires we have had in the town during the last twelve or eighteen months."

An individual on whom suspicion fell has since confessed his guilt.

The same paper contains the following—

At a general meeting of the members and adherents of the Congregational Church, held on Monday morning, at nine o'clock, for the purpose of making temporary arrangements for public worship, and also for taking steps towards the erection of a new church edifice, the following very kind and generous offer was made by the Session and Managers of the Wellington street Canada Presbyterian Church:

Brantford, 14th August, 1864.

"To the Rev. J. Wood, and our brethren in Christ Jesus, the members and adherents of the Congregational Church in Brantford,—

"At a meeting of the Session and Managers of this Congregation held this p. m., to sympathise with you in the loss you this morning sustained in the destruction by fire of your place of worship, they did cheerfully and unanimously request that theirs might be put at your service. And as we at present, through the want of a fixed pastor, are in a position to make this offer, we trust that if accepted it will be to our mutual benefit.

"And should it please God to send us a pastor before you have again another place of worship completed, it need not then interfere with the usefulness and harmony of either congregation, but such arrangements could then be made as would be suitable to both.

'Further, our week-day or prayer-meetings, being both held on the same evening, the same offer is made in regard to them, that they be held jointly, and, in the absence of a minister with us, presided over by the Rev. Mr. Wood.