

TORONTO.—The Church on Denison Ave. recently invited Bro. J. R. Gaff, of Philadelphia, Pa., to come to Toronto and engage with them in extending the Lord's work in this city—Bro. Gaff has accepted the invitation, and expects to be here about the middle of January 1888. He visited us and preached on Lord's day the 11th of Dec., to good audiences, who appeared to enjoy his clear and earnest discourses very much. We earnestly pray that his coming to this field of labor may—by the divine blessing—result in great victories of the cross, that many precious souls may be led to Jesus, and His children edified and stimulated to undertake and expect great things for the Redeemer's kingdom.

STOUFFVILLE.—I have visited the church at this place once a month since August last. The meetings have been well attended, and a deep interest manifested. Several who worship here reside some distance from the village, and come seven, and some as much as twelve miles to meet in the assembly of the saints. The church is anxious to engage in greater and more united effort, and are "setting in order the things which were wanting." At the time of my last visit—18th Dec.—they manifested wisdom in appointing Bro. James Howitt, of Uxbridge, to the Eldership, to assist Bro. Yake, the present Elder; Bro. Howitt is a talented and worthy Christian, and will prove of much strength and help to the church, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with these churches, Amen."
Toronto, Dec. 26th, 1887. G. J. BARCLAY.

ACRON.—The season for entertainments is just about over, and among the many in this neighborhood, none passed off more pleasantly and satisfactorily than the one in connection with our Sunday School, on the evening of the 23rd of December. A large and appreciative audience turned out on that occasion. The entertainment was all that could be desired, and consisted of recitations and music by the children, rendered in such a manner as to reflect credit on their instructor, sister Mary Morton. A recitation given by Miss Miller, of Everton, deserves special mention, for the effective manner in which it was delivered. Short and appropriate addresses were delivered by Bro. Fowler, Rev. Rae and Phillips, all of which were exceptionally good. We are deeply indebted to the Everton choir for the very efficient aid contributed by them in the line of music. The tree was tastefully dressed with numerous presents for the children and teachers, which were distributed at the close. All appeared heartily pleased, and we believe a fresh impetus will be given to our Sunday School in consequence.
J. FYFE.

EVERTON.—Our S. S. entertainment was held on Tuesday evening, 27th ult. The deep interest taken by the community in our school was manifest by the immense number present. Upward of 600 people were in the house and many were turned away. The interest shown by the crowded audience during the entire evening testified to the appreciation of the performances. Bro. Munro, in company with Bro. Donald Sinclair, of Toronto, came over from Erin and gave us an interesting address. We were pleased to see present, friends from Erin, Toronto, and a well filled carole of S. S. workers from the Royal City. Much credit is due Bro. James Black, the leader of the choir, for the excellent music rendered on the occasion. An interesting incident of the evening was the reading by Bro. John McKinnon of an address to Bro. Wm. Towell, assistant superintendent of the school, followed by a presentation to him of a teacher's Bible and a well filled purse. The most pleasing feature of the entertainment was the sailing in of the beautiful "Christmas Ship" while the school sang lustily "ship ahoy!" "There's a ship upon the sea loaded down for you and me, and there's hope that we may see her here to-night." She arrived in port on schedule time in first-class condition, and was truly loaded down with a cargo which made the heart of the Sunday school scholar to rejoice.

CO-OPERATION NOTES.

TORONTO.—Since my last writing I have been with the church in this city, at all times a pleasant field of labor. All the meetings are now largely attended, and the interest and activity of all the members is greatly on the increase. The church here is enjoying the blessings of *Work*. They are up and doing and the result is increased delight in the service of the Lord. May we all seek to be co-workers with our Father in heaven.

Bro. J. R. Gaff of Philadelphia, spent last Lord's day with us. He is a man of age, and experience, in the work of the Lord, and when I next write I hope to be able to say that he has

come to us to remain. He is highly recommended by Bro. H. McDiarmid and others. He stayed for a few days only and returned to his home.

During the visit of Bro. Gaff we held a social gathering of the church. It was a time of thorough Christian enjoyment. Tea was served and the evening was spent in songs and brief addresses. Bro. Barclay in his usual genial and happy manner presided. All felt the better for the evening's entertainment.

There were 40 present at the prayer meeting last night and every night and every week the numbers increase. This is cause of thankfulness "For as is the prayer meeting, so also is the church." If the prayer meeting is well attended and enjoyed, the Lord's day services will be well attended too. No church should deny itself the luxury and blessing of a prayer meeting. Even country churches can meet from house to house and enjoy these seasons of refreshing. Try it brethren and sisters, begin with the New Year. Let the elders be the first to propose such a movement all through the churches where no such meeting exists, and if they cannot then let the younger move in the matter. Have the prayer meeting in any case. Its effect on the church is just what may be expected—increased life and power.

A Mission church has been started in the extreme west of the city, and bids fair to be a source of strength and blessing. A meeting is held every Lord's day afternoon. "The table of the Lord is spread" and the brethren of that section of the city worship there. Brethren from Denison Avenue visit them regularly and conduct these services. There is room for a work also in the east of the city, and we trust an opening may yet be found there to establish the cause in all its simplicity and power.

We shall soon enter upon the New Year. How much have we done for Christ this year? How much do we desire to do this coming year? There is much to be done, much of faithful service, much of self-sacrifice, much of painstaking labor. Brethren the reward is sure. Let our motto for 1888 be, "Trust ye in the Lord for ever, for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength."
J. LEDIARD

NEW YORK ITEMS.

BY O. G. HERTZOG.

We have taken a lease of the new Opera House for our future work in Rochester, and find our audiences have nearly doubled as a result. A new series of Gospel Temperance Meetings has been inaugurated under the auspices of the churches and various Temperance organizations of the city. The work to be accomplished is on the line of moral reform and the proper education of public sentiment. The pastors of the various churches do the speaking; the Corn Hill Quartette has charge of the singing; the author of these items has been chosen president of the association. The meetings are held every Sunday at three o'clock. They are largely attended and are proving very popular with the masses of the people. I was induced by some of the *Friends* in Rochester to allow Sunderland P. Gardner to speak for me last Sunday night. I found after he had been speaking a while that I had caught a Tartar, as he proved to be a veritable Hicksite; I presumed from representations made to me that he was a regular old-fashioned orthodox Quaker. He is a man of wonderful activity to be eighty-five years old. It is said that he has attended three thousand funerals. As an antidote to his teaching, I propose to deliver Christmas morning a discourse on "the incarnation." We have planned for a very active campaign in Rochester from the first of January. Bro. B. B. Tyler, en route to Buffalo to attend the opening of their new house of worship, stopped off and gave us two excellent sermons that did us all good. The Buffalo church has now one of the finest places of worship among us in the State. They have cleared it of all debt, save a mortgage of five thousand dollars. This will be paid within five years. Bro. Tribble, who left under the protest of the church, has agreed to return the first of January. Bro. Gault has done an excellent work there in every department of labor. He carries with him the love and esteem of the whole church to his field of labor, which is likely to be Syracuse, N. Y. We shall be glad to retain him in the State. He is a scholarly and very agreeable in every way. He is an excellent teacher and very efficient in all departments of church work. Bro. E. A. Pardee of this place, is in Indiana at the solicitation of some of the churches there, and he will likely locate among

the Hoosiers. The brethren here are building new sheds in the rear of the church to accommodate the teams from the country. Several of the prominent families of this church that formerly lived in the country are now living in town. This greatly adds to the strength of the cause here. This town is still growing at a rapid rate, and if the church keeps pace with the town it is destined to be a strong one. The author of these items sends Christmas greetings to all the brethren.

Suspension Bridge

FOREIGN MISSIONARY NOTES.

The beginning of the year is a good time to subscribe to the work of the world's evangelization. Collections are a very poor and precarious support for an enterprise of such moment and magnitude. A stormy day cuts down the audience and receipts fifty per cent. A few of those who are kept at home will send in their contributions, but the great majority will not. The collections ought not to be emphasized less than they are, but they ought to be supplemented with subscriptions. A neat and convenient Record for 1888 has been prepared, and will be sent to any one that is willing to try what he can do. It is hoped that a thousand young persons will apply for a Record. There are multitudes who give nothing who would give regularly and largely if their attention was called to the matter.

THE receipts are smaller at this time of year than any other. From September to March there is no collection for Foreign Missions. After the Convention there is always a lull. This year began with only \$891 in the treasury. That is not enough to pay the men in the field for a single week. Those who owe anything on pledges ought to pay now if possible. It would be well if the payments on pledges were not deferred until the end of the year. Those who have not been at the conventions and have made no pledges should contribute as they are able. The Society will need \$10,000 before the time for the March collection. It would be an easy thing for the brethren to contribute twice this sum for this work. The Lord needs this amount for his own work from the stewards with whom he has entrusted his silver and gold. He wants \$1,000 from some; \$100 from some; \$10.00 from some; and \$5 from a great many.

THE close of the year is a suitable time to make an offering to the Lord. We have had peace within all our borders. We have been preserved from famine and pestilence. Our prosperity as a nation is unprecedented. God has not left himself without witness in that he has given us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness. He has given us in addition the hope of immortality and eternal life. How can we best show our gratitude for all these temporal and spiritual blessings? By seeking to spread abroad the glory of his name. Two thirds of the race are perishing in ignorance and in sin. They know nothing of the salvation which has been provided for them. At this season of the year when we rejoice over the birth of Christ, and the blessings which he has brought to the race, we ought to do what we can to cause all others to share in our blessings and joys.
A. McLEAN, Cor. Sec'y.

Contributions from Ontario to Foreign Missions since last report: Church Garafaxa, \$15.00; Church Owen Sound, \$5.00.

TEMPERANCE.

DOES REGULATION REGULATE?

Senator Frye says of his recent trip abroad: "I was charmed with Edinburgh, but when I saw women drunk, fighting in her beautiful streets, the modern Athens lost her charms. I cannot convey to you the picture of the degradation and want throughout Great Britain caused by drink." And yet Great Britain has tried license laws for 400 years! This is the result of four centuries of effort in trying to get rid of the "evils of intemperance" by legalizing the saloon. Maybe some of our virtuous friends like Dr. Beacon and Robert Graham, who prate about "impracticable fanatics," will be content with 300 years more of effort along the same line in this country, and maybe they'll not.—*The Voice*.

HE FALLS ONLY WHEN HE IS TEMPTED.

Rev. Hugh O. Pentecost, of Newark, is the minister who says, "When I want a drink I take it." For the soul of me I can't see anything

very remarkable in that, even in a preacher. He would be a fool to take a drink when he didn't want it. But when he does want it, that's the time to take it. Even a donkey does that—and the donkey can't be compelled to drink when he doesn't want to. So you see, my son, there is the difference between the man and the donkey. Any man, parson or layman, can do as the donkey, and take a drink when he wants it, or even refuse to take a drink when he doesn't want one. But it takes a man, my boy, to refuse a drink when he wants it. And when he has this control over himself he can practise louder and more in a day than the Rev. Pentecost can preach in a year.—*Burdett*

THE CHURCH MOVES A.L.O.

Here is a straw that shows the educational effect upon the public mind that the present tremendous agitation of the temperance question is having. The Grand Lodge of Masons in Missouri, the highest authority among Masons in that State, confirmed, on Oct. 13, the decree of the Grand Master that all members of any Lodge who are in any way connected with the liquor traffic shall be expelled. The political agitation of the liquor question means education all along the line. Our timid friends who talked of a setback are beginning to open their eyes. And there are the Knights of Labor, also, expelling liquor men from their ranks! But is it not odd that there are churches, and many of them, which haven't as much conscience on this subject as have the Knights of Labor and the Free Masons? It will be the blunder of the age if the Church waits to be led in this moral and religious reform by secular organizations. Ministers of the religion of the holy Christ you cannot afford to wait.—*The Voice*.

OBITUARIES.

PLAYER.

The subject of this notice, Bro. Wm. Player, was born at Malmesbury, Wiltshire, England, in the year 1826. He came to America in 1851 and settled near Rochester at a place called Pine Hill. He spent about five years at this place, working the most of his time at tailoring. Although somewhat advanced in life, he very wisely took advantage of an opportunity to improve his education by spending a session at the Rochester University. He then moved to Canada and settled in Nassagaweya, where he spent the remainder of his days. He united in youth with the Moravian church, but became a member of the Baptist church after coming to America. When the truth, as taught by the Disciples, was preached in Nassagaweya he was one of the first to discard sectarianism and take his stand upon the Bible. From that time to the day of his death he was a zealous advocate of simple, apostolic Christianity. He saw and deeply deplored the divisions which exist among the people of God. He was an elder of the church in Nassagaweya, and was always active and zealous. He espoused the temperance cause in his boyhood, and during all his days was its ardent friend and sympathizer. He gave sanction and support to every benevolent enterprise. He was one of earth's noblemen. Our brother had been in a delicate state of health for several years. In the evening of the 22nd Nov. he breathed his last, surrounded by family and friends. The circle of one of the happiest of families has been broken. He leaves a wife and two children to mourn his departure. His presence will be sadly missed, not only by the family, but by the church and community. God doeth all things well, and blessed be his name.
F.

SHERK.

"How blest the righteous when he dies," are words beautifully applicable to the departure of our loved, loving Bro. John L. Sherk, who was called home, September 16th, 1887, in the 41st year of his age. He leaves a wife (a daughter of Bro. Matt. Gilbert), and two children. They deeply deplore the loss of a kind and affectionate husband and father. Their loss truly is great. He was the oldest son of our late Bro. Benjamin Sherk, who was the father of a very affectionate family, noted for kindness, uprightness and devotion. The funeral was very large; the church-house in Dorchester had not sufficient capacity to admit all, though it was densely crowded. The remains of our dear brother were interred in the St. Thomas cemetery, there to await a glorious resurrection.
S. KEEFER.

MARRIED.

CAMPBELL.—MUNRO in Blenheim, Ont., December 21st, at the residence of the bride's aunt, Mrs. John Sinclair, by Elder E. Sheppard, Malcolm C. Campbell, of Hawick, Ont., and Robina Munro.