

News of the Churches.

WOODSTOCK.—*Ordination.*—The ordination and induction of the Rev. I. J. Swanson, B. A., as pastor of the Congregational church took place last night. The ceremony was witnessed by an unusually large congregation. The Rev. Dr. Barbour, a brief sketch of whose life has already appeared in these columns, was the preacher of the evening, and with him on the platform were the Rev. J. Morton, Hamilton; Rev. J. P. Gerrie, B. A., Stratford; Rev. E. D. Silcox, Embro; Rev. W. H. Wade, Rev. Dr. McMullen and Rev. G. W. Kerby, Woodstock, and Mr. Donaldson, Stratford. The Rev. Mr. Gerrie, Scribe of the Ecclesiastical Council of which Dr. Barbour was President, read a resolution of the Council, unanimously approving of the church's action in selecting Mr. Swanson. Communications were read from the Rev. W. A. McKay and Rev. J. C. Farthing, expressing their regret at being unable to be present. A solemn invocation was made by the Rev. Mr. Wade, after which Mr. Donaldson read a portion of Scripture from Isaiah. Rev. Dr. Barbour then preached the ordination sermon. He took the text from the Acts of the Apostles, vi: 4, the subject of his discourse being Prayer. The discourse was one of rare beauty, and was intended to emphasize the importance of praying as well as preaching as a part of ministerial work. After the discourse the ceremony of ordination was performed. It was exceedingly simple, but none the less impressive. Rev. Messrs. Barbour, Morton, Silcox and Gerrie, stood around the young pastor while Dr. Barbour offered up a solemn and impressive prayer. Rev. Mr. Morton of Hamilton then addressed the pastor, speaking some words of encouragement and advice calculated to be of use to him in the career on which he was entering. Rev. Mr. Silcox of Embro extended to Mr. Swanson the right hand of fellowship and warmly welcomed him to the church. Rev. Mr. Gerrie of Stratford addressed the people. He expressed the pleasure it had given him to be present on the interesting occasion when a fellow student was taken into the ministry. Rev. Mr. Kerby, on behalf of the other ministers of the town, extended to the new pastor a hearty welcome, and Rev. Dr. McMullen announced the closing hymn, after which the pastor pronounced the benediction. The choir rendered a number of selections in excellent style during the evening. The whole ceremony was full of interest.—*Sentinel Review.*

TORONTO, PARKDALE.—A remarkably interesting lecture was delivered on Friday evening, 5th September, in the Parkdale Congregational Church, Toronto, by the Rev. Charles Duff, M. A., on

"Talmage." After a brief introduction the lecturer outlined the treatment of his subject as "Dr. Talmage, Christian lecturer and Gospel preacher." As a lecturer, pointed comparisons were drawn between Dr. Talmage, Henry Ward Beecher and Dr. Jos. Parker, Mr. Duff showing by imitation of gesture and voice of each, their peculiarities of style in placing their audiences immediately at ease and commanding attention throughout a discourse or lecture. Apt illustrations were given of how Dr. Talmage by flashes of humor enlivens the tedium of an hour and a half lecture. Commenting on this department of the subject, it was remarked that the sweep of some great moral question of momentous and universal importance had often done much to develop great men, as in the case of Beecher by slavery; but that the course of Dr. Talmage had been unmarked by any such upheaval of public sentiment, and therefore that his work had been confined, naturally, to the more private issues of life. As the greatest preacher on this continent, it was pointed out that Dr. Talmage had not shaken off orthodoxy; that he stuck to a literal interpretation of the word of God, even to the material fire in hell, but that in presenting gospel truths to his hearers, he had no hesitation as to the figures he made use of. Niceties of truth in the presentation of a subject, never troubled him. What he conceived, he used to work out the single purpose in hand; utterly regardless of other interpretations or constructions that might be placed on his flights of fancy. The earnestness and aims of the great preacher were dwelt on at some length; and in closing the lecturer referred to the charges made recently by the New York Sun against Dr. Talmage. He discounted considerably the cry of misrepresentation raised in regard to the recent visit to oriental lands, as also the standing charge of being grasping in money matters. In summing up the character and abilities of Talmage, the lecturer reached a climax of almost breathless interest to his audience; and in chosen words, concluded a lecture that should have been heard by all admirers and critics of the Brooklyn preacher. It is understood that it is Mr. Duff's intention to deal with the work and lives of other great preachers and lecturers in a similar manner, during the coming winter months; an undertaking, which, judging from the able start cannot fail to be of benefit to the friends of the Parkdale church, and popular with the public generally.—*Reported for the Independent.*

TORONTO, PARKDALE.—Our church has been recently painted and refitted throughout, at a cost of about \$1,000. The re-opening services were held on Sunday, August 31st. In the morning Zion's new pastor preached a delightful sermon