

unto the Lord, come near and bring sacrifices and thank-offerings into the house." The custom of using the mite-boxes, which many of us have in our homes, as a thank-offering box, in which we regularly note the blessings or bright spots in our daily lives, should prove a beautiful education towards a cheerful and thankful spirit.

The thank-offering service at our anniversaries may justly be considered a revival, as far as possible, of the scriptural yearly feast, when all the families from twelve years and upwards, went up together to Jerusalem with their offerings to the temple. Although the types and shadows are passed away, because fulfilled in Christ, may we not carry out in spirit a thank-offering service which shall not only more firmly unite us together, but help to further the work which our Master came into the world to do? In this, as in every service, we put our offering in the plate, let our prayers, our faith, our consecrated self accompany it; then we may expect to reap a rich harvest, not only in our own church, but in our *sister* churches across the wide ocean.

Paris, Ont.

Mrs. B. BOLTON.

HERE AND THERE AMONG THE CHURCHES.

BY AN ENGLISH VISITOR.

III.

We returned towards Toronto by way of the Great Lakes, having a most favorable and delightful passage from Fort William to Owen Sound. Owen Sound is a thriving and growing town on Georgian Bay; beautifully situated, and containing many churches of various denominations. But where are the Congregationalists? Roaming round the streets, I came upon a small but pretentious stone church, with a tower and steeple—whose doors were locked, and whose windows were sealed up with boards. And this had been its condition, I was told, for a long time. Better than the uses to which this same sacred building had been put some time after the removal of its one devoted minister—who stayed on and worked hard for some years, until it was evident to him that he could not get a livelihood for his family. Then, the deserted temple, falling into

the hands of the mortgagee, was let in turn for a music hall and a dancing saloon! And now for some time, no one had hired it for either sacred or unholy purposes; and the holder was vainly trying to find a purchaser to take it off his hands, to recoup himself for former loss.

To a stranger there was something infinitely touching and sorrowful in meeting with these closed sanctuaries, and hearing the stories of failure and disappointment in connection therewith. Either these churches were intruders when first planted, where other Christian bodies were sufficiently holding the field for Christ! or they were unsuitably shepherded, or insufficiently supported by the stronger churches till they had time to feel their feet; or, can it be possible (as was seriously reported to me of a Congregational church that shall be nameless here), that if a church loses a pastor whom it has learned to love, by resignation and removal to another sphere, such church (or any of its chief supporters), in a fit of spleen or vexation, should voluntarily close its doors and let the weeks slip by without divine worship, and without seeking even a "supply" for the empty pulpit? thereby causing the enemies of the Christian faith to laugh, and making it terribly hard for a successor to gather the scattered flock, and build up again the ruins of what ought to be a flourishing cause.

We conclude our sketch with a few words touching a Sabbath of rest and refreshing, spent with two of the Congregational churches of Toronto, on June 3rd. Our attention was naturally drawn first to the Northern church, as to this centre of Christian influence the Union of the Ontario and Quebec churches are converging during the present week. The reputation of the activity and energy of this church had been carried to us in England, by a former member, now one of our ablest workers in our own church in Cheshire; and his report is more than sustained by the present condition and prospects of the congregation, under the leadership of their pastor, the Rev. T. B. Hyde, who recently assumed the pastorate, after a most successful ministry at Chicago, in connection with "Moody's church." We spent our Sunday morning of June 3rd, with Mr. Hyde and his congregation.

The service was beautiful in simplicity, and