

We are still in hope to be able by the month of April to be able to reduce the amount of debt held on mortgage by \$1,000. It is well known to the readers of THE INDEPENDENT how feeble the church in Sarnia has become, both numerically and financially. Indeed, by some it has been deemed "a forlorn hope," and one brother of experience who spent a month with the church last autumn, and who assisted in my introduction to this field, wrote me to the effect that "if I succeeded in building up the cause in Sarnia, I would deserve the thanks of the denomination."

This I do not desire, and shall not therefore anticipate, but for the information of my many friends among your readers, I may say, after four months of earnest labour, during which I have been pleased to witness the growing affection of the people, the slow but steady increase of the congregation, the very encouraging attendance on the Sabbath school and prayer meetings, I have at length accepted the unanimous call of the church to the pastorate given me about a month ago. There are two ways in which my friends may help me in this very arduous undertaking. First, and best of all, by their earnest prayers to God on my behalf, and second, by their promising aid to our heavy church debt—an opportunity to collect at a convenient time; a church social held for our church benefit; an opportunity to lecture on some interesting theme on behalf of the cause. We would most gladly reciprocate were the distance not too far away. With grateful remembrance of your own kindness and that of your family when last your guest in Toronto, I remain, Mr. Editor, yours very truly,

ROBERT K. BLACK.

Sarnia, February 12, 1886.

News of the Churches.

GEORGETOWN.—The annual meeting of the Congregational Church in Georgetown was held in the school room, on February 3, when it was shown that the past year has been one of the most prosperous in the history of the church. The congregations have been steadily increasing and a greater interest has been manifested in all the meetings. This has been the case in a very marked degree in connection with the weekly prayer meetings. During the year, twelve names were added to the membership. At the annual meeting in 1886, there was a new plan adopted in the financial management of the church, which has given great satisfaction, the reports of the treasurers of the different departments almost invariably showing a surplus, and when all demands were settled, a handsome surplus was on hand to be divided among those institutions that are dependent on the churches. During the year the church building had been painted and otherwise improved at an expense of over \$200 ;

the amount raised for all purposes during the year was about \$1,300. One of the most pleasing features of the meeting was the address from the pastor, Mr. J. W. Pedley, in which he expressed himself as highly pleased with the uniform kindness and co-operation with which his labours in our midst have been received, and the church expressed its appreciation of those labours in the tangible way of raising his salary \$100. The meeting was characterized throughout by the utmost harmony and unanimity, and the people separated after partaking of an excellent tea, happy and thankful for past mercies, and very hopeful for the future success of the church.—COM.

HOWICK NINTH, WROXETER.—On New Year's Day the residence of the Rev. M. J. Totten, at Wroxeter, was visited by about thirty of the friends and supporters of the Congregational Church, Howick, ninth concession, when a pleasant evening was spent, and "a substantial present of some seven sacks of wheat, two sacks of oats, together with other valuable edibles," were presented with an address expressing confidence and esteem. This is the second occasion of such a visit within the past few weeks.

KINGSTON FIRST.—The annual meeting of this church was held on the 9th ult., at which there was a large attendance. After tea in the parlour, the company assembled in the hall. The chair was taken by the Rev. S. N. Jackson, M.D., who, after opening the meeting with singing and prayer, delivered his annual reports on church progress. This, he said, was the tenth anniversary of his pastorate amongst them. Since his assuming the pastorate, every pastor who was then in charge of a church in this city, had, with one exception gone, some to the better country, and others to other spheres of usefulness. The changes in the church have been equally marked. The condition of the church during the past year has been one of harmony and prosperity. There had been more accessions than removals, and the number of adherents had never been so large as now. The attendance upon the services of the sanctuary, especially in the morning, had been excellent. The week night devotional meetings had been well sustained, and had proved a blessing to many. During the latter part of the year, they were all delighted at the return of Mr. Thos. Hendry, after a prolonged absence in Southern California. One of the results of his return had been the organization of the young people of the congregation into a Society of Christian Endeavour, with a devotional meeting held each Sunday morning, and a literary meeting each fortnight. Much benefit, socially, intellectually and spiritually had been derived from this society. At the last annual meeting, they had kindly voted to give him (Dr. Jackson) leave of absence to visit Great Britain, but being taken sick in March, he had availed himself of a generous invita-