

News of the Churches.

TORONTO—BOND STREET. RESIGNATION OF THE REV. F. H. MARLING.—Many of our readers will regret to learn that on Sunday morning, November 7th, the Rev. Mr. Marling, who has so long and ably filled the pulpit of the Bond Street Congregational Church, intimated his intention of resigning his present charge at the end of November, with a view to accepting the call of the Fourteenth street Presbyterian Church in New York. The announcement, though not altogether unexpected by some of the congregation, took most of the members by surprise, and caused no little agitation and sorrow.

A special meeting of the Church to consider the matter was called on Monday evening, on which occasion there was a very large attendance of the members. The Rev. Mr. Marling presented his resignation with visible emotion, assuring the Church that the idea of change was not entertained by him on account of any difficulty with its members or officers, as entire harmony prevailed between himself and them. He had not sought the change, and the call did not present any worldly considerations that might influence him to accept it; but the longer and the more closely he had looked into the matter, the more he was convinced that he ought not to decline it.

Mr. Marling then retired, to allow the Church to consider the question of their acceptance of his resignation. It was then resolved by a rising vote that the Pastor be requested to reconsider the matter, and to withdraw his resignation, and a deputation was appointed to wait on him to enforce personally their request. After an hour's interview, however, the deputation returned, reporting that they had not succeeded in changing the Pastor's purpose, but that he felt the urgency of the appeal was such that he

could not dismiss it without further consideration, and that he would give them his final decision on Wednesday.

On Wednesday evening the Church again met, and Mr. Marling, feeling unable to be present, sent a communication to be read to the Church, in which he announced his former decision as final and irrevocable, and the Church was therefore compelled sorrowfully to accept his resignation, which they did in the following terms:—

Resolved—“That this Church, having learned with deep regret that all efforts to change the Pastor's mind have proved ineffectual, and that he still adheres to his purpose to relinquish his present charge, in the conviction that the Lord has called him to another sphere of labour which seems to him to offer a greater prospect of usefulness, sorrowfully yields to his wish and accepts his resignation, saying, ‘The will of the Lord be done.’”

Mr. Marling's removal from Toronto will be much felt in many quarters, and his place will be very difficult to fill. He has for twenty-one years occupied a prominent position in connection with most of our religious and benevolent societies, and especially in connection with our Provincial Sunday School Association. His removal will also be deeply felt by the Congregational denomination, of which he has been so bright an ornament. For although the acceptance of the call of a Presbyterian Church in the United States does not involve either sacrifice or change of principle on his part, inasmuch as Congregational and Presbyterian ministers frequently pass to and fro in the way in which Mr. Marling is doing, yet, so far as Canada is concerned, his loss will be just as great as if he had joined another body.

We are quite sure, however, that