

I looked in three times. Serious, prayerful, persons do congregate there, some daily I suppose, but you see a pleasant variety of faces, Christians from the country as well as town popping in and joining. The war and the case of the wounded soldiers, occupy both their prayers and speeches much and, of course, rightly. The practice is continued, too, of reading out written requests for special remembrance each day, given up by earnest parties in relation to definite cases—often of soldiers gone to the field. Though the war, I fear, exerts on the whole, an unfavourable influence on the religion of the masses, unsettling men's minds, and withdrawing them to the national strifes, political as well as martial, yet I am pleased to be able to confirm two things, both recently testified to in the *Record*, first—that in instances of considerable number, the word has come with power to men for the first time seriously led to peruse it amidst the perils of the camp, or the sufferings in the hospital; and secondly, that there is among the pious and prayerful more recognition than used to be, of those national sins that by all but Americans, and by many Americans too, were seen long ago to be ripening their community for sad judgments. It was refreshing to hear in a place where, even since the war commenced, I understand it was ticklish ground to suggest a prayer for the bondsman, far more to dilate from the word of God on the grand oppression—to hear I say most earnest lamentations now over the sin against their brother; and denunciations (fully up to my demand, and most welcome to my ears, though by parties unconscious of my presence,) of the faithlessness of the pulpit as well as of the tribune in past years, in this particular. Hoping I have not encroached unduly on your space, I am yours, Mr. Editor, truly,

M. WILLIS.

(The Rev. R. Ure of Goderich has also lately visited Lancaster, and his testimony entirely accords with that of Principal Willis.—EDITOR.)

THE HEALTH OF OUR MINISTERS.

Physical as well as spiritual health in our ministers is a blessing of great value to the Church at large, and is intimately connected with the progress of Christ's cause throughout our bounds. When the bodily powers are exhausted and debilitated, languor of mind necessarily follows, and, as a consequence, the ministrations of the sanctuary must be lacking in that vigour and animation, which go so far to make them interesting and profitable.

Where is the minister who has not felt that with less than his average amount of preparation, and more than his average of physical tone, he has preached with more readiness, vigour, and apparent effect, then when his preparation was more elaborate, but his physical vitalities at low mark; and should not such an experience counteract the tendency towards an ascetic and unscriptural "neglecting of the body," at present invading so seriously the usefulness of many a minister. Obviously the Canada Presbyterian Church is suffering extensively by the debilitated health of many of its ministers. Few persons outside of the ministry have any adequate conception of the wear of a minister's ordinary duties on his mental and physical energies. His work is to a very great extent unlike that of any other man. The Lawyer has his blank forms to fill, or forms of certain documents to copy, but comparatively little to originate out of his own brain. True, the editor has to originate new matter, and so far resembles the minister more than the lawyer, but still there is a deep diversity even here. The editor has not the *occasion* to create for the article he writes, the occasion is furnished to him, and calls forth the article. He is not at a loss to know what topic in the vast catalogue of political questions to take up next week, or how to present it to his readers so as to make it appropriate and interesting. The political questions occupying the public mind at the time leave him at no loss as to what he shall write on, or how he shall secure atten-