

of the church, and to strike the women who, by self-denying efforts have in two years paid off a debt contracted in boom days, for carpets and cushions. The very extraordinary efforts put forth by the church to be self-supporting in the midst of the almost complete business collapse and general bankruptcy that has followed the boom in the city, are turned by the Missionary Superintendent against the church. This church in its struggle for existence deserves better from its brethren in the East than abuse and misrepresentation. If you cannot help us in the work we are doing in this country, then please let us alone.

Yours, etc., J. B. SILCOX.

Winnipeg, April 23, 1885.

[As experience moulds our years we learn that very many of the antagonisms of life arise from misapprehensions of each other's position, and from a lack of that frankness of statement which confidence in one's own position and in another's good intentions, encourages. Moreover, we learn as life progresses, that perfection is not in man; even an editor does not wield an infallible pen—therefore it is unjust to expect from another a perfection we are far from manifesting ourselves. Realizing these facts, and urging their practical acceptance, we offer some *final* remarks on this Manitoba correspondence. We say final, because both sides, if sides there be, have now been heard, and a continuance will only be a battle where peace and mutual confidence is to be desired. We shall make no remarks upon the temper of the correspondence. We believe motives to have been in general pure, though judgments have been diverse. And first regarding our friends Mr. J. and Mr. R. Brown. Here there has evidently been misunderstanding. The sentence we have marked (1) in Mr. Silcox's letter plainly implies that Mr. Hall really means that the committee did not know that Mr. Brown was willing to re-assume the regular pastorate, but that, as many Christian men of business have done and are doing still, he was giving in an emergency, services "until a suitable man could be found." This consideration will also meet the seeming charge of "common honesty" being wanting on the part of the committee, marked (2). A private letter from Mr. R. Brown draws attention to a letter written by Mr. H. Burke, secretary of the church at Pilot Mound, and read by Mr. J. L. Foster (late of Calvary Church, Montreal) to the society at its annual meeting, that Mr. John Brown was willing to undertake work. In the report of the Manitoba Committee for that year (1881), appears the sentence quoted above regarding Mr. Ewing and Mr. J. Brown: "Both these brethren are prepared to devote themselves entirely to mission work in Manitoba, as soon as your committee are able to contribute towards their support." It must be remembered, however, that funds at that time were not

forthcoming; hence without surprise we read in the report of the following year: "Rev. J. Brown, in addition to his agricultural pursuits, is still ministering with self-denying devotion to the church at Pilot Mound; but feeling the importance of the church having a man *entirely set apart* to the work of the ministry, he has made application to the committee, more than once, urging them to send a suitable pastor to this young and growing church in the wilderness." From this it would appear that our brother, Mr. J. Brown, had not expressed any intention of relinquishing his agricultural pursuits, and as a member of the church at Pilot Mound, urged very properly a settled pastorate. Had the Pilot Mound church called our friend and applied for aid, the matter would have differently presented itself, but evidently the committee did not feel justified in permanently recognizing a joint work of the pastorate and agricultural pursuits. It is to be regretted that our brethren did not plainly intimate to their brethren here their full resolve to relinquish farming and to assume again the regular pastoral relation. The misunderstanding at least had been avoided; we can scarcely allow, however, the Missionary Society to have been blameworthy in the matter.

Regarding our brother Mr. Silcox's presentation of his relation to the work, upon reflection we believe it best to let it stand. It is evident that if the Committee send men to Brandon and to similar centres, their judgment will be diverse from that of the pastor of the Winnipeg church. Judgments must differ, nor need there be any friction, or imputation of motives therefor. Personally did the man appear, we should not hesitate to urge a trial, and we are confident that Mr. Silcox would do all he could to aid a brother pioneering, though he might deem it a hopeless task; nor can any blame be attached to a judgment honestly given. Admitting into our columns allusions of a personal character, we cannot refuse our friend his full reply; our only prayer and hope now is that with these lines all feeling will disappear, and that with a single eye to the establishment of Christ's kingdom both here and in that Great North-West, we may unite with hand and heart in our work as a band of Christian brothers.—*Ed.*]

News of the Churches.

BRANTFORD.—Although we have not recently appeared on paper in your news columns, still we are alive, and we hope gradually awakening to greater life. Our Literary Society was a vigorous institution, and only ceased operations at April 1st, and then without any abatement of interest. A good work has been done by the Society in developing the latent talents of the members and in creating a feeling of