

CONGRATULATORY SOIRÉE IN THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, GUELPH.

A Congratulatory Tea Meeting was held in the School Room of the Congregational Church, on Wednesday evening, to celebrate the return of the Rev. Wm. F. Clarke from his recent visit to the Father Land.

After the good things of the well furnished Tea-table had been discussed with evident relish by the guests, an adjournment to the Chapel took place, when the Rev. Wm. Clarke of Dresden (father of the pastor), was called to the Chair.

The Chairman introduced the pleasing object of the meeting in a feeling and appropriate address, when the following resolution, moved by S. Hodgskin, Esq., seconded by Alex. Thompson, Esq., and supported in an effective address by Rev. R. Robinson, was carried with demonstrations of pleasure and unanimity.

"That this Meeting of the congregation and friends of the Rev. W. F. Clarke, most cordially welcome his return from England, to his family and flock. They gratefully acknowledge the Divine Hand in the protection of his person, and in the results of his visit, especially in the complete vindication of an important principle and the restoration of peace and confidence among brethren."

The Pastor replied under the influence of strong emotions. He referred to the very gratifying reception he had obtained both in private and in public, not only from members of his own flock, but from numerous friends belonging to other congregations. Through God's good Providence he had not only been permitted to return in peace and safety, but the great object of his visit had been fully realized. He returned to the chosen scene of his labours, with a mind relieved from a weight of care that had long oppressed him. Peace and confidence had been fully and happily restored between himself and honored brethren in England. The principle for which he had contended had been fully vindicated, and the rights of humanity and privileges of christian citizenship accorded to men of every class and colour in connection with British Missions. Fully restored to his previous status and placed in a high position for usefulness, he thanked God and took courage. He felt that he could now, with heart and soul, co-operate with his brethren both in Canada and Britain, in all their efforts for the glory of Christ and the salvation of souls. Singing and prayer and the benediction concluded the meeting.—*Guelph Herald*.

THE AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The fifty-first annual meeting of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions commenced its sessions in the First Presbyterian church of Cleveland, Ohio, on the afternoon of the first of October. Judge Strong, of Pennsylvania, presided, in the absence of the President and Vice President. The treasurer's report and an abstract of the report of the Prudential Committee were then read. The receipts for the thirteen months ending August 31, 1861, have been \$341,988, and the expenditures \$369,874 leaving a debt of \$27,895, much less than was anticipated two months ago.

GENERAL VIEW OF THE MISSIONS.

In *Western Africa* the older brethren, though deeply sensible of the obstacles that have long stood in their way, still cling to their chosen field and work. The continuance of the mission is a good deal owing to this fact. Where the Lord is pleased to give such a spirit to his servants, it is reasonable to believe that he has a work there for them to do. It may yet appear the duty of the Board to sustain a mission on the West African coast, that shall be composed wholly of colored persons. In *Southern Africa* the mission is very differently situated. The climate, people, government, under the grace of God, give promise of a harvest in proportion to the degree and skill of cultivation. The twelve stations are all not very far from the sea, occupying somewhat more than a hundred miles of the maritime district. Most of the brethren are able to preach in the native language. The ten small churches are gradually gaining numbers and strength.