

mal occasions. Under the church, but almost on a level with the street, is the school room, surrounded by five carpeted class rooms for young people of both sexes, an infant class-room capable of accommodating 200 children, and a library of 2,500 volumes. All these rooms communicate with the main hall by a succession of sliding windows, which can be thrown up, so that a speaker from the platform can be distinctly seen and heard. The Hall will accommodate 800 scholars. The ground and building cost over \$60,000.

The present pastor of St. Catherine street church is (as is well known) the Rev. John L. Campbell, a distinguished graduate of our Canadian Literary Institute at Woodstock. He succeeded the former able and highly respected minister, Rev. Joshua Denovan, in May last. Our readers were favoured with his introductory sermon in the June number of the HELPER. The membership, according to the *Year Book*, is 230; but we have been happy to observe from time to time in the columns of the *Canadian Baptist*, gratifying accessions by baptism, so that the above figures—gathered from Minutes of the Ottawa Association as early as June last—probably represent much less than the present numerical strength. The Sunday School is very large, having an average attendance of over 400 scholars. The Superintendents are David Bentley and John Kennedy.

This church is blessed with a more than common number of earnest and devoted Christian workers, among whom the names of brethren T. James Claxton, David Bentley, Duncan McFarlane, Thomas Leeming, and others, are familiar to Baptists all over the Dominion.

THE GIRLS' HOME.

Toronto is a city of churches, and as a very natural and usual consequence, its public charities are numerous and efficient. Among these latter none is perhaps more fruitful in gratifying results than the "Girls' Home," on Gerrard street, which has just held its twenty-first annual meeting, at which was presented the usual annual report by the accomplished and devout young lady whom the Committee of Man-

agement are happy to have as their Secretary.

If space permitted, we should like to place before our readers the whole of this very excellent report, but must rest content with a few paragraphs, which will give some information as to the character of the work engaged in:—

"The review of the work done by the Home for the past year is a peculiarly gratifying one. While those providing for smaller families are obliged to report that times have been hard, with the utmost thankfulness we say the wants of this household, consisting of no less than 120 helpless children, have been amply provided for, and at no time has a single bill stood unpaid for lack of funds. The collectors, who in a recent speech were humorously compared to the busy bees who 'gather honey from every opening flower,' have been moderately successful in their efforts; a benignant Government has offered its friendly aid; a kind hearted public has opened its purses and poured its gold into the treasury; but behind all this can be traced the goodness of a Heavenly Father, who has inclined so many hearts towards the work of saving the perishing little ones of our city.

The number in the Home at present is 128; 108 were in at the commencement of this year, and 80 have since been admitted, being a total of 188 who have been in the institution during the year. Of those 45 have been taken out by parents; 9 have been sent to the Boys' Home, 3 have gone to service, 1 has been adopted, 1 has gone to the Infant's Home, and 2 have died, being a total of 61 who have been removed from the institution during 1877. It might be mentioned here that the children received have been almost entirely from the town. Applications have been made from different places throughout Ontario, but as no payment has been promised, they have been necessarily declined. If in such cases the Magistrate or Corporation would guarantee something towards their support, an effort would be made to reach even these.

A very pleasing account has lately come from a physician who adopted one of the Home children into his family. He writes: 'To the Managers of the Girls' Home:—I thought perhaps a few lines in reference to a child taken from the Home about nine years ago would not be taken amiss. You will recollect her well when I draw your attention to the incident of her being taken out of the Home and abused, and her subsequent return, a little before we took her. I am sure you will recollect little Nellie. I have sent you her photograph, taken a short time ago. I can assure you that no such blessing has ever come to our house. She may well be termed the idol of the household. She, however, is too good to be spoiled—a loving, docile, obedient child. She is a good student, and quite an adept at music, now presides at the organ in church; and, if her health permit, will only finish with an academical education. We were trying her the other evening as to her recollection of any incident or circumstance in connection with her early history, but all is lost, and to this day she does not know what she is our

own child. We would like her never to know. We dread any explanation, but suppose will have to explain if occasion requires. We are a little anxious to know if she has any near relatives living. We know her sister died. However, we do not require any information contrary to the rules of the Institution.

'Yours obediently, E. P.'

After giving extracts from a number of other very encouraging letters, and very gratifying accounts of the Sunday School and the Day School connected with the Home, an appreciative acknowledgment of the services of Dr. Ross, the physician, and Mrs. Pearson, the matron, &c., &c., Miss Elliot thus concludes:—

"The record of one more year has been closed, its varied toils are over, but their results still live. 'Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he reap.' 'He that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly, and he that soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.' If, through your efforts, hunger has been dispelled by plenty, tears by happy smiles, and sorrow by light-hearted joy, then may you also rejoice. Weigh well the fact that it is only in this short life that we are permitted to follow this Christ-like example, for in that heaven to which we are hastening, where they 'hunger no more, neither do they thirst,' it will be for ever too late to put forth these endeavours. In entering these blessed and everlasting habitations, may we rather look forward to a welcome from some who, while treading the dark pathway of life, were cheered by a ray from our friendly lamp.

"There are little ones glancing about in my path. In want of a friend or a guide; There are dear little eyes looking up into mine, Whose tears might be easily dried.

'But Jesus may beckon the children away. In the midst of their grief or their plea, Will any of them at the Beautiful Gate Be watching and waiting for me?'

We have only to add that the Committee of Management consists of well known ladies of all the Protestant denominations, the Baptists being represented by Mrs. Elliot, Mrs. J. G. Scott, Mrs. Freeland, Mrs. A. R. McMaster, and Miss Elliot.

A very pleasing feature connected with the Annual Meeting, was the disposal by the children, of an abundant feast of good things, provided for them by the liberality of Mr. Geo. E. Sears, of New York.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

PERSONAL.—It is well known to most of our city readers that Mr. W. R. Henderson, business manager of the HELPER, has been for some months laid aside from business by a very painful affection of the