

obedience to His mind and will as they are expressed in the New Testament, by the Golden Rule and the New Commandment."

In the discussion which followed, some of the brethren held that this statement, or something like it, would make a very good basis for union; while others contended that the statement was altogether too meagre and indefinite to serve as such a basis. The object of the resolution being to elicit discussion, and this end having been gained, the association took no action in regard to it.

Mr. Warriner followed with a paper, "The Lost Ten Tribes Theory." The paper showed careful research, and comparative study of history and prophecy, and was an able refutation of the Anglo-Israel theory.

In the evening, a social was given by the ladies of the church, after which short addresses were delivered by Messrs. Smith, Warriner, C. S. Pedley, Gerrie and Richardson. The singing by the choir was exceptionally good. At the close of the meeting a hearty vote of thanks was tendered to the pastor and people of the Georgetown Church, for the generous hospitality and good cheer rendered to the members of the association.

Parkdale Church was received into membership, Mr. Burton re-appointed representative on the executive of the Missionary Society, and the Northern Church, Toronto, selected as the place for the autumn meeting of the association.

If I have not already occupied too much space, I should like a word or two in regard to the matter of attendance at these denominational gatherings. Is it not a cause for profound regret and humiliation that there exists such a seeming apathy and lack of interest among us with reference to such institutions?

There are some twelve ministerial members in the Central Association. Only about half the number were present at Georgetown; and of these, only three were present at all the meetings. There are over twenty churches connected with the association. Not more than two, I think, were represented by delegates. Two ministerial members formed the total representation from the seven churches of Toronto. "Be watchful, and strengthen the things that remain."

These statements are not made in a critical, fault-finding spirit, but simply to bring ourselves face to face with the facts of the case, and, by so doing, see if, by any possibility, we can effect a revolution or transformation in the matter.

Each pastor and church may be doing a good and faithful work in their own little plot—with head bent down, digging and delving, and grubbing and weeding—but the best and truest type of Christianity is not being developed until, now and again, at least, the head is lifted, and a kindly look or tender, sympathetic inquiry directed over the hedge to others engaged in a like occupation with themselves.

We need more fraternal intercourse; we need a more frank and brotherly interest in each other, and in each other's work. Let us seek to cultivate such. Let us stick together, and bury forever anything that savours of suspicion or alienation. Let us meet together whenever the opportunity is given, and together as brethren. "Walk about Zion, and tell the towers thereof."

A. W. G.

Pine Grove.

THE WESTERN ASSOCIATION.

The date for the spring meeting of this association would, according to the standing rule, have been April 5 and 6, but, owing to the meeting of the Executive on the same dates, and the closing of the college, it was postponed two weeks. The inconvenience resulting from this suggests the wisdom, if it were possible, of having a calendar in the Year Book with the dates of prospective meetings fixed a year ahead.

The association met this spring in Listowel, April 19 and 20, and by general consent was one of the best meetings we ever had. Rev. R. K. Black's sermon on Tuesday evening from Psalm cx. 3 was characterized by the thoughtfulness, beauty of style, and lofty sentiment which lovers of a good sermon appreciate. The prayer meeting on Wednesday morning, led by Mr. Davey, of the Congregational College, was full of devoutness and heartening. There were no papers read during the day, but the time was occupied in discussing the situation. "How to Make the Association More Useful" was introduced by Mr. Fuller, who advocated separating the treasury from the secretariat, the election of a chairman to hold office the year through, a system of frequent visitation of the churches of the district, the raising of a fund to defray the expenses, and a wider use of the press. A draft of a constitution embodying these changes was submitted by Mr. Morton, and referred to a committee (Messrs. Morton, Fuller and Pedley), to put in proper form and submit to an adjourned meeting of the association, to be held in Toronto during the week of the Union meetings. The association discussed very fully the question of the churches and the press; both THE INDEPENDENT and the *Congregational* were brought to the notice of the members, and it is hoped that the circulation of these papers will advance as a result. Mr. Fuller gave a very interesting account of the work of the Missionary Committee, and the conversation which followed tended to deepen the conviction that the committee exercised no little care in the dispensing of its funds, while at the same time the need was recognized of thorough personal acquaintance on the part of members of the committee with the mission fields. On Wednesday evening a public meeting was held, and a much larger audience than usual assembled. The addresses were by Revs. Ful-