

letter, and with which they are swelling their numbers. My brethren, let me say for the mission churches of Ontario and Quebec, "Destroy them not, for a blessing is in them. Nothing shews more effectually a want of fraternity in relation to mission churches than this readiness to destroy them."

We have not the slightest evidence that churches will thrive better in the North-west than here, or that they will become self-supporting sooner, or that there is actually more scarcity of ministers, in proportion to the inhabitants there, than in many parts of these eastern provinces.

Are we going to be such children as to give up what we have begun, to begin again somewhere else?

The money spent in Ontario, I believe to be well spent and only too sparingly dealt out. Build up churches in the far west and in Manitoba, if you can, but do not think of destroying Home Missions in Ontario in order to do it.

I do not expect that my advice will be taken, for while this excitement about the North-west is running so high, men think everything may be sacrificed here in order to go there. Good property in this beautiful Province is being sold far below its value, in order to escape to this "land flowing with milk and honey," but when, in a few years, men begin to think calmly, regrets will be too late. We cannot afford to give up our mission work in Ontario; it would be inexpedient and wicked. It may be our duty to help evangelize the North-west, but an old writer has said, "God will not accept one duty stained with the blood of another." Do we owe nothing to Muskoka, or Parry Sound, or to Manitoulin and St. Joseph Islands? Certainly; "beginning first at Jerusalem." W. H. A.

Paris, Jan. 22, 1880.

KINDNESS.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

In leaving the house of one of my deacons the other day, after having spent a pleasant visit with the family, the good deacon said: "You had better call in Mr. ———'s store and get measured for a new black coat and vest." It was a timely blessing, from a warm heart to his pastor. May others do likewise on whom the Lord has bestowed much. PASTOR.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

DEAR SIR,—In looking over the last number of your paper I noticed the account of the Sabbath school festival at French Bay, in which I get credit for all the good things sent to deck the Christmas tree. Believing in the sentiment "Honour to whom honour is due," I think it only just to say, that while taking charge of the packing and forwarding of the box, the contents were furnished by quite a number of the friends of the mission. Yours faithfully,

Toronto, Jan. 19, 1880. J. McDUNNOUGH.

MR. EDITOR.—Winnipeg Sabbath school thankfully acknowledges \$10 from Northern Sabbath school, Toronto.

The church has purchased a very eligible church site; price, \$1,500. W. EWING.

Winnipeg, Jan. 19, 1880.

News of the Churches.

BOLTON.—We are sorry to learn that the church in this place has been closed since the New Year and the Sunday school disbanded.

WINNIPEG.—An organ, manufactured by the Dominion Organ Co., has just been purchased and greatly assists in the service of song.

MONTREAL.—The choir of the Wesley Congregational Church gave a concert on the 13th inst., which was largely attended. The pastor, Rev. J. Roy, occupied the chair.

THE Rev. Walter Radford, for some time in our College at Montreal, has resigned his pastorate at Magnolia in the Western States, and is about to return to England, with the view of accepting work there.

GEORGETOWN.—On Sabbath, the 11th inst., the second anniversary of the opening of the Congrega-

tional church was held, when two impressive sermons were preached by the Rev. H. D. Powis, of Zion Church, Toronto, to large congregations. Collections taken up were liberal.

KINGSTON. BETHEL CHURCH.—The Rev. W. M. Peacock who has been laid aside for some months, sometimes partially and sometimes wholly, is now trying to preach again twice on the Lord's day. Notwithstanding his long illness, the church prospers and increases, eight new members having been received at the January communion service.

TORONTO. ZION.—The annual social tea meeting of this church was held last evening in the lecture room. The pastor, Rev. H. D. Powis, who occupied the chair, reviewed the history of the church during the past year, which had been marked by progress in every department of the church's work. The various officers and societies of the church also presented satisfactory reports. The Rev. John Burton, B.D., pastor of the Northern Congregational Church, addressed the meeting in the course of the evening. *Globe*.

TORONTO.—The Northern Sunday school festival, held on the evening of Friday, 23rd inst., was a very enjoyable affair. The scholars met early and took tea together, after which there was a large gathering of the parents and friends of the scholars. The pastor, Rev. J. Burton, opened the meeting with prayer, and the superintendent, Mr. H. J. Clark, spoke a few words of welcome, which was followed by a responsive exercise of praise for the birth of the Saviour. Short addresses were given by the pastor, and Mr. W. C. Ashdown, superintendent of Zion school. The distribution of prizes for regular attendance during the year then took place, and the meeting closed with doxology and benediction.

ATHOL AND MARIETOWN.—These churches have lately adopted the weekly system of giving, which promises well so far. Their annual missionary meetings have just been held and it is gratifying to note a considerable advance over the contributions of last year. It is to be hoped that a like result will be witnessed in all our churches. On New Year's evening a very enjoyable social of the Sabbath school at Athol took place. Besides a sleigh ride and refreshments, a public meeting was held in the evening, enlivened by addresses, recitations, singing, and two original essays, one by Miss M. Christie, and the other by Miss E. M. Macallum. These essays were very highly appreciated.—D. M.

SOUTH MAITLAND.—The vestry of our new church is at last plastered, and was opened for worship on the first Sunday of the new year. It is a comfortable room, and our people are greatly cheered by this being able to worship under their own vine and fig tree with none who can molest or make afraid. The ladies of our church held a tea meeting and bazaar in their new vestry, on the evenings of the 1st and 2nd inst., which was pronounced by impartial judges to have been one of the most enjoyable gatherings of the kind ever held on this shore. Our total proceeds for the two evenings were \$110.63. The past year has been one of great financial and spiritual dearth, but we are praying for and expecting better things this year.

MAITLAND, N.S.—Our people are very sorely tried for the want of a suitable place of worship. Two years and a half in an unfinished chamber of a private house, together with other trials too manifold to be spoken of at this time, have been telling sorely against us. Our people were considerably cheered by the action of the Union last summer, but one of the agents of the Union has, up to the present time, practically vetoed its action, so that it remains a "dead letter" to us. "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick." Our congregations are now greatly reduced, and those who come find it very uncomfortable worshipping in so cold a room. Should the vestry of our new church be finished, ready for use by the 1st of May, we should doubtless experience a great change for the better. But action has been so long deferred in the matter we can scarcely expect to see this.

VALETTA.—The Rev. E. J. Burgess writes on Jan. 19th. During the last two years I have been taking my father's place here, and have also taken up another station at Henderson, a village on the Canada Southern Railway. At this new station we have built a small frame church, costing about \$1,000. It is not quite finished yet. The attendance at all the services and at the Sabbath school is good. The Sabbath school work has been especially encouraging. During the past week the Rev. R. Mackay, of Kingston, has been with us, carrying on a series of special services. He came at the urgent request of the church, and will remain for two weeks longer. Although the outward circumstances, so far, have been most discouraging, the roads being almost impassable, the attendance has been large, and a good work is already begun. God's people are being revived, and several hitherto careless and unawakened ones have been led to accept the Saviour. The interest already begun gives promise of an abundant blessing.

TORONTO. BOND STREET.—The annual meeting of this church was held last evening, the attendance being very large. Reports of the various agencies of the church were read and adopted, the most interesting of which was the general report read by the pastor. It appeared by this that the total membership of the church was 301. There had been an increase during the year of forty-four, thirty-two of whom were received on profession of faith. During the pastorate of Mr. Handford 169 new members had been admitted. The congregation had continued to increase, and the prayer and church meetings had been well sustained. The Chestnut street mission report was received with enthusiasm, eminent success having attended the enterprise since the election of Mr. Potts as superintendent. An effort is to be made to pay off the floating debt of the church. According to the rule of the church, Mr. Jas. Farquhar, who had served in the deaconate for many years, retired from the office, and Mr. Thos. Elgar was chosen as his successor. The meeting was closed at a late hour by the pastor pronouncing the benediction.—*Globe*.

GUELPH.—Several societies for systematic Christian work have just been organized in connection with the "First Congregational Church," here. Twenty church visitors have been appointed—ten gentlemen and ten lady visitors; two visitors detailed to visit each family, the object being "to do good and gather information," such information being communicated to the pastor directly or through a letter-box placed in the vestibule of the church. The immediate result of such co-operation with the pastor is a steadily increasing attendance at all church services. A Young People's prayer and conference meeting has been started for Monday evenings. At this meeting a golden text is memorized, some topic for conversation is introduced, a "Question Drawer" opened and for ten minutes considered, which, with three minutes' prayers and singing, fills up one hour, and will prove a blessing to the large number of young people, between the ages of ten and thirty, attending it. A Ladies' Association has been organized, and promises good results. A printed list of "Prayer Meeting Topics" has been adopted for the year and gives great satisfaction.

DUNNVILLE.—The members of the church and congregation came together in the church, on Thursday evening, 15th inst., by invitation of the pastor, Rev. J. C. Sanderson. Tea was served in the basement, and the supply of eatables furnished by the ladies was choice and ample. Then followed a season of pleasant and informal commingling, when all that was genial, kind and sympathetic found free expression. The pastor then gave a verbal report of his labours among us, his encouragements and discouragements, his wishes and his hopes for the people among whom he had cast in his lot. The treasurer of the church gave his report to the meeting, from which it appeared that there was a deficiency of some eighty dollars. Promptly and pleasantly the whole amount was made up by those present. Brief remarks were made by some of the members, and after a few more kind parting words from the pastor, the meeting was closed.