

detention in it have not been in vain. The interest that then began to manifest itself has continued on, and is still existing. The brethren have continued instant in prayer ever since, and there are up to this date about 17 persons who show that they feel an interest. If there are others, they manage to keep it concealed. Eight persons last night asked to be received to fellowship at our next meeting, and all of them give the most satisfactory evidence of having passed from death unto life. Others give clear evidence too, but are a little timid about coming forward. We hope and pray, that what has been done is but the droppings of a plentiful shower. Our congregations, however, never increased any until last Lord's day, when we had a goodly number more than usual. Pray for us."

STOUFFVILLE.--The attempts to unite this church with the church at Markham, reported last year, were renewed this year; but with no greater success. The Rev. J. Durrant continues pastor.

In December 1857, he wrote:—

"In the absence of large success by conversions, one situated as I am, and feeling as I do, is tempted to take shelter in the reflection, that a similar experience is common to others, and that, if I am not made useful in bringing into the fold, I am permitted to keep those from wandering who are already there;—But I cannot be satisfied with this; and hence have been led to feel that more direct personal appeals from the pulpit were wanted. I have therefore, for some time past endeavoured to give my labors that character.

I think I can already perceive a closer and more interested attention. There is a "shaking among the dry bones," and unless I am too sanguine my unworthy labours will be manifested as approved of God, and prospered by "His Spirit," in some additions to our membership from the world, ere my next report is required.

I still occupy three stations. Our Sabbath School is very successful, I have a Bible Class at my own house weekly, of about 20 young females, which promises fruit; one of whom is now a candidate for membership, and I have reason to hope will be followed by others."

In May 1858, the Rev. J. Durrant again writes:—

"We have added two members to the church recently; one of them a member of my Bible Class, and hope ere long, to replenish the Church from the same hopeful source.

I have three prominent stations, viz., Stouffville, Altonia, and Pickering. With the latter station I am much encouraged, as to the increased and steady attendance, having advanced from about 20 to upwards of 60.

My people, and the dwellers around, pay me all the respect I could reasonably desire; and at times give me substantial proof of it. They have fulfilled the pecuniary engagements for the last year. But with all this, I am often saying with the Prophet "my soul desireth the first ripe fruits." I would be thankful in knowing that my teachings are edifying to the household of faith, yet I intensely long to welcome souls into the fold, returning unto the Shepherd and Bishop of souls. Oh how glad should I be to be permitted to bring the net to shore, full of fishes; and that the cloud dropping fatness on other pastures, should extend itself to *this* in the wilderness. I feel that I can only preach, labor, and