

MANCHESTER, N. S.,

is the scene of the labours of the Rev. James Whitman, who is singularly consecrated to the work of His Master.

MARQUE,

now vacant, in Cape Breton, and other points in those parts, I did not see.

I spent a few days in Halifax with my beloved friend, Captain Mylins, and his kind family. I met with some of the old friends of the Congregational church. It is likely the property will be sold, and the proceeds of sale invested for a new building in a more eligible site. I am convinced the time is not far distant when we will have a church in this large and important city. It is sadly needed at the present moment. For though there are many godly ministers in the city, wickedness abounds to a fearful extent. I have not heard anything so shocking as I learned in Halifax, and yet there is the form of godliness.

I must now say good-bye to the kind and loving friends of the Lower Provinces. I thank them, one and all, for their attentions to me, for what they have done and promised to do for our college. I shall remember them often before the throne of grace, and hope to be sometimes mentioned by them in that same holy place. I will rejoice to hear of the progress of the gospel amongst them, and should they again cast in their lot with our Missionary Society, so far as it is in my power, I will promote their interests.

I hope we will hear often from the churches, at least through the pages of the INDEPENDENT, and that the circulation of our important journal will be largely increased there as elsewhere. Very truly, yours,

J. HALL.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Joseph Thomas departed this life at Edgar, July 6th, 1883. She was born in Bristol, England, in 1809, and married to Mr. Joseph Thomas, in 1832. They emigrated to Canada in 1843, and settled in Oro township the same year. At that date there was no Congregational church in the township, or, indeed, in the county; but, as Mr. and Mrs. Thomas were staunch Congregationalists, they took a leading part in the establishment of one of that order, and many say but for them the present Edgar church would not be in existence. The late Mr. Raymond was the first pastor, and Mr. Thomas was elected deacon, and always conducted the services, in the absence of a pastor. Mrs. Thomas was a very active worker in the Sabbath school, and in the ladies' prayer meeting. The latter was a great source of spiritual strength to the little church in its early history. She laboured in connection with the Sabbath school until a short time before her death, and its anniversary was held on that

of her birth, as a token of respect for her faithfulness in relation to it. Her influence is still felt throughout the whole neighbourhood, and her remains were followed to the grave by a large concourse of people, who sincerely mourned her loss. She united a strong faith to a strong mind; was a staunch teetotaler, refusing, even, to take liquor as a medicine, and did much in the circulation of Christian and temperance literature. She had the pleasure of seeing her family grow up in the faith, one of whom remains a deacon in the Edgar church—three others are members. Her last illness lasted for six weeks, during which she was quite conscious, and always hopeful in Christ. The feeling in the neighbourhood is that an old landmark has been removed; but, footsteps have been left on the shores of time, which may well encourage others. Rev. J. C. Wright and Rev. J. I. Hindley conducted the funeral services. The former preached, from 1 Cor. xv. 57, and bore testimony to her high Christian character and great usefulness.

THE PASTOR'S DUTY TO THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

A very little thought will show that this is much and continuous.

The design of the Sabbath-school is to teach morality and religion. None in the community knows more on these points, or how to teach them, than the preacher. Often teachers become discouraged. He can cheer them. A weighty motive might be on the score of self-interest. That church will succeed best whose Sabbath school is best organized and the most evangelical.

How cheering to the minister the mere mingling with them. They soon consider him their friend, and give him a cordial welcome. Again, he soon learns how large and varied is his own work, for among them all he is to be the principal worker, the chief shepherd. Also from observing how they work, we will gather many useful hints in prosecuting his own. He drinks in fresh inspirations, derives new hope.

Once more. No matter how consecrated the teachers, there is danger of their forgetting the great aim of Sabbath school work, viz., to bring the scholars to a saving knowledge of Christ and fit them for His service. But the sharp discernment of the minister will easily detect this lack, and his holy skill devise how to restore the proper spirit. All departments of work are the gainers from occasional oversight of some new comer. Paul was glad for the coming of Titus. Such being the case, do not all who give themselves to the arduous labour of teaching in our Sabbath schools, have an honest claim upon their minister for his best council, his most hearty sympathy? *Samuel Ward, in St. Louis' Evangelist.*