

LONDON.—Our correspondent writes : We have reorganized our Mutual Improvement Association, and opened our fall campaign. A few particulars may be useful and interesting. The Association has a President (the pastor), and Vice-Presidents, Secretary-Treasurer, and a Programme Committee. Both sexes are admitted to membership, without limitation as to age ; so that, while the burden and responsibility rest chiefly on the young men, the meetings are attended by all sections of the congregation. Male members pay a fee of 25 cents for the season—to defray petty expenses ; ladies are *freely* welcomed. Meetings every Monday night, at 7:30, closing imperatively at 9:30. Our programme for one month from last Monday includes two general meetings ; an evening for a debate ; and an evening for the reading of the journal or portfolio—a monthly manuscript paper made up of contributions from the members. The programme of the general meetings consists of an essay, and a few readings and recitations, the interstices being filled up with music. Then come brief remarks, critical or commendatory, the chairman “crowning the edifice” with a few final observations. Then dismissal. The meetings are opened with appropriate devotional exercises, succeeded by the reading of the minutes, and the transaction of any necessary business. Before entering on the programme, an intermission of five minutes is allowed, to enable the programme committee to see if all whose names are on the list for the evening are present, and to make arrangements for future meetings. I am persuaded that a Mutual Improvement Association can be made of advantage to those who attend it, and to the congregation with which it is connected. Let it be part and parcel of the church, let the pastor be the mainspring of the organization ; not, however, by doing everything himself, but, rather, by giving a proper tone and bent to the proceedings. A few closing hints may not be amiss : make the business portion of the meeting prompt and brief. Here much depends on having a good chairman. Let all remarks and criticisms be orderly and courteous. Aim high, endeavouring to secure good (though brief)

essays, and an acquaintance with standard literature. An occasional humorous selection gives variety ; but the comic should be sternly kept in its proper place of subordination. It will be seen that too much importance cannot be given to the selection of a programme committee. Don't make it too large—three or four persons. The programme committee is (or ought to be) the life of the Association.

BURFORD AND NEW DURHAM.—Rev. E. J. Robinson has resigned the pastorate of these churches, and, by the time these lines reach our readers, will have preached his farewell sermons.

VESPERA, ANNIVERSARY SERVICES.—On Sabbath, the 20th October, the Rev. J. A. R. Dickson, of Toronto, preached anniversary sermons, morning and evening, in the new Congregational Church, Vespra. On the next day was held a soiree, for the purpose of raising funds to pay off the remaining debt on the building. After a sumptuous repast, followed by excellent addresses from the Rev. Mr. Dickson, Rev. Mr. Nixon, Primitive Methodist, and others, the pastor stated that, besides the proceeds of the tea meeting and Sabbath collections, there remained about \$60 to be made up. The Rev. Mr. Nixon suggested that trees be planted around the church, and any one who wished to plant and own a tree be charged a certain sum for the privilege. The suggestion was adopted, and eight trees were immediately sold, at \$5 a piece, and afterwards six more, at \$2 a piece—the Rev. Mr. Dickson purchasing one for the ladies. There being still a deficiency, a good brother, who had already purchased a tree at \$5, rose, and offered to pay the balance of the debt. A good cheer told the delight felt at the church being free. It may be well to add, that the pastor, having purchased a tree at \$5, two ladies afterwards waited upon him, and requested him to sell them the tree, as they had not had the opportunity of purchasing at the time—a very kind way of saying, we wish to relieve you of the burden of paying any more towards the building. Of course, he