

## News of the Churches.

**BARRIE.**—A welcome social and installation service was held in the Barrie Congregational Church, March 10 (evening). Concerning the tea service it is not necessary to enter into details. Barrie has fully and fairly earned a first-class reputation in this regard. Suffice it to say that a very fair representation of honest, homely men and bonnie ladies enjoyed themselves most heartily at the table. At about eight o'clock the friends adjourned from the tea service, and assembled in the audience room, and were called to order by the chairman, Mr. J. M. Hunter, LL.B. After the singing of the well-known hymn, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," a Scripture lesson was read, and prayer offered by J. C. Wright. The chairman then briefly addressed the audience in reference to the calling of Mr. Black to the pastorate of the Barrie Church. After the rendering of a very beautiful anthem by the choir the pastor elect, in response to the kindly request of Mr. D. McGregor, in a clear and concise manner gave utterance to his doctrinal views, and Dr. Wild was then called upon to offer the prayer of induction. Rev. D. McGregor then addressed the pastor in words of weighty counsel wisely chosen and kindly uttered. The right hand of fellowship and a hearty welcome was then given to Mr. Black by J. C. W., of Edgar, followed by Rev. D. D. McLeod, of Barrie (Presbyterian), another short address from the chairman, followed by music, and afterward Dr. Wild gave a characteristic address to the people which was most attentively listened to and heartily received. Hearty congratulations, words of warm welcome, were then extended by the pastors of the Evangelical churches in the town. Before the service was brought to a close a very pleasing and interesting episode occurred. The chairman having resigned the place of honour in favour of the new pastor, Mr. Black, his first duty was the reading of an address and the presentation of some valuable books to Mr. Hunter. The address and the present were from the congregation to Mr. Hunter, who, since the departure of their first pastor, had, in a most efficient and kindly manner, supplied the pulpit. At a very late hour the service, which in every particular was interesting and enjoyable, was brought to a close by the hearty singing of "God Save the Queen." With hopeful and prayerful spirit the friends dispersed, believing that the future is full of blessing for the Congregational Church in Barrie. —COM.

**PARKDALE.**—On the evening of February 25, the choir of this church, with a few other friends, met at the pastor's residence, and spent an enjoyable evening. Mr. C. J. Thorley, who for the past year has ably and profitably led us, was presented on the eve of his de-

parture with a beautiful gold fountain pen and an appropriate address. Mr. W. Scott read the address, and Miss E. Duff presented the pen. Mr. Thorley, though taken entirely by surprise, made a suitable reply. The church, as well as the choir, loses, in Mr. Thorley, a valuable worker. On the evening of the 1st ult., at her residence, Mrs. Farrell gave a parlour social for the benefit of the church, which was well attended. A good programme of songs and recitations was rendered. This is the third yearly social given by Mrs. Farrell. The proceeds, we understand, are in the neighbourhood of \$15.

**ST. JOHN, N. B.**—At a meeting of the church and congregation, held recently, the trustees were authorized to have the interior of the main audience room repainted, and otherwise renovated, the necessary amount required for the purpose having been subscribed by the congregation. The work is now in progress. In consequence the services will be held in the vestry for two or three Sundays. In addition to which we are pleased to learn that, in all human probability, ere this reaches our readers, the esteemed pastor will have added to his many qualifications for the bishopric that of being "the husband of one wife." May the blessing of heaven rest upon him, and upon her who will hereafter share his responsibilities.

**TORONTO NORTHERN.**—This church has about completed arrangements by means of which its building debt will be wiped out in five years. Several large subscriptions are promised, and a 10 cent per week collection reaches those who are unable to contribute the larger sums. This movement, fully shared in by the older members, received a great impetus from the initiating move of the Young Men's Association. Allowance is being made for the inevitable shrinkage of subscriptions covering such an extension of time.

**WINNIPEG CENTRAL CHURCH.**—It is a long time since I ventured to write a line to THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT. Letters that I have received from friends in the East give me to know that many down there are interested in the work here, and I therefore write a sort of wholesale letter to all inquiring friends. The old church died with the old year. I wept over its grave, for I did not know if there would ever be a resurrection. But, phoenix-like, a new church has risen from the ashes of the old. I resigned the pastorate in November, to take effect at the end of the year. I did not know what the future would reveal. I gave notice that, for a few Sundays at least, I would preach in the church; so for three Sundays I was preacher, landlord, trustee, treasurer, deacon and all. There was no Congregational Church in existence. Some Christian men and women who had been worshipping with us, but were not members, met together and resolved to organize a new church. On the even-