

cessful in making this gathering a useful means of causing the students to feel the interest of the friends of the churches in the city in their welfare.

WHEN Rev. Arthur Mursell, of England, was in Montreal, he met the students of the Congregational College, and addressed them on the narrowness of denominationalism in general, and urged them to work more purely for the interests of Christ's kingdom rather than for the advancement of any special "ism." The address was very fine and greatly enjoyed.

THE Congregational Temperance Association of St. Catharines had their second public entertainment on Monday evening. The audience was large and thoroughly enjoyed the programme, consisting of songs, dialogues, and recitations, and an address by the pastor. Our friends in the City of Saints find the Temperance Society a good auxiliary to the Sunday School.

THE Rev. R. Mackay brought three weeks' special evangelistic labours in Owen Sound to a close, on Sunday, the 2nd Feb. During the last week the meetings were held in the Y. M. C. A. Hall, and were largely attended. Several of the ministers of the town, together with the Rev. R. Robinson assisted in the work. A number of persons were spoken to, under deep anxiety, some of whom were enabled to rest on Christ for salvation and eternal life.

THERE has been a great deal of sickness among the friends in the Zion Church recently. Two have passed away last week. The one,—a Mrs. John Keimp finished her earthly course on Sabbath morning, Feb. 2nd, and entered into the rest for which she sought ever to be prepared. The other—a Miss Minnie Allen was a daughter of one of the deacons. She was a girl of fine Christian principle, devoted to Christ and earnest in His service. She was a great stay to an invalid mother. She died at the early age of twenty-one. Truly, "Her sun has gone down while it is yet day."

THE annual meeting of the Hamilton Church was held Friday evening, 1st instant. At 7 o'clock, the assembled people, members of the Church and congregation, sat down to a tea provided by some of the ladies. After that had been disposed of, the company adjourned to the lecture-room. The chair was occupied by the pastor, Joseph Griffith. Reports were read, showing the different departments of church work during the past year. A very hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Alexander, the church treasurer, for the efficient services rendered by him to the church during the recent vacancy in the pastorate.

ON Friday evening, January 31st, the Congregational Church, Economy, N. S., held their first anniversary. The social was held at the house of S. C. Moore, Esq. It was a meeting long to be remembered by us as a church for its social joy, and its expressions of gratitude to God mainly arising from seeing so many of all ages, who, a year ago, knew Him not, but are now rejoicing in a saving knowledge of Christ Jesus their Lord. It has been a year of spiritual and financial success. The speeches of the evening brought out the following facts: The congregations on Sabbath days had been well sustained during the year. The weekly prayer meeting has had in attendance from fifty to one hundred every week. Fifty applications for church membership have been received during the twelve months, making a total of eighty members. There is a prayer meeting held in Mr. Rose's house on Friday evenings for the young men of the church who are at present too timid to take their part in the more public meetings of God's House. The financial statements of the church were very encouraging likewise. \$900.00 have been raised for church purposes during the year. The pastor's salary has been paid in full. The land for the new house is paid for. It is also fenced and trenched, and there is some \$200 with which to commence building. On New Year's Day it was resolved to raise in the coming year \$600, by two instalments, for the parsonage. Although, on account of bad weather, the meeting was small, \$350 were then promised. The first year has thus been bright and happy, and the prospect is not less promising.

ZION CHURCH, TORONTO. Through the kind invitation of a member of the church, Mr. Harry Webb, and at his own cost, a social tea-meeting of the members of the church and congregation and their friends was held last Thursday evening. The attendance was very large. Mr. David Higgins was called to the chair. The pastor, Rev. H. D. Powis, expressed the gratification it afforded him to meet with so many friends under such happy circumstances, and to witness the evidences of vitality and growth in the church, the promise of still more abundant prosperity in time to come. Mr. Higgins remarked that the meeting was one of the pleasantest he had attended for a long time. The pastor read two pieces: "The basket," a tale by Samuel Wesley; and "An Old Sermon," of a hundred years ago. Mr. Higgins read Dickens' story entitled "Old Cheeseman." The choir sang several hymns under the leadership of Mr. Arthur Lye, organist of the church, and Mrs. Heighington sang "O rest in the Lord." On motion of Mr. Wm. Nickols, seconded by Mr. John Adams, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Webb for his kindness in affording the meeting such an opportunity of enjoying themselves as they had experienced on the present occasion. On the previous Wednesday evening a meeting of the Zion Literary Association was held, when the following officers were elected for the current year: Mr. George Pim, President; Messrs. Chas. J. Thorley, jr., and Wm. Freeland, Vice-Presidents; Mr. Herbert G. Snarr, Secretary-Treasurer; Managing Committee, Messrs. E. J. Snarr, W. A. Ashdown, Alf. Washington, and Misses Alderdice, Ashdown and Snell.

COWANSVILLE AND BRIGHAM.—At Cowansville the Lord is giving His people a measure of reviving, and Christians are very much stirred up to take hold of the promises, and plead at the Throne of Grace, for rich blessings with the expectation that they will be bestowed in God's own good time and way. Our finances are not in a very healthy condition owing to the hardness of the times, but the pastor's heart has been cheered for the last three years by a Christmas gift from one lady of the congregation of a cheque for \$50.00, while a few smaller gifts have been received from other persons. Twenty-five persons have been added to the church during the present pastorate of two years and a half, and the Sunday School has been the means of great good through the labours of its superintendent (W. P. Carter, Esq.), and other Christian brethren and sisters.—At Brigham there is a very efficient Sunday School, and three prayer-meetings a week, managed almost wholly by the members of the church, who have a mind to work. The finances are in a very healthy condition, and there is very fair promptness in paying their proportion of the salary. The people are united, and the beautiful little church (a gift from the late E. O. Brigham, Esq., whose widow is one of the most efficient helpers of the cause), is generally well filled on the Lord's day; while the attendance and interest in the weekly prayer meetings is most encouraging, and augurs well for future prosperity. Here, too, there have been additions to the church, to the number of eighteen, making in all forty-three in both places. To God be all the praise, who has not left us without a witness of His presence.

OSPREY.—The cause here has been almost entirely neglected by the fathers and brethren of Congregationalism for several years. Some of the people invited the Rev. R. Mackay, of Kingston, to give them a visit. His coming among the people has been hailed with great delight, and special meetings were begun in the old log chapel, at McIntyre P. O., on Wednesday, the 5th of February. The place was quite full with an eager anxious congregation. At the close of the public service a prayer meeting was held. The following evening the place was again crowded, and over seventy people remained to the inquiry meeting. It is hoped that many of them were enabled through grace to look to the Lamb of God to take away their sin, and that they will walk with Christ "in newness of life." On Friday night the place was again crowded, and the number who remained at the inquiry meeting was so large that they had to be dealt with

collectively. On Lord's day, notwithstanding that the roads were badly blocked, and the morning very severe, there was a large attendance. Mr. Mackay preached, and administered the ordinance of the Lord's Supper. This is the first time it has been observed in this church for eight years. Six were received into fellowship, and sat down at the Lord's table. Mr. Gregor McGregor gave a brief address in Gaelic previous to the communion. This good brother, before coming to this country, was employed in mission work in Ireland, supported by the late Mr. Henderson of Park, Scotland. He is settled on a farm, and has been exceedingly useful, preaching to the people both in English and Gaelic without fee or reward, except the blessed reward there is in serving the Lord Jesus Christ. It was indeed a season of refreshing to God's people, indeed, to all. In the evening the place was again full, and a deep interest manifested in divine things. The work is still going on with every appearance of a rich ingathering of souls. Parties are attending who have not been seen in a place of worship for years.

NOT TOO "LOW" NOR TOO LONG.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

DEAR SIR,—“Neither too long nor too loud,” is the heading of an excellent article in the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT of January 30th. The said article contains much that is wise and good, although that part which relates to being “too loud,” is most exclusively applicable to the Methodist ministry. Who ever heard of a Congregational minister being *too loud*?

We are not in favour of a boisterous method of speaking, bawling, or “ear-splitting,” as it is termed. There is, however, something worse than that, which is a matter of common complaint, that is, speaking too low—so indistinct, as not to be heard half way through the church. A man should not speak in a lofty church as he would in a *parlor*, or *school-house*. When this is done, he is only distinctly understood by a few around him. Many leave the church and complain that they could not hear the speaker. In such preaching the end is entirely overlooked. It should be borne in mind that all persons are not alike sharp in hearing, and many who are not deaf require a distinct enunciation, and a deliberate delivery. Some foolish teachers have advised young men to “begin low.” The result of this is notorious. Many of our ministers speak their introduction in a suppressed voice, and get that part of the congregation who desire to hear them out of temper at the start. Congregations accustomed to it have learned to bear it patiently; they make a guess that their minister's introductions are all alike, because all are alike unheard.

It is well known that many otherwise excellent preachers have been rejected by churches seeking a pastor because the people could not distinctly hear them. It is a felt annoyance at our Union meetings that many of the ministers do not make themselves understood for more than half the length of a city church.

One of our city churches, which for some time was depending on supplies, complained that many of the ministers officiating could not be easily understood the length of the building, and that not a large one.

In fact, complaints are common against some Congregational ministers, that either from pitching their voice in a key too low, or from a mumbling indistinct utterance, or from the frequent affectation of an oratorical whisper, they do not make themselves understood.

Such a complaint is seldom, or ever, heard of a Methodist.

Some Congregational ministers are noble exceptions, they are always heard, and are fine examples of distinct delivery, but very many speak too low. As to the length of a sermon, we agree with the INDEPENDENT that you cannot lay down a rule. Sermons on different subjects cannot be measured off to the same length.

NOT TOO LOW NOR TOO LONG.

THERE is a sure release from all our sins in Christ Jesus. He can unhook this dead weight from our souls, and follow us to bound along life's highway singing the songs that redeemed.—*Christian Advocate*.