

ST. CATHARINES.—A recognition service was held in this church on the evening of October 11th. The interior of the building was tastefully decorated with flowers, and two tables were covered with fruits of considerable variety gathered from the vineyards and orchards of this very fertile neighborhood. The night was bright moonlight, the church well filled. Mr. Burton, of Toronto, presided; the former pastor, Mr. Wetherald, gave a very touching address to Mr. Joseph Colclough, the present pastor. Mr. Morton, of Hamilton, addressed the people. Several ministers of the city were present with their greetings. The statement made by Mr. Colclough touching his adherence to the old paths, and faith in the old gospel, went home to many, and we trust with hopeful expectation that the days of St. Catharines mourning are ended. Mr. Colclough's oldest son is studying in our college with a view to the ministry.

SHEFFIELD, N. B.—A meeting of a more than ordinarily interesting character was held here on the evening of Oct. 7th. After an excellent tea provided by the ladies of the church, the chair was taken by the pastor, and the following programme successfully carried out:—Anthem, "I will love thee, O Lord;" solo, "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep;" address by the Rev. Joseph Sellar, A. M., of Gibson; anthem, "Wake the song of Jubilee;" address by Dr. F. E. Barker, M. P., of St. John; solo, "Freshening Breeze;" addresses, Rev. W. Maggs, Methodist minister of Sheffield, and Mr. F. M. Kelly, A. B., the principal of the Grammar school; anthem, doxology; prayer and benediction, Rev. W. Maggs. Miss Ida Barker presided at the organ, assisted by Miss Bessie Budges, the popular organist of St. Paul's (Pres.) church, Fredericton. We believe Mr. Hawes formerly labored in Nova Scotia, first at Chebogue, then at Maitland and Noel. He has retained his membership in the Union of N. B. and N. S. Mrs. Hawes is from Sheffield Academy, where she for several years did excellent service as organist in our church there.

ST. THOMAS. There is nothing of special interest in connection with the work at St. Thomas. The congregations do not increase. As fast as parties are induced to come with us, something seems to take them or others away. Several families who were with us, left the city in the spring. There has been little doing in the way of progress this year in the city, so very many have left for other parts. This affects a congregation like ours more than many others, because we are just in a formative stage. Scarcely any Congregationalists have come to us, so that our work is most especially mission work. Our discouragements are very great. It is very hard to awaken a religious

interest. Railway employees who work as often on Sundays as they go to a place of worship are not easily impressed. When they can be got out they seldom come more than once on the Sabbath; this keeps the average attendance low. Then the constituents of the congregation are often very different in the morning and evening, and on one Sabbath from another. The Sunday school might have been larger but for the difficulty of getting teachers. The attendance is very irregular. Parents seem to take little interest in sending their children. Sometimes they go to one school and sometimes to another and on fine Sabbaths to the park. The children in attendance have varied in number from 35 to 66, usually about 50. Our week night prayer meeting is poorly attended; the excuse is, they work hard and are too tired to walk long distances to prayer meeting, which involves getting ready, &c. Yet the Salvation Army seem to gather every night, at least they drum every night. If the property could be paid for here, I think by perseverance we should by and by get along. The pastor's wife holds a female cottage prayer meeting weekly, but it is feebly sustained. We sadly lack workers; whatever is done, the burden comes on the pastor and his wife. It is almost necessarily so, for we have no persons of leisure among us. We are better known and more respected than a year ago. In the meantime we must wait and work, pray and trust. A blessing may yet crown faithful labor with success. W. H. A.

[We have allowed our esteemed brother thus to tell his tale in the minor key, it may do us good to listen. Can any one estimate the patient toil with little sympathy and alone, of our missionary pastor in St. Thomas and his wife? How much they need an encouraging word, they and others, toiling at the rowing, the lake tempestuous, the night dark. Do not be afraid to speak words of cheer to such, and to bear them up ever at the throne of grace. We believe yet that fruit will be garnered after such labor, "though he goeth on his way weeping, bearing forth the seed, he shall come again with joy, bringing his sheaves with him."—ED.]

TORONTO CONGREGATIONAL ASSOCIATION.—This Association was formed Feb. 1, 1886, at a meeting duly called by public notice, held in Shaftesbury Hall. The following is a copy of the Constitution then adopted; the pastors of the Congregational churches in this city being, with one or two exceptions, present:

1. This Association shall be called the Toronto Congregational Association, and that male members of Congregational churches shall be eligible therein.

2. That the object of the Association shall be the promotion of fraternal intercourse and the advancement of the general interests of the churches of Christ in the Congregational body.