

number of speakers and limiting them to seven minutes apiece. Wonder how it would work this side of the line?"

As was to be expected, practical work has shown the need of several changes in the Constitution, and these have been brought before you as the need arose. A pleasant feature has been, that the demand for membership so rapidly outgrew the faith of the founders of the Club that an extension in this direction was called for at the first social meeting.

Your Committee find a lingering dread in some people's minds that by becoming members they may assume some responsibility in regard to new enterprises. We would make the fact clear to all that the Club does not exist as a collecting agency. While it gives or withholds its endorsement of any scheme as it thinks best, it does not undertake the management of such schemes, and no one need fear that his membership pledges him in any way for either money or influence in this direction. When he subscribes it must be of his own free will.

Article II of the Constitution reads as follows: "Its object shall be to encourage among the members and adherents of our Congregational churches a more intimate and friendly acquaintance; to secure concert of action and to promote the general interests of Congregationalism."

We believe we may fairly claim progress in each of these three directions. Are not our three churches better acquainted than before the Club's existence? Was not the inception of the Point St. Charles movement due to the inspiration of the Club? and who shall say that the general interests of the denomination are not the better for the friendly discussions around the supper table? Of the future prospects of the Club, it is perhaps beyond our province to speak, but we would ask you to allow us a word. We believe it fills a place in our denominational life for which it appears to be peculiarly fitted; it trenches upon the ground of no other organization; it has all the elasticity of our polity in adapting itself to the needs of the hour, and is not hampered by the bonds of tradition. Facing unbounded opportunities of usefulness, its success will be determined by the energy and enthusiasm of its membership.

In conclusion, your Committee desire to express their thanks to all who have contributed to the success of the meetings, and especially to the Board of the Congregational College, who have so generously placed the conveniences of the College building at its disposal for our social meetings.

ENGLISH CONGREGATIONAL UNION.—Met a fortnight ago in London. Dr. John Brown, chairman, presiding. Chairman-elect for 1892, Dr. Heber Evans. Autumnal meeting at Southport, second week of October.

Our Story.

VETULIA :

OR, GOING TO THE BOTTOM OF THINGS.

BY REV WILLIAM WYE SMITH.

CHAPTER VIII.

INVENTORS REWARDED—FORCES OF NATURE UTILIZED—SUNBEAMS AS A MOTIVE POWER—COUNTRY BENEFITED—STREET RAILWAYS A BLESSING.



INDLING with the thought

that I would "invent something," I often, when I was young, made the trial. But like the school-boy over his "composition," who scratches his unkempt head, and asks everybody in despair, "What shall I write

about?" so my great trouble was, "What to invent?" The fit went

off as such fits generally do with most people, and left nothing behind. I invented nothing! And I learned then, that mechanical invention was not my "forte." But with certain other men, it is entirely different. They will put into some kind of mechanical shape whatever is circulating in their brain, and copy and steal all they can of the product of other men's brains; and thus a double-headed problem arises: "How shall we reward the inventors for all their good inventions?" and "How shall we protect the public in the matter of being at liberty to use freely human inventions; which are, *per se*, the property of the human race?" We have answered the first query pretty thoroughly, and given the inventors all they ask, and oft-times far more than they deserve; and yet they are not satisfied; and no wonder. For what benefit is a "patent-right," for so many years, to a man out-at-elbows with poverty? And yet, no sooner is some little article of household use improved, than an "inventor" gets hold of it, whether he really invented it or not, and we are prevented (except on *his* terms!) for making or using it!

These things seemed to have troubled the practical statesmen of Vetulia; and the nearest approach to perfection in the laws they could make, was to reward good inventions, and turn them over to the people (as the French did with Dr. Daguerre and his sun-pictures), to use as they would. To be sure, useless inventions were sometimes rewarded; for some showy inventions and