

CONGREGATIONAL SOIREE AT LONDON, C. W.

Last evening the annual Congregational soiree was held in the church, King street. The night was fine: the moon shone out in all her brilliancy, and the roads firm and crisp under foot. Under such circumstances the large attendance was not surprising. Among those present were an appreciable number from the country. Tea was laid in the vestry adjoining the church. The tables were decorated with bouquets of flowers, setting off to advantage the plenteous spread of substantial and delicacies provided by the ladies. After tea the chair was taken by the pastor, Rev. J. A. R. Dickson, who opened the proceedings by a few remarks, apologising for the absence of several expected speakers from a distance. After an anthem by the choir, the Rev. J. H. Bishop, Wesleyan minister was called upon. The gist of his remarks was to the effect that we should cultivate *religion* in preference to *denominationalism*; that we should seek not so much the perpetuation of Methodism, Presbyterianism, Congregationalism, or any other ism, as the spread and development of true and living piety. Rev. T. L. Wilkinson's remarks were mainly on the desirableness of *union*; and he hoped the pastor's well-known favorableness to the principle might render a *parsonage* necessary before the next anniversary tea meeting! After the tenor solo, "I will sing unto the Lord," finely taken by Mr. Skinner, and the chorus, "Sing ye to the Lord," Rev. Mr. Cooper, Baptist, spoke a few words on the necessity of more earnest efforts, from pastor and layman, for the conversion of souls. He believed that now-a-days there was too much leaning on, and expecting from, the ministers of the gospel; and not until Christians used their opportunities in the private circle, on the street, and in the work-shop, would we see that glorious revival of pure and undefiled religion it was our privilege to enjoy. Another piece of music, and the Rev. Jas. Gilray made a remark or two in his usual fervid and practical style. "Lord, dismiss us with Thy Blessing," by the choir, ended the proceedings, which were throughout of a pleasant and and entertaining character. The proceeds, which were handsome, will be devoted to the general funds of the church.—*Advertiser*, Feb. 1.

Obituary Notice.

Died 4th Dec., 1865, on board H. M. S. S. Dalhousie, off the Coco Islands Allan A. Black, aged 32 years, late superintendent Botanic gardens, Bangalore, Upper India, son of the late Rev. John Black, Dunkeld, Scotland, and brother of Rev. R. K. Black, Milton, Nova Scotia.

CHURCH UNION REPELLED.—THE DIVINITY OF SLAVERY.—The Rev. M. J. Cramer, a chaplain of the army, writes from Richmond to the *Western Christian Advocate*, that he met Dr. Edwards, of the Methodist Church South, who, in response to a suggestion that the chaplain should preach in the church, said:—"This cannot be done: the chasm between us and the Church North is too great to be thus easily bridged over. I fully and sacredly believe in the divinity of slavery; and if I were to be called to appear before my judge, Jesus Christ, the next hour, I would, without any mental reservation whatever, proach up the divinity of slavery. It has divine sanction in the Holy Scriptures."

A correspondent of the New York *Evangelist* says, that "on a careful estimate, the average amount paid for ministers' salaries in the United Presbyterian Churches, is \$678; in the New School Presbyterian Churches, \$748; in the Old School Presbyterian Churches, \$848."

Swearing begins in anger; it ends by mingling itself with ordinary conversation.

Truth—Can never be bought dear, nor sold cheap.—*Flavel*.