

say is very much greater in summer than in winter. Many of our wealthiest and most respectable families have their country villas here, and spend from the beginning of June till the first of October in the *otum cum dignitate* of country life. The village is situated nine miles from St. John, and the trains run to and from it several times a day during the summer season.

Our little Kirk at Rothsay has been considerably improved in appearance since last year. Two coats of paint have been given to the inside and outside, and several other changes for the better have been effected. Towards the making of these changes all those belonging to other denominations, who worshipped with us during summer, have contributed. We have also a Sabbath school at Rothsay, which was largely attended during last summer, and is now in a very prosperous condition. It has a library of several hundred volumes, selected with good taste and judgment besides a good supply of Sabbath school literature of other kinds.

In Portland we began under less favorable auspices. Several attempts had been made by the Free Church to establish a church in Portland, but these failed, partly from the opposition of the city clergy, who feared the loss of certain members from their churches, and partly from the poverty of the parish in which the efforts were made. We had no building in the shape of a church and began services in the Temperance Hall. Our congregation was, of course, very small at first, but it grew with every Sabbath, and its fluctuating character soon gave place to something of a more constant and stable nature. A Sabbath school was also established and the success that has attended it has been quite remarkable. It numbers at present about 230 children and has thirty teachers, who are weekly instructed in Bible knowledge and in the art of teaching. The success of the school is chiefly owing to the fortunate selection we made of a superintendent. Since accepting this situation, Mr. Ames has devoted much zeal, energy, and ability to the interests and welfare of the school. In addition to many other qualifications, Mr. Ames brought into the congregation and school a good practical knowledge of music, and a very unusual ability of imparting it to others. The children have made rapid progress in singing and have given a number of concerts by which they have succeeded in raising upwards of \$200 for the purchase of books for the library. It is now the largest, and I believe one of the most useful Sabbath schools in our Province.

Soon after the establishment of the mission in Portland, the erection of a church was discussed. A large fund known as the St. St. Stephen's Church fund, and amounting to about \$9000 was lying at interest in the city. It was deposited about 20 years ago, after the sale of the old St. Stephen's Church,

and the intention then was, that it should remain a few years and then be employed in resuscitating the building and congregation. It was, however, kept out of view for 20 years and during that time the interests of the Church of Scotland were neglected, and other denominations now occupy the field that naturally fell to her lot to cultivate. While in Scotland this fund was represented to me as available for the Portland mission, but on arriving here I found that that was not correct, and that the fund was reserved for the erection of a church within the city where the old church formerly existed. As the city and parish are separated by an imaginary line, and as the parish consists of a long strip of land running along the north west side of the city it appeared that the church might be so situated as to be within the limits of the city, and yet in the very centre of Portland. In such a case the \$9000 could be obtained, the want of accommodation in the city supplied, and the people of Portland provided with church privileges at a very moderate sum.

This was on all hands agreed to, and the fund of \$9000 was raised by subscriptions and other means to upwards of \$15,000. A piece of land on the boundary line between the city and parish was purchased for \$3,000, and the corner stone of the new St. Stephen's Church was laid on the 25th of July, with full Masonic honors. Since then the building has rapidly risen. It is now entirely closed in and the outside completed. The church is built in the old English Gothic style and is of the finest brick and stone work. It has a basement, 90 by 60 feet which we purpose dividing off into three rooms—vestry, library, and Sabbath school. The front of the church is built of dressed granite seven feet from the ground. Above this is a course of free stone from the Wallace quarry and on this is built the pressed brick. The tower and spire are 117 feet in height and are situated in the north west corner of the building. It has two wings or aisles and a clearstory containing 20 small windows. In the inside it has a very fine appearance. It is open to the roof, and the clearstory windows admit an abundance of light and air in the upper portions. The roof is entirely of inlaid wood, which has a dark oak-coloured appearance. The roofing of the aisles is also to be of wood differently arranged from the roofing of the nave. There are to be no side galleries, which are found in this Province, to cause a wide and impassable gulf between the people above and the people below, and moreover, are said to encourage deadheadism in congregations. There is, however, to be just over the front entrance a small gallery, which the sacrilegious have impiously styled an organ loft.

The finishing of the inside is progressing rapidly, and we cherish the hope of getting into it about the month of May. The seating of the Church is to be of a circular