

prospects of the church are bright, and its future, by the divine blessing, assured.

WINCHESTER CONGREGATION.

The annual meeting of the Winchester congregation was held Thursday evening, Jan. 10th. The pastor, Rev. D. C. S. Connery, M.A., in the chair. The reports from all the societies connected with the congregation were most satisfactory. During the year there was a large addition to the membership. The attendance at all the services was very large. The Sabbath school is in a flourishing condition. The trustees reported the sale of the old church building to the Hornerites, a new sect of Methodists. The proceeds of this sale, eight hundred dollars, will be devoted to the erection of sheds in connection with the new church. The building committee reported progress. The new building will be completed about the second week in February. The cash resources of the congregation for the year was \$7,621, exclusive of the price of old church.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, LANARK.

The annual meeting of the Presbyterian church, Lanark, was held on Wednesday evening, January 16th. The pastor, Rev. D. M. Buchanan, in the chair. The large attendance indicated a deep interest in the church's work. All the reports showed that the congregation, under Mr. Buchanan's pastorate, is in a most flourishing condition, and some of them indicate very marked progress over previous years. The session reported 85 families and 151 communicants. There were twenty-eight new members added to the roll during the year, whilst seven were removed. The treasurer, Mr. John McLean, read the financial report, which showed that the congregation was never in such a thriving condition financially. The total receipts from all sources were \$2,990, which exceeded the expenditure, and leaves a balance of \$94 in the treasurer's hands. During the past year and a half since the induction of Mr. Buchanan, a manse, costing about \$1,900, and sheds, costing over \$350, have been erected. The Sabbath school has increased one-third in attendance during the past year, and a fine new library, costing nearly \$100, has been added to the school. The W. F. M. S. raised \$25, and the contributions of the congregation to missions were \$178.43, making a total of \$244.29 for missions, being an increase of more than \$100 over last year.

KNOX CHURCH, DENNAS.

The annual congregational meeting, on January 23rd, was well attended, and everything past off pleasantly. Tea was served in the school room, and at eight o'clock the meeting was organized for business, J. J. Steele occupying the chair. The managers presented their annual report, showing a revenue of \$252.26 and an expenditure of \$2661.03. The amount for missions was \$1,100; for aged and infirm ministers' fund, \$129. The report of the session was read by the pastor. It intimated that the membership had decreased since the previous year owing to removals from town, the number on the roll now being 273. Of baptisms there had been 17, and of deaths 10; marriages, 2. The Sabbath school report showed the receipts to be \$219.18, and the expenditure \$186.03. Reports were also received from the various societies connected with the congregation, all giving evidence of good work done and satisfactory results achieved, and this may be said of the congregation's affairs in general, the falling off in numbers being unavoidable, owing to depressed condition of trade in the town. Office bearers for 1893 were duly elected, and matters affecting the congregation's interests were discussed, and the customary voices of thanks passed before adjournment took place. The Sabbath school social followed on the next evening. Dr. Laing expects to be able to conduct the services next Sabbath, January 27th, his health being now much better. A class for deaf mutes is conducted on Sabbath afternoons in the church. The W. F. M. Society has a membership of 34; contributions, \$169.75.

Correspondence.

The Hymnal Question.

Editor PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW:

SIR,—I see that the bulk of your correspondents on the hymn and tune question are crying out for a return to the old Scotch psalm tunes.

Now, I would like to contribute a word on this whole question, and I would like it to be helpful in solving for our Church this great question of praise, and not to be unduly critical of that class of minds of a conservative cast who think the old is always the best, and apparently don't recognize that there must be progress on this line as on all other sublimity things. Why, my dear friends of the old Scotch Church, don't you recognize that there was a time when French and Martyrdom, etc., were new tunes, and on that account must have been distasteful to the conservatives (as I might call them) of that day, and if they had been listened to they would not have been sung; but the progressions of that day took them up, and the progressions of this day are appropriating the grand new tunes. No one wishes to discard the good and solid of the old of any age. There are many such, and—protestors to the contrary notwithstanding—are still frequently sung:—Old Hundred, French, Martyrdom, St. Michael's, etc., and it is wonderful the imperishability of a good tune.

"Psalmody," in your last issue, if I understand him aright, prefers a free choice of tunes to a hymn, and not set tunes.

Now, the hymn book of the Church of England ("Hymns Ancient and Modern"), the Church of Scotland hymn book, the Free Church of Scotland hymn book, and the Bristol tune book of England (best of all, in my opinion), all have set tune, or tunes, for each hymn.

The chant, as a form of praise, is not to be sneered at. I agree, however, with "Psalmody," that it should be confined to the prose psalms.

Our present hymn book (with tunes) is a good one, and has been a distinct step forward in praise. It has improved congregational singing all over the land. I am glad to say this word of praise for those who compiled it.

A little nonsense "now and then" is all right, but when "Psalmody" says that, under present circumstances, congregational singing is "doomed," why, he is going a step too far. This presupposes that all Presbyterians will suddenly lose their voices or desire to sing. While the world lasts people will sing and Christians will always voice the praises of God.

I don't think much of "Antioch" myself as a tune, but, taken as it is from Handel, it is not to be despised.

GEORGE BARTLET.

Windsor, Jan. 21, 1893.

Editor PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW:

SIR,—I have read a large number of the criticisms that have lately appeared in our Church papers regarding the proposed new Hymnal that is being prepared for the public services of our Church. Some of them, weighty, some of them trifling. I do not wish to discuss the intrinsic merits of the book for the simple reason that I do not feel competent for the task. It would be futile to attempt to please every one with even the best selection that man can put together, but let us hope that there will be both quantity and quality sufficient to meet all the cravings of a sanctified spirit.

There is one thing that to my mind has not received the attention that it merits and as it is only a matter of form or arrangement their should be the less difficulty in applying a remedy. It is not so very long since our psalmody was given to us in three subdivisions, namely, Psalms, Paraphrases and Hymns, (five in number). In our present Hymnal we have five subdivisions the three already mentioned and then Hymns and Doxologies.

I have often felt very uncomfortable in church in seeing the trouble our visiting friends have, to join with us in the praises of the sanctuary. The following will illustrate

what I mean: The minister announces and commences to read the fourth hymn say from the five coming after the paraphrases. While he is reading the congregation are busy looking it up. The visitor, perhaps unnoticed by the regular worshippers, picks up a book in which are bound together the whole five subdivisions and naturally looks near the beginning of the book for No. 1. He finds that he is astray. He turns over the leaves till he comes to 4th paraphrase and finds himself wrong again, continues on in the search and in all probability overlooks the five hymns after the paraphrases and reaches No. 4 again in the general collection of hymns and finds himself still wrong. He lastly tries 4th Doxology and failing a fourth time and having reached the end of the book gives up the search and is obliged to stand mute while the regular congregation is enjoying the singing of the hymn.

I do not see any necessity for all this confusion, I think a simple remedy could be found that would not do violence to the feelings of any, even the most scrupulous. I suppose, as heretofore, the psalms will be all included and placed in the front part of the book. Let the numeration begin with them and when the 150 is reached, continue on with 151 and so on consecutively to the end of the book, in this way the number would be a sure guide to every one who has the Hymnal in his hand.

It has always been the pride of our Church that the service is so simple that there is very little difficulty in following it, but the changes that have been and are now proposed to be made in so delightful a part as "Hymning the great Creator's praise" are (though not necessarily I submit) leading to confusion. I sincerely trust the committee who have the matter in charge will see the propriety of adopting some such plan as I suggest, in order that visitors who come to worship with us may feel themselves quite at home.

SIXTLCITT.

From the Coast.

Editor PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW:

DEAR SIR,—In reference to the letter of Rev. P. Mc F. Macleod in a recent issue of your paper, it is only fair to the rev. gentleman to point out that the Rev. Mr. Macleod of Nanaimo, made it a condition, that this ANCIEST reflection upon him should be withdrawn before the call from James Bay congregation to Rev. Mr. Macleod should be seconded and issued by the Presbytery, yet there had been several previous meetings of Presbytery at which he could have brought the matter forward.

At the meeting of Presbytery when the James Bay congregation asked for organization, the same rev. gentleman, then moderator, after organization had been granted, made it a condition that a vote of censure should be passed upon the church or he would enter his protest, and for the sake of peace this was solemnly passed upon over one hundred good people and true Presbyterians.

Yours truly, etc.,

JOSEPH SHAW.

Victoria, B.C., Jan. 4th, 1893.

Editor PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW:

SIR,—On 20th January, I preached at Richmond Hill and Thornhill, and declared the churches vacant. There is a fine opening for an earnest, faithful minister, who will visit the families regularly and look after and draw forth the young people, and thus greatly increase the interest and the membership. They have a very fine new manse, and several acres of land to keep horse and cow, and \$900 a year, the whole worth \$1,100 a year, and some speak of increasing the salary. The Rev. C. A. Campbell, of Maple, their moderator, and Rev. Jas. Grant, of Toronto Junction, have charge of supplies. Probationers going to Richmond Hill station on G. T. R. should remember that the station is four miles from the village, and should ask for the sleigh or bus to take them, and also get tickets through to the village of Richmond Hill. There they will stay with Mr. Sheppard at the old manse where they will have a very comfortable home.

ROBERT WALLACE