

We have comfort in our houses, and the luxuries and conveniences of life are increasing fast. Every advance in science is brought down to us not only in comprehension, but in enjoyment. For the ordinary avocations of life, for business, for travel, even at the rate of thirty miles an hour, and for voyaging across the great sea, we can have warm rooms, comfortable fires, rich carpets, bodily ease and outward splendor. And are these engagements of more importance than the worship of God? If people were not in the enjoyment of so much comfort without the Church, they might, indeed, do as their fathers did, and dispense with it within the Church. But modern experience shows that their inferior comforts are no criterion for us. If a church is not comfortable, people will not come to it. As they are accustomed to comforts, they will stay at home, or leave their own church and go to some other, or else neglect the public worship of God altogether. We are, therefore, glad to see our people becoming alive to the importance of these things.

The finest Church in this Province, is now building in connection with St. Matthew's congregation, Halifax. All honor to them for their enterprise, and for the remarkable liberality displayed by some of their members! They are just the people to do what they are doing; for they are, as we can testify, from our own experience, not only able, but also liberal.

Their poorer brethren in the country, are trying not to be behind them, in meeting their responsibilities according to their ability. We understand that the congregation of McLennan's Mountain, have resolved to commence the erection of a new church immediately. The present church, situated upon so commanding a position, and looking down in calm dignity and repose, upon lower and more grovelling institutions, is the oldest in the county, whither the tribes of our Israel went up for many a day to listen to the eloquent and impressive address of the Rev. Donald A. Fraser, the first minister of the church in this quarter. We cannot enter that old church without thinking of the early labors, impassioned struggles, the heroic might and intellectual strength of that servant of the Lord, who has, after an eventful life, dropt into the peaceful rest of the believers' grave. The old church, however, like all other earthly things, however venerable in age, or precious as relics of former times and earlier scenes, is no longer suited to the wants of the large congregation that enjoys the ministry of the venerable father of our presbytery, the Rev. A. McGillivray. We pray that the Lord may lend his favor to their undertaking, and enable the congregation to carry it forward to a happy completion.

The good work is not to stop here. For we learn from Barney's River, that our congregation there, have also resolved to prepare for the ark of God a house.

At present, they worship in two churches,

which are far separate. The building at Lower Barney's River is so miserable and ragged, that it would be a shame to use it as a schoolhouse. We were heartily ashamed to be obliged to tell a stranger last summer, that it was one of our churches. On the other hand, the church at Upper Barney's River, is a very peculiar edifice. We cannot imagine where the plan was got, or in what fertile brain it was first conceived. It is enough to render the schemer immortal—in what sense we shall not specify. It is not distinguished by a gallery in the ordinary sense of the word, but only the frame of one, to which adventurous aspirants betake themselves, by means of an upright ladder. This is one of the trials and tests to which youthful Christians are subjected in the old church in Upper Barney's River. We may mention also, that it has the good fortune to be on the mail route to the eastward, so as to be the admired of all admirers of ecclesiastical architecture. It is indeed high time and more than time, that this building were out of the way. It is creditable to the energetic and zealous minister and to the congregation, that they are about to enter upon this good work. Let them feel assured that they have the sympathy and good wishes of the church at large. Though not so strong as other congregations, they have been remarkable for doing their part in past times, and we feel assured that they will not be found wanting on the present occasion.

OBSERVER.

Our Prospects.

Looking at the present state of our church, one of the most painful and pressing questions is—what comfort can we discover for ourselves in the future. We are indeed commanded to expel the thought of to-morrow, in so far as such thought may mar the performance of duty in the present hour, or render us discontented in the enjoyment of the present mercies, which a kind Lord showers upon us; but not as regards a wise and prudent provision for future wants or probable dangers and calamities. If even the most prosperous live in the hope of better things, how much more shall those who are oppressed with difficulties or encompassed with serious wants—and these respecting the highest requirements of sinful and dying men. By hope we are saved from ruin, and by despair, ruin is accelerated.

Taking this view, we must confess that our present condition as a church, has much in it of the sad and the sorrowful. We can say in all sincerity, that we seldom enter the precincts of the house of prayer, in which we are wont to call upon the name of the Lord, but we