

December has been named by the Provincial Legislature as a day of public thanksgiving for the goodness of God during the past season and especially for the abundant harvest. The Moderators of our own Synod, and of the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church have concurred in the same day. Other denominations will, no doubt, observe it, so that we hope to see the community generally gratefully acknowledging the good hand of God in the mercies which we enjoy. Seldom has there been a year when we have had such abundant reason to bless the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works unto us the children of men.

Thank-offerings will no doubt be brought by many into the sanctuary, and it would be desirable for Sessions to determine previously the particular object in behalf of which such thank-offerings shall be applied.

THE CENSUS OF 1861.

Our readers would no doubt peruse a judicious and well-timed communication in our last issue, on the subject of the census. There is really little to be added on the subject. It is well known that the Ecclesiastical statistics given in the last census returns were so thoroughly incorrect as to be altogether worthless. We have reason to believe that the matter has received the attention of the Bureau of Statistics, and that instructions will be given to the enumerators, which, with proper attention, will prevent such gross mistakes as disfigured the returns of 1851. With reference to our own church, the instructions are that those returning themselves as in connection with the "Free Church," or "Presbyterian Church of Canada," shall be marked 'F. C.' The other churches will be specified with equal exactness. So far then as the means used by the Government of the country are concerned, we are glad to learn that due care is being taken in this matter. But as all enumerators may not be equally intelligent or exact, it is desirable that heads of families should see that they and their households are properly classed in the schedule, and that this may be done, they should express, *precisely and distinctly*, the religious denomination to which they belong, not simply saying that they are *Presbyterians*, but that they belong to the *Presbyterian Church of Canada, sometimes called, by way of distinction, the 'Free Church.'* Ministers too should not think it beneath them, or beyond the range of their duty, publicly to explain the matter to the people, and give them suitable instructions. This should be done on the first or second Sabbath of January, or we would rather say on the first and

second Sabbaths of January, so that there may be no possibility of misunderstanding.

It is not with a view to denominational glorying to that we urge attention to this matter. It is a matter in which truth and justice are concerned, and it is most desirable that the census returns, which, for ten years to come, will be regarded as an index of the ecclesiastical, as well as of the material condition of the country, should be as correct as possible. So far as we are concerned, let us do what we can to render them correct and reliable.

CALLS, &c.

GALT.—The congregation of Galt have resolved to give a call to the Rev. Dr. Thomson of Grand Street, New York.

PORT DALHOUSIE AND NIAGARA.—The Rev. F. McCuaig has accepted a call from the united congregations of Port Dalhousie and Niagara.

INGERSOLL.—The Rev. John Straith of Tilbury has again received a call from the congregation of Ingersoll, which he has accepted.

COTE STREET, MONTREAL.—The Rev. D. H. McVicar is to be translated from Guolph to Cote Street, Montreal.

OSNABRUCK.—The Rev. A. Matheson has been ordained and inducted as pastor of the congregation at Osnabrock.

VALLEYFIELD.—The Rev. W. Coulthard has been ordained and inducted as Pastor of the congregation at Valleyfield.

WARDSVILLE.—The Rev. N. McKinnon has accepted a call addressed to him by the congregation of Wardsville.

MINTO.—The Rev. C. Cameron, has received a cordial and unanimous call from the congregation of Minto.

SCARBORO.—The Rev. D. H. Fletcher was on the 8th ult., ordained and inducted as Pastor of the congregation of Scarboro. The Rev. R. Jamieson preached and presided. Rev. A. Topp addressed the minister, and the Rev. J. Straus the people. After the ordination services a congregational soiree at which Rev. J. Laing, Rev. W. Gregg, J. McMurrich, Esq., and the newly inducted Pastor were present, and addressed the meeting. The proceedings were altogether of a very pleasing character.

CAMPBELLFORD, SEYMOUR.—We are re-

quested to intimate that it is intended to hold a Bazaar at Campbellford during the third week of December, for the purpose of raising funds to complete the church now in course of erection. Those friends who have kindly promised to assist, and others who may desire to contribute are requested to forward articles intended for the Bazaar, to Mrs. Alexander, Norham, Percy, or to Mrs. Robertson, Campbellford, on or before the 12th December.

BOWMANVILLE.—From time to time we have received pleasing accounts of the increase and prosperity of the congregation under the pastoral charge of the Rev. John Smith. We have been requested to state that the congregation lately presented their pastor with a handsome gown and cassock in token of their esteem and attachment.

KNOX COLLEGE STUDENTS' MISS. SOCIETY.—The annual report of this Society will be found in another column. The following are the office-bearers and committee for the ensuing year:

President, W. M. Mackey.
Vice-President, L. Cameron.
Recording Sec'y, J. Thompson.
Cor. Sec'y., Edward Graham.
Treasurer, J. K. Hislop.

Committee of Management: Messrs. Mitchell, Gracey, Davidson, Kellough, Ferguson and Duff.

Auditors, Messrs. Grant and Paterson.

ITEMS OF INTELLIGENCE.

REGENT SQUARE CHURCH, LONDON.—This edifice, originally built for Rev. Edward Irving, and opened by Dr. Chalmers in 1827, having now been secured by undoubted title for the congregation of the Rev. Dr. Hamilton, lately underwent extensive alterations and repairs, costing about £6,000. On the 17th Oct. the Church was re-opened by Rev. Dr. Guthrie, who preached from the text—"Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" The Hon and Rev. B. W. Noel, and the Rev. Newman Hall conducted services at other hours.

PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE, LONDON. C. W.—The winter session was opened on Tuesday, 2nd October, by Professor Lorimer, who lectured on: "The present aspects of Theology on the Continent, and in our own country." A vote of thanks was awarded to the Professor for his able and appropriate lecture.

THE REV. MR. GUINNESS.—We observe it stated in the *News of the Churches*, that this well-known preacher has joined the Plymouth Brethren, having been baptised, [by immersion] previous to reception. We have no doubt all the steps taken by Mr. Guinness are dictated by strong conscientious convictions, but we apprehend these changes in his views and ecclesiastical connexion will be adverse to his influence.