

Maxwellton, has been appointed as minister. On the 5th of March, of the present year, this church was opened under favourable auspices. A large audience attended, among whom was his Excellency the Governor-General. The collection was liberal, amounting during the whole day to about £150.—It was in this church that the late murderous attack on Gavazzi, to which reference is made below, took place. The building still bears marks of the fury of his Popish assailants, and the floor of the vestry is still mottled with the blood of the eloquent and intrepid Italian. Indeed, the pastor and congregation have not sought altogether to efface these traces, but have left some of them remaining as a practical commentary on the toleration of the Roman Church, and the peculiar logic with which it is her wont to meet the arguments of opponents.

In Lower Canada, Popery is, as our readers are aware, the dominant religion. The darkness extends from side to side of the country, with only specks of light here and there, and amid the gloom. The stupendous cathedrals in the cities attest the wealth and arrogance of the priesthood, while the tall black crosses which rise by the highway, and before which the *people* prostrate themselves, reveal the superstition of the natives. The Canadians are grossly ignorant, and kept wretchedly poor by the exactions of the priests. There are few countries in the world in which the Popery is so dense and unbroken. Indeed, Lower Canada ought to be treated by the churches of Britain as a great mission-field. There are few fields more inviting—few where the need is greater; certainly there is no Popish land in which we could so freely prosecute evangelistic labours. Subject to the British sceptre, we could in Canada claim the protection of the colonial government from the secret despotism of the priesthood and the more open violence of the mob. We trust, at least, that our Free Church, both at home and in British America, will strive to foster the important station to which our remarks have more especial reference. Quebec is admirably situated for acting on the whole of Lower Canada. It is the key of our position in that province, and a strong, flourishing, and zealous body of Free Churchmen there, is, we feel, the first condition of a successful inroad on the Popery of Lower Canada, and the ultimate spiritual enfranchisement of the province.

The following notes from the pen of Mr. Clark, our new minister in Quebec, takes up the history of the Free Church in that city where Dr Burns left it, and brings it down to the present time:—

The Congregation.

The congregation is not large, amounting in all to scarcely 400 persons, and of them only a small number are members. There has been a small increase since my settlement; but as Quebec is in a great measure

a Popish city, and as the Protestant community is fully supplied with churches and ministers, I do not speedily expect any great accession of numbers. The congregation is a very varied and interesting one. We have not many of the wise or the mighty among us. There are, however, a few opulent people who, by their liberality, enable us to go on more comfortably than we otherwise could do. We have some pious officers belonging to the garrison, and a few respectable members of the Episcopal Church who hold pews and attend some part of the day. A few members of the provincial parliament were in the habit of worshipping with us during the session, but, with the exception of a gentleman who holds a high office in the government, none of them are members. As at home, the great body of the people belong to the middle and humbler classes. Many of them are emigrants, and some few of them my former hearers at Maxwelltown. The 71st Regiment is here at present, and more than half of the soldiers have connected themselves with the Free Church.

Romanist Population—Gavazzi.

At present, I can see no prospect of operating successfully on the minds of the Roman Catholic population but it is a great matter if we can keep our own people free from the Man of Sin. The Gavazzi riots appear to have shut the door upon us for the present; it is probable, however, that God may bring good out of their evils here, as I have no doubt will be the case in Britain. If anything were wanting to convince your liberal politicians of the true character of Popery, these scenes of violence might open their eyes. Popery is supreme in Lower Canada, and it attempts to put down all free discussion, as it would do in Great Britain, if it had only the power. Our church has very much recovered from the effects of the assault made upon it. There are only a few holes in the plaster in the porch and behind the porch and behind the pulpit, which I wish to be left as monuments of Popish violence. The floor of the vestry is deeply stained with Gavazzi's blood, but there has been a deeper stain left on the Church of Popery, and a feeling evoked among the Protestants of Canada, which I hope will vibrate to the heart of the British empire. It is an easy thing to engage in a Popish controversy in Scotland; but I feel it to be indeed a terrible thing to come into a hand-to-hand conflict with the Man of Sin in his own dominions. Fight you the good fight resolutely now, and I trust you may never behold the scenes which we are called upon to witness here.

Commanding Position of Quebec.

From its commanding position, Quebec ought to be the centre from which an important religious influence should be diffused over the lower province. And I do not doubt that in the good providence of God,