

News of the Churches.

Garafraxa.—The foundation stone of a new place of worship to be occupied by the First Congregational Church of Garafraxa, was laid July 31st, by Rev. W. F. Clarke of Guelph. The site of the new church is Simpson's Corner, about two miles south of the Village of Douglas. At the appointed hour, 2 p.m., a large number of persons had assembled, and preparations having been duly completed, the proceedings commenced with the singing of Montgomery's appropriate hymn, "This stone to Thee in faith we lay," &c. The Scriptures were then read by Rev. R. Brown of Douglas, after which prayer was offered by Rev. A. McGill of Barton. The following statement was read by Mr. Andrew Gerrie:

"This is a glad and welcome day to the members and adherents of this church. We have for the space of 11 years laboured under the disadvantage of having a very uncomfortable and unsightly place of worship; and we have had many difficulties and hinderances in the way of our obtaining a better. Chief among those difficulties, was inability to agree on that much vexed question of church site. But we would raise our Ebenezer, and say "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us," so that we meet to-day to lay the foundation stone of a new church. To God alone belongs all the praise of our success hitherto; and we will continue to rely upon the Lord our God, assured that He will enable us to finish what He has graciously enabled us so auspiciously to begin. The estimated cost of the building is about \$1,400 of which \$1015 is now under contract. Towards this amount we have already in the hands of our Treasurer, and in pledged subscription upwards of \$900. We are under deep obligations to our Christian friends of other churches, who have kindly, cheerfully and liberally assisted us in received and pledged subscriptions; and also by kindly assisting us so extensively in bringing material for the building. We are greatly indebted to the ladies. Their labours on the present as on former occasions, are beyond all praise. By their various plans of enterprizes they have raised upwards of \$300, which on being added to the amount already received and pledged by subscriptions, will make the total as already stated \$900. We hope not to be more than \$500 in debt when the work is done. The church now in course of erection, is 46 feet by 30. The foundation will be built of stone four feet high; the walls above the floor of brick to the height of 15 feet. The windows and doors will be all in the Gothic style. The church will be seated to accomodate fully 250 adults.

It will be proper to state that a bottle is about to be deposited in the cavity cut in the stone, on which the corner stone is to be placed, containing certain documents and publications. Written on parchment is the following brief historical detail:—

'On this 31st July, in the year of our Lord, 1868, being the 31st year of the reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria, Lord Monck being Governor of the Dominion of Canada, this corner stone of edifice to be used for the worship of Almighty God, by a body of Christians, known as the Garafraxa First Congregational Church; was laid in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, by the Rev. William Fletcher Clarke, Pastor of Guelph Congregational Church. The church was formed in the month of February, 1856, and consisted at first of twenty-three members. The first pastor was the Rev. Enoch Barker. Amongst those who first united together in its formation, were fathers and mothers in Israel who have now joined the church triumphant. They were members of some of the first formed Congregational churches in Scotland. Andrew Gerrie, sen., was a member of the church at Huntly, Aberdeenshire; under the charge of that faithful man of God, the Rev. George Cowie, and Dr. Thomas Lightbody, and Mrs. Dr. Lightbody were connected with the church under that eminent servant of Christ, the Rev. Greville Ewing of Glasgow. At this date the members of the church number 43. The pastorate at present is vacant. Andrew Gerrie, Peter Sumner Martin, and Robert Bechan are the deacons. The trustees of the church property are James Gerrie, Peter Sumner Martin, and George J. Gerrie. The building committee are Andrew Gerrie, *Chairman*, Peter Sumner Martin, *Secretary-Treasurer*, George Bayne, George J. Gerrie, and Charles Mason. *Church Secretary*,