

THE LABRADOR MISSION.

Though not a large field for evangelistic work, this mission occupies one of much interest, which has been cultivated with no little success. There is no other mission station of any kind within a very long distance on either side along the coast. The first missionary, who began the work more than twenty years ago, has recently returned from a visit to the mission, and, while expressing satisfaction with what he saw, gave it as his conviction that this little institution and work were the only barriers to the absorption of the people of the coast, in the course of time, into the Romish Church. That would mean an occasional visit by a priest, but no schools, no Christian literature, no Bible instruction, no regular Sabbath services, and no healthful Christian work among the crews of the many fishing vessels which repair to the coast in the summer. Rev. S. R. Butler has laboured faithfully for many years, and one or two lady missionaries have done the same. Day and Sunday Schools are in regular operation. Sunday services are regularly maintained, and a most enlightening and healthful influence is being continually exercised. Many, considering the extent of the population, have been led as penitent believers to the Lord Jesus, and have become useful Christians. The mission, conducted on catholic principles, the church, however, being Congregational, is in the hands of a Ladies Association, formed by the four Congregational churches in Montreal, and the American Presbyterian Church, President, Mrs. D. Stevenson, Secretary, Mrs. Rushon; Treasurer, Mrs. Wilkes, 249 Mountain St. Montreal, by whom contributions will be received.

RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1880

From Ontario,	\$47 50
Quebec, exclusive of Montreal,	23 50
Maritime Provinces,	14 00
Colonial Missy Society,	23 54
Friends in Eng. per Mrs. Toller,	7 20
American Seamen's Friend Socy.,	100 00
Montreal,	
Zion Church,	4 01
Calvary "	2 75
Emanuel "	72 50
Wesley "	23 50
American Presbyterian,	10 00
Collected from merchants, by Mr. John Ritchie,	40 00
Gift for 1879-80, by Mr. J. D. Dougal,	42 00

Being a total of \$602 06

PAID DURING THE YEAR 1880.

For supplies sent to Labrador, and expenses of one voyage,	\$410 24
Account of salaries,	51 00
	\$461 24

To which add amount due for salaries \$350 00

\$811 24

Thus more than \$200 is required to balance 1880: and money will be required early in the spring for supplies, and the further amount of salary then due to the two ladies who are on the field.

News of the Churches.

[We regret to be obliged to defer the insertion of several interesting items of church news until next week. Our printers are anxious to get to press early, and we had to give matter in advance.]

COWANSVILLE, P.Q.—INSTALLATION. On the evening of Thursday the 20th January, the Rev. George Willet, late of Vankleek Hill and Hawkesbury, was installed as pastor of the united churches of Cowansville and Brighton. The evening was fine, the congregation large, and the services were felt by all to be most interesting, instructive and impressive. The order of service was as follows: Introductory services and Right Hand of Fellowship, by Rev. R. K. Black; Installation prayer and Charge to the pastor by

Rev. J. L. Forster. Charge to the people by the Rev. Dr. Stevenson. Our brother enters on his new sphere of labor under the most favorable auspices. His health is much improved since his return from England. His ability as a faithful preacher of the gospel is highly appreciated, and it is fervently hoped that with generous support and prayerful co-operation on the part of his attached flock, his ministry may be a long, prosperous, and happy one. R. F. B.

THE Rev. Thomas Hall, late pastor of the Congregational Church in St. John, Newfoundland, entered into his ministry at Bethel Church on the 9th inst. with his characteristic unostentatiousness and earnestness. His work with us in this city, in this district and within the bounds of our Union will not be experimental, for he has already made a record of what he is and of what he can do. We only give expression to what we believe is the sentiment of all Congregationalists in the city when we say that he is thrice welcome to share the blessings and joys as well as the cares and toils of the ministry of the one Lord, which ministry we pray may be abundantly fruitful in all that is good. Of one thing we may be satisfied, namely, that in Mr. Hall we shall not find a rival in the midst of other churches, but a true ally and co-worker in the common cause, and for the same glorious ends. Again we say to him, his wife and his children, Welcome. *Kingston First Church Miscellany.*

WINNIPEG. A very enjoyable social was held last evening by the Sunday School of the first Congregational Church, the combined object being the annual festival and a welcome by the children to the Rev. J. B. Silcox. A bountiful repast was supplied to the children, to which ample justice appeared to be done by all. The programme consisted in singing by the school, exercises by some of the scholars, remarks from the chairman, Rev. Mr. Ewing, and an excellent address from Rev. Mr. Silcox, which gave great amusement to the children, while the ways were pointed out how each one could be helpful in the work of the church and Sunday School. The meeting was greatly enjoyed by both old and young. *Winnipeg Daily Times.*

OTTAWA. The annual meeting of the church and congregation was held on the 12th Jan. The pastor presided. After a social tea had been served by the deacons' wives and Mrs. Wood, reports were presented by the pastor, the treasurers of various funds, and the Secretary of the Sunday School, all of an interesting and encouraging character. Ten persons had been added to the church during the year, eight of them on profession of faith, but several of the members had removed. The Sunday School had increased both in attendance and interest. This had especially been the case with the Bible class, several of whom had united with the church. The total amount raised for all purposes during the year had been over \$1,400. The utmost harmony had prevailed, and the outlook for the future was felt to be hopeful. A few minutes were spent in a free social chat, and the meeting closed with the benediction. J. W.

ATHOL. This place is now to be known as St. Elmo. A few items may be of interest. The Sabbath School had an interesting entertainment on New Year's Eve, in which a number of the pupils took part, and one of the teachers, Miss E. M. Macallum, read a original essay on "books and reading." During the past year the school has subscribed for D. C. Cook's Sabbath Library, which is well liked.

The friends recently made a donation visit to the pastor which was fully equal to those of past years, and a short time previous one of the Deacons handed \$18 to the pastor, this with the donation making about \$58. The new church in course of erection about two miles south

of this, at Moxville, is now closed in and the windows and doors are purchased. It is 54x34 feet, and will probably be finished in June or July next. It is intended to brick it on the outside, though this may not be done for a year or two. It is not anticipated that there will be any debt, and there is to be no appeal for outside help. We expect according to a voluntary promise by Dr. S. N. Jackson an organ for the church when finished. The missionary meetings have just been held here and at Martintown, also at Vankleek Hill and Hawkesbury, at the latter places though without a pastor they gave more than last year, and in the former places the amount is considerably in advance of last year, amounting to \$101.88, and some more expected. Rev. H. Pedley, of Cobourg, was the deputation, and his addresses were listened to with appreciation and delight. *Com.*

TORONTO, ZION. The Annual Social and business meeting of Zion Church and congregation was held on Wednesday evening, the 19th inst. The attendance was larger than for many years. The meeting was a most excellent one and manifested much revival of interest in the church. After tea was over and some time had been spent in conversation, the pastor, Rev. H. D. Powis, called upon Mr. John Wickson to take the chair. Reports for the year just closed were then presented. There is a net gain of 10 in membership, 171 members, and 6 others applying. Total receipts for all purposes during the year, \$5250, the expenditure has been kept within the income, and the church is entirely out of debt. The Sunday School is in a flourishing condition. Among the young people a Literary Association is in operation. The Ladies' Aid Society has rendered good service. During the year the seats in the body of the church have been furnished with handsome new crimson damask cushions, and the pews have been enlarged and otherwise rendered more convenient. Mr. Wm. Lawson, late organist of Jarvis Street Baptist Church, has been placed in charge of the music, which is being greatly improved under his direction.

Denominational Notes.

THE *Christian World* of Jan. 13th says:—"Dean Stanley is to perform a graceful service at Westminster Chapel next Tuesday evening, by unveiling a marble bust of the late Rev. Samuel Martin, which has just been placed in the vestibule of the building. The ceremony will take place at a quarter to seven o'clock, and afterwards there will be addresses, we believe, by Dean Stanley and others, in the chapel, followed at eight o'clock by an organ recital. This bust completes a series of works undertaken at Westminster Chapel in commemoration of its late beloved pastor. The interior of the building has been beautifully, but quietly, finished and decorated: an organ, said to be one of the largest and finest in any Nonconformist place of worship in London, has been introduced, and there have been other improvements. The dean was a close friend and cordial neighbour of Mr. Martin, and he has shown the same friendly and catholic spirit towards Mr. Martin's successor, the Rev. Henry Simon.

It is suggested by Mr. R. W. Dale, in the *British Quarterly*, that a good way of celebrating the present jubilee year of the Congregational Union would be to republish some of the pamphlets and other writings of the early Congregationalists, in which they explained and vindicated their principles. Such republications would, no doubt, be very interesting, but we are not sanguine enough to suppose that they would be widely read. Mr. Dale, making a starting-point of his suggestion, proceeds to expound, with all his customary eloquence and force, the main principle on which the

first Congregationalists in this country took their stand—namely, that "the members of a Christian Church should be Christians." Having pointed out the significance of this principle as opposed to the theory of Whitgift and Hooker that "the English nation constituted the English Church," Mr. Dale proceeds to discuss the delicate question as to the method which should be adopted for testing the Christianity of these "members of a Christian Church." Mr. Dale admits that in the Church of the Apostolic days no test was required except the declaration of a belief in Jesus of Nazareth. With respect to the present time, Mr. Dale thinks that the method in which any Christian Church should endeavour to assert the principle that the members of a Christian Church should be Christians, may be decided upon "variously in various parts of the country, and by churches surrounded by varying social conditions." He lays it down that "it is not of the substance of Congregationalism that any particular set of rules should regulate the admission of members. If any Church is convinced that without further inquiry, it can accept with unreserved confidence the expression of a desire for membership as a proof of living faith in Christ, that Church has a perfect right to receive all comers." It is granted also that "a Church roll is not of the essence of Congregationalism." Substantially, however, Mr. Dale argues on grounds of expediency for the old methods of testing candidates for church membership by means of inquiry, and also for keeping a church roll.

UNPLEASANT as the statement may be, nevertheless it is a fact according to the new minutes of the Congregational churches of Illinois that 119 of their number received no accessions the last year on confession. It should be added, however, that twenty-eight of these churches, some of them practically extinct, made no report whatever.

THE *Congregationalist* says, that so far as reported, there were 105 Congregational churches organized in the country during 1880, against 67 in the year 1879. There were 205 ministers ordained or installed, against 173 the previous year, and 70 dismissed, against 99 the previous year. These facts seem to indicate that the climax has been reached, and that the pastoral relation is at length becoming more permanent rather than less so. The number of Congregational ministers who died in 1880 was 76, against 71 the previous year. Their average age, so far as given, seems to have been nearly 65, against an average of 67 the previous year.

Literary Notes.

PASTOR AND PEOPLE.—We have received the first two numbers of this new periodical, designed to aid all classes of Christian workers, in and out of the pulpit, to stimulate to activity, and aid in doing the best work possible. From an examination of the two numbers before us we think that a good beginning has been made. We cannot give a detailed list of the articles, but we may say that for the preacher there are sermons and sermon outlines; for the pastor, talk on pastoral visiting; for the Sunday School man, articles of practical value; and for all church members, talk on prayer meetings, church work, giving, &c. We like the spirit of the magazine, and we shall be glad to find that it is a success. The editor is Rev. Dr. Mease, of Dayton, Ohio, and it is published at \$1 50 per year, (six numbers) by Sutton & Scott, 176 Elm St. Cincinnati.

It may appear somewhat unseasonable to be talking of flowers with the thermometer down to zero, and two feet of snow on the ground; nevertheless the old maxim says, "In peace prepare for war," so in winter prepare for summer, and to beautify homes and to know intelligently how to cultivate flowers, than which nothing is pleasanter to possess inside or outside of a house, there is nothing to surpass Vick's Floral Guide. The price is only Ten Cents; it is handsomely gotten up, full of illustrations, and sound in its advice. It will pay you to get this if you have only three square feet for a flower patch. Published by James Vick, Rochester, N. Y.

The end of learning is to know God, and out of that knowledge, to love Him and imitate Him as we may the nearest by possessing our souls of true virtue.—*Milton.*