

FOR DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN.

**Jubilee Services in Chalmers' Church,
Quebec.**

Services of more than ordinary interest were held in Chalmers' Church, Quebec, on Sunday the 8th March, and the Monday evening following. The occasion being the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the present commodious and churchly building.

The congregation itself is about one hundred years old—having been organized at the beginning of the last century. It was at first a union, if not a congregation al church, made up of Presbyterians and Congregationalists. For a time the congregation worshipped in a private house; and it was not till the 20th June, 1816 that the corner stone of the first church was laid. The church then (in allusion to the day) received the name, "St. John's," which name it retained till the present building was erected, when "Chalmers" was adopted. In 1830 it became formally connected with the Presbyterian Church in Canada, in connection with the Church of Scotland, in which year the Rev. Jno. Clugston came out from Scotland, and assumed the pastorate, and remained its pastor till 1848. In 1844 the congregation cast in its lot with the Free Church. From 1848 to 1853 the congregation was vacant, but was fortunate to secure good supply, among others the Rev. Geo. Paxton Young ministering to it. In 1853 the Rev. W. B. (afterwards Dr.) Clark became the pastor, and labored there for many years. On the 6th March, 1853 the present church, whose jubilee has just been celebrated, was opened for worship, and there the congregation continued to worship ever since. The late Dr. Clark was succeeded by Rev. Peter Wright (now Dr. Wright) who labored there from 1875 to 1877 when he was called to Montreal. Dr. Wright was succeeded by Dr. Mathews (now secretary of the great and world-wide Presbyterian Alliance) who ministered to the congregation for about nine years. In Sept., 1889 the present pastor was inducted.

The services of Sunday the 8th March were well attended, the large church being well filled; and all agree it was a "high day." The preacher morning and evening was Rev. Dr. Mowatt, of Erskine Church, Montreal. Dr. Mowatt, from a full heart, burdened with the responsibility and opportunity of the great occasion, brought warm gospel messages to expectant congregations—messages which found an answer in many hearts. His subject in the morning was, Jesus's great Invitation to the Thirsty, and in the evening, The True Priesthood. It was really a great day, and it is believed a day of blessing. Several who in earlier days were connected with the congregation, came long distances, and others sent kind messages.

On Monday evening the jubilee services were continued. A good audience of Presbyterians and others attended, and for an hour and half sweet music—vocal and instrumental—was interspersed with short, reminiscent and congratulatory addresses. The speakers were Revs. Sparling and Grant of the Methodist and Baptist churches, respectively, and Rev. J. R. MacLeod, of Three Rivers, Clerk of the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa.

At 9.30 the audience adjourned to Lecture Room which was most tastefully decorated with flowers and bunting, while there were scores of tables loaded with tempting refreshments.

Immediately on entering the Lecture room, Mr. W. C. Young, an elder, stepped forward and in the name of the congregation presented the pastor, Rev. D. Tait, with beautiful and costly pulpit robes, expressive of the congregation's good will and affection. Mr. Tait made a suitable reply.

The Rev. Donald Tait, B. A., the present pastor, is a native of Caithness, Scotland. He studied in Edinburgh, Toronto University and Knox College, His first charge was at Berlin, Ont., where he labored for nine years. For thirteen years he has occupied the present important position, during which time the church has made progress in good works. Mr. Tait stands high in the public esteem, and is deservedly esteemed by his people.

ONTARIO POLITICS.

With the details of politics we have nothing to do in these columns, a man may be an intelligent devout Christian and a loyal Presbyterian and hold either this or that view on the tariff question or on the best way of dealing with the liquor traffic. But every Christian must believe in righteousness and use his influence to cause it to prevail. Prophets have preached and Jesus died in vain unless we, their professed followers, really believe that "the kingdom of God" is supreme, or in other words that honesty and truth must be placed above personal political and social considerations. A clear test case has arisen in Ontario either the member for Manitoulin Island is a liar and a trickster, or Mr. Stratton a responsible minister is deeply involved in practices that all honest men must condemn. That is the first question to be settled. The Prohibition question and the Niagara power question are important in their own way but this must take precedence. One may regret that the leader of the Opposition did not display a more gentlemanly style and a more judicial spirit, but that does not alter the fact that the government is responsible for the action of its members and to a large extent for the political morality of the Province. Men may hold different views as to the best mode of procedure in the case, but there is likely to be a clear strong determination that the matter shall be sifted to the bottom and the truth openly proclaimed whatever the consequence may be. We feel sure that this is the desire of all the members of our Church, a very large number of them have been during the last thirty years staunch supporters of the Liberal party, and that gives them a strong claim to demand that justice shall be done and an opportunity to show that they place purity above party. We know that the Liberal party has during that period rendered great service to the province but neither a party nor a man can live upon its past. For the party as well as for the province it is important that there should be a clean clear record right through. The DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN while keeping free from the partizan spirit has not concealed its admiration for Mr. Ross as a leader and statesman and even now it can express sympathy with him in the present painful position. But we are compelled to admit that there are some recent events that cry aloud for explanation. The Centre Bruce incident, the North York compromise

and last but certainly not least the Gage charge all point to something rotten in the state of Denmark. Even if the worst features in these cases can be explained or disproved it is evident that the whole system of conducting elections, arranging election trials and dispensing patronage needs to be reformed and purified. At present, we say it with sadness, the cloud hangs heavily over the Liberal party in Ontario. If the Conservatives shows that there supreme and only aim is to make political capital out of it the issue may be confused. We can only hope that fair-minded men of all shades of opinion will unite in demanding that the investigation should be sober, full and fair and that whatever the results may be to any party or persons concerned, measures shall be taken to make a real step forward in our political morality.

Sparks From Other Anvils.

Pittsburg, Pa., United Presbyterian: It is the same old law: if you change and trim and seek to please in order to avoid unpopularity, you will lose the favor you seek. Be straightforward and honest. It may involve trouble, and, for the present, the loss of what you seek, but in the end you will come out right. The words of Jesus are sustained by ages of experience: "Whosoever would save his life shall lose it, and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's shall save it."

Sunday School Times: A confession of wrong may be proof of a possession of superior ability. One who is making progress is likely to see truth in a new light to day, and to perceive that he was not right in the light which he had yesterday. Pope says truly, "A man should never be ashamed to say he has been in the wrong, which is but saying in other words that he is wiser to day than he was yesterday." Therefore it often requires more ability to admit having been in the wrong than to stand by the position which one maintained yesterday. Have you this power to grow?

Unpleasant!

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