

GASPÉ BASIN.

The Rev. J. P. Richmond reports :—

During the past year the usual services have been held, and the attendance has been about the same as in former years.

The number of deaths has been unusually large, including the departure of two very old members of the Church, who, in past years, were very active in Church matters. Mr. Philip Bechervaise, senior, and Mr. John Eden, for many years Church Warden; also, two very promising young men.

St. Paul's Church.—The congregation are still struggling to finish the new Church. This year has seen the completion of the inside ceiling and walls, and casing of the windows, and clap-boarding of a portion of the outside. Several local subscriptions are still unpaid owing to the hardness of the times, and several have been lost to the Church by the removal of the subscribers.

Owing to the destruction of the Hotel last spring, the number of summer visitors was small, and consequently the congregation during the summer months was smaller than usual.

St. James' Church.—The congregation have repaired the Church, the site of which has been very badly chosen in a clay swamp, consequently the building is always working with the frost and water, and the fence always out of order, and the churchyard in the spring of the year almost a standing pool of water.

Schools.—There are five schools in the Mission, in most of which a Sunday school is held. It has been necessary to increase the school tax in order to open a school at L'Anse aux Cousins, and to maintain the efficiency of the other schools in Gaspé South. This, together with the assessment and demands for local Church purposes, presses very hard upon the people whose circumstances have done anything but improve for the last few years—and this year the people are without winter employment.

I append the financial statement of the Church Wardens: