

until the 1st January last, when the Rev. J. Irwin returned to this city and was appointed again to his old incumbency; and through the liberality of Judge Aylwin, was enabled to clear off all the remaining debts, and have the church consecrated on Sunday, 8th day of September last, when a very full congregation attended, and the usual forms having been gone through, and the special prayers used, as appointed, the Bishop preached the sermon, giving a general account of the history of St. Luke's, and exhorting the minister and the people, mutually helping each other, to labour zealously for the increase of Christ's kingdom and extension of his church. The musical portion of the service was very creditably performed. The church is a neat, but plain ecclesiastical structure. The interior is arranged with much good taste. Some considerable improvements are being made in the school-room; and a bell turret, which is much needed, is contemplated, as is also a parsonage house, on the lot adjoining to the church.

In connexion with the proper duties of his incumbency, it has been somehow expected that the minister of St. Luke's Church is to give his services at the Montreal Jail, which lies within the limits of his district; and for which the authorities have, as yet, made, in this respect, no suitable provision. Since the appointment of the present incumbent, these services have become particularly onerous and responsible, in consequence of the sentence of two persons, *nominally Protestants* to capital punishment. Public attention having been drawn to the case of one of these (Burns) in consequence of his reception into the Church of Rome, a few days before his execution, it is proper to give here a brief statement of the circumstances which led to this event.

For many weeks Mr. Irwin was unremitting in his attendance on both the prisoners; and about a month before the time appointed for their execution, one of the prisoners was baptized by him, having manifested such signs of repentance and faith (which are "required" of persons about to be baptized) as encouraged the chaplain to believe that in baptizing him he was acting scripturally, and according to the directions of the Church in this behalf. The attention of Burns was arrested, and he requested that he might likewise be admitted to the privileges of Christian baptism. With this request Mr. Irwin declined, *for the present*, to comply; in the hope that further instruction might, with God's blessing, shew him the necessity of those qualifications which seemed to be wanting in him. Burns subsequently became importunate, stating that it was "no matter to him whether he was baptized by a Methodist, Presbyterian, or Roman Catholic," and using language in relation to it, which plainly showed that he had a very inadequate notion of the real nature of the Sacrament. Willing to strengthen, or correct his own judgment of the man's case, Mr. Irwin requested the Bishop of the Diocese to see him. With this request His Lordship complied, visiting him and his fellow-prisoner on different occasions; and perceiving the same difficulty in relation to the baptism of Burns, which had been felt by his spiritual attendant, recommended that his baptism should be delayed as long as possible, in the hope of seeing some better evidence of his faith and re-