

CHURCH NOTES AND NOTICES.

An interesting visit to New Glasgow, N.S., 13th October, is recalled by a pamphlet just to hand containing the proceedings and addresses at the semi-jubilee of United Church then held. Very pleasant was the visit, hallowed by so many tender associations, but these are for thought rather than speech. Much that we would gladly say is precluded for other reasons. One fact, however, may fairly be mentioned. The congregation, in one of its branches, Primitive Church, was the pioneer of purely voluntary weekly offering in the Presbyterian Church in Canada. When that Church began, the method adopted was that each one should give on each Sabbath what he was able and willing to give. The United Congregation continued the plan and it has been followed to this day. No subscriptions. No envelopes. In all offerings, both for self-support and for the schemes of the Church—and both have always been very liberal—no one knows what any one gives, except it is told by the giver. The plan, like all good things, is a means of good to those who are faithful and conscientious, while those who may take advantage of it to shirk their duty are constant losers in character. To the one it is a saver of life unto life, to the other a saver of death unto death.

"A sea of Mountains" was the terse description of British Columbia by a citizen of Canada, a few years ago. Now these mountains are found to be rich in mineral wealth beyond most mining regions in the world. "Soft and Balmy" is a strange expression for a Canadian winter, but Dr. Bryce, who was recently in Victoria in the interests of Manitoba College, uses these adjectives to describe his environment, and states that he plucked a rose in a manse garden there on New Year's Day. The Church, too, is making progress. Two-thirds of the thirteen in the last graduating class of Manitoba College have gone to British Columbia. Its Synod is asked for \$1,000 for the College for the current year, more than twice the amount given last year, and the increasing interest promises receipt.

Truro Presbytery holds a convention 14th March. It has perhaps been a weak spot in our Church work that meetings are filled with necessary business, while conventions for the discussion of various subjects of life and work have been largely left to organizations outside the Church. Montreal Presbytery had a Sabbath School convention recently. The teachers from all the congregations in the Presbytery were invited. Large numbers attended, and a most excellent and profitable convention was the result.

Maniota, Manitoba, is a town about two months old, the present terminus of the

G. N. W. C. railway. Its Presbyterians have decided to build a new church in the spring and as a beginning have already subscribed about one thousand dollars. Meantime they worship in a hall. Such facts, not uncommon, show that the great body of our membership while "diligent in business" have not lost sight of the "fervent in spirit."

New churches have been opened at Amherst, N.S., 14th January, at Maxville, Ont., 14th January; at Burnstown, Ont., 7th January; at St. Andrew's, Que., re-opened, 31st December; at North Derby, Ont., 24th December, re-opened; at Dauphin, Man., 21st January; at Lachute, 4th February. One of the signs of the truth and power of Christianity is the amount of active effort which it so constantly inspires.

A new mission has been opened at Sydney, C.B. A Church is in course of erection. The managers of the new Steel Co. have given handsomely towards it. They wisely know that the best investment where masses of men are concerned is that which helps to keep them mindful of their duty to God. There is no other way so effectual in keeping them faithful to their employers.

The annual meetings of all seven of the Winnipeg congregations were held on one evening, 16th January. Another feature which all had in common was that in every case a layman occupied the chair. A third feature, which they share with almost the entire Church, was, that on the whole they told of a prosperous year.

The Manitoba College Journal speaks in enthusiastic terms of its coming Principal, Rev. Dr. Patrick, of Dundee, Scotland. It has left no room for growth. Its appreciation might be summed up in "Mark thou the perfect man." May their hopes be richly fulfilled.

The addresses of our missionaries in the far North Gold Fields, are:—Rev. John Pringle, Atlin, B.C.; Rev. J. A. Sinclair, Bennett, B.C.; Rev. D. G. Cock, Grand Forks of Eldorado, Yukon; Rev. J. J. Wright, Dawson City, Yukon.

The congregation of Fairmount and Cadurcis, Manitoba, at annual meeting just held, unanimously decided to become self-supporting, and relieve the Augmentation Fund of a \$200 burden.

Brandon congregation at its recent annual meeting, the best in its history, resolved to build a new church to seat one thousand. Over seven thousand dollars was subscribed at the meeting.