

# MONTREAL SABBATH SCHOOL GATHERINGS.

## NEW YEAR'S GATHERING.

According to the usual custom, the Sabbath Schools of all the Presbyterian congregations in Montreal met in Erskine Church at 10 o'clock on New Year's morning. The body of the Church was packed with children—the number being estimated at about 2,000—and the galleries were filled with parents and friends. Hon. Judge Torrance presided; the Rev. J. S. Black conducted the opening exercises, and appropriate addresses were delivered by Rev. P. Wright, Rev. R. H. Warden, and Rev. R. Campbell.

## COTE STREET SABBATH SCHOOL, MONTREAL.

The annual social gathering of this School was held on the evening of the 3rd January, the basement of the church being well filled with the scholars and their friends. After a liberal supply of refreshments, fruit, etc., addresses were given by the Superintendent—D. Morrice, Esq.—Rev. Messrs. W. Coulthard, and R. H. Warden, and James Court, Esq. Several hymns were sung under the leadership of Professor McLaren, Miss McMaster presiding at the instrument. A solo on the flute by Master James Morrice was well received. During the evening beautiful silver medals with the name engraved on each, were presented to Masters David Reid, James Morrice, and Samuel McGoun, for perfect recitation of the first fifty questions of the Shorter Catechism; and to Miss Jessie Ross and Master John Forbes, the scholars who collected the largest sums in their missionary boxes during the year. Prize books were also awarded to Misses Jessie McLean, Lizzie Reid, Agnes Young, Alice Mooney, Christina Reid, and Masters John Gardner and Willie Reid. The missionary contributions were appropriated to the College, Home, French, and Foreign Missions. This school owes its success very largely to its indefatigable Superintendent, Mr. Morrice, who not only gives much time but money to carry it on. The medals and prize books are his own personal gifts. This was the last annual social gathering in the old church. The congregation and school expect before the close of winter to move into their magnificent new church on Crescent street.

## NAZARETH STREET MISSION SCHOOL, MONTREAL.

This school is under the Superintendence of Mr. James Ross—a member of the Cote Street Church Session—who for many years has unweariedly sought the welfare of the young of the district. He is ably assisted by an efficient staff of teachers who systematically visit the district and gather in the children chiefly of the poor and the careless. The arduous nature of their work may be inferred from the fact that the population is continually changing. Upwards of 150 children left the school during 1877, and upwards of 150 new names were added to the roll, which numbers over 300. The average attendance during the past year was 183 scholars and twenty-four teachers. The annual festival took place as usual on the evening of Christmas day, the large school room being tastefully decorated for the occasion, one of the teachers, Mr. Patterson, presenting to the school a number of paintings (his own workmanship) of Scripture scenes, texts, etc. The building was packed full with young folks and old. A silver medal, the gift of David Morrice, Esq., was presented to the boy most regular in attendance, and a number of books were awarded others. The singing, led by Mr. R. Hyde, was most hearty. Miss Norval presided at the Harmonium. Addresses were given by Principal Macvicar, Revs. J. Fleck, R. H. Warden, P. Wright, and by Major Maian, and Joseph MacKay, Esq.

## CHALMERS' CHURCH SABBATH SCHOOL, MONTREAL.

The Rev. P. Wright was in September last inducted as Pastor of Chalmers' Church, since which time there has been a very marked increase in the attendance and finances of the congregation, both having nearly doubled. The Sabbath School is one of the largest—if not the largest—connected with the Presbyterian congregations of the city, the average attendance in 1877 being 218 scholars, and the number on the roll 311. The energetic Superintendent, Mr. Phymister, and his staff of twenty-nine teachers, deserve credit for the large attendance and also for the successful social gathering held on the 26th ult., when the basement was thronged by a crowd of happy children and their friends. The distribution of prizes, singing and speaking were the order of the evening; interesting

addresses being given by Rev. P. Wright, Prof. Campbell, and Messrs. Croil and Richards. This school contributed last year one fifth of Miss Fairweather's salary (\$100) together with \$80 to French Evangelization, and \$87 to other purposes, a total of \$267 for the year, in this setting a good example to other schools.

## PETITE COTE SCHOOL.

This school is in the suburbs of Montreal, about three or four miles from the centre of the city. It meets in a building owned by the Presbyterian Sabbath School Association of the city and is presided over by Mr. Wm. Greig, a deacon of the Cote Street Church, who, in all kinds of weather walks out on the Sabbath afternoon and is ever faithful at his post. The annual festival was held a fortnight ago and as usual proved quite successful. Addresses were delivered by Mr. Greig, Rev. Messrs. Scrimger and Wright. The school gave \$25.50 as a scholarship to the Montreal College.

## ST. MARK'S SABBATH SCHOOL.

Mr. D. T. Fraser is at present acting as Superintendent of this school, the annual festival of which was held on the evening of Christmas and was largely attended. Santa Claus was not unmindful of the children, but generously distributed a large number of gifts among them, which were received with glad and thankful hearts. The Pastor, Rev. J. Nicholls, received a few evenings ago a very pleasing token of the good will and affection of his people in the gift of a handsome sum of money. This congregation is making encouraging progress, the membership receiving large additions at each quarterly communion since Mr. Nicholls's induction.

## RUSSELL HALL SABBATH SCHOOL.

The yearly festival of this school took place on the 3rd January and was largely attended. After a sumptuous tea in the school room, addresses were given in the church by Rev. Messrs. Doudiet and Warden, and a number of recitations, dialogues, etc., were well rendered by the children. A Christmas tree laden with candies, etc., was an object of attraction. Santa Claus was rapturously received by the little French boys and girls, each of whom received a gift (suited to the cold winter season) kindly provided by a few of the many friends of the school. A day school is now in connection with this church, taught by Miss Cousineau.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF MANITOBA COLLEGE.

On a recent occasion, the students of Manitoba College and their friends, to the number of fifty or sixty, held their annual social meeting. Among those present were Revs. J. Black, D.D., (Kildonan), H. J. Borthwick, M.A., (Pembina Mountain), W. R. Ross, M.A., (Boyne), J. Scott, (Emerson), A. Matheson, (Little Britain), S. Donaldson, B.A., (Woodlands), H. McKellar, (Sunnyside), A. Campbell, B.A., (Rockwood), and the Presbyterian ministers of the city, also Consul Taylor, Messrs. A. W. Ross, M.A., J. Cameron, B.A., W. Black, B.A., several members of the college board, and a number of past students of the college. A group of ladies graced the left of the position taken by the college Senate. Rev. Mr. Robertson, of Winnipeg, occupied the chair, and spoke of the pleasant gathering held in the college from year to year, and of its not only being pleasant but important. He was glad to notice the ripening fruits of the college. There was present one of the two students of the college who had graduated in the University of Toronto during the present year, and he was happy to learn that this gentleman had taken a high position there.

Rev. Prof. Hart, M.A., read the Senate Report, setting forth the names of those students who had taken the leading places in the honor list, including medalists, as follows: R. G. McBeath, Governor-General's Medal; R. C. Laurie, Dufferin Mathematical Medal; W. R. Gunn, R. D. Sinclair, W. Omand, and A. McPhillips, honorable mention; J. B. Polworth, John Fulton, H. Stevenson and J. Kennedy, Bursaries.

Rev. Mr. Borthwick then gave an able address on "Classical Education." He showed the impression often found that Latin and Greek are not practical subjects to be a mistake. Men in every department of life are made far more useful by these studies. The common school teacher who has to teach only English is made more thorough by such study. The politician is made a better and more practical statesman by such studies. Education should be mixed, an equal bal-

ance should be preserved, but in our time there is far more danger of classics being neglected than of their being over cultivated.

Rev. Alex. Matheson said he was not accustomed to address students. He felt, to use the comparison of one of his old professors, like a "whale in a field of clover." He urged both the professors and the students to aim at the development of all parts of the man. Sometimes by excessive exercise of the mind the body was injured. Sometimes the body was fully developed and the cultivation of the mind neglected. And at times even the moral powers were cultivated excessively and the intellect neglected—the first of these resulted in the premature death of many who might have been useful, the second in the production of physical monsters, and the last in producing men biased in particular directions, having zeal but not according to knowledge—men who are fanatics. As a native of the country he would congratulate the students on their advantages as compared with those of twenty-five years ago in Red River. He urged his hearers not to cease study on leaving college. At college students were only being taught how to study. On themselves devolved the duty of making themselves learned.

An able address by Rev. Mr. Scott, on "The Study of Science," another by Rev. Mr. Campbell, conveying a great deal of sound, practical advice to the students; and a felicitous speech by Consul Taylor, brought the proceedings to a close.

THE embalmed body of the late King Victor Emanuel of Italy now lies in state in the Swiss hall of the Quirinal palace in Rome. As the man under whose auspices was accomplished the work of uniting into one compact State the petty duchies and principalities into which Italy was divided, his name will always occupy a prominent position in the history of Southern Europe. As the centre around which Italian unity clustered, he has occupied an important position. If to Garibaldi and Count Cavour must be credited the political salvation of Italy, it is still the praise of Victor Emanuel that he kept intact to his dying day that which the heroic warrior and the wise statesman placed in his hands.

"In these days," remarks the London "Weekly Review," "it is not difficult for a man of but ordinary ability to make himself notorious. A member of Parliament, a lawyer, or a minister of the Gospel has but to say or do something outrageous in itself or wholly inconsistent with his position, in order to get his name into all the papers and have himself talked about at countless breakfast-tables over the whole country. \* \* \* Among ministers of the Gospel who have attained an equivocal reputation foremost stands Mr. Gilfillan, of Dundee, noted for his persistent attempts to caricature and vilify the very Confession of Faith which he has solemnly subscribed in order to obtain his social position and his daily bread. But this veteran sawer of the branch on which he is sitting is in danger of being totally eclipsed by the Rev. David Macrae, of Gourrock, a gentleman who has been making himself conspicuous by his fierce denunciations of the doctrinal standards he lately signed on being ordained a minister of the United Presbyterian Church. That the citadel of a Christian Church should be cannonaded by assailants from without has never excited any great wonder; but the spectacle of recusants from within openly and ferociously doing the same work is one of the peculiar signs of the present time. Clerical honor and loyalty are always needed by the Church of Christ—never more needed than now. But these old-fashioned virtues are in some quarters supplanted by a bold defiance of common honesty and decency. Messrs. Gilfillan and Macrae have subscribed to the Confession of Faith exactly as it has been subscribed by their brethren, that is, without any peculiar reservations or exceptions. Yet as ministers of the Church they noisily denounce the creed they have sworn to uphold, and abuse their brethren for not joining them in their extraordinary movement."

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