

pews were all nearly full. Again it was evident that many desired to bid farewell to the old "House of Prayer." Mr. Grant chose for his text, Ezra iii., 12, 13: "But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy: so that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people; for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off." Those words," he said, "describing a scene of mingled sorrow and joy—sorrow at the thought of the old house, and joy at the prospect of the new—express the feelings of a good many here to-night; and with us, too, the sorrow is felt chiefly by the old men and women whose memories go back to other days, while the younger men look forward with hope, seeing in the change a step in advance." He proceeded to give a full expression to those different feelings, pointing out how natural they were, although all knew that the wood of a church was in itself no more sacred than that of any other building. The influence of old and long-continued hallowing associations; their connection with their forefathers as members of a national and historic Church; and the beginning or the quickening of spiritual life experienced within those walls by some of them, all would tend to make the destruction of the house a cause for melancholy and deep if passing regret. On the second of those divisions he pointed out the incalculable blessing to the nation for long centuries that the endowments of the Church of Scotland had been; and asked, if we were her true children, would not we in this new world lay the lesson to heart, and give expression to the utmost of our ability. An endowed ministry in connection with a stable and faithful church, is such a vantage ground for all high religious effort, that it is the greatest boon man can confer on the district, the city, the congregation he loves.

The preacher concluded with earnest exhortations to make new St. Andrew's blessing to the city and to generations unborn. The 115th Psalm from the

10th verse was solemnly sung, the blessing given, and then slowly and reluctantly, and with many a look cast behind, the congregation passed out, bidding the last farewell to their old house of prayer.

The Census.

A Census, or numbering of the people, is now being taken throughout the different Provinces of the Dominion. The object of this great work is simply to ascertain the population of the country and of every district in it; to discover what increase or decrease has taken place within the last ten years, what progress has been made in improving the land, what increase has taken place in the wealth and resources of the people, what additions to our trade, our manufactures and our shipping. It is impossible to over-estimate the value or importance of a correct and reliable Census. Indeed, so important is it, that the system has long been adopted and carried out by every civilized nation in the world, more or less exactly, according to the intelligence of the people and the character of the Government. A general Census of the Dominion has been commenced. On Monday 2nd April that great work was begun: to be completed probably about the 1st of May.

Besides the general interest and importance of this Census, it will have an exceptional political significance which no former one ever had, for upon its results will be based the amount of subsidy to each Province, and also the amount of representation in the Dominion Parliament. It is therefore the interest of every one of the Provinces, and especially of Nova Scotia, that this Census should be as full and accurate as it can be. To ensure this, it is not enough that the enumerator should be intelligent and faithful, the people must be willing to give all necessary information so that there may be no omissions and as few mistakes as possible.

The objects sought to be obtained by the Census, are first and principally, the exact amount of the population, distinguishing sex, age, place of birth, religion, occupation, condition—that is whether married, single or widowed. It aims at ascertaining also the number of births, deaths and marriages that have