

a meeting was called to consider the propriety of closing the church. That was their darkest hour; and it was also the nearest dawn. It was resolved "not to give up the ship" while two sticks remained together. That resolution nerved them, and it has been seen since that it was wise, and that "whatever men dare, they can do." Soon after, they got the Rev. C. M. Grant as their minister; and the welcome they gave him was to clear off the debt of £1350, (\$5400), that had hung round their necks like a millstone for a generation, and to begin a congregational prayer meeting, which they never had had before. At once their contributions to all other objects of Christian work increased, so wonderfully true is the proverb always found to be that "there is that giveth and yet increaseth: and there is that withholdeth and yet it tendeth to poverty."

Mr. Grant's resignation of the charge, to go as a missionary to India, gave a temporary shock to the congregation; but when did ever a church really suffer by giving either men or means to the work of the Lord among the heathen? They soon rallied and gave an enthusiastic call to their present minister; and he had not been with them a year when they resolved to welcome him with a new church. The young men had long hoped for and urged this; but, the older men who would have to give the most of the money, and who had already put their hands pretty deeply in their pockets to pay off the debt, naturally hesitated;—but by this time all had swung into line and the work was commenced, and with the determination to finish it without debt. To accomplish this, very large contributions, large beyond what we have been accustomed to in Halifax, but not beyond what ought to be, had to be given. Thus, the people of St. Matthew's have the reputation of being liberal; but though comparisons are odious, we cannot help mentioning that no contributions were given to build it or pay off its debt equal in amount to those given by several of the St. Andrew's people. During the same time, too, their contributions to the church "schemes" have increased largely; their contribution to the Presbytery Home Mission, for

instance, from \$40 to over \$100; to the City Mission, from nothing to \$40, and now to \$110; to the Foreign Mission, from \$9 to \$60.

On Sunday, May 21st, the new church was opened. It is a very striking looking edifice, of mixed Gothic and Corinthian styles; and has an undoubted ecclesiastical appearance, whether viewed from the sides, the front, or the rear. By the way, we notice that the lot in the rear is vacant, and was evidently intended by nature for a manse. It therefore only remains to assist nature, and so "crown the edifice." The basement of the church is the best in the city; not a cellar, as such places too often are, but a lofty, spacious, well-lighted and aired apartment, equal, in fact, to a second church for every-day use. Besides the main room, there are smaller ones for various purposes, such as infants' S. S. Class, male and female Bible classes, &c. The vestry is upstairs, and is comfortable as a study. In fact, everything about the building seems as if intended for the convenience and comfort of the minister as well as the people. Inside the main entrance to the church is a spacious lobby covered with soft matting, and the aisles are oil-clothed and carpeted. The gas fixtures deserve all praise, both on account of their elegance, and the regard had to the rules of common sense in their arrangement, both for pews and pulpit: a lesson to some of our churches who have sent to Great Britain for what they may now see can be better done at home. The pulpit is exceedingly beautiful. It is of black walnut, with a well-executed bas-relief of "the burning bush" in front, and a St. Andrew's cross on each side.

The only thing about the church not entirely to the taste of every one is the coloured glass in many of the windows. By all means let the people of good taste substitute real stained glass windows for them, whenever they can raise the money; or, if that can't be done, a thousand times rather let us have the "beauty unadorned" of plain ground glass.

We had almost forgotten the bell. Old St. Andrew's had 't a bell, but thanks to a lady, who does not wish her name mentioned, the new church has