

friends of different denominations in this city. In whatever other respects Ottawa may prosper (and in many respects it is growing rapidly) may it ever advance in brotherly love and charity, and increase with all the increase of God."

More excellent music was then given by the choir, when a deputation of the Ottawa Auxilliary Bible Society came forward and presented a handsomely bound large copy of the Bible. The Rev. Mr. Wardrope spoke in a very complimentary manner of Mr. Elliot, referring to his usefulness and the esteem in which he was held by his brother clergymen in this city. The Mayor, Mr. Friel, spoke of Mr. Elliot's worth as a citizen and a Christian. After a few remarks from the Rev. Mr. Stone the meeting closed.—*From Ottawa paper.*

Rev. E. Ebbs has received a cordial and unanimous call to the church at Ottawa, which he supplied for three Sabbaths in April. We are sure that the whole Congregational brotherhood of the Dominion would second this call, if they were allowed to vote. We hope it may be accepted.

**The Pew-Rent Question in Montreal.**—Our readers will remember that in the course of the present year, a vigorous discussion was carried on in these pages on the Pew-Rent question, by members of Zion Church, Montreal. In connection with the re-opening of the church, the matter was regularly brought up for discussion at a special church meeting, held on the 13th ult. The *Witness* gives an account of the discussion and its result, which we regret that our space forbids us fully to transcribe, as, in the matter of the Weekly Offering system, Zion Church is "the mother of us all" who practise it, and many churches will be anxious to know in detail what its long experience (twenty-one years) has developed for or against the plan. Mr. Cornish's communication, on another page, however, and the former ones of Mr. Wood and Mr. Clark, bring out nearly all the arguments used in the discussion.

"The motion was to assess sittings, on a scale varying according to the position of the pews, to meet all expenses. An amendment was moved, to the effect that a low scale of pew-rents should be adopted, so as to secure that all paid something, supplemented by a weekly collection, in which full scope would be allowed for voluntary liberality. After a lengthy, able and harmonious discussion, the amendment was put and lost, and also the main motion, both by very large majorities. A motion was then made to adopt the purely free system, allotting no seats, and asking no one what he would give; to which an amendment was moved, approving and reaffirming the plan adopted twenty years ago, and instructing the trustees to allot the seats in the repaired building in accordance therewith. This amendment was carried almost unanimously, and all appeared to be satisfied that every phase of the question had been fully presented and considered, and that the church had, by an overwhelming majority, indicated its preference. It should be explained that the allotment of pews and sittings is in the order of seniority on the church-roll."

A discussion of this nature, conducted and concluded in the good spirit here manifested, is an excellent illustration of the *educating* influence of the church-meeting. The Montreal people have got thereby a grip of the voluntary principle that nothing else would give them. Let this be put to balance occasional outbreaks under our free polity.

**Testimonials to Rev. F. Hastings.**—This gentleman, who has only been a short time in St. John, by his geniality of disposition and devotedness to his various duties, has endeared himself not only to the Congregational Church, but to our citizens generally. He and his family being now about to visit England for a few months, have recently been the objects of many acts of kindness. The Church has made liberal arrangements for supply in the Pastor's absence. A few adherents of the congregation recently presented Mr. Hastings with a purse of \$200. The Young Ladies presented substantial tokens of their regard, the Young Men an Address of which any pastor might be proud, and private individuals