



News of the Churches.

SHEFFIELD, N.B.—Rev. F. Flawith, late of Keswick Ridge, N.B., has taken charge of this historic church, on the banks of the lovely St. John River. The foundation of the church dates from 1764, when a number of Puritan settlers came from Rowley, Massachusetts, bringing their own Minister, Rev. Mr. Wellman, with them. When our good brother, Rev. W. Williams, went there, as pastor, some years ago, he said to us that "he was afraid, at first, of having to preach to the Professors of an Academy there; men much more learned than himself. But he found they were young men, who had so much of mere *learning* through the week, that they wanted the plain Gospel that cheers and saves, when Sunday came!"

The *Montreal Witness* has been offering prizes to children, for the best stories connected with their own localities. It is wonderful what an amount of undiscovered talent this has brought out. One of these historical sketches, from the home of one of our subscribers, by a lad, Francis F. Burpee, gives the whole history of the Sheffield Church; and after telling of the long-continued efforts of the Church of England people to get possession of the property, ends thus:—

"The Congregational body claims this church to be the second church of any denomination founded in the Maritime Provinces, and though the participants in its early struggles have long since gone to their rest, the church still lives and the story is handed down from father to son, being authenticated by the early church records.

For the cut which embellishes Master Burpee's article, we are indebted to the *Witness*.

REV. ROBERT MACKAY, late of Kingston, Ont.—The Rev. R. Mackay, who has recently been appointed pastor of Sion Chapel, has been in London for upwards of five years. During the first year of

his London ministry he occupied the pulpit of Mansford Street Church, Bethnal Green, under the auspices of the London Congregational Union, and for nearly three years was the popular pastor of the Pownall Road Congregational Church, Dalston. He relinquished that position a little more than a year ago, necessitated to do so by the pressure of work in connection with the Self-Help Emigration Society, of which he is the Secretary. Lately, however, his committee providing him with sufficient clerical assistance, he has been enabled to resume pastoral work. Before coming to London Mr. Mackay occupied positions of responsibility and usefulness in connection with the cause of Christ, both in Scotland and America. In Scotland he was the secretary and superintendent of the North-East Coast Mission for several years, where he was instrumental in doing good service, being associated with many leading Christian workers, who have since passed away. He was chosen by the Northern Association of Congregational Churches in Scotland as their missionary agent, and was sent to Canada by them in 1874, where he remained for 10 years. His home and home work were in Kingston, Ontario, but he was largely employed in pioneer missionary work, and travelled extensively from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. He was the secretary of the Eastern District Ministerial Association (Ontario) for several years, and chairman during the last year of his stay, as well as secretary to the missionary committee of the Canadian missionary society. Mainly through his energy and organizing power, the Self-Help Emigration Society is now regarded as one of the largest and best directed of English emigration societies. As a preacher, Mr. Mackay is certainly a success. His delivery is slow, but every word uttered is full of meaning. He possesses a remarkably fine voice, which appears to have been well trained for the public platform.