

the proceeds of which are to be devoted to defray the expense of the pic-nic.—After a very pleasant afternoon, the whole party returned, steaming round the Prussian War Ships, giving three hearty cheers to the strangers as they passed by. Thereafter all returned home without mishap, accident, or anything to mar the harmony and pleasure of the day.

The large and flourishing School of St. Matthew's, held a pic-nic on McNab's Island, on Thursday the 29th of August. The day was all that could be desired, and the entertainment passed off to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. Two steamers were employed on the occasion, and the whole school, numbering about 500, was transferred to the pic-nic grounds and back without the slightest accident. The organization of St. Matthew's School is spoken of as being very complete; thanks, no doubt, are due to Mr. Murdoch Lindsay, the devoted Superintendent.

### St. John, N. B.

#### THE ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH PIC-NIC,

to Patridge Island, was a complete success, and the great number attracted to it proved the wisdom of the selection of this little islet. A more delightful spot could not be found in the vicinity of the City of St. John. The three trips of the *St. George* were well patronized, the largest crowd going at 10 o'clock. On the island there were many swings in which children oscillated all day long, and other amusements of an impromptu character. Rev. Mr. Caie and other gentlemen were indefatigable in their endeavours to make everybody comfortable. The Congregation of St. Stephen's have adopted this means of running several excursion trips by steamers, and thereby raise money to pay all expenses, in preference to the old-fashioned means of a collection in the church. This year they were so far successful, by the energy of the minister, the Rev. G. J. Caie, and his indefatigable Elder, Mr. John Wilson, and others, that not only were all expenses paid, but there was found to be a balance on hand amounting to \$100, which will go to meet the current expense of the school.

THE Rev. Finlay R. McDonald, of St. James', Newcastle, has just returned from a three months' holiday. He spent a few weeks first in Canada and the West, and the remainder of his time he spent in Scotland, visiting his many friends in the country, and reviving the many memories of his college days. Over-work had begun to tell upon his constitution, but rest and change of scene during his holiday has given him,

to judge from his appearance, a stock of health and strength sufficient for many a day. His old friends and his attached people of Newcastle unite in giving him a hearty welcome back to his work again.

### Renovation.

St. Matthew's, Halifax, was re-opened on Sunday, 18th of last month, after remaining closed for several weeks,—Divine Service having, in the interval, been held in the Basement. The church has been thoroughly cleansed, whitewashed and painted, at a cost of over \$1,000, and now presents a beautiful and cheerful appearance. May every comfort and all prosperity attend this important congregation of the church.

THE Rev. George M. Grant is at present away on an excursion across the Continent. According to last accounts, the surveying party with which he goes, had arrived at a point a considerable distance in the Prairies of the North West, and ere this, no doubt, will have reached the watershed of the Pacific. If spared to return, he will be vastly benefited by his journey, and be able to convey much information back with him as to the enormous tracts of country still unoccupied in the great North West.

### The visit and return home of Dr. Masson.

This year the Church in the Dominion has been singularly fortunate in the matter of deputations. Among the rest, none has so refreshed and cheered the hearts of the people as did the visit from the Colonial Committee in the person of the Minister of the Gaelic Church of Edinburgh. Dr. Masson's devotion to the service of his Master and the good of the Church made his presence prized in the church courts, and his words valued in the pulpit. Many a Highlander between Chicago and Cape Breton has been cheered and blessed by the words he spoke. Ever ready, in season and out of season, on Sundays and week days, he neither spared himself nor consulted his ease, but preached the Gospel when occasion offered. He did not even confine himself to British territory, but preached in the cities of the United States as well; wherever he found Highlanders he brake to them the bread of life in their native tongue. His work was a labour of love, for on no occasion did he omit to express his gratification and his unqualified pleasure with all he saw. He found the Church of Scotland in the Dominion a much greater church than he