

In matters more particularly connected with our Church, we are, I think, prospering as rapidly as can be reasonably expected. It is generally invidious to mention names in connection with any good work, but truth and justice compel me to allude to the activity and perseverance of John Hosterman, Esq., to whom we are largely indebted for the very handsome little Church that now graces the head of the North-West Arm. Of course others aided in the work, and also deserve credit for their activity and liberality in connection therewith. The Sabbath school is still conducted under the superintendence of our zealous friend, Mr. Bremner.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed at Richmond on the 23rd of May. Some twenty-three disciples, besides minister and elders, surrounded the Master's table—about one-half for the first time. The others had all communicated some time during their lives, and some of them are now members of other Churches. This was a happy event in the history of our Richmond Church; and I trust the good impressions then made will not soon pass away. I find that only two or three of the families in Richmond have been brought up in connection with the Church of Scotland; by far the greater number of the Presbyterians belong to the united body. But,—thanks to the hopes of a speedy amalgamation of all the branches of the scattered Presbyterian family, and the total absence from my ministrations of any notice of the miserable differences which now divide us from our brethren of the united Church,—all, with one or two exceptions, have decided to rally around our standard, and of this decision many of them have given proof by coming forward to the communion, and by their subscriptions for the support and advancement of our cause. The congregation of Richmond has numbered over 60 during the last two Sabbath mornings—a considerable increase since my arrival some seven months ago. Still, there is an evident spirit of carelessness, out of which I have not been able to arouse some of the inhabitants, and which makes the work a little discouraging betimes. The Sabbath school is still flourishing under the able superintendence of Mr. Doull and his able and zealous staff of teachers.

We have felt that a more suitable Church building is required to place us on a level with the other denominations who occupy the field. The house in which we meet is amply large to contain a more numerous congregation than we have yet gathered. But though a neat and comfortable edifice, it may, ere another year has passed, prove inconveniently small. Moreover, careless people are not so likely to attend our services in this place as they would be did we possess a regular Church. A public Hall is needed in Richmond, and for all the purposes for which such a building is required, our house is now used. No less than three societies hold their meetings there, and pay a certain amount of rent to the Halifax Sabbath School Association. The building is therefore ours only a portion of the week. It might, however, be sold for a very respectable sum, to meet the want alluded to. I started a subscription list last week, and already the respectable sum of 480 dollars has been subscribed. I have also the promise of other sums, which will cause the list to figure well up to 600 dollars in Richmond alone. This is very creditable indeed. Coming from a small number of working men, it furnishes a strong appeal to the large and wealthy congregations of St. Andrew's and St. Matthew's to aid us liberally in this good work. I therefore request the Presbytery to grant me liberty to collect money for this object within our bounds, and also to recommend it to the favourable consideration of other Presbyteries which I may be able to visit during the present summer.

All of which is respectfully submitted by your obedient servant,

J. R. THOMPSON.