

RELIGIOUS.

BAPTIST.

A Baptist church at Millford, Annapolis County, will be dedicated on the 8th of May.

The friends of the Rev. Dr. Hopper, of St. John, will be pleased to learn that he is rapidly improving in health.

Revs. Messrs. McLaurin and Hutchinson, Missionaries from the Baptist Church of the Maritime Provinces to Tolugu Mission Field, are on their way home for a visit.

Spurgeon's Tabernacle reports a membership of 5,351. During the year 281 have been added by baptism.

The progress of the Baptist church in Sweden is shown by the fact that within a district of fifty miles there was, ten years ago, but one church, whereas now there are twenty.

METHODIST.

The next British Wesleyan Conference is to be held in Manchester. Opinions in favor of Methodist reunion will then be made.

The degree of L.L.D. has been conferred by McGill University on the Rev. W. I. Shaw, M.A., of the Wesleyan Theological College, Montreal.

According to late Government returns 100,000 out of a population of 111,743, on the Fiji Islands, attend at public worship in the Methodist churches. Fifty years ago, the place was studded with heathen temples, but at the present time not one is in existence. The Methodist church has 1,255 churches and chapels, 53 native ministers, 1,877 local preachers, and 27,421 communicants.

The London Methodist Missionary Committee has devoted a legacy of £1,500 to the Mission of the Methodist Church of Canada in Japan.

On Sunday, the 3rd inst., meetings were held in New York to bid farewell to twelve missionaries who are about to join Bishop William Taylor's band of fifty six missionaries already at work on the Upper Congo.

PRESBYTERIAN.

Ten years ago there were only four churches in Florida in connection with the Northern Presbyterian church and now there are twenty-nine.

The Presbyterian church in Brooklyn, over which the Rev. Dr. Cuyler is pastor, has lately had an addition to its membership of over four hundred.

Rev. W. T. Herridge, of Ottawa, who is on a visit to this city, will occupy the pulpit of St. Matthew's church next Sunday.

Rev. J. F. Huston, of Truro, was married to a daughter of the late Rev. P. G. McGregor, D.D., on Thursday of last week. The reverend gentleman has accepted a call from Knox church, Brantford.

The services in connection with the closing of Pine Hill College took place last evening in Fort Massey Church.

The income of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland for 1886 amounted to £96,859, an increase of £8,289, compared with the revenue of 1885. The Foreign Mission Fund shows an increase of £3,300 over the previous year.

Presbyterians in Michigan are making active preparations for the founding of a Theological Seminary at Ann Arbor.

CATHOLIC.

Archbishop Tache, of Montreal, has given his consent to the formation of a permanent *Garde Noble* to be in attendance at his levees and on other official occasions. The idea originated with that of the *Papal Garde Noble*, which is composed of the members of the old princely families of Rome. The new order first paraded on last Easter Sunday and attended High Mass in Notre Dame.

M. Paul Féval, the eminent Catholic writer, is dead.

On the anniversary of his coronation, Leo XIII. caused 10,000 lire to be distributed amongst the poor of Rome.

Bishop O'Farrell presided over a mass meeting of citizens of Trenton, N. J., whose object was to close liquor saloons on Sunday. The result is that the saloons of both Patterson and Trenton have closed.

Cardinal Taschereau expresses himself as perfectly delighted with the cordial reception he was accorded at the Vatican. He says he was especially touched by the delicacy of the Pope's attentions in conferring upon him a court of honor by nominating Abbé Hamel and Legaré to the rank of Apostolic Prothonotaries, Abbé Mothet and Bolduc to the rank of Domestic Prelates, and Abbé Marvir and Tolu to the rank of Secret Chamberlains. The Cardinal's brother, Judge Taschereau, was decorated as Commander of the Order of St. Gregory the Great.

There are, according to Werner's "Atlas of the Missions," the most authentic work on the subject extant, 9,234,026 Catholics in Asia, which is fifty times as many as all the Protestant churches have together. There are 2,655,920 in Africa, which is a hundred times as many as all shades of Protestants can claim.

Father Anderledy the successor of Father Beckx as the Superior General of the Jesuits, is noted for his skill as a linguist. He speaks and writes all the important languages with facility.

It is proposed to organize a national pilgrimage from Ireland to Rome, on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Pope this year. A similar pilgrimage has not taken place since 1698. A deputation of priests and lay will probably wait on Archbishop Walsh, in Dublin, shortly, to obtain his sanction.

AN INTERCEPTED VALENTINE.

Dear Cousin Canada, you know we like you,
June and December brighten with your charms,
Not for the world we'd lift a hand to strike you,
There is no war in our presented arms.

See how we flounder through your snow-shoe parties,
All breathless down toboggan-chutes we slide,
Neath the soft furs we know how warm your heart is,
For it is always Summer by your side.

And if we love you, sweet, and our fond wishes
Fly swift to you like birds of Summer hue,
How can you ebb us, if we love your fishes?
Are not your fishes, cousin, part of you?

How can you set for us a three mile limit?
You cannot hope to make us stay away,
When Summer comes, Leander like, we'll swim it,
From Anticosti to the Saguenay.

Who talks of bait? By all that's trim and tidy,
You are the sweetest bait our eyes have found,
Come live with us, dear coz, and every Friday
You shall have fish till your head swims round.

Your mix so busy with her juddling,
She'll never wonder where you are, and—ah,
Yonder stands Parson Talmage, snuffing, waiting,
Say, shan't we ask Sir John to "Ask Mamma?"
—Burdette, in the *Brooklyn Eng.*

OUR MONTREAL LETTER.

(From our Staff Correspondent.)

That the early spring is a bad time to visit Montreal, either for business or pleasure, is a conclusion that I have arrived at after a week's stay in Canada's great metropolis. The citizens had exhausted their energies in making the Winter Carnival a success, and were engaged on my arrival in the decidedly unpleasant duty of settling up the expenses of the entertainment and paying in their subscriptions. The ruins of the ice palace, near the Windsor Hotel, and a partially demolished ice tower in Victoria Square, were the only visible remains of the carnival, but one's ears were assailed on every side by grumbling tradesmen, whose profits had fallen far below their expectations. One unfortunate individual had expended over \$150 in special advertising, and had taken in only \$10 during the whole carnival week. Similar examples were not uncommon, and, as a result, the people had found the Lenten season a most propitious time to repent of their extravagance in "sackcloth and ashes."

Until navigation opens one can form but a very imperfect idea of the immense business done in Montreal, but the innumerable manufactories which are found in all directions were rashed with work, and the prospects were bright for a most profitable season. St. James, Notre Dame and McGill Streets are lined with handsome business blocks, and present an animated appearance during the day and late into the night, but Common Street, Custom House Square, and the streets near the river, which in summer are all life and activity, now wear a deserted look, and the cold, cutting April winds sweeping through them cause one to hurry away into the narrow, protected streets, which, like St. Paul's, St. Helen's, St. John's, and all the streets in their vicinity, are occupied by large wholesale houses. The business portion of the city is well and compactly built, but the architectural beauties of many fine blocks are lost in the narrowness of the streets. The large wholesale dry goods and clothing houses are centering around Victoria Square, and from this little breathing spot the eye takes in a continued series of mammoth business structures. One thing that struck me in the city was the absence of low, squalid sections, which are generally found in all large places, and through which one can hardly pass without a shudder. Montreal is certainly a fine city, but as a place of residence it cannot be compared to Halifax. It really has only two seasons—a freezing cold winter and a broiling hot summer. The fact is that, with the exception of its springs, Halifax has a fine, bracing climate, while Montreal is all extremes.

It is well to see both sides of the shield, as my visit here has convinced me. Nova Scotian would-be patriots, newspaper writers, stump orators and ward politicians have been speaking, arguing and writing to prove that the Montreal merchants were ruining our provinces by selling us their goods, while they bought nothing in return. One would have thought that Montreal was growing rich at the expense of Nova Scotia, but, after many interviews with the leading merchants here, I find that they place the question in quite another light. They complain bitterly of the want of a bankruptcy law, and say that their Nova Scotia business has been made far from profitable by their being forced to accept compromises at 40 or 50 cents on the dollar. If they don't accept the debtor will threaten to make an assignment, which means that the Nova Scotian creditors will get everything, and that they will be left out in the cold. They complain that they have been victimized in this way to a great extent, and many said that they did not wish to do any further business in Nova Scotia. I heard similar complaints in Boston and Quebec, and have read that the English merchants are also grumbling, and it seems to me that, if the credit of Nova Scotia is to be maintained, either a bankruptcy law, or a law regulating the distribution of the assets of insolvent estates, (and preventing preferential assignments), should be enacted by the Dominion Government, as it is doubtful whether our Provincial Legislature has the power to move in the matter.

When we say that Montreal takes nothing from us, we forget the great quantity of Nova Scotia coal that is sold in the Province of Quebec. Mr. Rufus Fairbanks, a prominent coal broker in Montreal, and a native of Halifax, gave me much valuable information in regard to the coal trade. He states that for some years there was a prejudice against Nova Scotia coal. The people had become accustomed to Welsh coal, which is comparatively