

during the remainder of my life." The great labor involved may be estimated from the fact that it was necessary, in order to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion, to calculate the distance of each of the two planets, Jupiter and Saturn, from the comet for every degree, for 150 years. The period of its return was fixed for the 13th April, 1759. On the 25th December of that year, the expected stranger, which had not shown its beaming face for 76 years, was hailed by George Palitch, an amateur peasant astronomer, and it passed its perihelion, or nearest point to the sun, within 19 days of the predicted time! The correctness of the calculation is all the more wonderful, as the planets, Uranus and Neptune, had not then been discovered.

Other seventy-six years have elapsed, and it is now 1835. Two prizes are offered by scientific academies for the most perfect theory of this celestial visitant. Not only is the time of its perihelion passage predicted, but the very spot of the heavens in which it is to appear. Lo! there it is coming in at the door at which it was expected, and it passes its perihelion within nine days of the time anticipated. This nearer approach to accuracy was owing to the discovery of Uranus. Again the comet will come in 1911, and such of our youthful readers as may live 39 years hence, will probably find that, on account of the discovery of Neptune since the last appearance of the comet, its perihelion passage will be known to a day, long before its appearance.

As to the origin of comets, or the nature of the functions which they perform in the economy of nature, absolutely nothing is known with certainty. Laplace has propounded the theory that they consist of matter out of which worlds are gradually formed, but the revelations of the best class of telescopes have tended to demolish the nebular theory, as we shall show in our next article.

We would fain extend our remarks on comets, but the space to which we are necessarily limited forbids us to do so.

Our next and concluding paper will treat of the Fixed Stars and Nebulæ.

The next Convention of the Y. M. C. Association will be held at Truro.

Our Church at Woodstock.

A recent visit to the town of Woodstock afforded me an opportunity of giving the readers of the *Record* a short account of what our church is doing in that quarter.

It is some half dozen years or more since St. Paul's Church was begun, and it is less than the same number of months since it was finished and opened for service. The congregation has never been very numerous, or very wealthy, and for some years we have had great difficulty in giving even occasional services, owing to the great scarcity of men to fill our vacant charges. In the absence of a settled pastor, little was done towards finishing the Church. A very comfortable vestry or school-room, at the rear of the church, 30x16 feet in size, afforded ample accommodation, under ordinary circumstances, for all who attended. In this room they continued to worship for several years, until Mr. Begg's coming among them brought new life and energy, which have gone on growing and bearing good fruit ever since.

The land on which St. Paul's is situated is the gift of the Hon. Charles Connell. It is 60x127 feet, and is on a high and commanding position overlooking the town and the beautiful scenery along the St. John for many miles. The land is valued at \$450. And immediately in the rear of it is another lot belonging to the same honourable and liberal citizen, on which I believe the congregation are casting longing eyes, with the prospect of building a manse for their much-esteemed pastor.

The dimensions of the church are 48x36 feet, and 38 feet from floor to peak of roof. The building is entirely out of the old stereotyped order of Presbyterian architecture. The appearance inside is very neat. There is a small bracket gallery over the front entrance, for the use of the choir, which is beautifully finished with butternutt, and oiled so that the rich grain of the wood shows to advantage. Over this organ loft is a circular window, filled with coloured glass, which gives a pleasing relief to the whole interior. The church is well seated. The 56 pews are of butternutt, and, unlike the majority of pews in places of worship, they have been constructed with