

*From the Rev. WESLEY CASSON, dated Selkirk, December 22nd, 1877.*

DEDICATION OF THE NEW CHURCH

Our new church was opened and dedicated last Sabbath. Our subscription thus far amounts to \$888, \$700 of which has been raised in Selkirk and neighbourhood. It is a marvellous contribution. The men on the Pacific Railway have contributed \$250. Our opening services, and everything up to the present time, have been a gratifying success. The weather on the day of opening was delightful. The Rev. Mr. German preached in the morning to an adult audience of fifty-three, and the Rev. Mr. Matheson in the evening to one hundred and twenty-five. Such congregations were never seen before in Selkirk. Some of the men on the line came across the river to the evening service, and showed by their attention their hunger for spiritual instruction, and by their contributions their appreciation of the work we had undertaken. No special appeal was made. There was simply a statement as to the cost of the church, the amount subscribed, and that the collections would be in aid of the building fund. The collection was \$20 in the morning, and \$45 in the evening, \$65 for the day, the contribution largely of working men. I need scarcely say that Bro. Sifton and myself were pleased and grate-

ful. We did not, nor did you or Mr. Young, expect such results in so short a time.

And now as to our financial position. Our subscriptions and collections amount to \$952, including \$50 which I have received from friends in Ontario. We hope to make the amount \$1,100. Our debt must not exceed \$500. More would be embarrassing. The \$400 balance must come from Ontario and Quebec in small sums: sums so small that, extended over a wide area, and coming from many sources, their flow is un-felt, imperceptible, but united is the stream which floats us from out of the reach of danger. We will assume four-fifths of the expense and responsibility. It is not unreasonable to hope Ontario and Quebec will meet the one-fifth. And, in meeting these responsibilities, you will not misunderstand me when I say that the minister in charge must make heavy personal sacrifice. But I thank God my heart is in the work. It is a labour of love. I am anxious that our church should, as soon as possible, be placed in a state of financial security; and also that we should be able to retain an excellent parsonage lot. This can hardly be done unless aid be received from the East.

*From the Rev. W. R. MORRISON, dated Woodlands, October 23rd, 1877.*

This afternoon I held a meeting in this settlement to discuss the propriety of erecting a suitable place of worship, with very encouraging results. An acre of land has been procured in a good, central place, and it has been resolved to erect a building 20 x 26, frame, which can be turned into a parsonage when the people feel able to erect a larger church. Should it be decided to have a married man in a year or two, the upper part could be finished off for a minister to live in, the lower part being reserved for worship. I think this is the most feasible plan that

could be adopted for the present wants of the settlement. We expect the building to be ready for dedication early next fall, I trust before the Chairman leaves for the General Conference.

Spiritually, matters have been moving slowly, but the congregations are very good, and class-meetings well attended. We contemplate holding a series of special services, beginning about the first of January, and expect much good to be done. The success of the past encourages us to look for large blessings in the future