

the chairman, arose and stated it to be, to make a *present* to Mr. Wheeler. After the meeting they presented me with the proceeds, \$39 38. All classes and creeds were represented, and I include them all in my prayers and thanks.

J. WHEELER.

**Opening of the Eastern Congregational Church, Montreal.**—On Sunday, Feb. 28, were held the opening exercises of this new Church, situated at the corner of Craig and Amherst streets.

This Society began originally as a Union Mission, or sort of ragged Sunday School in Woodyard Lane. Some three years ago it was transferred to the members of Zion Church, who hired a room in Wolfe Street, which became the headquarters of the Mission. As it grew more useful, the Sabbath School and Mission meetings increased in attendance, and the need of a larger room began to be felt. The intention then was, simply to build a Mission meeting house on a small scale, but the work continuing to prosper, and the attendance steadily increasing, the managers enlarged their original plan and determined to erect the present building. A lot of ground was bought two years ago, but want of funds prevented the erection of the church till last spring. During the summer a building was commenced at the corner of Craig and Amherst Streets, which is just finished at a cost of about \$7,500. Its dimensions are 43 × 60; the first storey is cut stone, and the second brick. It will seat 350 adults or 400 of all ages. A gallery may be erected whenever required. Two years ago Rev. S. N. Jackson, now of Cote St. Paul, was engaged to give half of his time to the mission, but it was found necessary to have a minister's entire time and attention, and Rev. H. J. Colwell was engaged as missionary pastor which post he now fills. During Mr. Jackson's charge, this mission was constituted the eastern branch of Zion Church, to which those who were brought to a knowledge of the truth under his ministry were admitted. A good number have since joined them, and there will, at an early day, be constituted an independent Church worshipping in the building in question, which is, as yet, the property and under the control of Zion Church. The aim of the latter is, as soon as the former shall become self-sustaining to give it an independent organization.

According to announcement, Rev. Dr. Wilkes conducted the morning service. The scripture lessons were the 122nd and 132nd Psalms, and the text was the last clause of the 39th verse of the 10th chapter of Nehemiah,—“We will not forsake the house of our God.” This had been the resolve of enlightened godliness in every age. True religion had ever been personal and social in its character. There were elements of religion which could have exercise only in an assembly. The children of God must come together if they were to receive the blessings which he waited to bestow. There could be no surer evidence of the character of Christians and their final destiny than this,—that they love the house of God. Here they feed upon the bread of heaven and drink the water of life, and are satisfied. Here, too, they repent of sin, bewail their neglects and follies, and return unto the Lord. Here they gather strength for the conflict with the enemy, and here they have a foretaste of the blessedness which prevails in the assembly on high. They are fitted amid the assemblies of earth for the assembly of heaven. Every place where Christians assemble to worship God is His house. There is nothing specially sacred in the materials of the same, but the presence of God gives the place a sacred character. We see and know that God is ever present in all nature; but in this place, in the beautiful Hebrew expression, “He causeth his face to shine, and lifteth up the light of his countenance.” Surely, therefore, this is holy ground. Those who are most regular in their attendance at the house of God, enjoy most the communion with God in the closet. In conclusion, he hoped that the church now dedicated to the service of God, would ever be a shining light to guide souls in the way to heaven; and that the lecture hall below might be occupied every day or evening with day schools, and Sabbath schools, young men's associations, prayer meetings, and