

## Church News.

[All communications to this column ought to be sent to the Editor immediately after the occurrences to which they refer have taken place.]

## Montreal Notes.

to consecrate and "make holy," persons, buildings, sites, burying-grounds, vestments, candles, water, patens and chalices, and bells blessed in baptism. Are Presbyterians prepared for this; for holy men and holy things? And, Mr. Editor, of all men the man to introduce these Popish ceremonies and practices which our reforming fathers advisedly cast out as abomination, is the energetic and earnest convener of our Sabbath School Committee entrusted by our Supreme Court with our schemes for the instruction of youth.

He has, by indomitable perseverance, prepared an interesting, pretty, innocent-looking liturgical service for our Sabbath schools, which has been extensively used. He has established also "Children's Day." (Is it holy?) Now that we see how far this earnest and indefatigable worker has gone in his own school, we may well ask, kindly but firmly, what guarantee have we that he may not "conscientiously" make way for and adroitly introduce other Popish rites and superstitions? Nay, our sessions as church courts, may, under his guidance, be unwittingly led to take part in such "interesting, unusual, impressive ceremonies," and thereby give their sanction to the gross superstition of a "holy table" and what not. And yet, Mr. Editor, this pastor and these elders of St. John's church are under vow "to conform to the purity of worship at present authorized" by the Presbyterian Church in Canada!!

March 10, 1896. MIRANS.

## The Aged Ministers' Endowment Fund.

## Editor PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW.

SIR,—Owing to having to raise a large amount of money to assist ministers' families in poverty, I was led to present an overture before the Presbytery of Toronto in 1882 to raise an endowment of \$100,000 for the Aged Ministers' Fund, as the amount given by congregations was quite inadequate. This was carried by the Presbytery and agreed to by the next General Assembly in London in 1883. At the Assembly of 1887 the amount was raised to \$200,000, and the amount to be paid to retiring ministers after forty years or more service to be \$300 instead of \$120 as previously fixed by the committee. The Rev. Wm. Burns, who had been very successful in raising an endowment for Knox College was appointed agent to collect this endowment. But, owing to the hard times during the last five years, he has not been able to raise the amount as yet.

Some of the pioneers doing mission work fifty years ago did three times the ordinary work done by young men now, and yet only received \$100 a year, which with keeping a horse was worth only about \$300 a year. Their salaries were so small for many years that they could not save any money. Yet last November the amount paid from the fund was much less than the year before, so that they scarcely knew how to pay their way. There is much need not only to complete the Endowment, but also for congregations to contribute a much larger amount if the aged ministers are not to be left to suffer. Some of these men could have made large amounts by speculation but they did not think it right to do so, and Prof. Hume Brown in his life of John Knox says that it is shameful for ministers to turn aside to do secular work; and the Divine Word says that they who preach the Gospel should live by the Gospel. It is evident from the Scriptures that it is God's will that His servants, Jewish and Christian, should be properly supported.

Toronto.

ROBERT WALLACE.

A very pleasant surprise was in store for St. Andrew's Institute in Friday evening, March 6th, when, at the close of the regular night school, Mr. F. C. Tisdale, one of the staff, presented to the institute a large and beautiful photograph of the late minister, the Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, B.D. Mr. Tisdale, in well-chosen words, referred feelingly to the late minister's devotion to and untiring efforts on behalf of the institute, spoke of many noble lessons that could be learned from a life like Mr. Macdonnell's, and urged the boys to follow his example and imitate his character. The superintendent, on behalf of the institute, formally accepted the gift, and thanked the donor for the picture, which, he said, would be a continual reminder of a life lived for others.

At the meeting of the Protestant Ministerial Association on Monday morning last, the Rev. Mr. Dewey, of Stanley street church, read an able and instructing paper on "The Minister's Personal Life as illustrated by the life of Jonathan Edwards." The paper was much appreciated and called forth an interesting discussion relating especially to the revival movements which originated with his ministry. The subject was felt on all hands to be an opportune one in view of the fact that the Rev. Mr. Grubb, who produced such a deep impression in Toronto, had begun his work in Montreal by two services on the Sabbath preceding, in the morning in the cathedral and in the evening in Erskine church. At the close of the meeting of the Association Mr. Grubb was introduced and addressed the members present on his work, with a view to securing their active co-operation in his mission. Throughout the week Mr. Grubb has continued his services each evening in Erskine church, while the other members of his party have held meetings there and in Knox church during the day. The congregations have been large and a good deal of interest has been awakened. His connection with the Anglican Church has enabled him to reach a considerable section of the church-going people not hitherto much touched by any of the various revival efforts in the city. It is hoped that the movement may do something to quicken spiritual life in all the churches. For such quickening there is always room and abundant need, however active and vigorous they may be.

A LARGELY attended meeting of the congregation of Melville church, Westmount, was held on Wednesday evening to devise means for clearing off the balance of debt on their church, amounting to \$2,000. As was expected, however, the real question raised was the advisability of erecting a new church. The present one, though enlarged only a few years ago to double its former capacity, is again too small. A committee was appointed to prepare plans and obtain estimates as to the probable cost. The matter is likely to be pushed to a successful issue. The congregation is composed of some of the most enterprising citizens in the place and the population is rapidly growing. Two other denominations have recently erected new churches in the locality, and a third is likely to do so during the coming summer. The Rev. Mr. McGillivray is to be congratulated on the prosperity of the work under his care.

At a time when the Parliament of Canada is struggling with the problem of giving redress to the educational grievances of the Roman Catholic minority in Manitoba, and the toleration of the Roman Catholic majority in Quebec is being loudly asserted, it may not be amiss to call attention to some of the annoyances to which Protestants are subjected in the matter of education notwithstanding all guarantees. In order to avoid exemption from taxes for Catholic schools Protestants are required to give formal notice of dissent and maintain a school of their own. To this no objection is taken, but recently it has been observed that in a number of cases all kinds of technical difficulties are raised to prevent Protestants from deriving any benefit from this provision. It is not clear as yet that there is any kind of concert in the matter, and if there is, the Education Department of the Province is not implicated in it, but the spirit of obstruction is one that gives considerable annoyance and may lead to trouble in the future. One case in the suburbs of Montreal has been felt to be especially grievous. Some three years ago a special act was smuggled through the Legislature constituting a new school section and of the fragments of several municipalities and practically annulling all previous action that had been taken by the Protestant residents of the district. They had organized their own schools years before and had been paying their taxes towards the support of these, but now find themselves confronted with a demand for several years' taxes for the school of the majority. The demand is so outrageously unjust that of course it has been contested. But in the face of the Act the

courts seem unable to give any relief and the government for some reason seems unwilling to intervene. All efforts so far at any rate have failed and unless the various Protestant minorities embraced in the district make a fresh legal dissent the claim made upon them will be equally valid for the future. Another illustration of the tendency to grasp at Protestant money for the support of Catholic schools is furnished by the law itself, which provides that the taxes levied on joint stock corporations shall be divided between the schools according to population and not according to the faith of the stockholders. As most of these companies are controlled by Protestants this simply means that their school taxes are applied without consulting them in any way for the purpose of Catholic sectarian education. Under these circumstances the loud boast as to Catholic liberality and generosity in Quebec does not make a very deep impression on the minds of the minority here. They are, of course, thankful for the privileges they enjoy and are trying to make the best of them, but they would gladly surrender every one of them tomorrow if they had any satisfactory guarantee that it would secure a system of unsectarian public schools under efficient government control such as has been established by the Legislature of Manitoba. Outside the large cities the present dual system of schools is disastrous. It plants two poor schools where there might otherwise be one good one, and throws one of these entirely under the control of ecclesiastics who have no real interest in popular education at all. It is no wonder that Quebec though the longest settled is the most illiterate province in the Dominion today.

## General.

KNOX Presbyterian church congregation in Woodstock will build a new church this summer.

A LECTURE on the "Pathos and Poetry of the Family Circle" will be delivered by the Scottish Canadian poet, John Imrie, in College street Presbyterian church on Tuesday evening, March 24th. Admission free; silver collection.

IN the Presbyterian church, Wingham, on Tuesday evening, March 10th, Rev. D. Ferric delivered a very interesting and instructive lecture entitled "Edinburgh and Stirling, or Sketches from Scottish history." The collection amounted to \$12.50, in aid of Y.P.S.C.E. funds.

THE congregation of St. Andrew's church, Toronto, have voted a yearly allowance of \$1,500 to the family of their late pastor, Rev. D. J. Macdonnell. Rev. D. R. Drummond, M.A., of Ramsay, who has been in charge of the congregation for some time past, is in the meantime to continue to act as pastor.

THE Rev. J. W. Macmillan, pastor, preached at both services in St. Andrew's church, Lindsay, March 8th. The sacrament was dispensed at the close of morning service to a large congregation. At the close of the evening service Mr. George Buskie, missionary among the lumbermen on the north shore, gave a short but interesting account of his work in that district.

THE annual congregational tea meeting of East Presbyterian church, Oak street, was held on Thursday, March 5th. After partaking of refreshments in the school room, those present adjourned to the church, where a pleasant programme of speeches and vocal and instrumental music was given. The pastor, Rev. J. A. Morrison, occupied the chair. Addresses were delivered by Revs. Mr. Rochester and Dr. Hunter.

WHILE Rev. Alexander Henderson was conducting the "preparatory," or pre-communion service in the London First Presbyterian church Friday night, March 13th, the electric lights went completely out; when the minister opened his eyes, to all appearance there was darkness there, and nothing more. With ready tact, Mr. Henderson changed the psalm to the familiar "The Lord is my Shepherd." Mr. W. C. Barron, the organist, was equally quick witted, the organ pealed forth in the darkness, and the old refrain rang thrillingly through the vaulted gloom. Subsequently, the congregation repaired to the lecture hall, where a strong, thoughtful sermon was preached by Mr. Henderson.