

than a general interest in the place. The building is neat, substantial, commodious, and most comfortable for minister and people. May many souls be born there!—A. M.

OPENING OF THE SECOND CHURCH, HAMILTON

Mr. Editor—

I have often perused, with very great interest, the communications that from time to time have appeared in the *Record*, relative to the progress and extension of our beloved Zion; and as I am persuaded that not a few of your readers look for with eagerness, and read with delight, whatever of this nature appears in your pages, I will make no apology for requesting a corner of your next publication, for the purpose of communicating a short account of the progress of our Church and cause in this city. I refer, of course, to the organization of a second congregation in connection with our Church, and the opening of the temporary building, just erected by the small but energetic body who compose it. In all our movements, the hand of an overruling providence can be clearly discovered; and while we, as a congregation, have great reason to thank God and take courage, we trust that there are many warm hearts among your readers, who, perusing these lines, will praise the Lord in our behalf.

Our congregation, as you are aware, is an offshoot from Knox's Church in this city. At the annual meeting of the latter body, held in January last, it was decided upon, that as soon as Knox's Church was provided with a minister, the new organization should be proceeded with, under the auspices, and with the assistance of, the whole congregation. Of course, the project met with considerable opposition from some amongst us—the great argument with its opponents being, that the second congregation was not needed, and that its formation would prove a source of contention amongst an hitherto apparently united people; their axiom in point of fact being, that of sagacious business men in the transactions of ordinary life, that the supply of any article should not be more than equal to the demand. Well, this may indeed be true with regard to the articles for the body, but I most decidedly oppose regulating the affairs of the soul by the same rule. And I think Scripture will bear me out in asserting that the supply of Christian instruction must not be regulated by the demand, but must precede and create that demand.

But not to digress farther, the great majority of Knox's Church congregation thought, from the great increase of population in this city lately, and the crowded state of the building occupied by them, that additional church accommodation for strangers, in connection with our body, arriving here, was absolutely necessary, and accordingly a building committee was appointed, who shortly afterwards collected subscriptions to a considerable amount, for the purpose of erecting a new Church for a second congregation. Immediately after the settlement of the Rev. Robert Irvine in Knox's Church, we were organized as a separate congregation by the Presbytery, and continued to meet for divine worship, every Sabbath, in the large and spacious hall of the Mechanics' Institute. Of the intervening steps taken, I will say nothing. Suffice it to say, that on the approach of winter, we found ourselves worshipping in an immenso hall, altogether unsuited for our purpose, while no steps had in the meantime been taken for the erection of a place of worship. In those circumstances a public meeting of our body was called, and after an earnest, and prayerful consideration of our condition, we resolved to proceed at once with the erection of a temporary place of worship, on the corner of the beautiful site selected for the permanent Church. Contracts for the whole work

were taken next day; and such was the energy with which the undertaking was prosecuted by our friends, that the building, completely finished, was opened for public worship on Sabbath, the 10th inst., just five weeks after the foundation was laid—an effort in Church building unprecedented, I think, in Canada. The previous Friday evening, the temporary elders and managers met in the church for the purpose of invoking the divine blessing upon all the labours of Christian love, in which the congregation, assembling for a time within its walls, may hereafter be engaged. With great interest do we regard the exercises of the evening in question, in connection with our circumstances, remembering on the one hand, as I trust we all desire to do, that

Except the Lord do build the house,
The builders lose their pain.

And on the other, how much we need not only to have our zeal and liberality quickened, but to have our motives and aims purified and enlarged, so that whatever may be done amongst us, may be done with a single eye to the glory of God, in the extension of His kingdom, and not for any object of congregational idolatry.

The Church was opened for Divine service by our esteemed and honoured friend, the Rev. John Bayne, D.D., of Galt, who preached to densely crowded audiences, in the morning from the 14th verse of the 33rd chapter of *Exodus*, and in the evening, from the 4th and 5th verses of the 8th chapter of *Revelation*. The Rev. Robert Irvine, of Knox's Church, officiated in the afternoon, and preached from *I. Peter*, 2nd chapter, and 3rd verse. The services throughout were impressive, appropriate, and we trust profitable. May the Great Head of the Church grant that the fruits thereof may redound to His glory, in time and eternity.

The collections taken up during the day, amounting to over £30., are to form the basis of a fund for the erection of a permanent church.

The building, which is of wood, and rough-cast, is commodious, well finished, and lighted with gas; is seated for 420 persons, and has a handsome session-house adjoining. The total cost of its erection, amounting to about £450., has already been all subscribed, and paid for. So far we have great cause of thankfulness, and if the Lord would grant us the desire of our hearts, in the speedy settlement over us of one of his devoted servants, our cup of joy would be full.

Weekly meetings for prayer, and mutual edification have been established amongst us, and our Sabbath School will, be in operation next Lord's day, and yet it becomes us to remember, as was truthfully told us by the honoured servant of God, who opened our New Church, that religion is not to be judged, nor success by us attained, by the quantity, but by the quality of our doings. May all our dependence be placed upon God, and we have His faithfulness pledged to our success. May we in every season of trial and temptation, be enabled to go forward with firm and well founded confidence—confidence in our Saviour God alone, and in no degree in ourselves; steadfastly performing every duty, in the face of whatever opposition, looking at all times to Him for grace and strength, and we may indeed expect the realization of that text, from which the first sermon delivered in our New Church was preached,—“My presence shall go with thee.”

Hamilton, Dec., 1854.

A.

OPENING OF NEW CHURCH IN DUNWICH.

The Church in Dunwich—which we may call the North-east Church, as there are other two Free Churches in the same township,—was opened on Sabbath the 3rd instant. The opening services were conducted by the Rev. John Scott, of London, and the Rev. W. R. Suther-

land, Mr. Scott preaching the forenoon discourse in English, from the text, “Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God,” *Ps. lxxxvii.*, 3, and Mr. Sutherland preaching the afternoon discourse, in Gaelic, from *Ps. lxxii.*, 17, “His name shall endure for ever.” Notwithstanding that the day was stormy, and the ground covered with a large quantity of fresh fallen snow, there was a congregation of 200. It was expected, however, that more than twice that number would have been present had the weather been fine. The people connected with the station alone form a regular audience of about 300.

The Church is a frame building, neat and commodious, situated in the north-east of the township, on an elevated spot, not far from the banks of the river Thames. The settlers by whom this was erected, are chiefly Gaelic speaking persons. They seem to be generally prosperous in their temporal pursuits, and in the present instance they have given a good proof of their ability and willingness—only nine months elapsed between the proposal to build a church and its completion,—and at the opening it was virtually clear of debt, as there was a sufficient amount of uncollected money on the subscription list to meet the only remaining instalment.

The station to which this Church belongs was formed, and has been fostered to its present mature state, by Mr. Sutherland. It is now ready to form a separate charge as soon as a minister can be obtained for it.

OPENING OF NEW CHURCH, PORT-DOVER.

The new Church at Port-Dover was opened for the worship of God on the 10th inst. The Rev. W. T. Ball had been invited to conduct one of the opening services, but special circumstances preventing him from being present, both the forenoon and afternoon services were conducted by the Rev. John Scott, of London. Though the morning was threatening, and the travelling rendered uncomfortable by a change of weather, a large congregation was present on the occasion, perhaps the largest that has ever been assembled in Port-Dover. The village residents of every denomination were present, and many friends from the neighbouring places of Simcoe and Jarvis.

The building is of brick, and is one of the most substantial and at the same time tasteful country Churches that I have seen. It is the second Church that the Free Presbyterians of Port-Dover have erected—at least they bore nearly the whole expense of the erection of the former one, which in a few years they had to yield up to the possession of others. Their loss, however, in that matter has resulted in their gain, as they have now a much more commodious and comfortable church than the one of which they were deprived.

But it is matter of regret, that since our friends then have now such suitable church accommodation, they should be left destitute of church services, being not only without a pastor, but without regular preaching. Though, in their present state of vacancy they are giving proof of temporal prosperity as a congregation, there is reason to fear that their spiritual interests are suffering. When the public means of grace are wanting, the most powerful check against sin, and support in duty is absent. With so many important vacancies within her pale, the Presbyterian Church of Canada should be earnestly praying the Lord of the harvest, to send forth laborers into his harvest.

MEETING OF COMMITTEE ON UNION.

The Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, on Union, met agreeably to intimation in the College Buildings, Toronto, on the 31st ult. Present, Mr. Gordon, Moderator of Synod;