

THE PRESBYTERIAN.

APRIL, 1863.

It will gratify our friends throughout the country to know that, during the past winter, there has been found, in all the Protestant Congregations of Montreal, a largely increased measure of life and energy, and, as a consequence, a great addition to the membership of all the Churches.

This state of matters, so cheering to every evangelical Christian, became apparent in the early part of the winter, and has gone on increasing until the present time.

In the latter part of December, the city was visited by Mr. Hammond, who had spent some time in Hamilton and other places in the West, where his labours were largely blessed. The Rev. Rob. Burnet, minister of the Church of Scotland in Hamilton, and a great many of our adherents there took a great interest in Mr. Hammond's labours, and much good has resulted therefrom. It is to be hoped, and prayed for, that with God's blessing these good effects may prove permanent. Immediately on arriving in Montreal, Mr. Hammond commenced to hold a series of meetings which were crowded by people from all the Protestant Congregations, so much so that it was often difficult to obtain admission at all. Daily prayer meetings were also held at different hours in the morning and during the day, which were well attended. Mr. Hammond was particularly successful in obtaining a hold on the attention of young people and children who came in crowds to the meetings. On leaving Montreal he received the thanks of a large body of Christian brethren, who are hopeful that the good effects of his labours will long be seen in this city. The work begun by Mr. Hammond has been continued by the Rev. Mr. Caughey, but more particularly among our brethren of the Methodist Church. He continues to hold frequent meetings in different parts of the city, but chiefly in Griffintown. In

the month of January the great anniversary meetings of the Religious Societies of Montreal were held, and excited much more than the usual amount of interest. They were largely attended by all the Protestant denominations; and no doubt contributed to add to the healthy feeling which has pervaded the congregations of this city during the past few months.

These meetings always exert a beneficial influence in this city, and that influence is felt over a considerable part of the country. They bring together under one banner all the different sections of the great Protestant Church, sections differing on minor points, but all uniting on the grand fundamental truths and doctrines of Christianity. It is indeed a cheering sight to see a meeting of over three thousand earnest Christian people, proclaiming their attachment to Protestant faith and principles, and their determination to uphold and maintain the same by supporting the leading societies for evangelizing the country.

The principal persons who took a part in the meetings either by moving resolutions or delivering addresses were, Rev. J. B. Bonar, Rev. J. H. Johnson, Rev. E. B. Webb, from Boston, Rev. Dr. Taylor, Rev. Mr. Fraser, Rev. Dr. Wilkes, Rev. Mr. McKillican, Rev. Mr. Harper, Rev. D. McVicar, Rev. Mr. Shuttleworth, Rev. A. F. Kemp, Rev. J. Irwin, Rev. W. Snodgrass, Rev. Mr. Sullivan, Rev. A. Colburn, of New Hampshire, Rev. Mr. Duclos, Rev. Mr. Lafleur, Hon. James Ferrier, Principal Dawson, Professor Cornish, T. M. Taylor, John Dougall, J. S. Mathewson, Lieut.-Col. Wilgress, J. C. Becket, J. W. Holmes, Capt. Orr, R. A. Capt. Noble, R. E. Our readers will be glad to see that these gentlemen are not confined to any one or two denominations, but are drawn from nearly all the different divisions of the Protestant church.