

cept in dictatorial or patronizing tones. The modern parish rector has lost nothing in the way of real respect because he devotes himself now with exemplary diligence to the proper duties of his sacred calling, and mingles with his people as a brother man as well as a guide in spiritual matters. Even the highest and driest of Anglican "priests" can adapt himself with becoming humility to the circumstances of the lowliest objects of his pastoral care.

This adaptation to the actual needs and condition of the people is in perfect harmony with the spirit and purpose of the Gospel. Those who occupy an attitude of indifference or hostility cannot be reached except by following in the footsteps of Him who is meek and lowly, and who came to seek and save that which is lost. State religionism, or ecclesiastical machinery, is powerless to win the confidence of those who eye the Church askance, and who do not feel their personal need of the blessings of the Gospel.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is marvellously adaptive to the moral and spiritual necessities of all men. Universal adaptability is one of the visible marks of its Divine origin. The grandest and most comprehensive systems of philosophy or science are, at their best, but limited in their adaptation. They may be highly appreciated by the educated and refined. Under the most favourable conditions they are but the special privileges of a gifted intellectual aristocracy. The mass who are wrestling, not with the scientific problems of the times, but with the stern and prosaic facts of every-day existence have neither time nor opportunity for the solution of abstract questions in philosophy or science; but they are all of them brought face to face with the great questions that pertain to humanity—man's relation to God, the fact of sin, and its forgiveness; the instinctive cry of the human heart for help and consolation in the dark hour of trial; the moral progress of the race; and the irrepressible longing for an after life, holier, purer, and sweeter than the chequered course of present existence. Of all known forces Christianity alone offers a complete and satisfactory solution of these vital questions. In the rest and comfort it brings to heart and mind and conscience—all that is highest in man's nature—men of all degrees of intelligence and civilization have found it an abiding source of strength and hope. The savant and the savage, the little child and the way-worn wanderer alike have found an enduring consolation in Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

The conquests of the Cross are not confined to a vanishing age. To-day its triumphs are greater than ever and it will go on conquering and to conquer, by the mighty power of love adapting itself to the ceaseless needs of the great heart of humanity.

#### AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS' FUND.

MR. EDITOR,—In the name of the Committee, we crave space in your columns for an appeal in behalf of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, whose condition at this date is such that we cannot hope to be able to meet our obligations for the year, unless help comes from other than our ordinary sources of income.

The Assembly of last year added no fewer than ten names to the list of annuitants, thus increasing our obligations by \$2,000. Unhappily, according to present appearances, the income available for current expenditure, *i.e.*, the income from congregational contributions, ministers' rates, and interest of capital, will not be larger than that of the previous year. That there is thus no appearance as yet of anything being done to meet the new obligations imposed upon us, is, no doubt, largely owing to the fact that the Church has of late been called to do so much in the way of improving the position of our colleges, and so much to promote the comfort of ministers of weak congregations. It is to be hoped that there will now be no further delay in attending to the interests of those who have worn themselves out in the service of the Church. A good deal of attention has recently been given to the subject by Presbyteries. But it is not likely that their action will materially affect the congregational contributions for the current year, which is now near its close. If, therefore, help does not come to us in the way of *special contributions* to meet an emergency that can hardly recur, the Committee will be under the necessity of very seriously reducing the annuities. There cannot in future be such an increase in the number of beneficiaries as there has been during the last three or four years. But this year it has been so great that, without such help as

that now suggested, the Committee cannot go beyond \$180 or \$190, instead of the \$220 of the last few years. But is not such a reduction practically equivalent to the throwing of the burden of the new annuities upon the older beneficiaries, and taxing them to the amount of \$30 or \$40 each? This would be a reproach that surely hundreds would gladly deny themselves much to protect the Church from. Without any thought of disparagement in relation to efforts put forth in behalf of other schemes, we cannot but feel that we are now presenting what is, in some respects, the *most urgent of present claims* on the liberality of the Church; and we cannot but hope that many will respond at once to this appeal.

Contributions to prevent the occurrence of the dreaded deficiency will be gratefully received by Dr. Reid; or by

JAMES MIDDLEMISS, } *Joint Conveners.*  
J. K. McDONALD. }

P. S.—The Committee would take this opportunity of expressing regret that mention has not been made in their printed reports of the return by the Rev. Wm. Forrest of his annuity *in full*, during the last three years. The Committee, on being appealed to three years ago, when Mr. Forrest felt himself so much improved in health as to venture into the mission field, did not think it right that his name should be removed from the list of annuitants until, after sufficient trial, it was seen that he was no longer in need of assistance from the Fund. Mr. Forrest himself, however, has ever since regularly returned his payments from the Fund—a fact that has, from time to time, been stated to the Assembly, but should, in justice to him, have been referred to in the annual reports. It is now arranged that Mr. Forrest's name be removed from the list, on the understanding that it be replaced should his health fail.

The Committee beg the privilege of one word more. They have reason to believe that the Fund has been injuriously affected by the fact that, in some instances, annuities are given to ministers who are believed not to be in need of them. While they are sure that there are not very few cases, they would call attention to the fact that they have brought the matter—which is confessedly a very difficult one—before the Church, with the view of its being settled in a constitutional way. And they would earnestly entreat friends not to allow these exceptional cases to prevent their hearty and liberal support of the fund that supplies so much need, and in connection with which there is less leakage than there necessarily is in connection with some other funds.

#### FRENCH EVANGELIZATION.

The receipts at this date are about \$4,000 less than at the corresponding period of last year, and the sum of \$6,000 is still required to end the Church year free from debt. For the last nine years the Board has not reported a deficit to the General Assembly, its policy being to keep the expenditure within the revenue. In accordance with this policy, it will be necessary to contract the work and to reduce the staff of missionaries, unless sufficient contributions are forthcoming in the next fortnight. The Church year ends on April 30th.

The Pointe-aux-Trembles Schools have had the most prosperous session for many years. The large increase in the number of pupils has added greatly to the expenditure, and about \$1,500 are still needed to close the year free from debt. Thirty-one of the pupils have this session professed their faith in Christ. Contributions should be sent to the Treasurer before May 1st, addressed, Rev. R. H. Warden, 198 St. James Street, Montreal.

I ENCLOSE a bill for £300, brought from the north-west out-stations. It is really wonderful—the warm enthusiastic love that leads these islanders to give so much to the work of God.—*Rev. J. Marriott, Samoa.*

I HAVE some faithful witnesses here who would gladly go with me to assist in holding open-air services. They are in the strength of their first love, and are shaking the power of the devil and slavery. One of our recent converts is a man who has been a notorious slave-dealer, and a great thief; but now he is a fine fellow, and is earnestly confessing Christ among his countrymen.—*Rev. M. Godman, Redhi, Western Africa.*

#### MONTREAL NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper was recently administered in the Pointe aux Trembles Mission Schools. The Rev. Prof. Coussirat, accompanied by Principal MacVicar, Rev. W. J. Dey, and Prof. Darcy, of McGill University, drove down in the morning, and spent the day there, holding two services. The morning one was conducted by Prof. Coussirat, assisted by Mr. Dey. At its close the communion was dispensed to a large number of the older pupils and the teachers. Twenty of the pupils were received into the fellowship of the Church and the occasion was one long to be remembered by all present. This is the second time that ordinance has been administered in the past three months. On the first occasion there were eleven new communicants, so that thirty-one have this session professed faith in Christ. Many of these six months ago came from Roman Catholic homes entirely ignorant of God's Word and of the way of salvation through Christ. At the close of the session they will return to their homes with the Bible in their hands and the Saviour in their hearts. Who can tell the far-reaching results of the conversion to Christ of these thirty-one pupils of the Pointe-aux-Trembles schools. The afternoon service was conducted by Principal MacVicar, who delivered a suitable gospel address, and was assisted by Professor Darcy, of McGill College.

At the regular quarterly meeting of the Presbytery of Montreal, in the David Morrice Hall—the Rev. R. H. Warden, Moderator—there were present forty ministers and twelve or fifteen elders. Besides these members of Presbytery, Messrs. Lyle, of Hamilton; Herridge, of Ottawa; Clark, of New Edinburgh; Payne, of Gloucester; Currie, of Three Rivers; Dewey, of Richmond; and Bayne, of Morrisburg, were invited to sit with the court as corresponding members. The committees on Home Missions, City Missions, Sabbath Schools, Temperance, Protestant Education, French Missions and Statistics, severally presented reports through their Conveners. The reports on French Missions and Sabbath Schools were specially interesting. The former was submitted by Mr. Heine, and contained full statistics of the French mission fields and schools in the Presbytery, together with the reports from the deputies appointed to visit the several fields. These were generally of a most encouraging nature and indicated satisfactory progress during the year. The students assigned to the Presbytery both by the Assembly's Home Mission Committee and the Board of French Evangelization were appointed to fields in the bounds for the summer half year. Professor Scrimger was appointed to moderate in a call to a minister in St. Joseph street church, and Rev. D. W. Morrison, in Valleyfield. The induction of Rev. L. H. Jordan as pastor of Erskine Church was appointed for Thursday, 7th May, at half-past seven p.m., Rev. R. H. Warden to preside, Rev. J. Cormack to preach, Rev. Principal MacVicar to address the minister, and Rev. J. Barclay, the people. The following commissioners to the General Assembly were elected: Ministers, by rotation: Messrs. Turnbull, Barclay, Watson, J. Patterson, D. Paterson and J. Mackie; and by ballot: Principal MacVicar, Professor Scrimger, Messrs. Warden, A. Campbell and Doudiet. Elders, all by ballot, Messrs. James Robertson, W. D. McLaren, J. mes Ross, John Kerby, W. King, A. C. Hutchison, A. McPherson, W. Drysdale, W. Paul, Dr. Christie and Judge Torrance. The Rev. Dr. McNish, of Cornwall, was nominated as Moderator of the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa, and Messrs. McBain and J. Robertson as members of the Synod's Committee on Business. Leave of absence was granted to Professor Coussirat and Messrs. Warden and Hally, all of whom are soon to visit Europe. Mr. Heine was appointed Moderator of the St. Hyacinthe Session with instructions to declare the pulpit vacant and to moderate in a call when the congregation is ready to go forward.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Management of the Presbyterian College here, the question of increasing the Endowment Fund was considered at length, and a resolution was unanimously and heartily adopted that an effort be immediately made to secure from \$150,000 to \$200,000 so as to place the College on a sound, permanent financial basis. A committee was appointed to mature a scheme to report to the Board at a meeting ten days hence and to take such action prior to this meeting as they may deem desirable. On Wednesday, Principal MacVicar laid the matter before the Presbytery of Montreal, when a resolution was unanimously adopted pledging the Presbytery to further the effort by every means in its power.

The closing exercises of the College took place on Wednesday evening, when the David Morrice Hall was filled to overflowing with a thoroughly representative audience. As you will probably give a full account of the proceedings it is only necessary here to say that the degree of B.D. was conferred on the Rev. S. Lyle, of Hamilton, and Rev. D. Currie, of Three Rivers. Though having the power to confer the honorary degree of D.D., the Senate of the College has never yet exercised it.

The Foreign Mission Committee will meet in Knox Church, Toronto, on the 20th May.

We acknowledge receipt of \$5 from Mr. W. R. Gregg, Architect, for the New Hebrides Mission Steamer.

The address of the Rev. T. S. Chambe, Clerk of Kingston Presbytery, will in future be Wolfe Island, Ont.

DR. REID has received the following anonymous contributions: Veritas, Ottawa, for Foreign Missions, \$100; M., Alton, for Home Missions, \$1.

THE *Bulletin de l'Association Scientifique* reports 4,609 deaths from lightning-stroke in France between the years 1835 and 1864. About twice the number were seriously wounded, and five times as many were struck. The hot years were the most fatal. Since 1864 there has been no death from lightning in the Department of the Seine.