

erection. But the point which must especially delight every one is this: when the church shall be completed on the first of May next, and the keys handed over to the Committee of Management, there will be no haggard visage grinning overhead in the form of a debt. It is to be a fine church, and, when thrown open to the christian public by the congregation, it is to be the property of the congregation, because they shall then have paid for it—it is to be free of debt. All these facts reflect the very greatest credit on the congregation, especially when it is considered that St. Andrew's is the smallest Presbyterian congregation in the city of Halifax. Faint whispers in confidential circles say a lady of the congregation has promised a presentation Bell, but of this we cannot speak positively. Success, we say, to this enterprising congregation. We bid them God speed. May they go on and prosper.

**St. Andrew's Church, Pictou.**—The Rev. Mr. Herdman's congregation, following the good example of Saltsprings, recently resolved to allow their pastor a few weeks of absence, in consideration of the long period of his ministry among them. On the score of health, we are happy to say, this step was unnecessary, but prevention is better than cure, and we trust the valuable life of the minister of Pictou may be long spared, and his services increasingly appreciated by his people.

We have also pleasure in recording that the Kirk Session of St. Andrew's, on occasion of a recent visit to Pictou of the Rev. D. M. Gordon, B. D., of Ottawa, presented him with a valuable Commentary, as a mark of their appreciation of his excellent service so kindly given on many occasions during his visits to his native town.

The Rev. John Gordon, B. A., minister of Ramsay, Ontario, has also been on a visit to his parents at Scotch Hill, and officiated, with much acceptance, in St. Andrew's Church.

**Earlton and West Branch, River John.**—There was a very large attendance of these joint congregations at West Branch Church, on Sabbath 14th ult., it being announced that their former respected pastor, Rev. W. McMillan, was to conduct service in both Gaelic and English. At the close of the services, Mr. McMillan expressed his great satisfaction in seeing the faces of so very many of his old friends, and once more joining with them in the worship of the sanctuary. At Earlton, it is understood that the two bodies are proceeding with the erection of a Union Church, to replace the present structure which is very much decayed.

**St. John's Church, Albion Mines.**—At a congregational meeting of this Church on Tuesday evening last, the Secretary and Treasurer of the Bazaar exhibited their accounts, which showed, that after paying all bills in connection with the enterprise, the debt on the Manse and Church, amounting with interest to upwards of £320, had been extinguished—a result which was received with heartfelt satisfaction. The congregation of the Albion Mines has only been in existence five years, and has had a fixed minister for only four years and eight months. It was originally an out-growth of the Rev. Mr. Pollok's congregation, and under his able and energetic management the church was built and started on an independent footing, with only a debt of £40. The Rev. W. M. Philip was inducted as the first minister of the congregation in December 1865, for whom a large and elegant Manse was erected within fourteen months, at a cost of about £500. This building and the church are now entirely free of debt. The stipend hitherto paid to the minister has been £187 10s. currency, of which £150 were contributed by the congregation and £37 10s. by the Colonial Committee. Intimation was given to the Home Mission Board at its meeting in June last in Halifax, that the supplement would be required no longer than to February next. At the congregational meeting