

CHURCH
WORK

Ministers and Churches

NEWS
LETTERS

STEWARTON CHURCH OPENED.

The new Stewarton church was opened for purposes of worship for the first time on Sunday morning.

Long before the hour the edifice was filled to overflowing. Every seat in the church was occupied and quite a number sat on the steps in the gallery throughout.

The size of the congregation, together with the impressive character of the service, tended to make the occasion an even more auspicious one.

The morning session was the opening and dedicatory service of the church. Rev. D. M. Gordon, D. D., principal of Queen's University, was in the pulpit, being assisted by Rev. Mr. McIlroy, the pastor of the church. Formerly a pastor of St. Andrew's church, Rev. Mr. Gordon is a familiar figure in this city, and his discourse awaited with the liveliest anticipation, was heard with equal appreciation.

As befitting the occasion the choir was out in full force and a special musical service was rendered. A duet by Mr. Thompson and Mr. and Mrs. Mackenzie, a selection by the Hiawatha quartette were special features.

The trend of the sermon delivered by Dr. Gordon was to show the real duty of the church—a subject particularly appropriate to the occasion. In opening, he commented on the fact that he was not a stranger in the city. Many faces in the congregation he remembered as belonging to old friends of his and as he had been present on the occasion of the opening of the first Stewarton church, it gave him great pleasure to be on hand on the present occasion also. Turning to his text, he showed first the position which Christ had borne on this earth: his position to God and his position to men. He stood as the embodiment of the Perfect Man and no one else had attained to such a position in a comparable degree.

With the advance of material learning among men, it had seemed to become harder to comprehend aright the attitude of God towards man. Some people could not bring themselves to believe in the Deity of Christ; others occupied the more easily understood position not being able to believe that God, the mighty arbiter of the Universe, could be understood in his attitude towards men through the self-sacrifice of Jesus—"who came to give, not to get." In the olden days men with their restricted view of the heavens, could readily believe that a dream ladder might stretch up among the stars to Heaven. Nowadays scientific learning is laying bare the secrets of the skies. Heaven seemed farther away; more distant.

"The attitude of God cannot be understood through material understanding. The young child is in a better position to comprehend it, than those more materially versed. It can be understood only through a spiritual sense." Continuing, from this Dr. Gordon outlined the duty of each Christian—not only to find light themselves, but to lead others to do so. "Go ye out into the world," was the injunction laid on each and every one, with the object of spreading the light broadcast. A beautiful simile was used by the speaker to represent the point—that of a cloud hovering about a setting sun, literally steeped in splendor from the radiance of that body, which after the sun has sunk becomes dull and grey once more. The life of a Christian became useless unless it reflected the light of Christ.

The duty of the church, he said, was "to give, not to get; to acquire, only that it might impart."

The attendance at the evening service was even larger than in the morning. So great was the number who attended the service that the aisles had to be filled with chairs to accommodate the people, while the space in the rear of the church loft was filled up. Even at that probably one hundred or more people stood all through the service.

"Launch into the deep," was the text of the sermon delivered by Rev. Mr. Gordon. His main thought was the need for extended effort. He emphasized the results of "launching out" in all other fields; how the extended researches of Newton, Watts, Edison and others had resulted in such wonderful gains in the scientific and practical world. The same course had been pursued by Martin Luther, the "path-finder" of early Protestantism, whose daring launch into the deep had brought such far-reaching results. With telling effect, the speaker showed the need for an equal effort on the part of churches and individuals, in home and missionary fields as well.

The new edifice for the Stewarton congregation is probably the most modern and adequate structure of this character in Ottawa. The approximate cost is estimated by the building committee to be \$30,000. The seating capacity is in the neighborhood of 1,200. While it will be one of the largest churches in the Capital, it possesses the additional advantage of being able to employ the former building, which has been connected with the new, as a Sunday school hall. But if the available space seems somewhat beyond the present needs, the time may not be so far distant when the rapidly increasing growth of the Stewarton section may once more tax the building to its utmost.

The church is of the perpendicular gothic type, being particularly appropriate and adapted to buildings of this character. The designs were drawn by Mr. J. P. MacLaren, the architect. In structure it resembles in many ways that of Erskine and All Saints, although somewhat larger than the latter, and more ornamental and striking than either. It is substantially constructed of native rough limestone. Facing on Argyle avenue, its main entrance is from that street. Another entrance leads in off the Bank street corner.

The feature of the church is undoubtedly the entrance, there being no other exactly like it in the city. Triple doors open into the porch, or vestibule, and from these inner doors at either side of the vestibule lead into the interior. Two little porches under the towers, which rise at either corner of the facade, afford entrance either to the galleries or to the church.

The opening services of the new Stewarton church will be continued next Sunday, when Rev. R. E. Knowles, of Knox church, Galt, will be the preacher, morning and evening. On Monday evening Mr. Knowles will give his delightful lecture on "The Cottler's Saturday Night." The mere announcement insures a large audience.

Mrs. J. H. Elliott, whose home was totally destroyed by fire recently, was unexpectedly made the recipient last week of an address with three beautiful chairs and handsome parlor table, presented by the W. F. M. S. and ladies of St. Andrew's church, Westminster.

St. Andrew's, Thameford, Rev. T. A. Watson. Membership, 337; added by profession, 16. Total contributions for all purposes \$2,461. For missionary and benevolent purposes, \$792.

MONTREAL.

Rev. W. D. Reid, minister of Taylor church, has gone on a month's vacation to Cuba, where his brother, Rev. Allan Reid, has been spending some time.

Dr. Amaron has been granted three months leave of absence from his editorial work and is taking a course of treatment that it is hoped will quite restore his health.

Rev. Moise Menard having submitted his resignation of St. John's church to Presbytery, it was dealt with and finally accepted. Mr. Menard has not been in his usual health for some time.

The formal opening of the new Pointe aux Trembles school building has been fixed for March 22nd, when the members of the French Board will be present for their annual meeting. The furnishing committee with Dr. Kelley as convener is meeting with good response in its work, and the opening ceremonies will attract a large gathering of friends of the institution.

At last meeting of Presbytery the congregations of Beauharnois and Chateauguay Basin were separated by mutual consent. Rev. J. D. Anderson will remain in the pastorate of Beauharnois, at the same salary that he was receiving from both sections, and a manse. Rev. W. R. Cruickshank was appointed moderator of Chateauguay session. The spirit and generosity of the Beauharnois section in undertaking the full salary of the minister cannot but be admired, and it is hoped that a similar spirit will reveal itself in Chateauguay.

St. Andrew's, Sharbrooke, Que., Rev. C. W. Nicol.—The congregation had a trying experience through the long and tedious illness of the pastor. The services are well attended and a deep spiritual interest is manifest. Contributions to the missionary schemes have more than doubled. The S.S. is well officered and all the departments have taken a stride forward. Total revenue was \$4,671; of which \$766 was for Schemes. Amount contributed by S.S. \$276. The debt was decreased by \$800, leaving it at \$1,000. The pastor's stipend was increased \$100. The additions to membership were 40. The congregation is holding the fort in Quebec though the odds are heavy and at times discouraging.

HAMILTON.

Sunday, Feb. 17th., inst., was Anniversary Day at St. Paul's church. Rev. Dr. Jordan, Professor of O. T. Literature at Queen's University, Kingston, was the preacher for the day.

A movement is also on foot for the erection of a new Presbyterian church in the south-eastern section of the city. Several influential men are back of the movement.

The Karn firm of Woodstock, have lately been engaged in installing a new pipe organ in St. Andrew's church. It will be ready for use at the end of the month.

Nowell, of Chicago, has been holding a series of meetings in Association Hall. He has taken his hearers through the Book of Genesis. Some of us differ from Mr. Nowell in certain doctrinal points, but there is no doubt that he is a most forcible Bible teacher, as his large and interested audiences testified.

Rev. J. R. Van Wyck of Sherman Avenue Presbyterian church is still actively engaged in the canvass for funds for the erection of a new and much needed place of worship. Mr. Van Wyck is a worker, but he is badly handicapped by the unsatisfactory nature of the present church building.