

ture is always a great affair—old and young join in making this annual gathering both pleasant and profitable. This year it was very attractive. At one end of the school room a grand stage was erected, and in its centre was placed a Christmas tree of no ordinary beauty. From each branch hung some tempting article either for use or ornament. A Santa Claus appeared dressed from head to foot in the usual style. There was much suppressed interest while he was distributing the presents that adorned the tree. The entertainment began at 5 o'clock p. m. and was kept up with great spirit until midnight. Mr. Robert Watson, Gladstone, was called to the chair and ably fulfilled his duties. The children recited many beautiful pieces in an admirable manner. An excellent tea was served in the course of the evening, after which a number of seniors took part in a number of choice dialogues. Several persons from Lower Kintore and the Stonehaven district sang their best songs to the delight of the whole company. Other districts of the settlement are to get up like meetings.

Mr. Fraser's mills at the Muniac are nearly completed. They consist of a new saw mill, an oatmeal and grist mill. The work was a great undertaking but, when finished, will be of the greatest benefit to the whole country. Mr. Fraser intends running the oatmeal mill all the year round. A first-class oatmeal miller from Scotland has been engaged and is expected to arrive here in a few days. Mr. Fraser's enterprise is deserving of success.

### OUR KIRK IN OLD CANADA.

*(Re-published by request.)*

Of the Church of Scotland in Ontario and Quebec so little is known by our people here, that the following sketches from a trusty hand will be read with a deep interest. We will be glad to hear from the worthy author again, in continuation of these masterly outlines.

**BINBROOKE, ONTARIO.**—Here is a small frame church, on the farm of a firm adherent of the Church of Scotland, who gave the site, and a large contribution to the building fund. It was opened for divine service by the Rev. Robert Burnet

in 1853, under the ministry of the Rev. Wm Johnson.

**MILTON.**—This was not a separate charge till 1861. Rev. Robert Dobie, is the genial minister, who well deserves the honored title of champion of the church. His name and fame will live in history, as the appellant in the famous case "Dobie v. Temporalities Board." Mr. Dobie has proved a faithful minister, and the zeal of the people may be seen from a bazaar recently held, at which \$600 for church purposes were cheerfully contributed. The manse is a commodious house, and the adherents of the church are as a rule well-to-do yeomen.

**LONDON.**—Our cause here has struggled for many years amidst difficulties. Three different times the congregation lost its church property. Once by sleight of hand, once by political influence, and the third time by a legal decision, in no wise creditable to the courts. The Rev. Francis Nicol, formerly of Newfoundland, and latterly of New Brunswick was minister here for some time. In 1853, Dr. John Skinner, one of the most talented of our ministers, re-organized and built up the congregation. The vicissitudes of the London congregation have been many and great. Any notice of these struggles would be incomplete without mention of the steady adherence of the late Mr. Jas. Dunbar, and his lamented sister Miss Janet Dunbar, who always proved themselves steadfast in their loyalty to the Church of Scotland.

**BAYFIELD.**—A Nova Scotian from Pictou, Mr. Donald Cameron has ever shown himself a pillar of the church here. Aided by the exertions of Squire Ritchie, they have kept the congregation together. Through Mr. Cameron's indefatigable efforts and labors, a nice brick church was erected here many years ago. In these good works Mr. Cameron was greatly aided by the Rev. R. Burnet, afterwards of Pictou, N. S. At Varna, there is a large congregation strongly attached to our church. The minister at Bayfield gives Sabbath service regularly at this station. All the adherents of the church here are well-to-do in the world, the land in the vicinity being of the best in Ontario. Formerly Bayfield and Varna were branch-