

RE-OPENING OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, TORONTO.

St. Andrew's Church, King and Simcoe streets, was re-opened on Dec. 1st, after several months, in which the church has been enlarged by the addition of a chancel, in which the choir is seated, and the already magnificent organ has been doubled in size, making it the greatest in Canada.

Very large congregations were present at both services, many standing in the aisles and passages. The moderator of the General Assembly, Dr. Campbell, St. Gabriel's, Montreal, and Principal Gordon, of Queen's University were the preachers, as they were 31 years ago, when the church was opened.

Rev. T. Crawford Brown, the minister, in announcing the offertory, stated that the purpose of the congregation was not only to make St. Andrew's a beautiful spiritual sanctuary, but also a real social centre for strangers who were coming to make their homes in the city, and for young people. Behind all their plans had been the strongest desire to serve those who needed their services.

Dr. Campbell chose his text from Rev. iii., 11, "Hold fast that which thou hast." In the course of his sermon he remarked that one antidote for socialism was to throw responsibility on the great body of the people by giving them a share in the making of the country's laws. He did not look for any new gospel, and reminded them that the 75 years of the life of the congregation was a greater period than had passed over the seven churches in Asia, when they received their messages.

He paid a tribute to the memory of the late Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, as did Principal Gordon in the evening.

The chancel presents a most dignified and impressive appearance, and the effect when the church is lighted with the handsome new electric clusters is stately and imposing. The decorations are of the most tasteful description, the absence of gaudy and tawdry ornament being very marked, while the whole design is chastely attractive. The "Good Samaritan" window, in memory of the late James Michie, has been moved from its old position, and occupies the centre of the three chancel lights. On either side are strikingly beautiful windows in memory of the late Rev. D. J. Macdonnell and his wife.

On Monday evening a memorial service was held, when the pastor formally received the windows placed in the church to the memory of the late Rev. D. J. and Mrs. Macdonnell.

Special music was rendered by the choir, and those who gave the short addresses were Revs. Robert Campbell, Geo. M. Milligan, James Carmichael, E. D. McLaren, D. R. Rummold, Mr. J. W. Langmuir and Mr. Geo. M. Macdonnell, K.C. In accepting the windows the Rev. Mr. Brown made special reference to the growth of the congregation under the guidance of the late Rev. Mr. Macdonnell.

N. Y. Christian Intelligencer: Since the Holy Child gave Himself, Christmas is marked as no other festival is by the exchange of gifts as tokens of friendship and love. And everybody knows what enjoyment one has in selecting presents for the children and dear friends, despite the perplexity of choosing suitable gifts in these days of infinite variety and superabundance. The joy of anticipation has its full fruition in realization when on Christmas Day the hidden gifts are brought forth and distributed in the household and among the children and friends in the schools.

THE SHEPHERD PSALM.

The Twenty-third Psalm is one of the masterpieces of literature. It is one of the oldest songs and one of the best. It comes down to us from those far-away days of Hebrew minstrelsy, and brings to us the very consolation needed for the troubled heart to-day. It is beautiful to think of the shepherd on those distant fields meditating on God and turning his meditations into song. Possibly in the noontide as he guarded his flocks, or watched them lying about over the green pastures, resting from the summer's heat, his soul in quiet meditation went up to God and he thought of the Good Shepherd who kindly cares for his own, and this was what he said: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures." There are noontide rests for the sheep of his fold. There are retired trysting places where amid the day's glamour he may turn aside to be with God, the Good Shepherd, where their confidences will be undisturbed and where the soul will grow strong and be comforted.

As the psalmist led his sheep down to the streams where the waters lay calm and peaceful, gassed in their crystal clearness, he thought of the refreshment which his own kind Friend in heaven brought to him, and his meditation was: "He leadeth me beside still waters," or to "the waters of rest." Pleasant are the wayside blessings, the calm and restful places, which our God has made for us, "waters of stillness," waters of rest, streams of gladness and delight, where the sheep of the Good Shepherd's fold may be refreshed. It is here "he leadeth me." We do not stumble on such oases in life's parched desert. God "leads" us there. He knows what we want, and He kindly brings us where the waters of stillness are. And there "He restoreth my soul." It is "He" who does it all! He builds us up. He strengthens, He gladdens, the soul is brought back, it is "restored;" it is confident, restful in his protection.

My feet may err, the psalmist mused; but would I not guide my sheep if I wandered from the path? And will not God be as kind to me? And this is the strain that came from his flute: "He guideth me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake." He does it because He loves me, because He delighteth in me. I am only a sheep, one of His great fold, but I am one, and for His own dear sake He will not permit me to fall away. There may be chasms and precipices, trails that would lead me far from the fold; but He loves me too well to permit me to wander away or perish. He does not drive; He "leadeth." He does not beat me back into the path with His crook, the shepherd leads by showing me the way and guiding me therein.

Then the young minstrel, as he paused in his song, thought of the dark places, the sombre valleys where the shadows lie deep, and where robbers lurk and wild beasts prowl, and a wonderful thought came to his soul—beautiful as it was wonderful: "Yea, though I walk," and I think he placed considerable emphasis on the "I", "through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me." There was no reason why he should fear in such a contingency; for, did not the Good Shepherd lead through the darkness? Were not His rod and staff there to protect him, yes, to "comfort" him, even when the shadows were the deepest and the path seemed wholly hidden?

And though his enemies threaten the flock; though the sheep may be in danger; though serpent's in their hiding places ready to destroy them; yet the shepherd is there to feed them. Though the wild beasts may glower upon him from their secret places, even there the shepherd feeds his flock, and the flock does not fear. Blessed Jesus! "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies." God cares for His own when dangers are near.

And when the shepherd brings his sheep to the fold in the evening time the faces of the weary ones are anointed with oil to refresh them. They are given a refreshing drink. The vessel is running over. There is plenty to satisfy the thirsty after the long day of heat. And then they are turned into the sheep-fold for the night. Only for a night? Ah, says the psalmist, as he adds a final note to his song, it will not be "only for a night" with me. "Surely," and if you will listen, you may hear the triumphant notes on his reed: "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."—United Presbyterian.

NEW PASSENGER COACHES FOR GRAND TRUNK.

The Grand Trunk Railway System have added to their equipment twenty beautiful new passenger coaches of the most modern construction and conveniences. The company are being commended by the travelling public for the exquisite workmanship and the superior accommodations they afford the public.

The cars are exceedingly neat, spacious, and in every respect and detail modern and first-class. The merest detail has been given the most careful consideration by the mechanical department of the Grand Trunk Railway System. The management had in view the accommodations of the patrons of the road, and wanted to afford them the best possible.

Description of Cars.

The cars are 67 feet 6 inches long over end sills, 9 feet 6 inches wide over side sills, affording a total seating capacity of 75 passengers. They are designed so as to afford the greatest possible strength, having steel platform, wide vestibules, bottom and end construction being welded iron throughout, and mounted on Grand Trunk standard six-wheel trucks equipped with steel-tired wheels. They are provided with windows having double sash of latest design and semi-elliptic Gothic sash set with opalescent glass of neat pattern.

The interior of the car is a model of beauty. It is made of selected mahogany, being a flush design, and provided with inlay lines and ornaments. The ceiling is of the Empire design, neatly decorated in gold, the interior Gothics being semi-elliptic set with opalescent art glass. Dainty pattern silk-face pantastote curtains are used.

The coaches are equipped with patent high-back seats upholstered in the best quality green frieze plush, while the commodious smoking room, which affords room for 14 passengers, is fitted up with leather-covered seats.

The cars are heated with direct system of steam heat, lighted with gas, equipped with statuary bronze trimmings and white metal lavatories, and water flushing toilets.

British Weekly: True Christian union can only be effected between Christians, between those who hold that the Church is the body of Christ, the company of believers who profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and obedience to Him; who hold the fundamental doctrines of Christianity.

Herald and Presbyterian: For one to possess a will and employ it in antagonism to God, in warfare against Him, is madness. To train that will into willingness is highest wisdom, and evidence that the divine grace dwells richly in the soul.