

*status*, confine their membership to the laity. Both may be right, according to the views they may hold as to the proper signification of the scriptural term *Presbyteros*. Practically, however, on the principle of "the selection of the fittest," the theoretical *parity* in meetings of this kind is short-lived, for the good reason that sooner or later the ascendancy of the clergy is simply inevitable, as the history of many so-called Lay Associations abundantly proves. Having said this much, however, we have no fault to find with arrangements that suit the parties concerned, still less to argue on a question that involves points on which the profoundest theologians have as yet been unable to agree. The first meeting of the Halifax "Elders Association" for this winter was held in Chalmer's Church there on the 14th of December. After tea, served in the Session House, the meeting was organized in the church, the pastor presiding. After devotional services, addresses were delivered by Ministers and Lay-Elders, on the Synod's Scheme for securing a new Building and an Endowment Fund for the Theological Hall. Its vital importance to the church at large was clearly shewn, and explanations were given of the plans adopted for carrying out the Synod's views. \$30,000 are expected from the Presbytery of Halifax, and two thirds of this sum from the city. "The whole proceedings," we are informed, "were pleasant and profitable, and calculated to recommend the formation of such associations to other communities in the church."

"The Montreal Elders and Deacons Evangelical Union," also resumed its monthly meetings for the season in the end of December. Composed, as its name implies, of representatives of other churches, besides the Presbyterian, its deliberations necessarily assume a somewhat more general character. At a meeting of the association held in St. Paul's Church, on the 15th January, "the moral influence of the Theatre" formed the subject of a long and exhaustive discussion. The meeting was unanimous, and very decided, in the expression of its opinion, "that the theatre, taken as a whole, and as it is, ought to be discountenanced by professing christians. In itself being both unsatisfactory and unsatisfying, it was pronounced to be pernicious in its tendency, and to involve a waste of time and money." At the next meeting of the association the subject of rational

amusements and recreations for the young will be considered.

**CHURCH EXTENSION SOCIETIES.**—These, too, are beginning to make their influence felt in the Church. In Montreal and Toronto ground has been broken. In spite of the "too-many-Churches-already" cry that reverberates from every up-town street corner, "Let the rich build as many churches for themselves as they may" is echoed back, "the poor shall have a share of them also!" So, Brockton Church has been built and dedicated for the worship of God, in a western suburb of Toronto and, with prudent forethought, sites have been secured for other churches in the outskirts of that city. Taylor's congregation has been organized in the east of Montreal, and active measures are in progress for the erection of a church in that populous and neglected locality—a *terra incognita*, almost, to many denizens of the West End.

THE FRENCH EVANGELIZATION goes on apace. A commodious and comfortable new church, seated for 600 persons, was opened under most auspicious circumstances in the centre of a large French Roman Catholic population, on Sabbath, the 14th January. Not to speak of the morning service—when Dr. Robb, of Toronto, preached to a full house, nor of the afternoon service, when Principal MacVicar, and Dr. Jenkins, and Mr. Campbell, and Father Chiniquy addressed a vast audience—the evening services were conducted by Mr. Chiniquy to an overflowing French congregation, in their own language, and were listened to with devout attention. And on a subsequent week-day evening, the house was packed to its utmost capacity. At all the services the most perfect order was maintained.

THE MOST GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION yet given in aid of the French Evangelization must be allowed to be that of the St. Gabriel congregation, Montreal, who, at the solicitation of the Board, have consented to give leave of absence to their minister for six months in order that he might proceed to Britain to make known to Christian people on the other side of the sea, the nature and progress of this great work. Mr. Campbell sailed from Halifax on the 21st ultimo. The leave-taking with his congregation was a genuine ovation. They sent him away with a light heart and a well-filled purse, and he will be followed with the prayers of many that he may have a prosperous journey and a safe return.

THE SABBATH SCHOOL Association of Montreal now comprises seventeen schools having 346 teachers, and 2790 scholars on