

Happily the weather was lovely, and whoever knows Niagara will understand full well how delightful the old town appeared in the richest month of the year : and how its Sabbath quietude, broken only by the loud signal of the arriving or departing steamers to and from Toronto, contributed to the decorum and composure desirable on such an occasion. Very appropriately, a main feature in the arrangements was the invitation of as many of the old pastors and communicants of the church as could be reached, and the author gives a long list of names of these present, as well as of many of the descendants of the first members—most interesting reading.

The chief feature of the celebration, next to that of the commemoration services and sermons, was the paper prepared by Miss Carnochan, relating all that is to be known at present, for in history new points are continually cropping up, of the past existence of the church and congregation of St. Andrew's.

It is this paper which forms the main portion of the Centennial Volume. Much has been added further, so that the whole celebration is placed before the reader ; and to the honor of Canadians, and to the lady herself in particular, the work done, even to seeing the book through the press, has been Miss Carnochan's, and the profit, which Presbyterians ought to find it a duty and a pleasure to make considerable, is her gift to the church—the church of her heart, and her spiritual home.

The limit of a notice like the present forbids very full review. We must, therefore, be content with noticing a very few of the numerous interesting points the work contains.

An old record book of the church has fortunately survived the "bright days and dark days, lightning stroke and tornado, booming cannon and blazing roof-trees" of the past century, and in this the historian found much treasure. One of the first entries is the agreement between the congregation and its first pastor, Rev. John Dun, in which "the undersigned," viz : "John Young" and "Ralfe Clench," obligate themselves to pay to him the sum of "three hundred pounds N. Y. cy., with house-room, for three years."

The old book contains as its first entry

the agreement, 23rd Sept., 1794, of the subscribers "for the purpose of building a Presbyterian Church in the town of Newark." Eighty names are affixed, with sums varying from 8s. to £10. Among the names are John Young, Andrew Heron, A. Gardiner, donors of £10 each, and Samuel Street, £8. The whole amount subscribed was £250.

The resolution to build a church is given in full, with its signatories—seven gentlemen—"all of Newark." The account of the steps taken, and the carrying out of them, is very full and complete. One small item, connected with the bell for the church, which was a very respectable erection, with steeple and belfry, puzzles the author a little. It savors of old times and the old country. In the items of expenses is a charge for "rope wetted,"—"whatever that may be," says the author. Wetting the rope simply means that whoever was appointed bell ringer treated the elders or other officials who had appointed him. They went to the nearest hotel, no doubt, probably Hinds', where the meeting was held that formulated the reason for building the church, and for the subscribers' lists, and drank a glass of ale round at the ringer's expense, with many pious toasts and wishes, no doubt. The custom is of the class of "footings" when a man entered a new workshop, or having fulfilled his apprenticeship honorably was admitted as "a lawful man." Such an one had to "stand treat all round," a pint of beer each being the usual custom. It is only a question of *autre temps autre mœurs*.

Among the earlier pastors of the church was Rev. John Burns. He seems, however, to have been a sort of bishop for the district, since he preached part of the time in other churches, at Stamford, for instance, and one of his sermons there "a solid exposition of duty to God, king, and country," as Miss Carnochan characterizes it, preached during the war of 1812, has been reproduced among its valuable publications by the Lundy's Lane Historical Society. Rev. John Burns was one of the first masters in Niagara District Grammar School, founded in 1808. He was also taken prisoner by the Americans, and preached, it is said, to his captors.

Strangely enough, though the old re-