

able body," but after all, it is more frequently felt to be a grateful relief from the heat and glare of the sun.

Fredericton, the capital, is an old and somewhat old-fashioned city, situated on the river. Nature has done a good deal for the place, but the people have not done much beyond providing comfortable homes. There is an air of old times, of the days which we think we remember to have lived in before the fever came.

St. John is evidently changed a good deal within a few years. It is more in the line of travel, and is thus brought more into contact with the current phases of thought and life. The great fire of '77 was a terrible blow, but there is no doubt it had the effect of modernizing the city, at least in its appearance. This is very notice-

able when one compares the part of the city which was not burned with the new. Quaint, high-gabled wooden houses crowd one another into all sorts of uncomfortable attitudes as they struggle for foot-hold on the rocks. The main part of the newly built portion is almost entirely of brick, and presents a fine appearance, and especially in the streets where the rise on the ground gives a strongly lined perspective.

It is impossible to predict what may be the future of the city of St. John, but there are signs that the province will be opened up and made better known in a very short time, and if the claims of St. John to be made a winter port are found strong its future growth and influence would be inalienably secured.

ART IN SERVICE.

BY ROBERT HADDOW, B.A.

IN the February number of the *Century Magazine*, among the "Open Letters," is a communication from Dr. Charles S. Robinson. The letter is headed, "Artistic Help in Divine Service." In any discussion as to the service of praise, Dr. Robinson's name ought to command attention; and it will be found, on a perusal of the letter referred to, that he brings up a subject well worthy of notice. He speaks of a danger which, though it may not be a very serious one in the Presbyterian Church in Canada, undeniably has shown itself in many churches of nearly all our denominations. That is, the danger of looking at our Church music from a purely artistic point of view, and of making it, instead of an aid to praise and worship, the main thing in the service, with which every thing else is to be brought into harmony. This is shown

in many of the tunes to which our hymns are sung, where the devotional thought of the hymn—and for that matter its common sense—has to be sacrificed to the musical thought of the composer. We are told of a case in which the choir of a Protestant church sang a hymn to the Virgin, "for the sake of the music." On another occasion, in Dr. Robinson's own experience, the leading basso proposed singing, as a solo, a selection from the "Creation"; and requested that the first chapter of Genesis might be read as the lesson for the day, as being most appropriate in view of his performance.

Now, of course these instances represent an extreme that cannot be too strongly reprehended or too carefully avoided; and, as we have said, there is perhaps not much danger of our Presbyterian Church in Canada run-