

# THE PRESBYTERIAN.

NOVEMBER, 1869.

All communications intended for insertion are requested to be sent to "The Editor of Presbyterian, Drawer 59, P. O., Montreal." Remittances and letters on business should be addressed to MR. JAMES WARDLOW, "London and Liverpool and Globe Insurance Company, Montreal."

IT is with most unfeigned regret that we have to record the loss by fire of St. Andrew's Church, in this city. On the morning of Sunday the 24th, fire was discovered issuing from the church, and although the fire brigade of the city almost immediately answered the alarm, there was no possibility of saving the building.

Many rumours are afloat as to the origin of the fire, but writing so immediately after the occurrence of the event it is impossible to say with certainty what was the cause. Sufficient we believe has been ascertained to show that it was accidental.

St. Andrew's was, alas! that we should have to write *was*, undoubtedly the most beautiful church edifice in the Dominion. It was opened for worship in 1851, and many as have been the handsome structures since erected in Montreal, none has surpassed it for its elegant proportions.

Its venerable pastor, Dr. Mathieson, the Father of the Church in Canada, has, for upwards of forty years, broken the Bread of Life to the Congregation which worshipped there and in old St. Andrew's Church in St. Peter street, and with him, with Mr. Paton his able assistant, and with the Congregation all must sympathize in the great loss sustained. What must add to the personal sorrow of the venerable pastor is the fact that a memorial window, obtained by the ladies of the church in token of their sympathy with him in the loss of his eldest daughter, who was drowned at Cacouna, two years ago, had only been put in its place a few days ago and has been destroyed. Of the once noble church nothing now remains but the blackened walls; the roof has fallen in; the spire pointing towards heaven has been levelled to the ground; but the Word of Truth, the lessons of Faith, the appeals to the worshippers to believe and be saved will never perish.

It is gratifying to state that the kindest feelings have been shown, not only by the

Congregations of our own Church in the city, that is only natural, but by the whole community; and Dr. Hingston, on the part of the proprietors of the St. Patrick's Hall made a tender of their building for the use of the Congregation of St. Andrew's. Steps will no doubt be taken to have a new St. Andrew's erected. The loss was only partially covered by insurance.

We would direct special attention to the circular issued by the Moderator of the Synod, to the Committee for corresponding with the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland. Those who may have business which they think desirable to bring before the Committee would do well to notice the last clause of the circular:

MONTREAL, 22nd October, 1869.

DEAR SIR,

It has been suggested to me that, in the absence in Scotland of Dr. Barclay, I should at this time assume the responsibility of calling a Meeting of the Synod's Committee for Corresponding with the Colonial Committee of the General Assembly; the more because this Committee has usually met in November, and that a considerable number of the Members of Synod will shortly be brought together in Montreal to attend the Meetings of the Commission of Synod, of the Temporalities' Board, and of the Committee appointed by the last Synod to consider the Synod's Committee's suggestions on the Report of the Temporalities' Board.

I therefore call such Meeting, to be held within the VESTRY OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, in this city, on WEDNESDAY MORNING, the 10th day of November, at Ten o'clock.

All matters and documents which parties may desire to submit to this Committee, should be forwarded to the Clerk of Synod, or to me, by Thursday, the 4th day of November.

## NOTICE.

THE MODERATOR OF SYNOD requests us to state that, in consequence of the disaster to St. Andrew's Church which we have had the sorrow to chronicle, the Commission of Synod, and the Committee for Corresponding with the Colonial Committee will meet in St. Paul's Church.