

ation was made to the executors of the late Abraham Freiligh's will for a piece of land for church and burying ground; but as the heirs were not all of age, application had to be made to the Judges of King's Bench, before they could make a grant and give a title. Permission was granted, and the executors very generously made over by a deed of conveyance two acres of ground for a church site and burying ground. Mr. Stewart purchased of them two acres and a half more, adjoining the same, for a parsonage and garden. The materials for building were procured and laid on the ground; and in the summer of 1808, Trinity Church was erected, and made ready for divine service before winter, all except the cupola and gallery. The edifice is now old but in good condition, though at a great expense from time to time for repairs: while many other churches in the country, built at a more recent period, have decayed and disappeared.

There are seventy-one pews in the church, most of which were sold, and the proceeds were applied so far as they went, to pay for the building, which in all cost £290 18s. 10d. Mr. Stewart himself laid out his own money very liberally, but how much there are no records to show, and nothing will be put down here at a venture. His good deeds and labours of love are written in the book of God's remembrance. He was not himself very careful to have them written so as to be read of men. He came to the country to be a self-denying missionary of the cross, and to that work he devoted his money as well as himself.

The year after Trinity Church was finished, Mr. Stewart proceeded to build another near Philipsburg, and had it finished in 1811. But though it was as substantially built as the other, it became dilapidated, unfit for use, and vanished away years ago, and is replaced by a well-built brick church in the village of Philipsburg, where it ought to have been built at first.

Between the two churches, twelve miles apart from each other, Mr. Stewart divided his services equally, giving to each alternate Sundays, travelling between them on horse back, foul day or fair day made no difference to him. There were no waggons in those days, nor roads on which they could go. At both places, and on the way, he visited the sick and, in rotation, other families, to stir them up to their duty by his counsel, exhortations, and prayers; at all times carrying with him, for gratuitous distribution, religious tracts and prayer books. How many children and grown up people he baptized—how many candidates he brought forward to be confirmed by the bishop—or how many communicants he had, cannot be ascertained for want of records. All that can be ascertained respecting the number of communicants is only what the uncertain records of memory can supply, by running over such names as are remembered. It may be that they numbered a little over forty or near fifty in Trinity Church; but excepting two or three, and not certain but of one, who is not now in the country, they have all gone to their long home. Some, perhaps, may think that there must have been a larger number of communicants under the ministry of so good and celebrated a man as Mr. Stewart, but let such reflect on this fact—that there were only two or three families in the place, when he came, that know any thing about the church and her liturgy, and they will no longer think that he was not successful.

As in all new countries, indifference to religion prevailed and does prevail too much yet; and what was known of the church, and her divine, scriptural, and evangelical service, was from the reproaches of her enemies. Much then it is to the praise of Mr. Stewart that by his missionary, disinterested zeal, and pious conversation, he re-

moved the bad odour in which the church was viewed, dissipated the prejudices that were against her, and gained for her a good name, which she has maintained after him to this day; and to the last day of his residence, he had his church nearly full every Sunday with people eager to hear the gospel from his mouth. There are many persons who are constant attendants at church, and join in the service to all appearance, but who will not be persuaded to partake of the sacrament. There were such persons in his day, and there are such in and about every country church now, and why they keep back is known only to themselves. The old communicants have not only passed away, but also almost all the hearers of Mr. Stewart; those of them who remain were too young to remember any thing about him, except what they may have learned from their parents and common fame.

On the 9th day of July, 1815, the period at which this article will end, Mr. Stewart preached his last sermon, and administered the sacrament of the Lord's Supper for the last time as missionary of St. Armand. The church was full to the door with people that loved and venerated him as a faithful, devoted, indefatigable minister of Christ, as the friend and helper of the poor, as the spiritual, prayerful, sympathising comforter at the sick-bed, and the liberal promoter and encourager of education and schools, and of all benevolent plans that had the happiness and benefit of his fellow-creatures, spiritual and temporal, for their object and end. At his last communion, on the day referred to, there were present, who took the bread of life at his hand, communicants besides his own, from the West parish—from Dunham—some from Franklin, Sheldon, and Berkshire, bordering towns of the State of Vermont. It was a solemn day, and many wept sore, sorrowing most of all, lest they should no more see his face, for he was to embark for England in a few days, where he remained two years; and when he came back he went to the east of Lake Memphramagog, and opened a new mission in Hatley Village, after him named Charleston.

The writer of this article not only enjoyed his intimate acquaintance, but the great blessing of his christian friendship, for which he is thankful to the Giver of all good, and never, he trusts, never, will forget to his latest breath, that he had before him the example and counsel of a man so devoted, so heavenly-minded, so humble, so full of resignation to the will of God, and so purely zealous to promote his glory. He was indeed an Israelite in whom there was no guile—a nobleman by birth and education that wore his honours without effort, without seeming to know it, never deviating from the conduct, in word and deed, which would be looked for in a man of his birth. He advanced no claims on the admiration of the people, and yet all people honoured and loved him as from natural instinct, and in his presence felt themselves to be in the presence of a true friend, a man of God. He was a steady traveller to the heavenly Canaan, that never lingered to look back on the things left behind. His faith in God was deeply grounded in his heart. Often it was in his mouth that God governs the world. Looking upon what Jesus Christ did to save sinners, any or all he could do in His cause and for the church, was not to be named. The best were unprofitable servants.

Mr. Stewart was succeeded in the mission by the writer of the present article, and, though most unworthy, yet having obtained strength from God, he has remained to this day; but what may have been the effects of his poor labours, it is not for him to say.—*Montreal Church Chronicle.*

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COLONIAL AND CONTINENTAL CHURCH SOCIETY.

The Annual Meeting of this Society was held on Wednesday evening, January 22nd, at the Cathedral Buildings. His Lordship the Bishop of Montreal and Metropolitan, in the chair.

After prayer by the Bishop, His Lordship opened the business of the evening. He said that nothing could be more remarkable than the exertions which had of late years been made by the Church of England throughout the World, with the view of carrying out the great missionary work of preaching the gospel to every creature. The success which had attended these efforts in England and in Canada, where in their small field they were endeavouring to follow the example set in the Mother Country, was most cheering. He would not take up the time of the meeting; but would mention particularly the change in the name of the Society, from the Colonial Church of England School Society to the Colonial and Continental Church Society—this would be explained by the Secretary. He had been particularly interested in the School department of the Society, because he had felt that if the Society were not going to do something in that way, there would be no other possible agency to carry on that part of the work of God in accordance either with the wishes or the duty of the Church. His Lordship concluded by urging increased activity in carrying on the work of the Society, and so completely occupying the field offered by the extent of the Diocese.

The Rev. Mr. Bond, the Secretary of the Society then read the report, of which the following is an abstract:—

The Society's change of name is explained by the following quotation from the Parent Society's last report.—“Many friends of the Society have expressed a desire to have its designation adapted to the characteristic spheres of its leading operations, viz., the Colonies and Continent. And they have suggested that its true design would be more accurately represented by the title, ‘The Colonial and the Continental Church Society.’” No alteration of any kind in its operations would be involved in such a change of name. And it would have the further advantage of removing the confusion which has sometimes arisen between this Society and the excellent ‘Home and Colonial Society’ which is designed for the training of female teachers.”

The corresponding Committee ascribe their strength and their hope of success to their continued looking in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for the guidance of His Holy Spirit. They seek in their choice of agents those who will always keep in view Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

The Committee deprecate changes—nevertheless some are contemplated—to several of their agents wider spheres of usefulness have been opened, and more solemn responsibilities in the Gospel work. But the Committee have the satisfaction of knowing that the experience these men have acquired in the Society's operations will give them greater efficiency in the cause of that Master whom it is their great desire to glorify. They have also the gratification of perceiving that God is raising up others to fill their places.

GENERAL STATE OF THE WORK.

The Committee are glad to perceive increased and spreading energy in the effort to instruct the people. In this city especially means are provided for educating the masses down to the very lowest strata, and Bible women and missionaries strive to fill these schools by their influence and advice, giving at the same time needful religious training.