

## LOWER CANADA.

**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, St. MAURICE STREET, MONTREAL.**—We rejoice to learn that the Church and Congregation, assembling in this handsome and commodious edifice, have almost entirely liquidated the heavy debt incurred by its erection, and the more recent improvements which have so much contributed to the comfort and convenience of the worshippers—such as the erection of galleries, the fitting up of the school room, and the building and furnishing of a vestry. It says much for the Christian principles and feelings of this rapidly increasing community, that without asking or receiving any extraneous aid, they should in *one short year*, have cheerfully contributed to these various objects, nearly eight hundred pounds, besides meeting their current expences, and responding, with their wonted liberality, to the claims of the different benevolent Institutions of the day. We congratulate the honoured pastor of this zealous flock on such a practical and powerful testimony to the esteem in which he is held by the people of his charge, and to their just appreciation of those high privileges which they enjoy in connexion with their attendance on his ministry. These liberal efforts are, in themselves, every way worthy of most hearty commendation, but viewed as the unquestionable indications of present prosperity, and the sure pledges of continued zeal in furtherance of the interests of true religion, they further demand the most devout acknowledgments to Him who imparts as well the inclination as the ability to do good, and who has so signally succeeded, in the best and highest sense, the labours of our friend and brother, Mr. Wilkes. Though unconnected otherwise than by denominational preference, with this Christian society, we may be permitted to express our firm persuasion that their zeal will not expire with their late gigantic effort, but will find some new channel through which their moral and pecuniary resources may be made to bear on the advancement of religion, and the spiritual improvement of mankind.—Meanwhile, let other Congregations learn, from this noble and generous example, to honour and to exercise those cardinal principles of piety, which are ever invigorated by practical manifestation; and let such especially as are in debt endeavour, as speedily as possible, to free themselves from the oppressive incubus, and thus acquire at once the right and power to respond, with greater liberality, to those foreign claims which sometimes come into very painful collision with their own.

The Rev. J. J. Carruthers late of Liverpool, having been providentially detained in this city, has in addition to other important engagements, recently preached, in the afternoon of the Lord's day, in the lecture room of the Natural History Society. The room was opened for the above purpose, on the last Sabbath of December ultimo, and has since been nearly filled with attentive hearers.

**QUEBEC.**—The Lord has been very gracious to the Church and Congregation under the pastoral care of the Rev. T. Atkinson. In October the gothic edifice built of bastard granite, and finished externally and internally with admirable taste, was publicly and solemnly opened for Divine worship. The Rev. H. Wilkes, M. A., of Montreal, and the Pastor, officiated on the occasion. Three services were held, and the collections were liberal.—As full particulars were inserted in the Montreal papers at the time, we do not repeat the details. It will be gratifying to the friends of Zion to know that the ministry of the valued pastor of this Church is largely blest in the conversion of precious souls. During the year just closed, thirty six individuals have been received into fellowship, a large proportion of whom have been recently brought to a knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus. Nor is the good work stayed, there are yet others "asking the way to Zion, with their faces thitherward."

**DURHAM.**—The following narrative of one recently deceased, the fruit of the labours of our valued and now afflicted brother, the Rev. D. Dunkerley, will be read with interest :—

John Graham was by birth a Scotchman, and came out to this country very poor a few years since. He married and settled upon a bush farm, and has left an amiable woman as his widow with four little children. Like many of his countrymen he had learnt his catechism and had something of a reverence for religious institutions but was an entire stranger to vital religion, a slave to an impetuous temper, and very profane in his language. Being a sober and in lustrious man he made good progress in clearing his farm, and was just beginning to maintain his family comfortably when he was cut off.

When I commenced my ministry in this town, a little more than four years ago, he became a constant hearer, and a very warm friend of mine, his mind gradually opened to Divine truth, and under its influence his heart was gradually changed till the lion became a lamb, the admiration of all that beheld him. He felt deeply on the subject of his own salvation, but if possibly more deeply for the spiritual welfare of his family. He erected a family altar and with fervour served the God of Israel. His instructions given to his wife who was comparatively ignorant of religion were constant, simple, earnest and by the blessing of God they have become the means of her salvation. No man ever felt more of a parent's responsibility nor prayed more earnestly for his children than did our friend.

The cause of Christ lay near his heart and almost from the time of his admission to our communion, he became a pillar in the house of God and one of our most active agents in doing good. When he received the hurt which terminated in his death, he was performing an act of charity to a poor family. A few of the neighbours had surrounded him, and our *deacon*, the only man residing in that immediate neighbourhood, had just arrived at that place where he was sitting with his injured limb, to whom he said, "Bettie, this will be my death." The females began to weep when he made this remark, "women do not weep for me for I am at peace with God." I saw him about five in the evening, and found him in a most comfortable state of mind, perfectly resigned to the will of God, and