"The Goodwill of Him that dweit in the bush be with us."

APR. AND HOLLING HOLING H

The Magazine of the Presbytery of St. John

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CHURCH and HOME

The Magazine of the Presbytery of St. John-

Vol. I.

ST. JOHN, N. B., APRIL, 1896.

No. 4

Family Prayers.

There is one mark of a household in which God is known and loved. which is too often wanted in our day, I mean the practice of family prayer. Depend upon it, the worth of a practice of that kind can only be measured by its effects during a long period of time; and family prayers, though occupying only a few minutes, do make a great difference in any household at the end of the year. How, indeed, can it be otherwise, when each morning, and perhaps each evening too, all the members of that family-the old and the young, the parents and the children, the master and the servants-meet on a footing of perfect equality before the Eternal, in whose presence each is as nothing, yet to whom each is so infinitely dear that He has redeemed by His blood each and all of them! How must not the had spirits that are the enemies of pure and bright family life flee away-the spirit of envy and pride, and untruthfulness, and sloth, and the whole tribe of evil thoughts, and make way for His presence in the hearts of old and young alike, who as He brings us one by one nearer to the true end of our existence, so does He alone make us to be "of one mind in a house" here, within the narrow presence of each home circle, and here-

after in that countless family of all nations and tongues, which shall dwell with Him, the universal Parent of all eternity.—Canon Liddon.

tota aristoria i necessa i

The Sunday Newspaper.

It would be hardly possible to invent a more destructive method of undermining public ministrations of the sanctuary than the Sunday secular newspaper. The secular is made to supercede the spiritual; the currents of business carry the soul far out into tumultuous seas, away from God's sheltered harbour of needed rest. The whole scheme is fraught with peril to souls.

Said a professed Christian in our hearing recently: "I became so absorbed in my daily paper this morning that I failed to observe when the hour for public service came." The response of a friend at his side was a terrible rebuke: "You missed an excellent sermon and a rich blessing in the sanctuary." Selected.

The Apparition of the Spring.

"He causeth the grass to grow."
To the patient watcher who has waited through the slow weeks of winter for the glorious apparition of the Spring, and who has yearned for the first glimpse of that forerunning

loveliness which at length looks out upon him with meek, shy face from the coppice and the wood, the signal comes with fine suggestions and symbolism, and with something of healing power to the heart. Once again the Earth's shroud is being gradually transfigured into her wedding garment. The saffron robe of the crocus, and the Lent lily's lovely cup; the grass that grows upon the mountains and upon the new graves. speak to us with a new accent of that mystic power which is once more stirring at the heart of Nature. " How could the rude Earth make these, if her essence, rugged as she looks, and is, were not inwardly Beauty?" It is a true instinct which leads us to mark in the springing. grass, or the rapture of the blossoming almond-tree, a lovely fragment thrown up from that great inner sea of Beauty which is hidden from us. To look for this final cause simply in the law of motion, operating in the direction of least resistance, would be indeed to rob Nature of her Poetry and Divine Symbolism: and ourselves of the comfort which grows from faith in the nearness of a Nameless Love. The most gifted souls the world has ever seen have never been content so to account for the vision of beauty which has beamed upon them, or so to regard that subtile energy which stirs in the grass and flower year by year so silently as to clude our utmost vigilance.-Christian World.

An Easter Meditation.

BY GEO, MATHESON, M.A., D.D., F.R.S.E

' Made of the seed of David according to the flesh; and declared to be the Son of God with power, by the resurrection from the dead.'—Romans i. 3,4.

Christ had two risings; He rose from the seed of David, and He rose from the seed of Death He had a double Christmas. His first Christmas was His birth from the house of Israel: His second was His birth from what we call the narrow house appointed for all living. narrow house was the larger ancestry: His second Christmas was the more glorious. His first coming was, after all, from a very slender root-a small fragment of the race of man. Easter Day was His true Christmas. It came from man himself-man at the lowest, and, therefore, man at the widest. We do not all sit in the house of David: but we all rest in the house of death. That is to me the charm of Easter Day. It is not simply that Christ ascended; it is that He ascended from our most hopeless state, our most universal state. There have been other visions of ascending souls. We have seen Enoch ascending : we have seen Eliiah ascending. But even while we gaze, we are parted from them. We feel that their rising has not come frem the common ground, the ground of our corruption: there is a great gulf fixed between us. But when Christ rises we rise with Him. feel that He has risen out of our dust, out of our mire clay. We see Him borne upwards on no impossible chariot of fire, but on the wings of our human weakness. We see Him ascend from no vanished stem of rovalty, but from the meanest level of the lowliest soil. The possibility which Easter reveals is the possibility of death's own life.

And so, I can understand why it is written, 'Come, see the place where the Lord lay.' The place itself has received a promise. Nothing ! but Easter Day can make me put flowers on my brother's grave. Not even Elijah's chariot could do that. That would be an immortality purchased by the escape of death. But Thou, oh Lord, hast lighted my torch within the valley. Thou hast blossomed from my barren soil. Thou hast bloomed from the ground of my Thou hast shone from the depth of my night. Thou hast smiled from the midst of my tears. It is with the key of death that Thou hast opened heaven; it is in the robes of my grave Thou hast found revival. Thou hast magnified my dust; therefore I deck it with flowers. I put immortelles on the grave to say that death is a delusion—to tell, not so much that it is conquered, as that it : had no need to be conquered. Thou hast destroyed not death, but death's deception; the resurrection from the dead is the message of Easter Day. Christian II orld.

French Evangelization in St. John Presbytery.

We have only one missionary within the bounds labouring among the French Catholics, Rev. A. J. Lods. who is stationed at Edmundston. and also supplying Connors Station. Services at both the above stations are conducted in English. At Grand Isle our missionary conducts service in French. Seven French families regularly attend public worship and take an intelligent interest in the preaching of the Word. The field. as traversed by Mr. Lods, extends along the River St. John a distance of sixty miles, and at several points in the State of Maine 20 or 30 miles back from the River. During the

year 40 to 50 services were conducted in private houses. The people from the country round about gathering in during the evening, on some occasions to the number of more than a hundred, men, women and children. The services were usually conducted by singing, reading the Scriptures, offering prayer, and discussing numerous points of doctrine. Sometimes these meetings did not close until three o'clock in the moining, so interesting and animated and eager were the discussions. missionary has had many warm disputes with priests and others on vital religious topics, and has had also many interesting and friendly conferences with earnest seekers after light upon matters of life and death. Several young men travelled a distance of over thirty miles more than once to ascertain if these things be so or not.

Progress is slow, but this much is manifest, that Mr. Lods' sphere of influence is widening, an increasing number of people can be approached on religious subjects, and freer expression is given to their views. Thus the doors are slowly turning on their rusty hinges, and it is not too much to hope that the light and air of heaven will be the means of drawing them a little wider and a little wider.

Two children have been presented in baptism; two members have been added to the Church, and two families have openly and unreservedly left the Church of Rome and have become Catholics in the truest sense of the word. The amount contributed by the field, nearly all from the English speaking families, was \$178. This is less than was anticipated. By the demise of Mr. Connors our work in the brench mission has sustained a heavy loss financially. The results appear small, dear reader, but does it not hold true that results are small in all missionary work? Long years of sowing, breaking up the ground; long years of waiting for the harvest, and the harvest scanty. In the experience of all our ministers the results are small in what is actually missionary work pure and simple. How many outcasts has the most successful minister in our Church gathered in the last year, or in the last ten years? To reach the heart of the man who has not been touched by the Gospel in his childhood--who was bern and has lived outside of Christian influences is no light, no hasty task. Results are small in our French work. have no right to expect anything more as yet, no right to say that the work is to be done in a few years. The leaven is working, but it takes time, as the leaven is a tiny bit, and the mass is big, vast, cold and hard. There has not been blank, absolute failure anywhere, except where there was a workman who was bound to fail any where, and under any circumstances. Surveying the whole field of operations, calculating the aggregate, the work, by the grace and power of Almighty God, has been a grand success.

I am aware that strong prejudices exist all over our Church against what is called French evangelization. Dear reader, if you have prejudices, inquire into the work, the circumstances, the needs, difficulties, discouragements, results, and have your prejudices removed. It is in no way different in Canada than in India or China. The truth percolates slowly. One soul is of priceless value, and it is not one soul which has been led out of darkness, but more than 30,000.

Do we consider the present aspects of the political sky, how are we to answer for the future? Shall we hope to see our country great if darkness prevails? Why is the British

Empire what she is? Has not Britain been the glorious home of liberty and the Bible? Do we pray that God's kingdom may come? Then you ought, reader, you must have a place in your heart and your purse for French Evangelization. The following is a statement of the present condition of the funds, and it speaks for itself:

ORDINARY FUND:

ORDINARY FUND, POINTE-AUX-

· 1 KEMBLES .		
Receipts to date (including balance on hand last May) Payments to date, Required before 1st May,	\$6,840 6,162 2,422	So
Total required before 1st May,\$11,290 32 Total received dur-		
ing same period, 1895, 7,972 63		

How we Conduct our Prayer Meetings.

Estimated deficit, \$3,317 69

[Free Church Monthly.]

II .- IN A RURAL DISTRICT.

In country congregations it is found in most cases to be unwise to confine the weekly prayer-meeting to the immediate vicinity of the church. With a sparse population, the congregation is mostly drawn from a wide area; and the weekly prayermeeting, when conducted in different districts, affords an opportunity of meeting the people in their homes more frequently than might otherwise be done, and of ending the work of the day by gathering the neighbours into some farm kitchen or other convenient centre, and enjoying the privilege of social prayer. In almost every district the elder takes part in

these meetings by leading in prayer; but in one of the districts of the congregation with which I am best acquainted, a new departure in the method of conducting these prayermeetings has been in existence for some time, which is both refreshing to all who take part in them and encouraging to all who desire the pros-

perity of Christ's kingdom.

These meetings owe their origin to a worthy and venerable elder of our church. For a considerable time he had been anxious to have such meetings in his district, and two years ago he spoke to me about the advisability of conferring with his brother effice-bearers in the Free Church and U. P. Church to ascertain if they would be willing to cooperate with him in carrying on these meetings. He was encouraged by meeting with gratifying sympathy and promise of co-operation, and after a brief period of delay the meetings were commenced. As the district is a purely agricultural one and the population scanty and far spread, it was intended from the first that these meetings should be held monthly in the homes of the respective office-bearers; that the head of the house where the meeting is held should be responsible for the conducting of the meeting-should preside, and lead the devotional exer-These meetings are meetings for prayer, and prayer and praise and reading of scripture occupy a foremost place; but the exposition of the Word is not overlooked, and when a neighbouring minister is not present by invitation, the elder who has been the originator of these meetings gives a brief and earnest gospel ad-The meetings are held in the homes of four office-bearers of the Free and U. P. Churches, three of these being elders and one a deacon.

I have been present at several of these meetings, and have been struck

with the hearty earnestness that pervades them. The place of meeting is the kitchen of a farmhouse. ingle nook is scrupulously clean, and the peat fire banked up so as not to emit too much heat to the crowded room. The dresser, with the dairy utensils glittering upon it, has got a special scrub that day, and everything in the room looks bright and The kitchen chairs are utilized to support planks for forms, and every available space is used up to accommodate the worshippers. farmer and his family are there; the neighbours come dropping in, and after the kindly welcome and salutations, take their seats; then the farmworkers, male and female, and the young folks from the neighbouring cottages, till the kitchen is filled. The spirit of earnest waiting upon God is evidently upon all. All who are met there recognize how restful it is after the toil of the day to meet for mutual help. The praise is joined in by all with zest, and the earnest prayer, ofttimes couched in quaint and homely phrase, enjoyed by all, for it represents the wishes of all before God in the language that comes so readily to the lips.

Two things have impressed me in connection with these meetings. First, the carnest devotional nature of the whole service. To meet together to call upon God, to the simple-minded and the earnest, is a matter of great solemnity. They recognize that they are in the presence of the King immortal and invisible the peasant in the audience chamber of the Prince of the kings of the And thus the spirit of devout reverance fills every heart. A cottage prayer-nieeting conducted by working-men cannot possibly be a service of prayer, as we are apt to call it. It is not display, but the approach of many to the BurdenEstablished 1870.

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bearer, and of the sinner to the God of our salvation.

The second noticable feature is the absence of officialism. Men and women are not there because they consider it to be part of their official duty to be there It is because they feel prompted by the sense of need to come to the source of all supplies. The elders and the members of our Christian churches have a great work to do in upholding the hands of their ministers; and one of the most effective ways of accomplishing this is by undertaking such work as this. What we want is less prominence on the part of the minister and more prominence on the part of our officebearers. It is not well for the cause of Christ in any district when the work of Christ falls into the hands of few. We are a kingdom of priests. We all have equal rights to approach our heavenly Father and ask for His chosen fayour; and it were well for our church and for all churches if sacerdotalism were banished, and the office-bearers claimed their rights as Christians and leaders in the church to be intercessors for us at the throne of grace.

(To be continued.)

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There is strength enough yet for a flourishing congregation if the field were properly worked.

We have been upon catechist service for a number of years now, and good work has been done, especially in the last few years by J. A. Crawford, who has been with us for three consecutive summers. But catechist work is at great disadvantage; it is too broken and fragmentry to endure. If the field were under an ordained missionary for a year or two, so as to bring the people together and help them to realize their strength, a settlement could, we think, be effected which would be a great impulse to the work.

What we need is a guiding hand and a leading spirit amongst us; and this a catechist however able and carnest he may be has never, because of the limitation of time, the opportunity to become.

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Milltown Charlotte Co.

Three years ago, on the 20th March last, Rev. John Hawley preached at this place for the first Immediately afterwards an effort was made to secure supply through Presbytery. Rev. Mr. Hawlev supplied from St. James. While that supply was being given the attendants were alive, awake and ac-A site for a Church building was obtained, and contract for the erection of the Church building made. On the 11th February, two years ago, the new Church was dedicated. The Rev. Chalmers Jack, of Maitland, N. S., and Rev. John Anderson, then of St. Stephen, N. B., took part in the proceedings. The building is neat and comfortable, and cost It is seated with chairs instead of news. This station was set apart by the Presbytery as an ordained Mission Station in the spring of 1804. In the month of April, 1805, Rev. John Hawley, (in the meantime having resigned his charge at St. James, Charlotte County) received and accepted an appointment as ordained missionary here, and has continued there since. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper has been dispensed several times since its organization, and at each season Rev. Mr. Hawley has officiated.

On Sabbath, the 22nd March, the services were of a three-fold character, all of a special nature. Two elders were ordained, namely, Messrs. Andrew Mackenzie and Thomas Sherley. Eight adults were baptized and 29 persons were received on prefession of faith and one by certificate from Harvey, York County, The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed, and 60 partook of the elements, hesides a number of visitors.

The membership of this thriving station number 70 at present.

There are forty families, a large and interesting Sabbath School consisting of 6 teachers and 90 children. The choir of this Church is one of the most efficient in the western section of our Presbytery.

St. Stephen's Church.

On Sabbath, the 5th April, (Easter Sundavi St. Stephen's Church, St. John, was re-opened, having been closed for some fifteen days undergoing extensive internal rearrangement. A new platform has been erected on the south side of the church; the choir seats and the pipe organ have been removed from the loft which was immediately above the main entrance to church, on the northern side of the building, and have been placed on the other side of the church on the new platform. A new oaken pulpit has been crected, and a new communion table with a set of three chairs also find a place on the platform. A brass memorial tablet, bearing the names of the deceased members of the McLaren family, has also been put up on this side of the church. The expenses of the re-arrangement have all been borne by the family.

St. Paul's Church, Fredericton.

This congregation has met with a serious loss in the removal by death of Mr. John A. Edwards, sr. He was one of the oldest and most respected citizens of Fredericton. He was a member of Session of Saint Paul's Church for 50 years without having failed, but once, the day before his death, to attend at the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The funeral was taken charge of by Session, and took place Wednesday, the Sth April. He leaves a widow, three sons and three daughters.

Shediac.

The ladies of Knox Church, Shediac, met on March 14th, for the purpose of organizing an auxiliary of the "Women's Foreign Missionary Society." Quite a number of ladies were present, but owing to various reasons some were absent who will afterwards become members, and it is hoped in time that a prosperous Society will be realized. The resident pastor kindly attended to help in organization, and aided by his general knowledge and practical suggestions the Society quickly took form; officers were duly elected, and by an interesting sketch read from Dr. Paton's experience, the members were brought to, at least. some realization of the need of any help that can be given to our brothers and sisters who "sit in darkness."

The need of such a Society in the Church has been felt for some time, especially since the congregation has had the privilege of hearing the excellent addresses given by Mrs. Morton, of Trinidad, during her brief stay in Shediac in the past summer. That this has been remembered by at least one was shown recently by a little one in Sabbath School, who anxiously looked all over the maps of Palestine to find Trinidad.

"More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of;" so, though our material help may be small, the Society will, as a hody, join its note to the many voiced petition "Thy kingdom come."

Quite a number of useful organizations have been started during the past year; prominent among them might be mentioned a Club for the youth of the town. This is superintended by a committee having members from the different Churches, and has as its object moral and intellectual training and the employ-

ment of time too often spent in useless pastime.

There is at present in connection with the Church a "Communicants' Class." This is composed of ten members who, having expressed their desire to unite with the Church, are under the direct supervision of the pastor, being trained to take their places in it as useful and active members. A critical study of the catechism is taken up, and the Bible as an authentic history, but especially as the Word of God, is intelligently studied.

" Children's Sabbath," which has become an institution in the Sunday School Convention of Shediac Parish, passed off very pleasantly, and it is hoped profitably, on the 29th of The idea is to devote the Sabbath of the quarterly review in the Sabbath School especially to the children, the morning service being held with their interests in view. The service on this occasion was held in Knox Church. Morton held the attention of young and old alike in a very interesting discourse, the subject of which was " Wisdom by the study of the Bible." Appropriate music was selected by the choir, and all possible done to make the children feel the service their own. The members of the Point DuChene Sunday School, being from a distance, were treated as guests, and a lunch served them in the basement of the Church, the teachers remaining with the children during the time.

The review service in the afternoon was well attended; the exercises were efficiently led by Revs. Matthews and Morton and Mr. Allan. Though among the younger scholars there seemed some undue timidity in answering, there was a marked improvement since the last general review, and much could be said in praise of the primary teacher in Point DuChene, as a number of quite small children showed a considerable knowledge of the lessons gone over.

Late Robert F. Burns, D.D.

We have to record with great sorrow the demise of Rev. Robert F. Burns, D. D., pastor emeritus of Fort Massey Church, Halifax. Burns was born in Paisley, Scotland, on the 23rd December, 1826. entered Glasgow University in his 14th year; spent four years there; then proceeded to Edinburgh, where he sat under Drs. Chalmers, Cunningham and Duncan. He left Greenock for Canada 29th March, 1845, and attended two sessions Knox College, Toronto. He was licensed by the Toronto Presbytery in April, 1847, and was ordained first minister of Chalmers' Church, Kingston. After occupying pastorates in Kingston, St. Catherines, Chicago and Montreal, he came in March, 1875, to Fort Massey Church Halifax. He was elected to the Moderator's Chair of the General Assembly, at Winnipeg, in the year 1887. He remained in Halifax until 1892, when, his health breaking down, he resigned his pastorate. His death occurred at Broughty ferry, Scotland, 5th April, 1896.

As an author Dr. Burns was well known. His best known work was published in 1872, and ran through three editions. It was "The life and times of the Rev. Dr. Burns of Toronto."

Dr. Burns was one of the most cloquent of Canadian Presbyterian divines, a preacher of great power and influence, a popular lecturer,

and a brilliant conversationalist.

The whole Canadian Church mourn with his bereaved family and feel that a prince and a great man has fallen in Israel.

We regret to hear of the ill health of the Rev. Neil McKay, pastor of Saint John's, Chatham, formerly of Saint David's, St. John. His congregation, with the consent of Presbytery of Miramichi, of which he is clerk, has granted him three months leave of absence, in the hope that in this period of rest he will fully recuperate.

Rev. J. C. Burgess, of Danville, California, after a sojourn of a week in the Province of Nova Scotia, returned to St. John, and preached in Fairville on the evening of Sabbath, the 29th. Many old friends of this station, and of his former congregation, Carleton, attended, and heard him again with much pleasure.

On Sabbath, the 22nd March last, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed in Saint Andrew's Church, Campbellton. The Church was crowded at both services. Rev. John Millen Robinson, of Moncton, presided. An effort is being made to enlarge the Church. Rev. Mr. Carr is the minister.

PISARINCO. — This congregation was visited by the Committee of Presbytery, on the evening of the 26th March, accompanied by a former missionary in charge, Rev. John Hawley. The delegation were hospitably entertained at the residence of Mr. James Galbraith.

formerly of St. Stephen, N. B., was in the city for a day or two last month. His friends will no doubt be glad to learn that he is enjoying good health. He was supplying at Truro for some weeks, and has again left for the West.

We regret to record that Rev. 1. R. Macdonald, of Fairville, has been laid aside by an attack of influenza. Rev. J. C. Berry and Hon. Justice Forbes relieved him of service on the 12th and 19th respectively. He is 1 now able to be about again but has hardly recovered from the effects of his illness.

Rev. A. A. Mackenzie, of St. Seephen's, Charlotte Co., has again been unable to attend to his duties through sickness. We trust that he will soon be able to resume his work, completely restored to health. We sympathise with hun in his illness.

In view of the discussion on the Presbytery's travelling expenses fund. we would call attention to the following clipping from the Christian World:

Scotlant. - Established Church. -Glasgow Presbytery have brought. to book a number of ministerial and lay members who have been lax in their attendance at the court. J. Marshall Lang, commenting on some of the excuses offered for absence, declared that those offered by the clerical members compared most unfavourably with the straightforward statements of the laymen. Dr

The Rev. John Anderson, B. D., Donald Macleod pointed out that when the presbytery said that a member was expected to be present, and he did not attend or send an explanation, he ran the risk of being treated for contumacy, and the sooner he knew that the better.

> In these days of frequent exchanges the following item from the British Weekly is interesting:

"The Home Mission Committee, Church of Scotland, has with Irawn from Townhill Church. Dunfermline, (the Rev. Jacob Primmer), the grant which was renewed in July last. In a minute on the subject which has been adopted by the Committee, it is stated that from 7th July to 6th October (fourteen Sundays) Mr. Primmer had only twice occupied his own pulpit.

All communications intended for publication should reach the Editors not later than the last Wednesday in each month.

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