

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

MAR

1896.

v. 1, no. 3

# CHURCH AND HOME



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., MARCH, 1896.

No. 3

REGULAR attendance at the meetings of Presbytery is necessary for a full acquaintance with the work of the Church. Many of our ministers and elders do not attend, not because they are indifferent to the welfare of the Church, but for the reason that their modest salaries cannot bear the expense. It has long been the desire of Presbytery to overcome this difficulty, and at its last meeting the question was considered of providing a fund to pay the travelling expenses. All agreed that such a fund should be provided, but there was a difference of opinion regarding ways and means of raising the amount. In the meantime it has been referred to the Finance Committee to report to the next meeting of Presbytery. We hope that something satisfactory may be offered.

It might help the Committee in their work had they the suggestions of the brethren to guide them.

Our readers would do well to consult our advertisements when in want of any article. The Committee of Publication feel safe in recommending a trial of the goods offered as the advertisements have been personally secured.

## THE FUNDS.

### Comparative Statement of Receipts to Jan. 31st. 1895 and 1896.

	1895.	1896.
Foreign Missions.....	\$19,555 30	\$17,275 11
Home ".....	6,765 18	6,174 58
Augmentation Fund.....	2,643 34	2,601 99
College Fund, collections)	2,735 85	2,778 27
Bursary ".....	312 32	309 20
Aged Ministers' ".....	687 24	952 69

### Present Debt. To be paid before May '96.

Foreign Miss., \$1 476 06	Foreign Miss. \$2000 00
Home " 5,925 59	Home " 3,500 00
College Fund. 1,221 93	College Fund. 3,000 00
Bursary Fund. 500,00	Bursary Fund. 600 00
Aged Min. F'd 631 72	Aged Min. F'd, 1,000 00

During January the receipts were encouraging. For this reason the comparative statement shows more favorably than the one given at the end of December.

The following is a statement of the condition of the funds at the close of February :

In Debt.	On hand.
\$2,182 51..... Foreign Missions.....	
4,737 66. .... Home Missions.....	
..... Augmentation Fund.....	\$2,462 11
675 93..... College Fund.....	
75 37..... Bursary Fund.....	
259 99..... Aged & Infirm Min. F'd	

Very much is required to be done during the next three months, in order to put the accounts in a favorable condition at the end of April, when the year closes. To make all right then we should get for

Foreign Missions.....	\$10,000
Home Missions.....	10,000
College Fund.....	4,300
Bursary ".....	1,100
Aged Ministers' Fund.....	1,600

Can this amount be collected?

If each and all will do what they can, it will be done.

P. M. MORRISON, *Agent.*

We would call the attention of our readers to the above figures, which should urge us to greater liberality in order that our Church work may be free from debt.

### Country Ministers.

Ministerial work in the country is often disheartening enough. A congregation may sometimes be so small as to make it hardly seem worth a man's while to do his best in it. But there are many reasons why such a temptation should be strenuously resisted. One is that "the way to increase a congregation is to do our duty in the one we have;" another, that when a pulpit is well filled, no matter where it is, the church outside is sure, sooner or later, to hear of it. But there is a third reason, the force of which is very often brought home to dwellers in cities—namely this, that a large proportion of the best workers in towns have been bred in the country. On that subject the words of "Ian Mac-laren" are well worth repeating, for what he says of London is just as true of any of our cities. "Where would London be," he asks, "without the stream of fresh blood that pours into her veins from many a rural parish? Where would city Christianity be without the men and women of strong, stable character that are added from the country? Who made their character? This man who is unheard of, who is too often badgered about raising money, who has the lowest stipend, who goes home feeling himself a burden on the church. Let him lift up his head. His is lasting work, for he

has wrought in imperishable material—not in silver or gold, but in the souls of men. His Master knoweth; his reward remaineth."—*Free Church Monthly.*

### Personal Responsibility.

"I don't believe in Foreign Missions," said a lady in my hearing one day; "the missionaries are needed in our own land. Not only have we country districts where no preaching is heard, or rarely so, but the wickedness all around us is great, and the worship of idols by the heathen is not so dreadful to my mind as the crimes committed in the slums of our own large cities. We have evils enough to exterminate, wrongs plenty to redress, without sending our men, women and means to help others further away. We ought certainly to try to make those about us purer and better, to lift the fallen out of their degradation and wretchedness, to raise them to a higher plane in the scale of being, and give them a right conception of their Maker and the duty they owe to Him. And to do this money and workers both are needed."

"That is quite true," was the answer given; "the home need is great, and certainly we would be guilty of neglect of duty and deep selfishness were we to shut our eyes and our purses to those evils and wrongs that too surely exist; or close our ears to the cries of want and woe. But we are not told to leave these evils to spread or cure themselves while we go or send others to proclaim the tidings of salvation in heathen lands. Our Saviour's command is, 'Go ye into *all* the world; make disciples of *all* nations.' That includes the Home and Foreign fields

alike. 'These ought ye to have done and not to leave the other undone' would be His reply were we to try to excuse ourselves from either the one work or the other."

In thinking of this matter afterwards it appeared to me like this: 'The Master has prepared a great feast which he wishes all the world to enjoy, and has issued a proclamation freely inviting all to come, and setting forth the joy, the peace, pleasure and rest that will be the portion of those who accept the gracious invitation, assuring them that whosoever asks for admission, however sinful their former life may have been, will not be refused. But this proclamation is not read by all; owing either to distance, or inability to read, or carelessness in passing it by unobserved, the great majority know nothing of the enjoyment that awaits them if they choose to partake of it; and in consequence of this the Master has appointed servants to carry the invitation to the uttermost parts of the earth. Every one who receives an invitation is to pass it on to some one else, that the time may soon come when a knowledge of all he has done for these people in the past, all he has prepared for them in the future, may cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. And that this may be done quickly and thoroughly he has scattered the silver and gold, which are his, all over the world, that lack of means may not prevent the message from reaching every creature. By and bye he will call these servants to account for the way in which they have obeyed his command. Some will tell of hardships endured, of want, privation, imprisonment, and even death while gladly attempting to carry the message to distant isles. Others will speak of dangers and difficulties encountered while seeking to open doors and open hearts so long closed to the only truth that could bring

freedom and joy. Others again will tell of money and prayers cheerfully given that this duty might be done for them, while they tried to make known the invitation to those near by. And to each and all of these the Master will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

But what of those who will come with excuses only on their lips? Those who must acknowledge that all the good things of life, all the talents, opportunities, time and means were given them by this loving Master, and were selfishly used for their own worldly pleasures. Those who will say that others were telling the message at home, and there was no need for them to be bothered in repeating it: and as for going to China, or India, or Africa, that was out of the question. True, they were asked to give of their substance to help send some one else, but there were so many calls to meet—food, raiment, the demands of society and social enjoyments took all they could gather together, and when the children's wants were attended to, there really was nothing left. Besides, there were enough people to enjoy the Feast without the savages and heathen; if they did not hear the invitation they would not know what they had missed—that is all.

But is that all? Will the Master accept these excuses and say, "No doubt you are right?" Or will he say, "Inasmuch as ye did it not to these ye did it not to me." Surely he who formed us and placed us here, and who has said, "If ye love me keep my commandments," knows best. We may not understand his purposes, we may not know why certain things should be; but surely we may trust him to bring about results as seemeth to him good, while we simply do the part required of us—*obey*."

ST. STEPHEN.

### Report on Home Missions.

The Superintendent of Missions reports having visited the following fields: Waterford, Markhamville, Buctouche, Mill Creek, Norton, Tilley and Andover, and that supply was given Springfield and English Settlement two Sabbaths.

Waterford has made considerable progress with the new Church. The subscription list has reached almost \$700. The people are greatly interested in the building, and have contributed liberally. Several families of other denominations have joined in with our people, and are very zealous in the work.

Norton has now some prospect of a house in which to worship. Frederickton W. F. M. S. and C. E. S. have forwarded \$91. and Woodstock W. F. M. S. has promised \$23 to aid in erecting the Church. The prospect of assistance has greatly encouraged the people, and new as well as bigger ideas possess their minds. A Church will be erected in the village, the material of the old will be utilized in the new building, and the subscription list will, it is thought, reach \$300, so that before the summer is over Norton will have, at least, a chance for its life.

Buctouche and Mill Creek have called a minister, and guarantee \$500 and a manse. It is a very creditable effort upon the part of the people, and a grant of \$250 has been cordially recommended by the Presbytery.

Dorchester has pledged \$500 for an ordained missionary, and it is certainly a very creditable effort on the part of so small a number of families. The H. M. Committee regret that the state of the funds will not permit the allocating large grants to all the stations which stand in need of such; but recommend Presbytery to place a minister and catechist in charge of

Dorchester and Riverside, and thereby meet the wishes of the people, as far as lies in their power. Riverside is isolated and weak as well, and if it can be supplied by a catechist in summer, and have service more or less regularly during the winter by connecting it with Dorchester, our cause may thereby hold its own.

Our people in Andover and Tobique have now a good prospect of receiving a reasonable care of their spiritual interests. Presbyterianism has been too long neglected in this part of the country. If our work had been carried on continuously, not in a broken, irregular fashion, instead of weak, struggling mission stations, there might be a strong congregation, the people not less prosperous, their social habits not less sober and circumspect. It was not so much the lack of the spirit of missions on the part of our Church, as it was the presence of difficulties which are not yet entirely removed. One was lack of men, the other lack of funds.

United Church, New Glasgow, has pledged the sum of \$400 and a missionary for one year.

A meeting of the congregation in Andover has been held, and it is pleasing to report that there has been a hearty and liberal response. Our people in Andover guarantee \$250, the balance, \$150, will be contributed by Grand Falls and Tilley, and should there be any difficulty Andover congregation will supplement the \$250 to the required amount. Thus Andover will have a service every Sabbath during the summer months, and during the winter fortnightly service. Mr. Archibald, who now occupies this field, is succeeding admirably in his work, enduring hardness as a good soldier. His parish is about 70 miles in length occasionally, and never less than 30 miles.

The Carleton Presbyterian Church Auxiliary of the W. F. M. S. held its annual meeting on the afternoon of Feb. 19th, and a public missionary meeting in the evening, addressed by the Rev. J. Burgess on Foreign Mission, and the Rev. Mr. Ross on Home Mission work.

This Auxiliary, which was organized a year ago, finds, on reviewing its work, that quite a large degree of success has attended its efforts.

It has at present a membership of 20—a gain of 7—members for the year. The sum of \$21.62, has been realized from admission fees, mite boxes, etc. One mission box, containing cards, was sent to Mrs. Morton, Trinidad. 64 copies of the "Message" are taken, each subscriber giving one cent per week, which is collected monthly. The regular subscription being 12 cents this gives quite a large dividend to the fund of the Society.

The Society had the privilege of having Mrs. Morton and Mrs. Dodge address a public missionary meeting, during their visit to St. John last Oct. The meeting was well attended by the ladies of the congregation, who listened with especial pleasure to Mrs. Morton's address on her mission work in Trinidad. A larger attendance at the monthly meetings, and a more thorough knowledge of our mission fields bespeak an increasing interest in the work.

The following officers were elected by the Society for the ensuing year: President, Mrs. John Baillie; 1st Vice President, Miss Annie Wilson; 2nd Vice President, Mrs. Dalzell; Secretary, Miss Annie Smith; Treasurer, Mrs. Vans.

Calvin Church has met a serious loss in the sudden removal by death of Mr. Robert Hill, for many years one of its leading elders.

## How we Conduct our Prayer Meetings.

[Free Church Monthly.]

### I.—IN THE CITY.

The prayer meeting is at once a minister's despair and joy. It is a despair to him, that do what he likes by careful preparation and interesting variety there are always a large number who never countenance it by their presence. It is a joy to him to meet once a week with the most earnest and prayerful of his people for the study of God's Word and quickening of spiritual life.

*Methods.*—During the last fifteen years I have made wide inquiry as to the methods adopted by brother ministers in my own and other cities, and many of them I have tested from personal experience. It seems customary in the great majority of cases to devote first half-hour or thirty-five minutes to devotional exercises—prayer, praise, and reading; and to devote the remainder of the hour to the address, doxology, and benediction. My own arrangement in detail generally is as follows:—(1) opening prayer, a very few words; (2) psalm of praise; (3) reading of Scripture; (4) prayer, by one of the office-bearers or members specially named before reading the passage of Scripture; (5) hymn of aspiration; (6) missionary or church intelligence—an interesting incident related or a missionary's letter read; (7) prayer—one or more prayers invited, sometimes from parties specially named, sometimes without naming any individuals; (8) hymn, missionary; (9) address, twenty or twenty-five minutes; (10) prayer, by minister; (11) doxology; (12) benediction. Of course to keep such a programme within an hour, and it should never be more, it is necessary that all the exercises should be short. A little

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experience makes it comparatively easy not only to accomplish this, but to do it without causing any uncomfortable feeling of push or hurry, which should by all possible means be avoided, as a sense of repose and quiet is essential to a devotional state of mind and feeling.

*Subjects.* — What should be the subjects of address at our prayer meetings? is a question not always easy to answer, and a question which often elicits a different answer from each person of whom it is asked. Some ministers are in the habit of drawing up at the beginning of each winter a syllabus of subjects to cover six, seven or eight months, as the case may be. I once made a collection of these, which grew to some proportions. It was most interesting to see how varied were the plans and topics different men adopted. Some took a book of Scripture—very often an Epistle or a Gospel, or parts of a Gospel, and divided it up into so many suitable sections. In this way definite portions of Scripture were studied year by year. Some took topics such as repentance, faith, conversion, sanctification, consecration, etc. Another gave an interesting course on “The History of a Saint from the Cradle to the Tomb.” “The Biographies of the Bible,” “The Prayers of Paul,”

“The ‘I wills’ of the Psalms,” “The ‘I ams’ of Christ,” etc., are only a few out of many others which were given. Several well-known ministers, whose names deservedly carry great weight, have told me how they have spent years over the Book of Psalms at their prayer meetings, and have found it a mine of treasure that never seemed to go done, a fountain of refreshing waters that never seemed to run dry. For some years I have followed the plan of taking a psalm once a month, and going through an Epistle or a Gospel on the other nights. I have also tried the plan of monthly missionary lectures, monthly conferences on Christian work, monthly exchanges with brother ministers; but all these, I must frankly confess, have not been so successful as I expected. After all there is something more important than the choice of subjects, and that is the thorough preparation of the subjects chosen. What is wanted at the weekly prayer meeting are careful expositions of God’s Word, well prepared; words of comfort, strengthening and quickening, fitted to help God’s people in the midst of their toil and turmoil. Thus the prayer meeting becomes a real oasis in the midst of the week, a quiet, green spot providing a draught of refreshing water to revive the weary and quicken the faint.





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*Attendance.*—It is often said the prayer meeting is the pulse of a congregation's spiritual life. This is true and it is not true. A good attendance *may* indicate that a congregation is blessed with a large number who love prayer, and that is a blessing indeed; but it may also indicate nothing more than interest in the subject being studied and the address being given. A change of subject will sometimes double or treble an attendance, or produce the very opposite effect. On the other hand, a small attendance does not always indicate want of love for prayer. In some of our congregations many of the members do not get home from work till eight or nine o'clock at night, and others return so exhausted physically as to be unfit to leave their homes. Further, it must never be forgotten that many active Christian workers are engaged twice and some even thrice a week with meetings of their own which involve both time and preparation. These things must ever be remembered when we reckon the prayer meeting as a gauge of spiritual life in a congregation. But when all is said that can be said, there remains a feature of church life to-day very painful to contemplate, and that is the absence from the prayer meeting of a large number of our well-to-do members who have both time and leisure. In our cities there are church members and even office-bearers who can set apart one night every week all the winter through to attend concerts: their names appear as present at most of the banquets, receptions, and important meetings. They are constantly to be met at dinner-parties, and even give parties on the prayer meeting night: but they have no time to join with their brethren and wait upon God in prayer. This lack of interest is to be found in all classes, and is much

to be deplored. Its influence is telling on spiritual life, and its example is telling on the young. Why should not Wednesday night be set apart in all Christian homes as sacred to the prayer meeting, and kept free from all social engagements, just as is done in the home of a minister? It would have a splendid influence on the community, and would bring a blessing to the home. All honor, therefore, to the Christian Endeavor Movement, whose great mission seems to be to put new life in the prayer meeting, and whose success has been to awaken the interest of the young in this one of the most important of the church's agencies. Revived interest in the prayer meeting will bring renewed strength to the church and new blessings to the world.

*(To be continued.)*

Rev. J. C. Burgess, of Danville, California, conducted the services in Carleton Church, on Sunday, the 15th inst. Mr. Burgess was formerly pastor of this Church. The large congregations, and the cordial greeting extended to him, were evidence of the esteem in which he is held by the people among whom he labored for fifteen years.

The Report of Sussex congregation shows a condition of things which reflects great credit on the work being done by the pastor, Rev. J. S. Sutherland. The congregation raised \$939.17 for general expenses, and have a balance on hand of \$158.46. The amount expended on the Church and Manse, during the year, was \$2,494.27, and the debt is only \$400. For benevolent and missionary objects the sum of \$237.88 has been raised and expended.

Millstream Church account shows an income of \$118.12, and the liabilities amount to only \$54.62. Fifty families are on the roll, with 100 communicants. The congregation has advanced \$50 in its contributions to the pastor's salary, making an increase of about \$100 in two years.

During the past fortnight Rev. Mr. Gale has been conducting evangelistic services in Sussex. The services were undenominational in character, and seems to have made a lasting impression upon people's minds. Many have professed their belief in Christ, and no doubt all the Churches will feel an impetus in their spiritual life from the heart-reaching and soul-stirring discourses of Mr. Gale. The number who have joined the churches has not as yet been announced, but doubtless all will receive an increase.

#### General Assembly.

The General Assembly meets this year in June, at Toronto. The following members of our Presbytery go by rotation: Messrs. Ladd, J. M. Robinson, L. G. McNeil, J. A. McLean (Harvey), and J. K. Beairsto.

The following were the elected delegates: Dr. Macrae, Messrs. W. W. Raimie, W. Macdonald and J. S. Sutherland, with Messrs. Ross, Dr. Bruce, A. S. Morton and D. McD. Clarke as alternates.

The following elders were elected as representatives: Messrs. Henderson, Dr. Waiker, J. Willet, Judge Stevens, H. A. White, J. Stewart, L. W. Johnstone, Judge Freeman and J. A. McKinnon. The alternates were Messrs. W. C. Whittaker, P. Campbell, W. J. Parks, J. Frier, A. W. Colburn, S. H. McFarlane,

R. Ledingham, Jarvis Wilson and C. H. Doig.

Presbytery henceforth meets quarterly. Such was the decision arrived at after due deliberation at the last meeting. The usual meeting will be held in May and the first meeting under the new arrangement in July. The following are the proposed dates of these meetings: The meetings in April and July will be held on the first Tuesday in the month; those in October and January on the third Tuesday. Special meetings will be held when necessary, at which only the special business named can be transacted.

Last Assembly created a new committee, called the Committee on Church Life and Work. This committee assumed charge of the ground formerly covered by the Committees on Systematic Giving, State of Religion, Sabbath Observance and Temperance. As Presbytery had no committee to attend to the collection of the answers to the new committee's questions it was agreed to place the matter in the hands of the four convenors of these committees, with Dr. Bruce as general convenor, to collect information and furnish a report. Ministers and Session Clerks would greatly oblige the committee if they would forward their answers to the questions to Dr. Bruce, the convenor, as soon as possible.

Members of Presbytery heard with regret of the serious illness of Mrs. Mahon, wife of the Rev. A. W. Mahon, of St. Andrews. We are pleased to hear that she is now in a fair way of recovery.

United Church, New Glasgow, has pledged the Presbytery \$400 for an ordained missionary for Andover.

The Superintendent reports having received from Dorchester, for supply on the 9th of February, \$7.00; expenses in reaching field, \$3.24.

The W. F. M. S. of St. Paul's Church, Fredericton, contributes \$51.50 to Norton Church; the C. E. S. \$13.62, and other members of the congregation \$25.90. The W. F. M. S. of St. Paul's Church, Woodstock, promises \$23.00 for the same cause.

#### Fairville and Grand Bay.

Preparatory services to the communion of the Lord's Supper were held in Fairville Church on Wednesday Evening, 26th February last. The Session received six persons on certificate and five on profession of faith. The communion was dispensed on Sabbath morning, the 1st instant, by the Moderator, Rev. Jas. R. McDonald. Although the walking was unpleasant and weather inclement by reason of heavy rain falls, there was a good attendance. The Session received two persons on certificate and one on profession of faith. The roll of membership of Fairville section at this date is 30, and twenty-three appeared and partook, besides four visitors. The communion service used on the occasion was the gift of St. David's Church. The thanks of the congregation are tendered to Mr. James Seaton for a donation of communion cards.

#### St. David's Church.

The Communion of the Lord's Supper was dispensed to this congregation by the Pastor, Dr. Bruce, on morning of Sabbath, the 23rd of February last. 263 members were present, besides eight visitors.

The congregation of Harvey and Acton have received a cheque on behalf of the building fund of their Church from the far off city of Nanaimo, British Columbia. The congregation are much encouraged by the sympathy shown to them from all quarters, and are already planning for the new building. They have another Church at Harvey Station, well under way, and expect to have it ready for worship within six weeks.

Rev. J. C. Burgess, formerly of Carleton, but now from California, has come East on a visit. He is accompanied by Mrs. Burgess. At last meeting of Presbytery Mr. Burgess received quite a hearty welcome from his old fellow Presbyters. Many pleasant memories were recalled on that day.

At last meeting of Presbytery Rev. J. K. Beairisto tendered his resignation of the pastoral charge of Glassville. The Presbytery expressed its regret that Mr. Beairisto should have considered it his duty to take such a step, but agreed to cite the congregation to appear for its interests in the matter at the next meeting.

The augmentation grants passed by Presbytery on the recommendation of the Augmentation Committee reached the total of \$1,680.00, as against \$1,780.00 last year. The number of vacancies this year is two, as compared with six last year. Sussex applies for \$50.00 less than last year. Chipman, which had a grant of \$150.00, now goes off the fund. Richmond has also applied for \$50.00 less than last year. A St. James, by a re-arrangement, a grant of \$150.00 has been saved to the fund. Many of the congregations have applied for larger grants this year in consequence of the withdrawal for use in Home Mission work of the amounts hitherto provided by the W. H. M. S. Notwithstanding this fact and the increase of the number of augmented charges through settlements, yet the amount likely to be required from the fund will not be much in excess of last year.

The congregation of Buconche has presented a unanimous call in favor of Rev. R. Vans. Presbytery sustained the same and ordered it to be forwarded to Mr. Vans for his consideration. If Mr. Vans accepts the induction will take place early in April.

The Sabbath School at Pt. DuChene has resolved to add a Home Department to their School, to be opened the first of April. It will be superintended by Miss Mundell.

At the quarterly conference of the Teachers of Knox Church S. School a Committee was appointed to arrange for a united Children's Service, on the morning of the 29th, and a public union review in the afternoon. Past services of this kind have greatly encouraged the Schools to continue them.

In Richmond congregation Rev. T. Corbett has been assisting the pastor by conducting evangelistic services. The work was carried on for a week, and at the meeting held on March 15th, when the pastor and Messrs. Corbett and McKay took part, thirteen new members were added to the Church on profession of faith.

The members of Mrs. J. K. Bearsto's Bible class, at Rutherglen, handed her lately, through Mr. Robert Elliott, jr., a well-filled purse, as a token of good will and esteem.

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

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