

# Ministers and Churches.

## Our Toronto Letter.

The days and weeks are hurrying rapidly on and the time of meeting of the General Assembly is coming fast. Committee meetings have been held to make all necessary arrangements, and the work is being distributed among the various churches to interest all as far as possible, although the brunt must fall upon Bloor street congregation in whose church the meeting is to be held. Unless the basis of representation is much cut down, the billeting problem must, with every year as the church grows, become more difficult, until the system is given up. The difficulty is not the want of hospitality on the part of our people in any of our cities, but the great difficulty is often the impossibility of securing adequate help in the homes even of those who can afford it and would gladly pay well for it. With the best intentions and the utmost willingness, hospitality becomes a simple impossibility when adequate house-help cannot be got for love or money.

Knox church difficulty over the removal of the church to a different quarter of the city, is, we understand, not yet altogether removed. It came up for consideration at the Presbytery meeting yesterday, but too late to be reported upon at this writing.

Croswell has been a much written about personage, and no doubt will continue to be. At last week's regular meeting of the Toronto Presbyterian Ministerial Association, Rev. Dr. Milligan read a paper on this well worn subject. "Mental and Physical Dynamics" was the subject presented at the Methodist Ministerial Association, by Rev. Dr. Hunter, and Dr. George Cross, of the McMaster University, dealt with the life of Frederick Schleiermacher before the Baptist Ministerial Association.

In St. Andrew's church, King street, on Tuesday evening of last week, a special service of praise was held in commemoration of the introduction into its service of praise of instrumental music fifty years ago. To one at all cynically inclined, this might suggest considerable anxiety to commemorate something. Dr. Anderson, organist of the congregation, had charge of the programme, which consisted mainly of selections from Mendelssohn, and gave great satisfaction to all present.

Dr. McClure, one of our Honan missionaries, has arrived in the city. All our church staff there are well, and the outlook for work in China he says, in corroboration of reports from all quarters, was never so helpful as now.

Much interest is felt among all Presbyterians in this city in the late convocation and other proceedings at Queen's University, Kingston, in connection with new and enlarged buildings to be put up, and other facilities for doing its work. Both the principal and students are especially to be congratulated on the success of the effort to erect Grant Hall, to commemorate the distinguished services of Dr. Grant for twenty five years to the university and to the cause of higher education in the country.

All who know Rev. Professor Hart and his long and able services to the church and education in Manitoba College, will heartily congratulate him on his being honoured by his own alma mater with the degree of D. D.

It is glad news not only to all Torontonians, but to all in the church which regretted so much to lose him, hear that, as was expected, the labors of Rev. William Patterson are meeting with much success in Philadelphia. Bethany church has added during the year 200 to its membership, making it now 2,930. In its Sunday schools are 5,258 scholars, and 308 teachers; for congregational purposes \$30,000.00 have been received during the year, and four times as much for missions as in any previous year of the church's history. The cause of Christ at large has no doubt gained by our loss.

Victoria College of the Methodist church, Wycliffe of the Episcopal church, and McMaster, Baptist College, have all been holding convocation services of a very interesting kind to their respective constituencies and to all who find satisfaction in noting the advance of sound learning, both sacred and secular. In the graduating class of the year in the Methodist church, the number was 63, 32 of whom go up for the degree of B. A. in Toronto University; 31 graduated in divinity of whom 7 will take the B. D. degree. What a change has come over the spirit of Methodism in Canada since the time when man made ministers, as college bred men were called, were rather despised than honoured.

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Interesting services were also held by the same body in connection with laying the foundation stone of a women's residence for the convenience and comfort of female students of Victoria college.

In the daily Globe of the 30th inst., appears a letter which will well repay reading and which should be especially interesting to all who belong to our church, or the Rev. Dr. Mackay of Formosa. It is from the pen of Mr. H. H. Horsey, a business traveller in Eastern Asia, who writes from Singapore, after having visited Formosa. We quote but one sentence from a letter which ought to be read throughout. "What matters it that no stone as yet marks his last resting place, for the whole of North Formosa is his monument! It is universally admitted, even by the most of anti-foreign missionary critics, that Mackay was the greatest power for good that ever touched Formosan shores."

The Synod of Hamilton and London has been meeting in the latter city. A keen discussion took place on the temperance question, strictly speaking on the question of prohibition, the result of which was a wisely expressed resolution on the subject.

## Western Ontario.

Rev. Hector Mackay, of Montreal, has been preaching in St. George's church, London.

Rev. D. R. Drummond, of St. Thomas, and Rev. W. J. Clark, of London, exchanged pulpits last Sunday.

Rev. Walter Reid of Weston occupied the pulpit of Burns' church, Milverton, on Sunday last.

Rev. D. M. Robertson, of Harwich, was the preacher in the First Church, Chatham, last Sunday morning.

Rev. J. C. Tolmire, M.A., of Windsor, is announced to preach the 9th anniversary services of the First Church, Chatham, next Sunday.

Rev. George Gilmore commenced his pastorate in Blenheim last Sunday with a largely attended communion service, when 170 participated in this solemn rite. There was a full church in the evening.

Rev. Dr. Morrison, who by the way is proving himself the right man in the right place as minister of St. David's church, St. John, N. B., has been instrumental in organizing a St. John's branch of the London Old Boys' Association among former Londoners who now find themselves residents down by the sea.

At the recent meeting of Chatham Presbytery circulars re applications by certain Presbyteries to the General Assembly to receive ministers from other churches were read and filed, except in the case of that of Westminster Presbytery re Rev. F. H. Madill in which the resolution of the Presbytery was that the application be not entertained.

The session of Knox church, Acton, has arranged for a series of evangelistic meetings to be conducted by Messrs. Bethune and Whyte. Mr. Bethune was minister at Beaverton and Gravenheart for several years. But he gave up the regular pastorate to engage in evangelistic work. He is an able speaker and has been singularly successful in his chosen sphere. Associated with him is Mr. Jno. M. Whyte, the leading singer of Whyte Bros.

At Avonbank a large congregation turned out on Sabbath last, says the correspondent of the Stratford Beacon, to welcome our new pastor to our midst. Mr. Stewart preached a very able and eloquent sermon from Judges 4th Chap. and 20th verse, "I have a message from God unto thee." The discourse was fitting to the occasion. In his remarks he made reference to the pastors of the years that are past, Doctors Proudfoot, Caven and Hamilton.

The induction of Rev. George Gilmore, as pastor of Erskine church, Blenheim, took place on the 2nd instant. Rev. J. F. Johnston, B. A., of Tilbury preached; Rev. Dr. Munro put the usual questions and then inducted the minister into the pastoral charge; thereafter the Rev. Dr. Battersby addressed the minister, and Rev. A. McGregor, B. A., the people. A fine luncheon was served all by the ladies—a novel idea and one fully appreciated by all. The ladies of the congregation then presented the bride with a beautiful marble and gold mantle clock, a present highly appreciated by the recipient.

Mr. George C. Cowper, a venerable elder of the Church, died at Welland, on the 25th ult., in his 80th year, and after a painful and pro-

tracted illness. Mr. Cowper was a native of Scotland, and was the son of an Established Church minister. He spent many of his early years in Trinidad, in the West Indies, where he interested himself much in Christian work in connection with the late Rev. Alexander Kennedy. He came to Canada 40 years ago, and was an active and honoured elder—first at Owen Sound, and for the last 22 years at Welland. His memory is blessed and his departure is deeply regretted where he was best known.

The last issue of the Huron Expositor contained a letter from a lady correspondent, signed "S. Mc L." which described visits to several Edinburgh Churches, among others Greensides where she heard the pastor of Broughton Place, who is thus described: "A most energetic man is Dr. Smith, and reminded me of Dr. Milligan, of Toronto. He is short but broad shouldered, with black hair and whiskers, a high forehead and sharp eyes. His voice is clear and loud though not harsh and he is as full of vitality and enthusiasm as is our Dr. Milligan. He never seems to grow tired, and when through with his sermon was apparently as fresh as when he began." Dr. Smith, at the time minister of the U. P. Church, at Berwick, was called by the congregation of St. James Square, Toronto, after the appointment of the late Dr. King as Principal of Manitoba College. Dr. Smith declined the call, and was shortly after settled in Broughton Place church, one of the large and influential congregations of the Scottish metropolis.

## Eastern Ontario.

Rev. W. H. Cram, B. A., of Harrowsmith, has been called to Cobden and Osceola.

Improvements in St. Andrew's church, Renfrew, will involve an expenditure of \$7,000, and will provide 250 additional sittings.

The recent wind-storm caught the drive sheds in connection with St. Andrew's church, Perth, and lifted them four feet away from their proper foundation.

The death is announced of Mr. James Thomson, of Newburgh, at the age of 70 years. Deceased had filled many prominent positions in the gift of his fellow citizens, and he will be missed in the Presbyterian church.

At the recent celebration of their anniversary by the Oddfellows of Almonte, in St. Andrew's church, Rev. Orr Bennett preached an impressive sermon from the text, "What think ye of Christ?" He spoke of Christ as the ideal man, and urged his hearers to seek a deeper knowledge of Him, and by carrying out in their own lives the principles which He lived, become more useful and better members of the community.

Rev. Dr. Bayne, of Pembroke, took the morning and evening services at Eganville last Sunday; and at 2.30 opened the new church at Lake Dore. On Monday evening a public meeting was held, Rev. Mr. Rattary in the chair, when speeches suitable to the occasion were delivered by Rev. Dr. Bayne, Rev. Messrs. A. Mackenzie, Douglas, M. Wilson, of Stafford, and J. H. Millar, of Eganville. The building, which formerly stood at the Point, was one of the oldest churches in this neighborhood. Most of those who were present at its dedication have passed away, and not a few of them sleep in the wave-washed graveyard beside which their children and grandchildren will gather on Sabbath to witness the new church solemnly set apart for the service of God. Great credit belongs to the present members and adherents who, though few in number, have succeeded in building so well finished and comfortable a place of worship.

## Northern Ontario.

Rev. N. A. McDonald, of Lorneville, has received a call to the congregation of Keene.

Rev. M. Wallace, of Queen's College, Kingston, occupied the Woodville pulpit last Sabbath.

Rev. M. N. Bethune formerly of Beaverton, will preach in Woodville on the second Sabbath in June.

Rev. M. N. Bethune, of Toronto, assisted Rev. L. W. Thom in two weeks of special services at Proton Station last month.

Rev. L. W. Thom, of Flesherton, conducted the reopening service of the Methodist church Eugenia on Sabbath evening last.

The Ventry congregation, Rev. J. Buchanan, pastor, are proceeding with the erection of a handsome new church this summer.