

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

In my last letter I referred to the Ontario government having a rather hot time of it, through prohibition deputations seeking interviews with it to urge upon it the necessity of immediate action in that direction, and faithfully reminding it of past promises to enact restrictive legislation to the full extent of its powers. If prohibitionists expected to have it all their own way, without opposition, they must have been rather simple, and both they, and the government, if it imagined such a thing, have been thoroughly disillusioned. The liquor men must have been taught to believe that "Providence is on the side of strong battalions." Since my last, in a solid phalanx of eight hundred strong they stormed the Parliament building and appealed to the government in their own interests. All parties connected in any way with the liquor business, down even to corkmakers for the liquor-dealer's bottles, were represented. "Hands off," was the burden of their appeal to the government and to those busybodies who are forever interfering with other people's business. The public, they told the government, are not in sympathy with this prohibition agitation; the evils of the liquor traffic are imaginary; they had their rights and claimed to be protected in their enjoyment of them; a great industry in which a very large amount of money is invested, which gave employment to hundreds of people, and yielding to the country a large revenue, would all be imperilled if this destructive prohibition craze were yielded to. Besides, even if enacted, prohibition could not be enforced, though if they believed that one might wonder why they protested so vigorously; these with a fling or two at the clergy, the churches and prohibitionists, were the arguments presented. The usual promise of careful consideration by the government, and early notice of action by the legislature having been given by the Premier, the deputation withdrew.

At the last meeting of the General Ministerial Association, the question of curtailing the time spent by ministers and others in accompanying funerals to the cemetery, and the expense laid upon those often ill able to bear it, of hiring cabs to convey mourners and friends, was incidentally brought up, and the subject referred to a committee to report at another meeting. A paper was read by Rev. I. W. Pedley on "The Relation of the Church toward the Working Classes." It was a well thought out and carefully prepared paper upon a vexed question. A very general discussion ensued, and the impression left by it was, that in Canada at least, as yet, there is no general alienation of the mass of working men from the Christian church, but it was admitted that this did exist in the minds of many who aspired to leadership among working men, and that this was due largely to intellectual pride and self-conceit on their part. It is an old, old question, and surely there was never more earnest and sympathetic consideration of it within the Christian church than at the present time.

Apocryphal of the reference to Church Unity in my letter of last week, I see in one of our dailies, a brief communication setting forth the result of an attempt at it among Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists and Episcopalians in a small village in Algoma. It ended, as some other experiments of this kind have been known to end, in each body after a short trial resolving to stand by itself. But this was a few years ago; perhaps such an experiment may succeed better now, whether or not can only be determined by the test of experiment.

Few men have been better known to Toronto boys for a generation past, than Mr. Archibald MacMurtry, M.A., late Principal of Jarvis street Collegiate Institute, who, for more than a generation, was at the head of that well-known school. On a recent evening the old boys of the school at their annual banquet paid a hearty and high tribute to Mr. Macmurtry's excellent work in the school and to the country as an educationalist. In memory of his long connection with the Institute, and in honor of it, a portrait of the late Principal, painted in oil, was presented to the school and on its behalf received by his successor, Principal Manly.

The Rev. J. W. Rae, of West Toronto Junction, who has done a good work for what, when he came to it, was a church much harassed with debt, was a short time ago called to Aylmer, Ontario, and declined it. He has again been called by the same congregation. What

his decision this time may be is not yet known, but we presume will be soon.

No one of the large congregations of the city is better, if so well situated in the important respect of being out of debt, as that of St. James Square, of which Rev. Alfred Gandier, R. D., is now pastor. At its annual meeting two weeks ago, a very favourable state of things was reported, and on Wednesday evening, 29th ult., a very well attended, and very happy and successful social meeting was held, presided over by the pastor, to afford an opportunity to old and new members alike coming together to become better acquainted and enjoy for a time each other's society. The members of the congregation congratulate themselves on their favourable situation financially, in part because they are suffering to some extent by the removal of families to more remote parts of the city, and in part because, they will thereby be enabled to do greater things for the work of the church at large, honourable though its record in the past in this respect has been.

In the city is a Woman's Medical College of eighteen years' standing. A greatly felt want in connection with it has been a hospital. A committee, with Lady Taylor at its head, has had this matter in charge, and at a meeting held lately steps were taken to supply what is felt to be a very necessary and important part of a Medical College, namely, a hospital. The dispensary in connection with the College has rendered valuable service, and in the hands of the Committee charged with the undertaking, there can be no fear as to the ultimate success of the movement to secure a hospital for the benefit of female patients solely.

It is a hopeful thing for a city when any leading business man sets his heart on adding to its beauty. In his address as President of the Board of Trade, Mr. Ames expressed himself as being in favor of obtaining from an expert a plan for laying out parks and driveways and of appointing a permanent commission to attend to this matter. We see also a suggestion to provide a winter garden for the city, to serve as far as possible for winter recreation and amusements, the purpose which our parks so admirably serve in summer. If these designs were carried out they would serve an excellent purpose for Toronto's citizens, and add to these attractions which already draw so many visitors to it from across the border and cause it to be well spoken of by all who visit it.

Eastern Ontario.

Rev. Mr. Bayne, of Ashton, exchanged with Rev. Mr. Woodside, of Carleton Place, on a recent Sunday.

Rev. G. Gilmour, of London Junction, has been preaching with much acceptance in St. Andrew's, Almonte.

Calvin church, Pembroke, will hold anniversary services on 16th Feb.; and will also in the near future, elect five additional elders.

Rev. Mr. Conn, of Blakeney and Rev. Mr. Maclean, of Almonte, exchanged on a recent Sabbath, the latter preaching anniversary sermons at Blakeney.

The Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew, on the report of Rev. A. A. Scott, decided to ask for the following grants from the assembly's Home Mission committee. For Alice, \$300 per annum; Bathurst, \$200; Chalk River, \$125; Calabogie, \$182; Stafford, \$325; Killaloe, \$80 per Sabbath for the winter.

Of the Rev. N. D. Reid, B. D., of Taylor church, Montreal, who preached anniversary sermons in St. Andrew's church, Carleton Place, the Herald says: "He is a man of fine physique, a pleasant speaker, and his style is such as to impress his listeners with the fact that he is the right man in the right place."

The anniversary tea of St. Andrew's church, Carleton Place, was in every respect a most successful affair. The pastor, Rev. Mr. Woodside, most happily discharged the duties of the chair. The principal speakers were Rev. Mr. Gilmour, of London, and Rev. Mr. Reid, of Montreal. Rev. Mr. Scott, of Zion church, and Rev. Mr. Bayne, of Ashton, both offered congratulations to St. Andrew's for their prosperous year's work, and hoped that the year 1902 would be still more prosperous.

The report of 1901 of St. John's church, Brockville, Rev. D. Strachan, B. A., pastor, is a good one and full of promise for the future. The active membership is 280 an addition of 40 during the year. The attendance at the December communion was probably the largest in

the history of the congregation. The Sabbath School is doing well under the superintendency of Mr. J. W. Ridgeway, assisted by a faithful band of teachers. The average attendance was 127. The Ladies' Aid is an active organization, reporting receipts of \$458.54, including a small balance from last year. Receipts from all sources totalled \$5,063.33; of this amount \$1,029 was collected for building fund. The interior of the re-built church is both comfortable and handsome.

In the annual report of the First Presbyterian church, Brockville, (Rev. Robert Laird, M. A., pastor) many encouraging features are revealed. The session's report indicates a membership of 410; an addition of 52, and 9 names re-entered on the roll. In November last 5 new elders were subsequently ordained and inducted, viz: Messrs. E. A. Buckman, G. Gordon, J. McLaren, H. S. Seaman, W. Shearer, and W. Sutherland; making altogether a staff of ten elders. The moneys raised from all sources amounted to the handsome sum of \$10,854.69. On the church mortgage debt the sum of \$2,000 was paid, leaving only an indebtedness of \$1,000 on the valuable property owned by the congregation. Mr. H. S. Seaman was cordially thanked for the excellent historical sketch of the church and congregation prepared by him and published in connection with the annual reports for 1900.

Calvin church, Pembroke, (Rev. Dr. Bayne, pastor), had a prosperous year, 33 new members having been received into the church. The various organizations reported as follows: Sabbath School, excellent attendance of teachers and scholars; and the school raised \$230.01; W. F. M. S. collected \$116.11 and sent clothing valued at \$100 to the North West; the Mission Band had a good year, and raised \$92.94; the Cemetery committee reports a balance on hand \$337.81; the Women's working and Benevolent Society collected \$250.98, and has started an organ fund; Mr. Hunter, the veteran financier of the congregation, reported \$2,466.57 raised for salaries and running expenses and \$246.00 for missions (exclusive of sums already for that purpose); Mr. Andrew Johnston, treasurer of the Century Fund, reported \$1,331.00 subscribed (and mostly paid) for the Common Fund in addition to \$4,196.00 paid in extinguishing the church debt, in all \$5,527.00 for the Century Fund.

Ottawa.

The annual meeting of the Ottawa Presbyterian society of the Women's Foreign Missionary society will be held in Knox church, Ottawa, on Tuesday, March 4. The ladies are preparing a good programme for what is expected to be a most interesting meeting.

The annual entertainment of St. Paul's Sunday a week ago last Friday was the most successful ever held. The attendance was large and the programme excellent. The pupils who won prizes during the year received their awards at the hands of the superintendent. Five received the general assembly diploma for memorizing 200 verses of scripture. They were Mary Drolet, Amy L. Connor, Leina Lamouche, Barbara E. Whillans and Mary Murphy. Three received diplomas for reciting 100 verses for junior scholars, Isabel J. Annand, Laura Waters and Jean Armstrong. Four pupils who had recited the whole of the shorter catechism at one sitting received bibles donated by Mrs. H. A. Waters, in addition to the general assembly's diploma. They were Leina Lamouche, Maud Chalmers, Annie Chalmers and Alister Chalmers.

The reports presented at the annual meeting of Mackay church (Rev. Norman D. McLeod, pastor) show growth of a most encouraging character. The total receipts were \$3000; expenditure, \$2950. The S. S. is in a high state of efficiency under the superintendence of Mr. W. G. Garvock. A discussion as to the advisability of enlarging the Sunday school occupied considerable time. The increasing needs of the school make it necessary that greater accommodation be provided. It was also proposed to enlarge and improve the church. The improvements considered are the erecting of a tower and belfry to the church and making a new entrance and using the present vestibules as part of the edifice, new lockers being placed in the proposed tower, and the purchasing of a new organ. The matter was left in the hands of a committee appointed for the purpose.