

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

The Sabbath School Conference, under the auspices of the Ontario Sabbath School Association, occupied three days of last week. The programme was the usual one, and by far the most interesting speaker upon it was Mrs. Barnes, of Philadelphia, we believe. Her addresses dealt with the work of the Primary teacher, and her admirable suggestions could not but be helpful to those who would follow them closely. There were other speakers, such as the Hon. Geo. W. Ross, the Hon. John Charlton, Dr. Clark and many others, but the interest gradually centered in the addresses of the lady who spoke chiefly of the very little ones.

The Conference has served its day, and some more practical method of stimulating effort must be found. There is a sameness in these great gatherings that robs them of much of their interest and profit. Then, as a shrewd lawyer said to us the other day, the people want something more than talk. It is known that, at best these gatherings can but recommend, and we have grown tired of recommendations. We want to have something definite to show for our work when we conclude our meetings, and with these meetings we have only a collection of more or less profitable addresses.

What shall take the place of the conference? There is nothing in sight so far, but when the need for a substitute becomes pressing it will be supplied. What is needed just now seems to be the opportunity to rest. There are some of our workers who have spent more time they can well afford in attendance upon these gatherings. Energy that might have accomplished something if directed to practical ends has been dissipated in talk that may have been good at the time, but whose influence has long since passed. These reflections are not the result of observations at the conference just closed, but have their origin in observations of a series of conventions that have been held during the past two years.

The week has also been marked by the toleration of the semi-jubilee of the Rev. Dr. Milligan, minister of Old St. Andrew's, Toronto. It was in October, twenty-five years ago that Dr. Milligan preached his first sermon to the Old St. Andrew's congregation, then worshipping in the old church considerably nearer the centre of the City. His first sermon was preached to a congregation of about sixty people, the membership being less than fifty at that time. Preacher and people have greatly changed since then. Some years ago Dr. Milligan gave his people the same sermon that he preached that first Sunday. It was written carefully and he read the manuscript. Sometimes he would pause, and smile at a particularly exuberant passage. He does not preach that way now.

Dr. MacLaren introduced the new minister to the Old St. Andrew's congregation twenty-five years ago, and he preached again in Old St. Andrew's last Sunday morning. In the evening Dr. Milligan himself preached, and seriously enough chose the same text from which he preached twenty-five years ago. The sermon was not the same, and a comparison of the two sermons would be one of the most interesting bits of historical criticism this country affords. Between the two a man has grown, not to his full stature, for Dr. Milligan has not done with life yet, but to the maturity of his powers.

On Tuesday evening the congregation gave a reception in honor of their pastor. It was a delightful evening, and those who had been invited to share its social warmth could not but rejoice with the minister and his people. During the evening there was presented to the minister, a beautiful set of pulpit robes. This was a gift from the ladies of the congregation through their Ladies' Aid. Then a beautiful oil portrait, by Forster, was unveiled by the Hon. Geo. W. Ross, one of the members of session in Old St. Andrew's, who also read an address from the congregation expressive of the appreciation in which Dr. Milligan is held and loved for his work's sake. The address was a handsome work of art in itself, but it will be prized by the pastor because of the warm words of kindly appreciation it contains. Dr. Milligan made a happy reply, full of feeling, and gratefully expressing his indebtedness to his beloved people, and to the many who had helped him with their sympathy, and their kindly counsel. After twenty-five years the bonds that bind the Old St. Andrew's people and their minister

have grown strong and tender. May it be long years before the messenger who bids us all rest shall sever them. We want such men with us. We may not always agree with them, with what strong man do we at all times agree, but they stimulate us to better things.

Eastern Ontario.

Rev. Dr. Robertson, Superintendent of Missions in the Northwest preached in St. John's church, Brockville, on Sunday last.

Rev. A. G. Sinclair, Port Hope, took part in the services in the Presbyterian church for the first time in three months last Sunday.

Rev. J. L. Miller, of Finch, occupied the pulpit of the Presbyterian church, Avonmore, on Sunday last, while Rev. Mr. Weir preached in Finch.

On November 3rd the congregation of Knox Church, Beckwith, will hold their anniversary services. Rev. Dr. Scrimiger, of Montreal, will preach.

Rev. H. H. Turner, B. D., son of Mr. James Turner, of Appleton, conducted the service in St. Andrew's church, Carleton Place, on a recent Sunday evening.

The anniversary of St. Andrew's church, Brighton, will be held on the 3rd of Nov. The services will be conducted by the Rev. Mr. Reeves, of Campbellford.

The anniversary of St. Andrew's Church, Brighton, will be held on the first Sabbath in November. The Rev. Mr. Reeves, of Campbellford, will preach morning and evening.

The Rev. Jas. Robertson, D. D., the veteran superintendent of Presbyterian Home Missions in the North west and British Columbia, visited Brockville last Sabbath and preached in St. John's church in the morning and in First church in the evening.

Rev. Mr. Fowle, of Grafton, preached his farewell sermon on Sunday, 13th inst. The congregation is very much grieved to lose him, as he has been a faithful worker in the church in this vicinity for the past few months. His loving and cheering words have been a help.

Rev. H. H. Turner, B. D., of Appleton, has left for Montreal, from whence he will sail on Saturday for Edinburgh, Scotland, to take a postgraduate course in the Edinburgh Presbyterian Seminary. Mr. Turner expects to spend eight or nine months in the Old Country, and we wish him a successful career and a safe return to his native land.

At a meeting of the Presbytery of Glengarry held on Thursday last, Rev. Jas. Hastie, of Cornwall, accepted a call from Okotoka, Calgary Presbytery, Alberta, and he is to be released from his present charge on Nov. 17th. A call was also presented to Mr. Hastie from Gore Bay, Algoma Presbytery, which he declined.

At the last meeting of Lanark and Renfrew Presbytery Rev. A. A. Scott for the Presbytery's Home Mission Committee, and Rev. J. Hay for the Committee on Augmentation, presented facts and figures on the condition and prospects of those two schemes. The members of the Court and the churches throughout the Presbytery were invited to special diligence in the interest of these two departments of the Church's work in Canada.

Rev. James Hastie has resigned the pastorate of Knox church and accepted a call to Okotoka, Alberta. He expects to leave for his new charge early in November. Rev. Mr. Hastie has taken the step in consequence of Mrs. Hastie's health, physicians advising that a change of climate was imperative in her case. The people of Cornwall generally, and Knox church in particular, deeply regret Mr. Hastie's departure. He has been pastor of Knox church here for the past 16 years and has been very prominent in church work, and two years ago was moderator of the synod.

The Young People's Societies of the different churches in Carleton Place, held a union meeting in the basement of St. Andrews. President Latimer, of St. Andrews, occupied the chair. Rev. A. A. Scott opened with prayer, Miss Cross reading the scripture lesson. Special music was provided by Zion and the Methodist societies. The Rev. J. D. Ellis addressed the meeting, taking as his topic, "Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord." His address was simple and straightforward, so that none need miss his message. Mr. Woodside suggested the organization of a

local Union, to meet at stated times, which on motion of Mr. Ellis was transferred to a committee of three from each society to consider and report on. The meeting, which was largely attended, was a most enjoyable one, and closed with the Mizpah benediction.

The remains of the late Rev. Kenneth MacLennan were laid to rest in Cataract cemetery, Kingston, on Saturday afternoon. Rev. M. MacGillivray, of Chalmers church, assisted by Rev. J. Mackie, of St. Andrew's church, and Rev. J. Fairlie, conducted the burial services. At the Sunday evening service in Chalmers church, Rev. Mr. MacGillivray paid a tribute to the dead minister. For over thirty years he had known the late Mr. MacLennan, who was one of the early students of Queen's College, graduating in arts in 1849, and being ordained to the ministry of the Church of Scotland when twenty years of age. He was thus within one year of his jubilee as a servant of the church when death took him. Mr. MacLennan was a man greatly beloved by the different people over whom he ministered. He was a clever student and an able preacher. At the time of the Presbyterian union he was speaking in the assembly in Toronto, and one of his sentences was always remembered by Mr. MacGillivray. It was this: "There is a sense in which man's first and highest homage is due to himself." That statement did not meet with the approval of many narrow-minded clergymen, but the fearless preacher stood his ground. In memory of the faithful minister, passed to the communion of the saints, the hymn, "Sleep Thy Last Sleep," was sung.

Ottawa.

The anniversary services in St. Paul's church, will be held on December 8th, and will be conducted by Rev. Prof. Jordan, of Queen's. Elders were nominated at a congregational meeting last week.

The Ladies' Aid Society of Erskine Presbyterian church has adopted a new method of visiting, with a view to making the members of the congregation better acquainted with one another. The congregational bounds which extend from Huntburg to Kent street, is divided into six districts, and every Presbyterian family is visited by the committee assigned to that district, the committees being changed every two months. The plan seems to work very well, and the ladies are delighted with it.

The Ladies of Mackay church held a unique and enjoyable social in the Sunday school hall last week which was largely attended. Rev. Norman McLeod presided. Rev. D. M. Ramsay gave an address on "Lessons from the Animals." Miss Rankin gave a recitation, and vocal solos were rendered by Miss Askwith and Mrs. Barnes. The ladies in charge were Mrs. Barron, Mrs. A. McGinnis, Mrs. B. Slinn, Mrs. S. Ralph, Mrs. J. C. Gordon, Mrs. A. C. Elliott, Miss Sleeman, Miss McLean and Miss Reid.

The Woman's Home Missionary Society of St. Andrew's church gave a very pleasant tea in the church parlors, in the interests of the missions which they are maintaining in the Swan River Valley. The president, Mrs. Herridge, gave an interesting account of the work of the society since it was organized fourteen years ago, and read some letters from Swan River. One was from the missionary, Rev. Mr. Johnson, and asked for help for two new churches, one at Bowsman, and the other at Minotons. Alluding to what the ladies had already done, Mr. Johnson said that the Swan River Presbytery was largely the result of their labors. Mrs. Herridge also read a letter from a member of the church which the St. Andrew's ladies built last year, expressing their great appreciation of the help received from Ottawa. A collection in aid of the two churches was taken. The president's address was preceded by a short musical programme, consisting of piano solos by Miss Orme and Miss Chrysler, and songs by Mrs. Gilbert Allan and Mr. Cecil Bethune, and at the conclusion of the programme, refreshments were served, the tea being poured by Mrs. W. G. Perley and Mrs. McDougall. Among those present were: Rev. Dr. Herridge, Sir James and Lady Grant, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Eddy, Mr. and Mrs. P. Larmonth, Mrs. R. Brown, Mrs. J. W. Robertson, Mrs. Levi Crannell, Miss Crannell, Dr. Stewart, Mrs. Gilliland, Mrs. W. C. Guleck, Mrs. C. C. Ray, Mrs. J. C. Glashan, Miss Mary MacKay Scott, Mrs. Charlotte Ross, Mr. N. McLeod, Mr. Lyle Reid, Mrs. T. Burgess, Mr. James Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Alexander, Mrs. Harvey and Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Fraser.