

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

Returning missionaries are being waylaid as they pass through Toronto, and interviewed as to their experiences in China and their impressions of the present crisis. The answers given to the reporters, and in public addresses, vary considerably, but most of them lay much of the blame for the present state of affairs on the Roman Catholic missionaries, and upon the greed of the other nations for certain portions of China. With regard to the future there seems almost an unanimity of opinion, that the only hope for the future of China is that it shall disappear as a nation, if one may be allowed such a bull, and become a part of the several nations now looking at it with greedy eyes. That does not sound very well from the lips of a Christian missionary, but one must remember that some of these were in danger of their lives recently, and after all missionaries are human.

The great business of life during August is to get as much amusement as possible, and those whose business it is to amuse are here in great numbers. The grand finale is of course at the Toronto Exhibition, after which we are prepared to settle down to work once more. The round of amusements has been wider than ever this summer, and has not increased in moral tone. Many of them have not been positively vicious, but they have been silly, merely aiming to tickle the passing fancy. They are not the best agencies for the education of the youth, who so numerously patronize them. But most of these young people are free from restraint, being part of the great army that comes into the city to earn daily bread and begin the climb to success. One of the problems which those who have the interests of these young people at stake must solve, is how to win them away from the attractions such amusements put in their way.

One of the strong denominations has decided to enter the lists with those who cater for the amusement of the young. A club-house has been purchased, and fitted up with appliances that shall meet the desire for amusement, and shall not shock the sensibilities of the Christian public. The experiment is still too much of an experiment to pass an opinion upon it, but on the face of it the plan seems reasonable. Why should the saloon and dance-house have a monopoly of those things that serve to attract the youth of our cities. These attractions are often used to cover up the positive vice to which they are made the lure. Why should they be so constantly associated with vice. In themselves they are not vicious, but have been so consistently used to lure to vice that they have come under the ban. The experiment of the Methodist Church in Toronto will be watched with interest.

The ministers are coming back again from their vacation, and their church members are following them more tardily. Well-browned faces and robust figures are seen on the streets, and one may count the scowling faces on the fingers of one hand. The good humor of the returning campers and voyagers communicates itself to others, and for the time we are all glad-natured. In the course of the next fortnight the old hard look will be back again, and men who now stop to chat on the street will hurry past with a curt "good-day." What a pity every fourth, or even every seventh week could not be devoted to travel and rest. Men would still be able to make enough to live upon, and life would mean so much more.

The Cumberland and Rockland Presbyterians are making notable progress under the pastoral care of Rev. Mr. McIntyre. The places of worship are as a rule full of worshippers, and the high esteem in which Mr. McIntyre is held by his people is an indication of his faithful and sympathetic leadership. The Manse at Cumberland has been repaired at a cost of \$300.

The social under the auspices of the Ladies Aid of the Presbyterian church, held at the residence of Mr. Colborne Nesbitt, Aylmer, on Wednesday evening of last week, proved to be a great success. The proceeds amounted to about \$18. Revs. J. McNicol and T. A. Nelson were present.

The pulpit of Stanley Street Church, Montreal, will be occupied on the next two Sabbaths by the Rev. Neil McPherson, pastor of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, Ont.

Next ordinary meeting of Presbytery of Kingston, in St. Andrew's Church Kingston, on Tuesday, 18th September, at 2 p.m.

Western Ontario.

Rev. S. G. Livingston, B.A., Burns' Church, has been called to Alvinston.

Mr. J. F. Johnstone, B.A., a graduate of Knox has been preaching by acceptance at Arthur.

Rev. J. J. Elliott, of Midland, and his family are spending part of their vacation with the Rev. A. Mc. D. Haig, Smithville.

Rev. F. G. Thomson, M.A., Hamilton, has been preaching in the North Presbyterian Church, Milton Grove, with much acceptance.

Rev. Mr. Anderson, pastor of the Presbyterian church, Milverton, exchanged pulpits with Rev. W. M. Haig, pastor of Knox church, Millbank.

Rev. A. Henderson, M.A., Toronto, and a former pastor of the Monkton Presbyterian church, preached two very acceptable sermons here last Sunday.

The pulpit of the Presbyterian church, St. George, was occupied last Sabbath by Mr. McQueen, of Kirkwall, in the absence of the Rev. Mr. Ross, who is holidaying in Beaverton.

Rev. Joseph Hamilton, of Mimico, who has the faculty of presenting the truth tersely and attractively, has been preaching a series of Sunday evening sermons on "Many Young Men of the Bible."

Rev. S. M. Marsh, B.D., pastor of Douglas Park Church, Chicago, is visiting his brother Rev. D. B. Marsh, Hamilton. Mr. Marsh has declined the call to the Presbyterian Church, Dobbinton, Presbytery of Bruce.

Rev. Dr. Dickson, Galt, has returned from his vacation, and occupied the pulpit of the central church on Sunday. In Knox church the venerable Dr. Paton, preached in the morning, and Rev. Erskine Knowles in the evening.

Rev. R. A. Mitchell, who went from Elora to China, is one of the six missionaries from the Canadian Church who are to remain in or near Pekin to watch developments of the war, while the others return to their homes in Canada.

Rev. Mr. McIntosh, and family, Elora, are taking a three weeks' holiday in the vicinity of Lucknow. Rev. Dr. Moffatt, Toronto, supplied his pulpit last Sunday, and, it is understood, union service with Chalmers will be held the next two weeks.

Mr. Grant, a missionary from China, preached in Melville church, Fergus, on Sunday morning. Mr. MacVicar filling his own pulpit at night and giving an excellent sermon. Mr. Wilson, a student occupied St. Andrew's, in the absence of Mr. Mullan on holidays. Mr. Harvey is also enjoying a rest.

Guelph Mercury: Rev. David Junior, Station Island, a suburb of New York City, is in town visiting old time residents. It is 28 years ago since he left the stone town to study for the Presbyterian ministry, and he finds on his return visit here a great many changes. The stone town has greatly improved in fine buildings, but a great many familiar faces have passed away to that bourne whence no traveller returns.

St. Thomas Journal: Rev. W. J. Knox, B.A., the young minister who has accepted a call to the pastorate of St. Andrew's Church, Strathroy, occupied the pulpit of Knox Church on Sunday, and will remain here for two more Sundays. The reverend gentleman's sermons on Sunday showed that the Strathroy Presbyterians have secured a worthy successor to the talented ministers who have preceded him in the pulpit of St. Andrew's. Mr. Knox is a native of St. Mary's, and is a brother of Mrs. Agnes Knox-Black, the well-known reader.

The Guelph Mercury, in mentioning the visit of Rev. John Wilkie, the well-known missionary to Indore, India, says: In a month from now he will return to India to resume his work. He will leave Mrs. Wilkie and his family in Toronto. Mr. Wilkie is an old Guelph boy, and by way of reminder, it will be interesting to the congregation of Knox church to state that it will be 21 years ago, on the 10th of September, since he was ordained to the ministry in Knox church here—and the only boy belonging to the church that has been ordained in that edifice. Mr. Wilkie notes with pleasure the improvements that are being made in the old church, where he was wont to worship, but also has a feeling of regret that the old seat on which he used to sit will be removed. Such are the changes of time. Mr. Wilkie's many friends here, the Presbyterian church generally and the catholic church universally will wish him continued success in his labors.

Rev. H. H. McPherson preached two very acceptable sermons at Knox church, Stratford, last Sunday to fair sized congregations. His morning text was on the blessedness of the peacemaker, and in the evening he spoke of Christ as the bread of life.

The cornerstone of Knox church, Guelph, was re-laid in a quiet manner on the 21st inst. Owing to the extensive enlargement and improvement of the church, the cornerstone laid in 1868 will have a new location, and the documents placed therein to-day will bring the history of the church up to date. It will be a matter of satisfaction to the congregation, says the Mercury, that the records of 1847 and the records of 1868 can be preserved with the records of 1900 in the enlarged church. Mr. J. I. Hobson presided, and, after a few remarks, explaining the object of their meeting, called upon Rev. Dr. Torrance to read the 132nd Psalm. The chairman and Mr. Scrimgeour attended to the placing of the jars of documents in the stone, while Contractor Redwood made the stone ready. Mr. A. W. Alexander, chairman of the Board of Management, then presented Mrs. Ross, wife of the pastor of the church, with a handsome silver trowel, suitably engraved, and she declared the stone well and truly laid. Rev. Dr. Torrance followed with a dedicatory prayer, and afterwards spoke feelingly with reference to the past history of the church, and the promise of the future, exhorting the elders and managers and congregation to the continuance of the worship and service of God in their enlarged edifice. Rev. Thos. Eakin, M. A., of St. Andrew's, closed the proceedings with the benediction.

Ottawa and Vicinity.

Prof. Prince, of Ottawa, is in St. Andrews by the sea, engaged in work in connection with the biological station.

At the recent regular meeting of the Presbytery of Ottawa, standing committees for the year were appointed, of which the following are conveners: Church Life and Work, Rev. T. A. Sadler, B.A.; Sabbath Schools, Rev. R. Eadie; Home Missions, Rev. Dr. Armstrong; French Evangelization, Rev. Wm. Patterson, B.A.; Statistics, Rev. Jas. Taylor, B.A.; Examination for License and Ordination, Rev. D. M. Ramsay, B.D.; Students Exercises; Rev. Wm. Patterson, B.A.; Church Property, Rev. Dr. Moore; Young People's Societies, Rev. John McNicol, B.A.; Augmentation, Rev. D. M. Ramsay, B.D.; Supply of Vacancies, Rev. Dr. Campbell; Foreign Missions, Rev. J. D. Morrison, B.A.

On Sabbath 12th inst., there was no service in the Carp Presbyterian Church, Mr. McGillivray being unwell, but the daughters of Mr. Hugh Gourley, elder, turned their private Sunday school, held at 3 p.m., into a meeting at their house, where two clergymen were visiting. Children, parents and friends around assembled in force. M. de Genere, a young Italian convert from Montreal, preached in English on, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation," eloquently pleading with them on the greatness of the favor, the fine opportunity of securing it, the honor to God and the good to themselves in performing the duty, the great danger of the neglect, impossibility of escaping the punishment. He then requested Mr. Gourley of Ottawa to conclude. His remarks were on the duties now of the Anglo-Saxon race, mostly reformers for three centuries, including Germans, Britons, Americans and others, to evangelise as well as civilise the anti-Christian and un-Christian nations. He stated as encouraging that now there were reported as many professing Christians in British India as were in all the world at the end of the third century. For this Americans, with all their political speeches against Britain, were actively engaged as co-workers. Japhet is dwelling in tents of Shem and South African Ham must soon become Christian. China, whose threats from the highest authority have recently horrified civilized man, must be compelled to be rational. Her boasted antique civilization is not merely antiquated, but is now proved to be no civilization—that nothing can save these tameless father nations of lives, these degenerate deceivers but the Inspired Word, through the instrumentality of those who hold the strongest form of Christianity, from destruction, municipal, physical, intellectual, moral and religious. The command given to the church to disciple all nations must be carried out by those identified with the church, as well in their own self defence as in obedience to the high command. The meeting was very enjoyable and profitable.

ONE WHO WAS THERE.