

a short programme was rendered in the auditorium and the annual event was pleasantly over.

"A grand Christmas Festival which," says the Dundalk Herald "many hope will be an annual event, was given by the Sabbath school of Erskine Presbyterian church on Thursday evening, December 21st. There was a large attendance. The choir was occupied by the new pastor, Rev. James Buchanan, who referred to the fact that the church was a family and a home, and he was the father of the family, and therefore he was glad to meet his children for the first time, and wished them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He said that he wanted Presbyterian children to attend their own church and Sabbath school, and as they were the future church members, the church desired to feed with the bread of life her own little ones, so that they might grow up with a deep love for our noble Presbyterian church. The programme, which contained twenty-four numbers, was splendidly rendered. At the close many valuable gifts were distributed by our never-to-be forgotten children's friend, Santa Claus."

MONTREAL.

Archbishop Bruchesi, speaking of the war in his New Year sermon, referred sympathetically to Britain as "the powerful nation, whose flag protects us and ensures our liberties."

Mrs. Stewart, the wife of the pastor of the La Guerre church, was presented with a purse of money shortly after Christmas in recognition of the work she has done for the Sunday School since her arrival at La Guerre.

Numerous appreciative references have been made to Mr. Moody and his work in Montreal pupils since his death. At a meeting held on Sunday afternoon in the Y.M.C.A. hall the Rev. T. S. McWilliams reviewed his early life, and the Rev. Dr. Mackay, the Rev. Canon Dixon, Mr. Hague, Mr. Budge, and Mr. J. R. Bell also read tributes to his memory.

Prof. D. P. Penhallow, of McGill University, has been elected president of the society for Plant Morphology and Physiology, one of the affiliated societies which have been holding a convention at New Haven, Conn.

The gathering of Presbyterian Sunday School children in Erskine Church this year was large, about three thousand being present. Dr. Scrimger, vice-president of the association, presided, and addresses were delivered by the Rev. Dr. A. B. MacKay and the Rev. W. T. Morrison. Mr. David Morrice telegraphed greetings from New Jersey. The French and Chinese singing was greatly appreciated by the other scholars.

The annual soiree of the Montreal Annex Presbyterian Sunday School was addressed by the Rev. W. D. Reid, who related many interesting incidents in connection with his trip to the Holy Land.

Mrs. Peter Redpath, of the Manor House, Chislehurst, England, has intimated to the governor of McGill University her desire to make such provision for the increased need of accommodation in the Redpath Library of the University, built by her late husband, as will, when carried into effect, probably double the size of the building. The proposition is to provide from four to five miles of new shelving.

The Presbyterian ministers of the city and suburbs will make a general exchange of pulpits on Sunday, Jan. 21. The scheme has been arranged by the Presbyterian Ministerial Association.

The Rev. E. H. Mackenzie, B.A., B.D., was on Thursday evening of last week inducted into the pastorate of St. Matthew's church as successor to the Rev. W. R. Crinkshank. The Rev. E. Scott presided, the Rev. H. J. MacDiarmid preached, the Rev. H. I. Mowatt addressed the minister, and the Rev. W. D. Reid addressed the congregation. On Friday evening a social was held by the congregation for the reception of the new pastor.

The Melville Church trouble reached its crisis at the conference of the Presbytery and the congregation on Friday evening. There will be two Presbyterian Churches in Westmount.

The week of prayer was inaugurated on Sunday by an interdenominational exchange of pulpits.

MARITIME PROVINCES.

The new Presbyterian Church at Amherst will be opened next Sabbath, 11th Jan.

St. Andrew's Church, Pictou, (anti-union), has contributed \$100 to the Korean Mission.

St. David's Church, Maitland, has added \$100 to its pastor's salary, Rev. S. J. McArthur.

St. Andrew's Church, Pictou, presented its pastor, Rev. W. T. D. Moss, with a handsome gold watch last Friday evening.

The congregation of Merigomish presented their pastor, Rev. J. A. Campbell, last week with a sum of money with which to purchase a fur coat to his own taste.

The new Presbyterian Church at Amherst, N.S., will be opened on Jan. 14th. The pews have arrived and everything is now nearly completed for the putting of them in position.

Last Sunday at St. Andrew's Church, Truro, N.S., the pastor, Rev. R. G. Strathie, preached one of the series of sermons to young men. The subject was "The Young Man's Temptations."

Rev. J. A. McLean, of St. John's Church, Chatham, N.B., was presented on the evening of Dec. 30th, by the Trustee Board, with a beautiful racoon coat, as a mark of their appreciation of his services.

Rev. P. M. McDonald preached his farewell sermon at Wolfville, N.S., on Dec. 31st. The ladies presented Mrs. McDonald with a purse of \$80. Mr. and Mrs. McDonald proceed shortly to the old country.

The Presbytery of Miramichi has dealt with the remits from the General Assembly. It approves of enlarging the powers of Synods and disapproves of any change in the method of electing the moderator of the General Assembly.

Rev. Dr. Fraser, of Richibucto, N.B., has been remembered at the gift-bestowing season by both sections of his congregation. The Kingston C. E. Society gave him a purse and a study chair and the Richibucto Endeavors added a purse of \$26 in gold.

Rev. F. W. Murray, Milltown, N.B., was treated to a surprise party on New Year's night. A very pleasant evening was spent and a dinner set, a sum of money and a large supply of groceries were left at the manse to remind the occupants of the esteem and affection in which they are held.

St. Stephen's Church, St. John, held a special service on Christmas morning. The hymns, &c., were printed in a neat and tasteful booklet. The choir was "manned" by the Boys' Brigade in uniform and Rev. Dr. Morrison, of St. David's Church, preached an earnest and eloquent sermon on "Christmas Victories."

The Montrose, N.S., manse was invaded last Friday evening by a large force of old and young and the pastor, Rev. A. D. Macdonald was presented with an address and a large assortment of useful articles, which included a dinner set, dining chairs, sleigh robes, parlor lamp, blankets, table linen, &c. That New Year's visit will be long remembered by all parties concerned.

A Letter From China.

DEAR FRIEND:

The church in Canada has agreed to aid the Society for the Diffusion of Christian and General Knowledge in China, and so all missionary societies, by sending me to Shanghai, "the Athens of China," to engage in furthering the kingdom of God in this land. Though "the call" has been voiced by the Society, and though I expect to work in closest union with its workers, I am not the servant of that Society; I am still the missionary of the church in Canada, your servant for Christ's sake. Possessing therefore freedom of action, I do not feel myself bound to apply myself to the whole programme of the Society. But to explain, consider the name—The Society for the Diffusion of Christian and General Knowledge in China. The word Christian comes first in the name, and I believe pervades all the work of the Society. For my own part, however, I do not propose to touch the General Knowledge department. I say this without any prejudice against those who have translated books on Euclid, algebra, conic sections, etc., for the Chinese. If they have been called to do so, then God can use their work and glorify His name just as in all lands the work of the Christian educationalist is acknowledged to have a most important place in the church's work; for my own part I have so far felt no call to do such work (and indeed the Society does not publish such work), and my object will be to use Christian literature, as I have hitherto used my voice, to convey God's message to China's millions—to know nothing among men but Christ and Him crucified.

It is sometimes queried: Do you expect to convert China in bulk? to which I reply that, while hitherto additions to the church have been comparatively few and slow, causing us to think that God's

power to convert is limited to scattered individuals, there is nothing either in Scripture or history to show that such will always be the case. Have we not read the words of prophecy, Who are these that fly as a cloud and as the doves to their windows? with many other like passages, foretelling the time when God will work not in the few, but the many. "All nations shall flow into it." Isa. ii. 2.

The work of the Society is: 1. To show that man's heart must be changed if he (and the nation) is to be saved. 2. To show that, if his heart is changed, there is escape from a present hell. There are blessings here and now for those who believe on Jesus. The aim is not merely 1. Diffusion of light, or 2. Removal of prejudice which bars the light, though it has these aims also, but 3. The entrance of the light that saves into individual souls, with a strong faith that God can and will thus speedily glorify His name by the use of the Press as well as by the use of the human voice.

In pursuance of the grand object, its periodical literature (the two Reviews) came forward as a most powerful factor in the missionary forces, whose combined resultant was that splendid series of reform edicts which startled the whole world. Foreign governments in China have done as little for the reform of the government as they have done in Turkey. They are fighting for commerce and not for reform. It is to the missionaries in the Society and out of it that those edicts were due. It was the editor of the Society's Review of the Times who published a History of the war with Japan from a Christian standpoint, pointing out the true causes of China's failure. Indeed, in this kind of work most missionaries do not feel at liberty to suggest reforms for fear of being charged with political aims. The Society differs in this respect. It occupies a vantage ground. Its organs and general work have received recognition from high Chinese officials. It is not the organ of any particular denomination or country. Its cosmopolitan character frees it from the suspicion of ulterior designs.

Doubtless to some it will appear as if I had left evangelistic for literary or educational work, and in so doing have descended. In the first place literary work (including Bible translation) is indispensable to evangelistic work, and in the next place, with the help of God, I mean to make my literary work evangelistic.

What then were the elements in the call?

1. A vastly enlarged audience. It is speaking to a million.

2. Books live after you. W. C. Burns, being dead, yet speaketh in China. He translated "The Peep of Day" and "Pilgrim's Progress." The same is true of Wm. Milne; his "Two Friends" is one of the most popular tracts to this day. It will be my holy ambition and prayerful hope that, after I am gone, there will be something left to go on speaking.

3. To every man his work. What is the best investment of the talents in which Christ has told us to occupy till He comes? If par. of one's talent is laid up in a napkin, is that not as much a sin as the whole?

4. China, in spite of set-backs, is in the balance. The unextinguishable demand for books which was witnessed at the time of the reform edicts, only shows what may break out again at any moment, when she that now lets, is taken out of the way. More should be done to meet the emergency. The call came, and the church has nobly responded.

This move has been called a new mission. In a sense it is, i.e., the work is new; but I hope to be still more than a nominal member of the Honan Presbytery. Distance and lack of communication will, until the railroad is built, of course, prevent attendance at Presbytery meetings; but I think that through the mails, the members in Honan can help me, and I will do my best to help them. Besides it is even conceivable that special needs should arise in Honan, leading me back again.

What, then, is necessary to true success in my new sphere?

1. That I should always receive a Spirit-inspiring message, so that each word I write shall indeed be not with the wisdom of man, but in demonstration of the Spirit and with power.

2. That readers should be moved by the same Spirit to attend unto the word spoken with hearts which the Lord hath opened.

3. That therefore prayer should be unceasingly made to the Master Himself that I should have the tongue of the learned, and that men and women may be born again.

In order to secure a more intelligent interest in "The New Mission" and to ask the prayers of the church, I have sent out this statement for your earnest attention.

Yours in the Gospel of Christ,

DONALD MCGILLIVRAY.

880 Honan Road, Shanghai, China.