

CHURCH
WORK

Ministers and Churches

NEWS
LETTERS

MONTREAL AND QUEBEC.

Rev. R. Atkinson, of Chelsea, Ont., was the preacher in Crescent street church, last Sunday.

On Christmas Eve the Rev. J. R. MacLeod of St. Andrew's Church, Three Rivers, was made the recipient of a Morris chair, of the very best make, by the Ladies' Aid of the congregation.

At a largely attended meeting of St. Andrew's church, Chateaugay, under the preaching of Rev. J. C. Nicholson, it was decided to secure a site and build a new church. With these objects in view a strong committee was appointed. The first definite step having thus been decided upon, it is felt that with a united effort the erection of the new church will be found a pleasing and not overburdensome task. With the serving of refreshments by the ladies of the congregation a meeting fraught with great importance was pleasantly closed.

The Christmas term of the Pointe aux Trembles Schools closed auspiciously. Successful examinations were passed by the pupils, some of whom will go to their homes for their Christmas holidays, whilst a large number who came from a distance will remain at the school. The Pointe aux Trembles institutions are developing in various directions, keeping abreast with many of the best schools of the province. Students are prepared for matriculation in the universities. Principal Brandt and his experienced staff of teachers are doing excellent work.

A course of manual training has been established, and the teacher is very much gratified with the results of the work. This winter a printing establishment has been added to the school, and the first number of the school paper has just been issued. It bears the name, 'La Feuille de Tremble,' and is a chronicle of the institution. The winter term will begin on Jan. 4.

Sir William Macdonald, of Montreal, has done some great things, of which the greatest of course is the creation of the Macdonald College at Ste. Anne de Bellevue. His latest benefaction is characteristic of the man, showing his far-sighted determination to do what will have great results, even if the act itself seems comparatively modest. He is sending a copy of "The Letters of Queen Victoria," just published in popular form by the King's Command, to nearly 1,000 rural schools in the Province of Quebec. He rightly considers that the inspiration and information contained in that extraordinary work will act like seed of the finest quality, sown first in the teacher's mind, passed on by the teacher in a form which children can receive.

Rev. A. J. Mann, B.A., of Woodville, preached anniversary sermons at Glenarm, Rev. Mr. Ferguson taking the Woodville pulpit in exchange.

St. Andrew's Church, Fenelon Falls, has greatly prospered since the induction of the present minister, Rev. C. S. Lord, B.D. Every department of its activities has felt the impulse of new methods and a new life, but special progress has been made along missionary lines. Last week the members of the congregation assembled in large numbers and expressed their hearty appreciation of Mr. and Mrs. Lord, and presented the former with a splendid fur-lined coat and the latter with a purse of money.

WESTERN ONTARIO.

The next meeting of Chatham Presbytery will be held in St. Andrew's church, Chatham, on 2nd March.

Rev. Mr. Martin, of Toronto, is announced as pulpit supply for the ensuing three months in the Point Edward church.

Rev. James Barber, of Embro, preached anniversary sermons in the Dorchester church recently. The receipts of the social on the Monday evening amounted to \$150.

Rev. F. O. Nichol, of Cargill, has been lecturing at Clifford on Canada's Earliest Inhabitants, the Indian. The local press speaks in high terms of the lecture.

Rev. W. J. Booth, of Blenheim, has accepted the call to Hornby, and Rev. R. B. Cochrane, of Woodstock, has been appointed interim moderator of the vacant charge.

The next regular meeting of Paris Presbytery will be held in Knox church, Woodstock, on January 12th, when a conference in connection with the Y. P. societies of the Presbytery will be held.

At the last meeting of Saugeen Presbytery, following addresses on the Men's Missionary movement, it was decided to recommend the formation of Mission Associations where such were not already in existence.

The Mitchell Square correspondent of the Orillia Packet says: The Rev. Mr. McKee, of Beaverton, preached in the Central church last Sunday afternoon. He preached a rousing good sermon, and we shall be glad to have him with us again.

The anniversary services of Bethel church passed off successfully notwithstanding the unfavorable weather. Rev. Wm. Cooper of Westminster church, Mount Forest, was the preacher on the occasion. The social on Monday evening realized \$60.00. The Rev. D. Currie presided.

Mr. T. C. Somerville, B.A., Modern Language Master in the St. Mary's Collegiate Institute, on the eve of his leaving for Brockville, was tendered a farewell banquet by the men of First Presbyterian church, at which many kind things were said of the guest. The local paper remarks that St. Mary's loss will be Brockville's gain.

The annual Sunday school entertainment of the Hamilton Road Mission, London, was a decided success. Rev. James Rollins acted as chairman, and announced a varied and interesting programme. During the evening Miss Stannard, the organist, was presented with a well-filled purse as an acknowledgement of her valued services during the year.

Mr. T. W. Gibson, Deputy Minister of Mines, Toronto, speaking at the annual banquet of the Men's Association of Knox church, Guelph, emphasized the importance of the weekly offering system for missions, instancing the case of five Toronto churches, composed mainly of working men, whose givings last year amounted to \$1,739, and which had this year so far, by means of the weekly offerings, contributed \$4,734. At the close of Mr. Gibson's address a resolution to the effect that Knox church Men's Association would aim at raising next year the sum of \$3,250 the congregations share of the fund was unanimously carried.

Rev. D. N. Morden, of St. Mary's, is preaching a series of highly useful discourses on the Epistle of Paul to the Philippians.

Two members of the choir of First Church, Galt, Mrs. Dickson of Hespeler, and Miss Ethel Healey, were made the recipients of pieces of china in grateful recognition of their services to the congregation.

Two large congregations attended the 70th anniversary services of the ordination and induction of Stratford's first settled minister, Rev. Daniel Allen, held in St. Andrew's church Sunday. Professor James Ballantyne of Knox College preached at both services. Rev. T. J. Thompson, the pastor, gave a short but interesting detailed history of the founding of the Presbyterian faith in Stratford. Mr. Thompson, in speaking of the early history, said that there are many reports that previous to the year 1835 there was a log church somewhere in this locality, which was at this time a practically trackless forest. The first proof of public worship having taken place in Stratford is found in the old records. In the years 1835 to 1840 the people (there were only forty odd souls) worshipped on the green slope where the present court house now stands, and which in years afterward was the site of the postoffice. When the weather was rough or otherwise inclement, these good people, to whom their worship was a never neglected practice, met in the barn and outbuildings of the Shakespear hotel. Records of baptisms and marriages conducted under the roof of the public house are shown in the early records of the church. If there had been a log church, there would have been no reason for them to have used the public house as a place of worship. The conjecture is not far astray when it is said that the Rev. Daniel Allen, who was inducted as a minister of this locality and that of Woodstock in the year 1838 was the first minister of the gospel in these parts. Mr. Allen was joint pastor of Stratford and Woodstock and was supposed to preach two Sundays of each month in each place. He had to travel from here to Woodstock through the mere track or path which served our forefathers as an exit to the outer world. Through mire and bramble, into creeks and rivers he was compelled to make his way eight times a month in every kind of weather. Rev. Mr. Allen remained in Stratford from the date of his induction, Nov. 21, 1838, for over 15 years. He afterwards was pastor of Allen's church in North Easthope, where after the advent of the Free church he would preach to his congregations of brawny Scotch in their native tongue, Gaelic. The old settlers used to walk the half dozen miles or more from Stratford to his kirk on Communion Sunday, when the service was always preached in Gaelic.

Rev. G. W. Mingie, of Lunenburg, was the preacher in the Cornwall Methodist church last Sunday.

At the recent induction of Rev. D. Stewart, B.A., at Alexandria the Moderator read to the congregation a letter received by Mr. John Simpson from their old pastor Rev. David MacLaren, now of Toronto, conveying congratulations both to Mr. Stewart and the congregation for the settlement effected so soon and expressing the hope that the new pastor will enjoy to the full the friendship of the congregation that he had experienced for a period of twenty-two years.