

Church News

[All communications to this column ought to be sent to the Editor immediately after the occurrences to which they refer have taken place.]

Montreal Notes.

The Rev W D Reid of Victoria church, has just returned from the Christian Endeavour convention at Washington, where he headed the delegation from Quebec as President of the Provincial Union. All the delegates seem to have been delighted with their reception in the American capital and are enthusiastic over the success of the gathering.

There is little doubt that the work of French evangelization is going to be greatly helped by recent events in the province of Quebec. The assertion of political liberty can hardly be made without carrying with it a spirit of greater independence and inquiry in regard to religious matters as well. Certain it is that in this respect things are already very different from what they were a few years ago. This is plainly indicated by reports of Colporteur work in a district some fifteen or twenty miles from Montreal. The Colporteur writes as follows. I found the people not so bigoted as they were ten years ago. This month we have been insulted only in a few houses, but ten years ago they throw stones at me and insulted me everywhere. This time if the priest had not spoken against us we would have sold many New Testaments. We spoke of the gospel with 112 families or individuals. We read part of it in 68, though we could pray only with ten of them. Another writes: Since the beginning of the month I have entered most of the houses alone, but met with very little opposition. I was glad to see in not a few houses a volume called "The Life of our Lord," sold by the Franciscan Brothers, containing the four gospels annotated. The notes closely resemble those of Bishop Baillargon in his version of the New Testament. This last item is interesting as showing that in districts where evangelic effort is being made by Protestants, the Roman Catholic authorities themselves are constrained now to encourage the circulation of the Scripture, in a form approved by them. If this were to become general the need for outside effort would largely pass away.

A form of evangelic effort which has been adopted by one Colporteur has met with such success that it suggests the possibility of great extension, viz: the use of the stereopticon with slides, representing gospel scenes. In a recent report he says: I had a good illustrated lecture at Joliette. About 100 Roman Catholics were present and seemed to be pleased. I emphasized the need of reading the Scriptures to see for themselves the truth, the free salvation in Christ who gives peace and joy.

One of the most interesting and successful French missions under the care of the Board, is that which was started a few years ago by the Students' Missionary Society in St Jean Baptiste, one of the suburbs of the city. The missionary at the present time is Mr E H Brandt, one of the graduates of last session. Two services are held every Sabbath with an attendance in the morning of from twenty-five to thirty, in the evening running up to forty-five. There is a Sabbath school of 20, and a good week night service, also a prosperous day school. The people themselves meet all the ordinary running expenses of the mission and contribute \$60 towards the missionary's salary. An effort is now being made to increase this amount and have the missionary ordained at an early date. The missionary has free access to many Roman Catholic families in the district and some are always present at his services.

General.

Presbytery of Kingston has granted translation of Rev. Mr Gray called to Selkirk, Presbytery of Winnipeg. Rev T J Thompson, of Belleville, has been appointed Moderator pro tem of Stirling to declare the pulpit there vacant

when report of Mr. Gray's induction to Selkirk is received.

Principal Grant of Queen's University, Canada, preached on Sunday, the 21st July, for the Rev David Macrae, of Dundee, Scotland, who was a fellow student with him in Glasgow College 40 years ago.

Induction of Rev. Mr. Claxton, called to St. Columba, and St. Paul, Madoc, is appointed to take place in St. Columba Church, Madoc, at 6 p. m., on the 21st inst. Mr. Moore to preach, Mr. Black to address the minister, and Mr. Martin the people.

During the vacation period, the following clergymen may be expected to occupy the pulpit of St. James' Square Church, Toronto: Rev. Alexander Brown, M. A., Glasgow, Scotland, on July 26th. Rev. W. G. Jordan, B. A., Strathroy, Ont., August 2nd and 9th. Rev. John McGillivray, B. D., Montreal, August 16th, and Rev. Joseph Hamilton, Mimico, August 23rd.

Mr. Riddell, stationed at Pierson, Assa., preached a memorial sermon in memory of the late J H Brown, a Presbyterian student, who was also stationed here. He took for his text, "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord." He was listened to attentively by a large audience. Mr McKay has arrived to take the place of the late J. H. Brown.

The corner-stone of the new Erskine Presbyterian Sunday School, Hamilton, was laid by Mrs. Shearer, wife of Rev. J. G. Shearer, pastor of Erskine Church. A large crowd was present and Rev. Dr. Bethour, Rev. J. G. Shearer, Rev. J. Gourley of Port Elgin, Revs. A. McWilliams, Dr. Fletcher, John Morton and Messrs. John Knox, John Crerar, Q.C., J. T. Middleton, M.P.P., and W. W. Buchanan took part in the services.

A fire which came nearly destroying Erskine Church, Toronto, broke out shortly after 10 o'clock last Friday morning. Some children were playing with matches in a shed in the rear of the church, and through their carelessness the building took fire. The rear of Erskine Church was damaged to the extent of \$50. Had it not been for the prompt appearance of the fire department Erskine Church might again have been destroyed by fire.

A meeting of the Presbyterian congregations of North Easthope and Hampstead was held in the North Easthope Church on Monday, the 11th inst. The pastorate of the congregation has been vacant for nearly two years and the meeting was called for the purpose of making a call. Some difficulty has been experienced in raising the salary \$750, which is required by the laws of the church, but a special dispensation has been received from presbytery by which a minister may be called at \$700 per annum. The meeting adjourned for six weeks without making a choice.

Prof. Ballantyne, who was recently appointed to one of the vacant professorships at Knox College was on Wednesday, July 15th present with a farewell address by his congregation of Knox church, Ottawa. At the close of the weekly prayer meeting Mr Macmillan and Mr. Cunningham made the presentation. The address which was read by Mr Macmillan was accompanied by a set of the latest edition of Chambers' Encyclopedia, a copy of the Standard Dictionary, and a silver inkstand. The address bore testimony to the success of Mr. Ballantyne's pastorate, to the steady growth in the prosperity, spiritual and temporal, of the congregation during the short time he had occupied the pulpit.

Knox church, Ottawa, was filled to the doors on July 12th, when Rev. Mr. Ballantyne, the retiring pastor of the church, preached his farewell sermon. The reverend gentleman's utterances were listened to with marked attention. At the conclusion of his sermon Rev. Mr. Ballantyne spoke of the work performed during his two years' pastorate, showing that the church had progressed and prospered during his incumbency. And in this connection it is not unworthy of remark that no little of his pastoral success, and of the profound regret felt by the congrega-

tion at his departure, is due to the scrupulous care observed by Rev. Mr. Ballantyne to avoid anything like party political references in his pulpit utterances. Rev. Mr. Ballantyne took his text from Philippians, iii., 13, 14. "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ."

There was a fair attendance of Sabbath School teachers on July 13th in the lecturo-room of the Bloor street Presbyterian church, when the third of the series of meetings under the auspices of the Toronto Primary Sabbath School Teacher's Union was held in this church, Mrs. Duncan, president of the Union, presided and after the meeting had been opened with prayer, Miss Edith Readman gave an illustration of the manner of teaching a new hymn to primary scholars, illustrating her remarks by blackboard sketches. Mr. Chard then taught the Bible lesson for the evening on "The ark brought to Jerusalem." The lesson was also illustrated by blackboard work. The illustrating of Bible lessons by blackboard drawing was then taken up by one of the teachers, and followed by a discussion as to the best method of so doing. The lessons and hymns at these meetings, which are to be held every Tuesday evening at a quarter to eight in the Bloor street Presbyterian church, are always taught as to a class of teachers, and these meetings have proved of great assistance to the Sabbath school teachers attending them.

Presbytery of Bruce.

The Presbytery of Bruce met at Southampton on Tuesday, the 14th inst., at 5 o'clock, p.m. Mr. E. A. McKenzie was appointed moderator for the ensuing six months. On motion of Mr. McQuarrie, a committee was appointed to consider the advisability of changing the method of appointing commissioners from this Presbytery to the General Assembly. A memorial was presented from a number of residents in and around Inverhuron asking that some arrangement might be made by the Presbytery whereby they might be supplied with religious services in Gaelic. It was agreed to send a commission of Presbytery with a view to effecting some arrangements whereby the Gaelic speaking people might be supplied with services without interfering with existing congregations. Mr. Bell gave notice that he will move at the next regular meeting of Presbytery for the consideration of making some arrangements whereby expenses of commissioners to Assembly may be paid out of a general fund. The standing committees were appointed for the year as follows, the name of each convener being here given. Home Missions, Mr. Iolmie; Sabbath School, Mr. J. C. Eckford; Statistics, Mr. Johnston; Superintendence of Students, Mr. McQuarrie; Systematic beneficence, Mr. Kippan; Finance, Mr. Fitzpatrick; Young Peoples' Societies, Mr. Guthrie; Church Life and Work, Mr. Craigie. Mr. McKenzie and Mr. Drumm were appointed to address the next annual meeting of the Women's Foreign Mission Society. The next regular meeting of Presbytery was appointed to be held in Paisley on the 8th of September at 1.30 p.m.—J. Johnston, Clerk.

Presbytery of Maitland.

This Presbytery met at Lucknow, June 30th, 1896. Rev. R. McLeod, moderator pro tem. There was a fair attendance of members. The special business before the court was the call to Rev. John Ross from Malagawatch and River Dennis, Cape Breton. N. S. Commissioners Messrs. Hugh Chambers and Alex. MacLean from the session and congregation of Ashfield and several of the members were present all of whom expressed their strong attachment to Mr. Ross as their pastor, and their regret if the issue of the call should be a severance of the pastoral tie. Mr. MacLeod presented the claims of the congregations calling Mr. Ross stated his mind and spoke of his ten-