

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

Anything connected with Knox College is sure in this stronghold of Presbyterianism to attract more or less public attention. Its opening and closing exercises, however, and probably also its annual "At Home," are occasions when public interest amongst Presbyterians in this school of the prophets culminates. Last Thursday evening the closing ceremonies for the session were held in College street church, that of which Rev. Alexander Gilray, D.D., has for over a quarter of a century been the faithful and honoured pastor. It was unusual for this part of the city to be the scene of academic functions, and that fact, together with the favourable evening, and the large number of students graduating, brought together an audience which filled the large church which accommodates upward of 1200 people. Rev. Principal Caven presided, and with him on the platform were the professors in the College, the Chairman of the College Board, Mortimer Clarke, K.C., the gentlemen, or most of them, who were to be honored with degrees, several D.D.s, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Toronto, Hon. Charles Moss; Principal Hutton of University College, and others, all making, with their gowns and hoods marking different kinds of academic degrees and distinctions, a very bright and interesting picture. In his opening remarks, the Rev. Principal referred to the death of Rev. Dr. Proudfoot, who so long and ably taught Homiletics in the College, and also to the very sudden death of Rev. Dr. MacVicar, and the loss to the whole Church caused by his death as well as more especially to Montreal College, with which he expressed on behalf of Knox College, sincere sympathy. The graduating class this year numbered thirty, the largest the College has had, and all were presented with their diplomas. As they came forward one by one, one could not but come to the conclusion that they were a very likely looking lot of young men. Many of them, a majority, we would say, had already taken the degree of B.A. or M.A. at the University of Toronto. In the first and second years are twenty-five students each, so that the College this year has had an attendance in all of eighty students. The Principal briefly, and it need not be added, appropriately, addressed them. The degree of B.D., which can only be obtained on passing a severe examination on a somewhat extensive range of subjects, was then conferred on Revs. J. A. Moir, Manitowick; J. W. McNamara, Nelson, Ontario; and on Rev. J. D. Morrison, B.A., of Bristol, Quebec. The honorary degree of D.D. was next conferred on Rev. A. B. Baird, B.D., professor in Manitoba College, and Rev. Alex. Gilray, pastor of College street congregation, both alumni of Knox College; and in their absence, on Rev. Professor Bryce, LL.D. of the University of Manitoba; Rev. Wm. Patterson, late pastor of Cooke's church here, now of Bethany church, Philadelphia, and Rev. Alex. Van Millingen, M.A. of Robert College, Constantinople. The addresses in connection with the presentation of these gentlemen, were, though naturally laudatory, commendably brief, and to the point. Vice-Chancellor Moss was the last speaker and represented the University of Toronto. In a pleasing and kindly manner he gave a brief sketch of the founding of the University, of its being placed upon a non-sectarian basis, of its rapid growth, of the close connection there has always been between Knox College, and it, of its governing body and of the long and able service which Principal Caven, as a member of that body, has rendered to the cause of higher education in connection with the University, and through it to the country.

The last of the University sermons given specially to students was given by Rev. Principal Magges of Montreal. Well known men present on the platform were Hon. Richard H. Court, President Loudon, Revs. Principal Caven and Sheraton, Chancellor Burwash, and Principal Hutton. The service was largely attended. The text was Col. 2: 3, "Christ, in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Christ was the source from whom all things proceeded, the centre around which all things revolved. He was the source and concentration of all past history, and of all that succeeded His advent. He was very largely the key.

Within the past few days three deaths have

occurred, each of which has attracted in the circle to which the individuals belonged, much interest and sympathy. The first was that of Mr. Gilbert Gordon, M.D., a brother, and very especially dear to him as a brother, of R. J. Charles W. Gordon of Winnipeg, and also son-in-law of Sir Thomas W. Taylor. He was well known and highly esteemed among a wide circle of friends in the city, as well as in his profession. He was an elder in Bloor street church, and the pastor, Rev. W. G. Wallace, assisted by Rev. Dr. MacLaren, Revs. J. A. Macdonald and Robert Paddock conducted the funeral services. The Faculty and students of Trinity Medical College, in which the deceased was a lecturer, attended in a body. The second referred to is that of Mr. Isaac C. Gilmour, who had reached the advanced age of ninety-one, and to a former generation was well known in business circles in Toronto. He was for many years a member of the Managing Board of St. Andrew's church, now Rev. Dr. Black's. His years and infirmity made it impossible to attend there so he connected himself with St. James Square, and more lately still, he attended old St. Andrew's, Rev. Dr. Milligan's, just across the street from his home. The funeral, though private, was largely attended by old and more recent friends who wished to show their esteem for an aged and worthy man and citizen. The last one was the wife of Rev. J. McP. Scott, of St. John's Presbyterian church in the eastern part of the city. Mrs. Scott came from Scotland, where only a few years ago, she was married to Mr. Scott. In the brief period of her married life she had endeared herself to a large circle of friends, and especially to the congregation of which her husband has been for long the pastor. At the funeral service in the church the building was filled, and a very large representation of the city ministers were present, several of whom took part in the services at the house or in the church. Very deep sympathy is felt for Mr. Scott who is widely known in the city and much beloved.

At the last meeting of the Canadian Temperance League in March held in Macsey Hall, the chief speaker was Mr. S. J. Hadley, Superintendent of the Jerry McAuley Mission on Water street, New York. His testimony is of weight respecting the reformation of the drunkard. To effect this, he lays great stress on the preaching of the simple gospel of Jesus Christ. "He was amused often," he said, "at the character of the sermons announced at the present day. They talk Browning, and Huxley, and higher criticism, and all sorts of subjects. In his opinion these sermons were nothing but hot air."

Ottawa

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered in the Glebe church last Sabbath.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed at Knox church last Sunday morning.

At the meeting of the Stewart Auxiliary held last Friday, Mrs. Geo. Hay gave a talk on India.

Rev. A. E. Mitchell began a series of sermons on "The Teachings of Jesus," and last Sunday spoke on "The Teachings of Jesus with regard to God."

On Sunday evening Rev. Dr. Herridge preached an interesting sermon on the subject of socialism, taking as his text the words "One is your Master even Christ, and all ye are brethren."

The Glebe auxiliary to the Women's Foreign Missionary society held its regular monthly meeting last Friday afternoon, Mrs. Milne presiding. Mrs. Hay gave an interesting talk on topic which is being studied throughout the society. Mrs. Hay will give a second talk on the subject at the May meeting. Mrs. McEwan gave a slight sketch of the contents of the "Tidings" for the month.

The annual thanksgiving meeting of the Home Mission Society of St. Andrew's church was held last Friday afternoon and was the most interesting meeting and largely attended. The offering amounted to about one hundred dollars. A delightful letter was read from Rev. Mr. Johnston, of Gilbert Plains, the society's former missionary, and also one from Rev. Mr. Munroe, who is temporarily in charge of the Swan river field. Mr. Johnston's letter was extremely entertaining and told of the difficulties he was having in his pioneer work in the new field. Mrs. Durie read an excellent paper dealing with woman's ideals and the higher intellectual life.

Eastern Ontario.

Rev. Mr. Weir, of Avonmore, preached in St. John's church, Cornwall, on the 20th of March.

Owing to illness Rev. D. D. McLennan did not occupy the Gravel Hill church pulpit last Sabbath.

Rev. C. S. Lord, of Grafton, preached preparatory sermons on Friday of last week at Baltimore for Rev. R. F. Hunter.

It is reported that Rev. Hugh Munro; who has been supplying the Cobourg pulpit during the absence of Rev. Mr. Beattie, will be called to Port Hope.

Rev. A. M. Currie, of St. John's, Almonte, was in Smith's Falls a week ago last Sunday, where he preached in St. Paul's church, lately rendered vacant by the resignation of Rev. Mr. Nixon.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed in St. Andrew's church, Picton, last Sunday, the pastor, Rev. Mr. McLaren, officiating. Five new members were added to the Communion roll, all on profession of faith.

Rev. Norman McLeod, B.A., of Mackay church, Ottawa, preached in St. John's church, Cornwall, on a recent Sabbath. Rev. Dr. McNish is at present taking his holidays around the warm and beautiful surroundings of the West Indian islands. Rev. Mr. Harkness, of Knox church, has been indisposed.

Rev. Dr. Crombie of Smith's Falls, the patriarchal clerk of the Presbytery, occupied the pulpit of St. John's, Almonte, on the 20th ultimo. In spite of the snows of age which have gathered around his brow the venerable doctor proved to his hearers that he still retains the brightness of his younger days.

The recent social at Wales, under the chairmanship of Rev. M. McIntyre, was a great success, the proceeds amounting to \$20.00. Mr. C. F. Wright and Miss E. Armstrong of Cornwall, E. Roys of Mills, Roches, Miss Markell of Wales, Mrs. Frank J. Clarke of Farran's Point and Miss Kathleen Colquhoun of Wales, contributed selections to the programme.

Rev. William A. Guy, who for the past two years has been ministering to the spiritual needs of the Presbyterians of Bath, was inducted on Tuesday last to the pastorate of McDonald's Corners, Elphin and Snow road, to which charge he received a call some time ago. Those who took part in the induction ceremonies were Rev. M. Macgillivray, M.A., Kingston, moderator; Rev. James Binnie, B. D., Tweed (late pastor at McDonald's Corners) and Rev. Henry Gracey, Gananoque.

Rev. Dr. Crombie preached in St. Paul's church, Smith's Falls, on the 22nd instant, and administered the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. During the service Dr. Crombie took occasion to refer to the somewhat interesting fact that just 34 years ago he administered the same rite for the first time in St. Paul's church, and in all probability the present Paul's church, in the last time he would officiate in a like service. In going over the membership roll he found that to-day there were only 10 persons living, and in full connection, who were members of the church 34 years ago.

An adjourned meeting of the Presbytery of Peterboro was held in Port Hope on March 24, with a good attendance of ministers and elders. Rev. A. G. Sinclair, of the First church, Port Hope, had handed in his resignation at a previous meeting but it was left until this meeting to be considered. A number of delegates were present expressing great regret at Mr. Sinclair's step but in view of the fact that he was desirous of re-suming his studies, they did not oppose his decision. The resignation was accepted and will take effect in the middle of June. Mr. McIntosh was appointed to declare the church vacant and to be moderator of session during the vacancy.

Western Ontario.

On the 23rd ult., a very successful entertainment was given as the anniversary of Chalmer's church, London. The speakers of the evening were Rev. Canon Dani and Rev. James Rollins, the new pastor of the King street Presbyterian church. The pastor of the church, Rev. Walter Moffatt, who presided, reviewed briefly the history of the church for the past six years, that it had been in existence. A musical and literary programme was given by Misses Addie Lillywhite, Sadie Gray and Richman, and Messrs. Bert Weir, David Murray, Court Irwin, Sankey, and Wicks, and by the Ideal Mandolin and Guitar Club.