

meetings from Monday till Friday in the Jarvis Street Baptist Church. These meetings were in general well attended, and occasionally were crowded by large and interested audiences. The fact of the Institute holding its meetings in the churches of the various Evangelical Churches shows the value of Sabbath Schools to Christianity. In the presence of the work done in behalf of the young, denominational lines disappear out of sight. The Sabbath School is an institution not of this or the other sect, but of the Church at large. It is felt that no sectarian difference should be allowed to intringe upon the work which has the best interests of our youth at heart. And it is a happy omen for the future that all our Churches are drawn together as they contemplate the work and requirements of Sabbath Schools.

There is one feature of the Institute that deserves special remark. It is the systematic instruction which it provides for those who are wishing to become Sabbath School teachers. The feeling has long been prevalent that the matter of securing teachers for our Sabbath Schools was too little regarded, and too much left to chance. The motive which induced young persons to become teachers was too much one of sentiment rather than conviction. With such a want of method the wonder is that there were any good teachers at all; and it is certainly to the credit of our churches that such a noble work has been done in the past without scientific training, and without special attention having been given to the art of teaching. Still, with all, it will be allowed that much harm has been done to the cause for want of proper study and training, as the prerequisites of becoming teachers.

Since the introduction of the International system of lessons, much has been done to improve and advance the interests of Sabbath Schools. The Normal class of itself deserves special notice. This is a new factor in the work, though it is an old idea in relation to general education. With the Normal class established in a city or district, the youth of our churches can repair to well-qualified teachers for special instruction in the science and art of teaching. They will have the privilege of hearing lectures which will help them in the scientific study of Scripture, and direct them to innumerable authorities on such essentials as careful analysis and minute exegesis. At the same time, they will be examined from time to time, to test whether they are making diligent progress in their studies, and they will be set, under the eye of competent inspectors, to the task of teaching small classes, in order that they may thoroughly acquire the art of teaching. With the final examination, which leads to the diploma of the Institute, it may be presumed that they are well equipped for the special work that lies before them.

There can be no doubt that the Sabbath School work is worthy of all the diligent care and attention we can give it. It is the nursery of the Church, and as parents give the greatest possible heed to the nursery of their homes, so congregations, if they are wise, will see to their Sabbath Schools. Let us trust that with all our methods and new ideas, solid instruction will not be wanting in such great matters as Bible history and the Shorter

Catechism. There is danger sometimes in having too much method. The most eminent teachers are those who discover a special fitness for the work rather than those who are qualified by certificate and diplomas. Still, this does not militate against careful scientific instruction, for let this be superadded to natural fitness for the work, and then we will have teachers of the right sort, who will not only possess large knowledge, but be endowed with commanding influence over the young.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.—This court met in Hamilton on the 17th Dec. Present, twenty-five ministers and seventeen elders. The committee to visit Victoria reported that matters there had been satisfactorily and peaceably settled. Mr. Fisher reported that the congregations of Kilbride and Nelson were now in a more satisfactory condition, and that the arrears of Nelson had been fully paid up. He also laid on the table a call from these congregations, signed by fifty communicants and thirty adherents, addressed to Mr. J. McCoy, Probationer. The call was sustained, but declined by Mr. McCoy. Mr. R. Thomson, minister of the Free Church of Scotland, applied for admission into the Church. On report of a committee, the application was laid on the table until some necessary papers be obtained. It was resolved to hold a Sabbath School Conference annually, and during this winter, in the month of February, and a committee was appointed to make arrangements. A call from Drummondville to Mr. R. Thomson was laid on the table. Mr. Vincent tendered the resignation of his charge. It was resolved to cite the congregations to appear for their interests at next meeting. The overture on the status of retired ministers was rejected. The clerk was instructed to prepare a circular anent the requirements of the Mission work of the Church. Messrs. Reid and Finlay, of Crowland, and Mr. McCabe, of Thorold, were appointed an *interim* session for Welland. A plan arranging for six stated meetings each year, and distributing the business in a fixed order, was adopted and ordered to be printed for the guidance of members. **JOHN LAING, Pres. Clerk.**

PRESBYTERY OF PARIS.—The regular quarterly meeting of the Presbytery of Paris was held on Tuesday, 17th inst., in Chalmers' Church, Woodstock. There was a large attendance of ministers and elders. The following are some of the more important items of business. The committee appointed to confer with all the parties interested, and endeavor to effect an amicable and satisfactory disposal of the St. Andrew's Church property in Woodstock, gave in a report, which was presented by their convener, Mr. Root. On motion of Dr. Cochrane, seconded by Rev. Mr. Inglis, it was agreed—"That the thanks of the Presbytery be tendered the Committee, and especially the Convener, for their great diligence in prosecuting the matter to its present stage; that said Committee be re-appointed, with instructions to continue their efforts towards a harmonious settlement of the same, and report to next meeting of Presbytery." The congregation of Norwich made application for leave to sell their present church property, the proceeds to be applied towards purchasing a new site and providing a new church. Their request was granted. Rev. Mr. Grant and Dr. Cochrane addressed the court in behalf of Knox College and Queen's College respectively. A committee, consisting of Rev. Messrs. McEwen, McLeod, and Aull, with the Moderator, was appointed to arrange for a conference to be held in Paris in March, on Sabbath School work. In reference to the question of a Presbyterial visitation of the congregations within the bounds, which has engaged the Presbytery's attention for some time, it was moved by Rev. D. D. McLeod, seconded by Rev. W. Inglis, and agreed, that—"The Presbytery, in view of the desire of carrying out the scheme of visitation entered upon, resolve to send down to the various sessions the questions proposed to be put at the visitation of the Presbytery, for their examination, and request the sessions to send up to the Presbytery any suggestions they may have to offer upon them, and that in sending down the papers it be stated to the sessions the object which the Presbytery has in view in the proposed visitation, and that the scheme be submitted to a joint meeting of elders and managers, and that answers be sent to next meeting of Presbytery." The next regular meeting is to be held in Dumfries Street Church, Paris, on the 1st Tuesday of March, at 11 a.m.—**W. T. McMULLEN, Pres. Clerk.**

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

THE Presbyterian congregation of Meaford have extended a unanimous call to the Rev. Colin Fletcher, M. A., of Hamilton.

THE Ladies' Aid Society of St. Andrew's Church, Stratford, held a bazaar on Thursday, the 19th inst., for the sale of fancy work, the proceeds of which will considerably augment the church funds.

REV. R. J. BRATTIN, recently settled at Port Hope, started on Tuesday evening, 17th inst., for Charlotte, N. Y., to perform the ceremony at the marriage of four young people who were members of his late pastoral charge.

THE Ladies' Aid Society of Knox Church, Kincardine, are raising money for the Building Fund by holding a series of socials from house to house, at which the viands are limited in variety, though unrestricted in quantity and quality. The cash results are said to be so far quite satisfactory.

THE social given in St. Paul's Presbyterian church, Hamilton, by the Ladies' Aid Society, in aid of the Improvement Fund, was well attended, and afforded great satisfaction to those present. The chair was occupied by Rev. Mr. Laidlaw, who discharged his duties in a most genial manner. The programme was varied, and the financial result was highly satisfactory to the managers.

A BAZAAR was held in the Town Hall, Woodstock, last week under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid Society of Knox Church in that town. The Hall was beautifully decorated for the occasion. Refreshments were served in abundance. Crowds of purchasers attended; and the proceeds will be of great value to the ladies in helping to further those benevolent enterprises they have so much at heart.

VERY large congregations attended services in Knox and Chalmers' churches, Woodstock, on Sabbath 15th inst., the occasion being the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. In the former church Dr. Gregg preached a very able sermon in the evening. On Monday evening, Dr. Cochrane, of Brantford, preached. The Rev. and venerable Mr. McKenzie, of Embro, was present at the Sabbath services in Chalmers'.

AT a congregational meeting held in Knox Church, Kincardine, after thanksgiving services on the 4th inst., a resolution was unanimously adopted, instructing the managing committee to make all necessary arrangements for the introduction of the "envelope" system of providing the revenue. The pew-rent system has had a long trial, is found wanting, and is to be superseded by the new plan, which is to go into operation on the first Sabbath of the New Year.—**COM.**

A SUCCESSFUL bazaar was held by the ladies of Knox Church, Dundas, on Thursday, the 12th inst. The attendance both afternoon and evening was large, and the great assortment of fancy and useful articles being tastefully displayed, caught the eye at once and were quickly disposed of. The hall was very tastefully decorated with flags and evergreens, and a handsome Christmas Tree stood in the centre of the room. In the evening, instrumental music was kindly furnished by a number of young ladies. The supper table was nicely set, and a bountiful supply of good things were on hand, for which a great demand was kept up throughout the evening. The clear proceeds of the bazaar after paying expenses amounted to \$264.50.

OF Friday evening last, 20th inst., the Presbyterian Young People's Association of Brampton, gave a musical and literary entertainment in the church, which passed off very successfully. The attendance was large; the programme a lengthy and interesting one, consisting of music, readings, etc., rendered in excellent style. The chair was occupied by the President, Mr. Robert McClure. The programme consisted of a selection by the choir; solos by Misses Lizzie Ballentine, Maggie Burnett, Rebecca Ballentyne, Mary Haggert, and Messrs. R. J. Williamson and H. Schooley, a quartette by Misses Blain, Wallace, and Messrs. Marshall and Chisholm, a recitation by Miss Aggie Wallace, and readings by Messrs. R. Haggert, Joseph P. Marshall, John McClure, Geo. Ballentyne, and E. Chisholm. Since its inception five months ago, the Association has prospered greatly. It has a membership roll of about ninety. Financially it is in a flourishing condition, and the prospects for the future are very encouraging.—**COM.**