

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.

There were numerous vacancies which existed a few weeks ago in the Presbytery of Montreal are in a fair way to be all or nearly all filled in the near future. Within the past few days two settlements have taken place and the Presbytery is to hold a special meeting next week to sustain three calls. The two settlements are those of the Rev. Colin Young at Russelltown, and of the Rev. J. D. Anderson at Beauharnois. In both these cases it is their first charge and both prudently took to themselves wives two days before assuming the pastoral responsibility.

The Rev. Mr. Anderson, the new pastor of Beauharnois and Chateaugay, was married on Tuesday last in Crescent St. church to Miss MacKay, eldest daughter of the Rev. Dr. A. B. MacKay, pastor of the church. The bride's father was assisted in the ceremony by the Rev. Principal MacVicar. There was a large assembly of friends in the church, and many handsome presents were sent to the bride.

The congregation of the Millville church, Westmount, on Wednesday evening, March 24th, extended a unanimous call to the Rev. C. W. Gordon, of St. Stephen's church, Winnipeg. Mr. Gordon did not preach as a candidate, but the meeting was enthusiastically in his favor. As this is likely to become at an early date one of the most important congregations of the city his acceptance is hopefully looked for. No more desirable field of labor could be offered to any young minister in the Church.

The news of the death of the Rev. Dr. Well formerly of the American Presbyterian Church here was heard with much regret by the whole community in which he had been so long a prominent figure. The sorrow was deepened by the fact that it had come suddenly and unexpectedly, his dead body being found beside the railway track near Wauwatosa, Wis. Owing to the depressed mental condition from which he had been suffering for some time back the fear was felt that it had possibly been his own act. This fear has been largely removed by the finding of the Coroners jury that in all probability it was purely accidental. The day was a stormy one in which it would have been difficult for any one to observe the approach of a fast train. His remains were buried at Dover, Ill., the home of his childhood; and most appreciative eulogies were spoken by former friends at the funeral. He will long be kindly remembered by a large circle of warm admirers in this city.

The Rev. Dr. Amaron read an excellent paper on Monday last before the Protestant Ministerial Association on the subject of French Canadian Evangelization. The paper was much appreciated by those present and is likely to be published shortly. The growing independence of the French Catholics in this province is a most hopeful sign and it is felt that a vigorous effort ought to be made now to bring before their attention the simple truth of the gospel. Otherwise there is a danger that the movement may degenerate as it has done so largely in other Catholic countries into irreligion altogether. The testimony of the missionaries is that in the larger cities especially there are more inquirers than they can very well overtake. Whatever views one may have as to the desirability of proselytism or otherwise such dissatisfied inquirers have the strongest possible claim on us for instruction and information. It is a proof of the energetic and aggressive character of the French Evangelical missionaries in past years that their churches are now so well known as to attract inquirers in search of a purer faith who come of their own accord to seek out the pastors for explanation and advice.

Other proof is offered from a different quarter. The movement is so marked that the priests find it necessary to discuss it and it is not surprising that they wholly misrepresent it. In a recent number of the *Revue Canadienne*, Father Hamon, a prominent Jesuit, revives the old slander that all the defections from the Catholic

Church to Protestantism are due to unworthy motives while the conversions to Romanism are from the best class of the people and from conviction. This is too stale a theory to make much impression now, and he probably wishes by this time, that he had remained silent. Of course any church may be deceived in those who are accepted into its membership, and a few mistakes do not count for very much either way. But he is invited to consider the character of recent converts received into the Jesuit Church here. In one notable case, loudly heralded, in which a member of Parliament was persuaded to stand as sponsor, it was proved that the fellow was an unmitigated scoundrel who had been born and brought up a Catholic, whose only claim to be regarded as a Protestant was, that he had applied for admission into a Presbyterian church and had been refused.

GENERAL.

The congregation of Elmsdale and Nine Mile River is moving in a call to the Rev. J. P. McPhie.

Rev. Mr. Ramsay of Mount Forest has accepted the call of the congregation of Knox church, Ottawa.

Communion services were held in the Egmondville Presbyterian Church on 7th March, when seven were added to the membership.

The ladies of Knox Church Lancaster, agreeably surprised their pastor, the Rev. Mr. Graham with a complimentary address and a well filled purse.

Rev. W. M. McKibbin, of Millbank, who has recently resigned his charge, owing to ill-health, still continues his duties as Clerk of the Presbytery of Stratford.

The Rev. R. McNair, Carleton Place, has notified his session that he proposed handing in his resignation to Presbytery at once. Mr. and Mrs. McNair have made many warm friends and their departure will be much regretted.

Rev. Dr. Lyle, pastor of the Central church, Hamilton, leaves for Europe in April on a four months' vacation trip. Rev. J. A. McDonald, Principal of the Presbyterian College, Toronto, will fill the pulpit during his absence.

Rev. Robert Laird, pastor of the Presbyterian church, Campbellford, left Monday for Leipzig Germany. His congregation has given him six months leave of absence for that purpose. The Rev. gentleman is a brother of the Rev. Alex. Laird, of Mill street Presbyterian church, Port Hope.

The Rev. Jas. Ballantine, of Chappeton, Jamaica, West Indies, leaves for a seven month's furlough on April 13. After spending some time in Scotland, he intends visiting friends in Canada. Any communications sent to the following address will find him: Rev. Jas. Ballantine, care Mr. John Sligh, Free United Presbyterian Church College Buildings, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh, Scotland.

The anniversary services in connection with St. Andrew's Church on the 14th inst., were conducted by the Rev. Prof. Scrimger, of the Presbyterian College, Montreal. The sermon on both occasions were able and interesting and of a very practical nature. The church was damaged by fire a few weeks ago, but repairs were rapidly pushed forward in order to have it in presentable shape for the anniversary services. This was accomplished with the exception of the re-tinting of the walls and ceiling which is now being proceeded with.

The anniversary services of the Egmondville Presbyterian Church were held on March 14, when Rev. J. B. Mullan, of Fergus preached two most interesting sermons. On the following Monday evening a most successful tea meeting was held. An excellent programme of music and addresses followed the tea, the chief attractive feature of which was Rev. Mr. Mullan's lecture on his "Rambles through Great Britain." Mr. Mullan kept his audience thoroughly interested throughout with his life like description of his travels.

At the close of the mid-week prayer meeting in Zion church, Branford. Dr. Cechrane said it was the intention of the teachers, officers and friends of the congregation to present Dr. Nichol with an address. Dr. Nichol had been connected with the

Sabbath school for over twenty-five years. and he thought the least the congregation could do to show their appreciation of his services, was to present him with an address. Dr. Cechrane at this stage called upon Mr. A. L. Baird to read the address, while the rev. gentleman himself presented Dr. Nichol with a magnificent gold watch and chain.

A farewell social, was given on Wednesday evening, March 17, by the congregation of St. Andrew's, New Westminster, B. C., on the occasion of the Rev. T. Souler resigning his charge, to become Chaplain of the Provincial Penitentiary. An address was presented by Mr. J. C. Brown, on behalf of the congregation, to Mr. and Mrs. Souler, which expressed warm appreciation of their labors during the past ten years. Also, regret at the severance of the pastoral tie, accompanied with the pleasure and satisfaction felt by the congregation, that Mr. and Mrs. Souler still remain with them. A purse containing \$210 was presented by Mr. McNab, from the congregation to Mr. Souler, who gratefully acknowledged this handsome gift.

London now has six Presbyterian churches, the Waterloo Street Mission having been formed into "Chalmers Presbyterian Church." The new church was duly organized on March 22nd, after a most impressive service, with a membership of twenty-five, eleven of whom were admitted on profession of faith and fourteen by certificate. An interim session was appointed, consisting of Rev. J. G. Stuart as Moderator, and Messrs. Bapty, Thomson, Chessbrough, Allan and Omond as members. The new church had its inception five years ago, when a Sabbath school was started with nine or ten scholars. Eighteen months ago Sunday services were held for the first time by Mr. Peter Scott, B. A., a Knox College student. Rev. Mr. Moffatt, the pastor of the new church, is an Edinburgh man.

Bonar Church Toronto of which Rev. Alex. Macgillivray is Pastor is giving gratifying evidence of prosperity. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed Sabbath March 23th—21 new members were received into the church, 12 on profession of faith, 9 of whom were from the Sabbath School, and 9 by certificate. The quarterly offering which is applied to Interest, etc netted the goodly sum of nearly \$200.00. The offering per Sabbath has increased \$4 00. over the previous year. The Sabbath School is steadily growing, and has an attendance of 315. It is most encouraging to the pastor, and his zealous band of workers that this young congregation whose birth was just seven years ago, has made such gratifying progress, despite the hard times.

The Presbyterian Church, Newmarket was well filled on Thursday afternoon March 4th, by an attentive audience, to witness the induction of Rev. Mr. McNabb of Meaford to this pastoral charge. Promptly at the time appointed the Moderator took charge of the induction service and after devotional exercises Rev. Mr. Sturgeon preached an excellent sermon on "The higher life." The Clerk of the Presbytery then announced the steps leading to the call of Mr. McNabb and the Moderator invoked the pastor. After special prayer invoking divine blessing upon the candidate, Mr. McNabb was duly inducted as pastor of Newmarket Presbyterian Church and received the congratulations of the ministerial brethren present. The duty of addressing the Minister was laid upon Rev. Mr. Amos. Rev. Mr. Gilray then addressed the congregation, after which Rev. Mr. Amos and Mr. A. B. Davidson introduced the pastor to the congregation. Mr. J. E. Jackson, on behalf of the congregation, presented Rev. W. Amos with a token of esteem in recognition of his services as moderator for the Newmarket church.

CORRESPONDENCE.

AUGMENTATION COMMITTEE.

Editor *Presbyterian Review*.

The Augmentation Committee meets on April 6th., and then the important question must come up,—Shall we pay grants in full or order a reduction?

As there are a large number of congregations who have sent no contribution—