

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

In my last letter I referred to an important judgment handed down from the Court of Appeal, bearing upon the constitutionality of the Ontario Lord's Day Act, and the meaning of certain clauses in it. The judgment, while gratifying as a whole to the friends of Sabbath observance, yet left several points unsettled. As it is of the utmost importance to have these debatable points settled once for all, since the judgment was given out, a deputation of the Lord's Alliance waited upon Hon. Mr. Gibson, Attorney General, to ask the Government to appeal to the Privy Council to obtain its decision upon the controverted clauses of the act. So there is likely again to be a long delay before the matter is finally settled. In the meantime the period of waiting can be well utilized in carrying on, as the Lord's Day Alliance is well doing through its vigorous secretary, Rev. Mr. Shearer, the work of educating the public conscience in the duty of carefully guarding the Sabbath for its divinely appointed ends of rest and worship. In this connection it may be mentioned that, we here in Toronto are not a little surprised to be informed by a representative of La Presse of Montreal, sent up for the express purpose of seeing the effect of agitation for a quiet Sunday, and what such a day is like in Toronto. "Sunday in Toronto," it is said, "is quiet as a tomb, it is dead; not only is there no business, there is no life." As a result of the saloons closing at 7 p. m. it is asserted by this voracious representative of La Presse, that from 4 to 7, more drunken men are found in the fashionable saloons here than in any other city of Canada or the United States, and that from 7 p. m. until midnight, the streets are filled with drunken people. All this is retarding the progress of the city and driving travellers away from it. So we are told. The object of all this is to save Montreal, where efforts are being made to stop Sunday trading, from the sad fate which has befallen Toronto. Those who believe this correspondent may say "alas for Toronto the good." But we here who know, think this is an instance of pretty tall, I was going to say, lying, but as that is not parliamentary, let us call it slander, or misrepresentation.

On the occasion of the fourteenth anniversary of Chalmers church, on Sabbath 19th, large congregations both morning and evening greeted Rev. Dr. McClement the preacher and a former pastor. An enjoyable social meeting was held on Monday evening at which Professor Ballantyne gave an address, and as a result of all the services, the managers were enabled to reduce their floating debt by \$500.00 at least. On the same Sabbath a foreign mission service was held in St. John's church, Rev. J. McP. Scott pastor. Rev. Dr. R. P. Mackay, Foreign Missionary Secretary, addressed the congregation. The pastor is well known for his interest in the Foreign Mission work of the church, and his congregation, though comparatively a young one and not wealthy, has caught his spirit, and in addition to its other responsibilities, now proposes to support Rev. T. C. Hood of Honan as its special missionary on the foreign field. From Honan to Ottawa, and from thence to London, England, is a pretty long cry, but we here in Toronto, I may say, are quite interested in the call which has been extended to Rev. Dr. Herridge, Ottawa, from the congregation of Frogan, London, an off-shot, one of several, from Rev. Dr. Gibson's congregation of St. John's Wood. Dr. Herridge is well known here, and we can't well spare him from Canada, but as reciprocity and a "preference" to Britain are now in the air, and we know that he will well sustain Canada's good name in the pulpit as others who have left us have done, and that he will still do good work here if he elects to stay, we await the result with interest but without fear. The pictorial part of Saturday's Globe we notice, contains an excellent likeness of the late Rev. Thomas Goldsmith, whose death we mentioned last week, together with a brief, but appreciative sketch of his life and work.

Going back to Rev. Dr. Gibson, whose name we have mentioned, all in the church who know him and his work in England, the United States and Canada, and they are not few, but especially all his old fellow students among whom he was so popular, will be delighted to see that his Alma Mater, the University of Toronto, is, at its next convocation to confer upon him the degree of L. L. D. In this case in honoring Dr. Gibson it honors itself, as he is one among its

distinguished sons. Fellow students of near about the same time to be similarly, and all of them deservedly honoured are Hon. J. M. Gibson, Professor Galbraith, Hon. R. Harcourt and Dr. Reeve, with some others occupying high places in the literary, educational or political world.

The Bible Training School, a nondenominational and most useful institution, which has for years been doing an excellent service in preparing christian young men and women for work of many kinds both at home and abroad, closed its sessions for the winter months on Friday. Its founder is Rev. Elmore Harris, a well known Baptist minister of the city. In its day classes 63 have been enrolled and 179 in the evening classes. During the year twelve of its students have gone to foreign mission fields in India, China, South America and Central Africa. Miss Stone whose abduction and detention by a band of brigands in Turkey, created so deep and widespread an interest in the christian world, and for whose release a large sum was paid, is to lecture here early next month in Massey Hall. Her first lecture was given in Boston where she had an immense audience as she will no doubt have here also. The proceeds of her lectures, it is stated, are to be devoted to help the payment of her ransom out of the hands of her captors.

Upper Canada College in which so many who have held distinguished places in public life in Ontario, as well as though in a less degree in other provinces, received their scholastic training, is out with an appeal to its old boys for funds to raise a building for a gymnasium, and a drill hall and hockey rink. The whole estimated cost is \$21,000.00. The old boys ought to be able to raise this amount without difficulty in a short time.

Recruiting for the successive contingents being sent to South Africa, I may just add in closing, goes on with unslacking enthusiasm, and each batch as it leaves is sent off by a cheering crowd of well wishers. Deep and general sympathy is felt for Sir J. A. Boyd and family on account of the death by enteric fever of their son Major A. J. Boyd, of the South African constabulary force. He joined the Queen's Own Rifles in 1882, and since then has seen not a little of soldiering. In athletic and social circles he was well known and extremely popular. In his death another link has been fixed binding Canada to the motherland and to the empire.

A magnificent and splendidly appointed railway train left here on the evening of Tuesday 22nd filled with delegates and their wives and daughters in many cases, for Los Angeles, California, where the thirteenth triennial convention of the Supreme Court of that order of Foresters is to be held on the 29th of April. From Chicago it goes by the Sante Fe route and returns by the Canada Pacific, which will give the delegates unusual opportunities for sight seeing. Rev. Alex. Macgillivray, of Bonar church, Toronto, was among the number of delegates.

The Liberator, a four page weekly temperance paper will appear this week. It is to be issued by the Union Prohibition Committee, and will continue to be published until after the referendum vote is taken. Its editor is not yet appointed, but its object is to advocate the cause of prohibition generally, and to support all prohibition candidates in the field for the next Ontario Legislature.

Eastern Ontario.

Rev. Mr. McVicar, of Finch, preached in the Avonmore church last Sunday morning and evening, having exchanged pulpits with Rev. Geo. Weir, B. A.

The Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew appointed a committee consisting of Messrs. A. H. Scott and Currie of Perth, Dr. Crombie, the Clerk, and Mr. Fraser, Elder, to examine Mr. Creig with a view to his licensure and ordination.

The Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew has given the Beachburg congregation leave to sell a portion of their property with a view of acquiring a new manse; and at the same time the opening of a new church at Braeside, free of debt was reported.

Although Monday evening of last week was very disagreeable a number of friends and members of the Young People's Guild of St. John's church, Cornwall, turned out to listen to an excellent programme rendered by the members. It consisted of piano solos by Miss Grace MacLennan and Miss Nellie Graveley; piano duet by

Misses Emma Liddell and Amy MacNish; violin solo by A. R. Brown; address by Rev. Dr. MacNish; reading by J. Skelton, and song by R. S. Cline.

Rev. Alfred Fitzpatrick has been preaching in the First church, Brockville, as well as presenting the claims of the Reading Camp movement among lumbermen. Last winter 27 such reading rooms were in operation. Next season the number will be increased to 30, although there is room for 50. The Ontario government has granted \$2,000 to aid in the good work.

It is very gratifying to learn that Rev. Dr. Campbell secretary of the Presbyterian Century Fund who a couple of weeks ago was the victim of what seemed to be a serious nervous breakdown, caused by the heavy work entailed by his duties, is again able to be about. Dr. Campbell's many friends throughout the church will rejoice to know that he shortly expects to resume work.

Rev. Donald MacVicar, late pastor of the Victoria church, Montreal, was inducted pastor of the Finch church on Wednesday of last week. Rev. D. H. MacVicar was born near the town of Strathroy, Ont., in the county of Middlesex. He received his preliminary education at the Collegiate Institute, Strathroy, and qualified for a teacher at the Normal School, Toronto, holding that position for nearly five years. He entered McGill University in the fall of 1886 and graduated in arts in 1890, studied theology in the Presbyterian College and graduated in 1892. In May of the same year Mr. MacVicar was licensed to preach and was called to the pastorate of Amos church, Dromore and Knox church, Normandy, Ont., in July 1892. During his course at McGill, Mr. MacVicar taught for one term as mathematical teacher in Mrs. Lay's school, and for three months as second headmaster of the Royal Arthur school, Montreal. He won the Balfour scholarship and a prize in architecture at his graduation. Mr. MacVicar was married in February, 1893, to Miss A. McLean, daughter of Rev. A. McLean of Blyth, Ont.

In the lecture room of the First church, Brockville on 22nd inst. under the auspices of the Young Ladies' Mission Band, Rev. Mr. Laird delivered an address on "Religious life in Germany at the present day." This address was given by request as supplementary to his lecture of a few weeks ago on Martin Luther. Mr. Laird has travelled extensively in Germany and speaks from personal observation, and his address was on that account the more interesting.

Almonte Presbyterians were represented by five delegates at the meeting of the presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew held in Pembroke on Monday and Tuesday of this week. St. John's church was represented by Rev. G. Cowan Maclean, Dr. P. C. McGregor and Miss Nessie McCool—the latter a delegate from the Y. P. S. S. while Rev. Orr Bennet and Mr. D. Drummond attended in the interests of St. Andrew's congregation. The meeting was an important one, for in addition to the submission of the annual statistical reports, delegates were appointed to the meeting of the General Assembly to open in Toronto on the 13th of June. The reports read from all branches of church work showed the churches within the bounds of presbytery to be doing good work. One feature of the gathering was the rally of young people at which the work of the young people's societies was discussed. Perhaps the most helpful paper read at this gathering was one by Mr. Geo. McNabb, of Douglas, upon the duties of Young People's Societies along the lines of Christian citizenship. The Lanark case was again before Presbytery, and the appeal, entered on behalf of St. Andrew's church, was sent on to the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa, which meets in Carleton Place on the 13th of May. Rev. John Hay, Renfrew; Rev. Dr. Bayne, Pembroke; Rev. A. A. Scott, Carleton Place, and Dr. P. C. McGregor, Almonte, were appointed to represent the presbytery at the hearing of the appeal. Rev. Prof. Bryce, of Manitoba College, was nominated for the moderatorship of the general assembly, and Rev. J. R. McLeod, of Three Rivers, Que., was nominated as clerk of the synod, in succession to Rev. Kenneth McLennan, of Point Levesque, deceased. The delegates to the general assembly are: Rev. D. J. McLean, Arnprior; Rev. G. C. Maclean, Almonte; Rev. Dr. Campbell, Perth; Revs. Thomas Nixon and Dr. Crombie, Smith's Falls; Rev. A. Scott, Carleton Place; Rev. Dr. Bayne, Pembroke, and Rev. Mr. Hay Renfrew. Lay delegates—J. A. Allan, Perth; W. Wilson, Scotch Line; John F. Cram, Carleton Place; A. Johnston, Pembroke, and Jas. Stewart, Renfrew.