

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

THE Collingwood correspondent of the Peel "Banner" last week had the following item: "Our pulpits last Sabbath presented somewhat of a variable programme. Rev. Mr. Rodgers preached an able sermon in favour of infant baptism, after which he baptized two young persons. Rev. Mr. Stobo, who has the reputation of being the ablest minister in town in controversy on religious questions, gave a vigorous discourse in reply to some challenges on baptism, that lately appeared in THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN. However, many think he was rather indefinite in dealing with history relating to the question. People generally like to know just where they can find for themselves certain facts or supposed facts of history. I for one feel interested to know what historian it is who records the fact that Edward VI. and Elizabeth were baptized by dipping. Still, the Bible itself I dare say is the only very reliable book to appeal to in a question of this kind."

THE congregation of St. Paul's Church, Hamilton, held a most pleasant and successful entertainment in connection with the anniversary of the pastorate of the Rev. R. J. Laidlaw. The ladies had spared no pains to do honour to the occasion, and some of the choicest conservatories had been rifled to ornament the tables set in the basement and the church itself. From half-past six to eight a choice tea was served in the lecture room. After full justice had been done by the large assemblage to the bounteous tea, a move was made to the church, and here again there was a magnificent floral display around the pulpit and platform. The chair was taken by Mr. James Watson, who, after singing and prayer had been engaged in, gave an opening address. He touched on what he considered the duty of congregations wishing for a prosperous church, and urged all to attend prayer meetings and other services. The commencement of a new year was a good time for spiritual revivals, and he trusted that at the anniversary next year they would be able to look back on the past one with pleasure. The Rev. Mr. Laing, of Dundas, spoke next. After referring to anniversary meetings, he congratulated the congregation on the progress which had marked the church during the past two years. He felt that there was cause for rejoicing, and that that which two years back some had earnestly prayed for was a reality. The rev. gentleman continued at length on other topics. The Rev. Mr. Goldsmith followed with a few congratulatory remarks. Rev. Dr. James spoke in the same strain. The Rev. R. J. Laidlaw, the pastor, was the next speaker. He would not make a speech, but he would thank the office-bearers and the congregation for their efforts in the past. He regretted the absence of several, especially that of the Rev. Mr. Lyle, who, however, he was glad to say, was much better. The doxology brought the proceedings to a close.

THE necessity of enlarging the Presbyterian Church of Sarnia, and of providing additional Sabbath school accommodation to meet the requirements of the congregation, has been for some time the subject of serious consideration; and the Building Committee, appointed at a congregational meeting to act in conjunction with the trustees, gave instructions to two local architects to prepare suitable designs for the proposed enlargement, which having been done, they, at their last meeting, decided to recommend the plans of Mr. S. G. Hodges for the approval of the congregation. This approval was given at a second congregational meeting held on the 18th inst. The scheme adopted provides for widening the church on each side fourteen feet from the west wall to within one bay of the front, which last is occupied by handsome porches corresponding in character with the present central entrance; the extension is flanked with octagonal towers, buttresses and pinnacles, and forms, judging from the plan, a very handsome structure. The side view shows a gable over each alternate bay filled in with circular windows, a change which greatly improves the appearance of the church. The seating accommodation is increased by over three hundred sittings. The Sabbath school buildings are on the lot in rear of the church, which has been acquired for this purpose, and are most complete in their arrangements, every attention having been paid by the architect to the comfort and convenience of both scholars and teachers, as well as to occasional church re-

quirements. The exterior of the building is in keeping with that of the church, and the whole will form a pile of which our friends may well be proud, and which will be a credit to the town of Sarnia. The estimated cost of the improvements on the church is about \$6,000, and about as much more for the school buildings. The work will be proceeded with as soon as possible.

THE annual meeting of the members and adherents of the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Peterboro', was held in the school room on Tuesday, 16th inst. After the refreshments provided by the members of the session had been partaken of, the pastor, the Rev. Alex. Bell, took the chair, and opened the meeting with a hymn, followed by prayer. Mr. Bell, on behalf of the session, made a verbal report of the numerical standing of the congregation, from which we learn that the number of names on the roll, at the time of the communion last April, was 128; since then, and up to the communion held in February last, twenty-one names had been added, and seven removed by certificate and otherwise, shewing a net gain of fourteen in less than a year, and leaving on the roll at their last communion 142 names, or four more than was ever on the records of the congregation at one time before. Since the last communion, however, the numbers above given had been decreased by one death and the removal of four members from town, leaving the actual number of members on the roll on Tuesday evening 137, a state of affairs with which, taking into consideration his own state of health during the greater part of the year, and the general depression in town, Mr. Bell expressed himself well pleased. Mr. Pentland, as superintendent, reported that they had 120 names on the roll of the Sabbath school, with an attendance varying from 80 to 100, but fully averaging ninety. The contributions of the children during the year amounted to \$68, and a special collection for the benefit of the library had brought in \$50, and placed it in a most efficient state. Mr. George Edmison, as chairman, then read the financial statement of the managers, from which it appeared that the actual receipts of the year passing through their hands had been \$1,329, while the expenditure had been \$1,535. Against this deficiency, however, the amount of rents in arrears when collected would reduce the actual deficiency on account of the year to about \$100, a not very satisfactory thing, it was true—but still, under all the circumstances, a state of affairs which was such as to justify them in looking forward with hope and confidence to the future. A discussion then followed upon the reports, which was joined in by Messrs. Edmison, McClelland, J. C. Brown, and R. Tully, Dr. Bell, Carnegie, and others, as to the best means of increasing the congregational revenue, and the propriety of making an immediate effort to pay off the standing debt against the church property. At the conclusion of the discussion it was decided to make no special effort until next fall, but that in the meantime every member should be urged to increase his weekly contributions so as to insure increased revenue, and to this end Messrs. Pentland, Carnegie, McClelland and J. C. Brown were appointed a special committee to urge upon members and adherents a more general adoption of the envelope system. On the following (Wednesday) evening, the children belonging to the Sabbath school were entertained to a sumptuous tea, after which the chief amusement of the evening was the exhibition of a magic lantern by Mr. Wm. Cameron.

PRESBYTERY OF STRATFORD.—This Court met at Stratford on the 9th inst. All the ministers were present, and twelve elders. The Convener of the Home Mission Committee was instructed to apply for the services of Mr. Fleming, student, for three months at Tavistock and New Hamburg, and for \$4 a Sabbath of assistance to these stations from the central committee. A communion roll of twenty-two persons had been formed at Tavistock and a Sabbath school of ninety-five pupils. A report on the "Presbyterial Visitation Questions" was submitted, and is to be taken up at the July meeting after reports thereon have been sent to the Convener, Mr. Macpherson, from the various sessions. In regard to Molesworth and Trowbridge it was decided that these stations should not be separated, and Mr. Johnston's resignation was not accepted. A petition for supply of preaching was presented from North Mornington. It was agreed to notify neighbouring sessions and take

up the matter at next meeting. The parties who protested against the decision of Presbytery in the matter of their charge against their minister at Granton, instructed, by Mr. Alex. Mitchell, that they had agreed to fall from their protest. The following commissioners were appointed to General Assembly, viz.: Ministers—Messrs. Johnston, Wilson and Boyd, by rotation, and Messrs. Hall, Macleod and Scott, by election; elders—Messrs. Thos. Macpherson, Jas. Hamilton, Michael Ballantyne, John Stewart, John Hamilton, and Dr. Dunsmore, by election. A petition from parties at and near Granton, transmitted by the session of Biddulph, praying for the erection of a congregation or station there, was read, whereupon Mr. Mann objected to the reception of it on the ground that it contained false statements, and had appended thereto a false certification, as also one or more false signatures, and that the session had taken initiatory steps with a view to subjecting the principal parties in the petition to church discipline. The petition was laid on the table till the 25th inst., when the grounds of objection are to be investigated, and the Clerk was authorized to cite witnesses if requested so to do. Mr. Macleod submitted an overture on the appointment of standing committees and on their reports, which was laid on the table till next meeting.

PRESBYTERY OF BROCKVILLE.—This Presbytery held its last regular meeting at Prescott on the 16th inst. There were present nine ministers and five elders. Mr. Stewart arose to a point of privilege. He called the attention of the court to a certain expression in the published minutes anent the translation of Mr. Henderson from Prescott to his present charge, and gave notice that at a future sederunt he would move for the reconsideration of said minute. At the next sederunt accordingly he moved, seconded by Mr. Dey—and it was agreed—that the minute in question be reconsidered. Whereupon it was moved by Mr. Dey, seconded by Mr. Leishman, and agreed, "That the Presbytery re-adopt the minute in reference to Mr. Henderson's translation with the exception of the expression 'in a difficult charge,' for which is substituted the expression 'in his late charge.' And the Presbytery hereby declare that the word 'difficult' was in no way intended to reflect upon the congregation of Prescott." Mr. Leishman laid upon the table a call from Kemptville, etc., in favour of Mr. Jno. M. McIntyre, lately of Orangeville. The call was very hearty and unanimous, and was accompanied by guarantees for a salary of \$700 per annum and a manse. Commissioners were heard. Mr. Dey moved, duly seconded, "That Mr. Leishman's conduct in moderating this call be approved, the call sustained as a regular Gospel call, and that it be transmitted to Mr. McIntyre."—Agreed. At Mr. Leishman's suggestion a telegram was sent Mr. McIntyre acquainting him of the Presbytery's action and asking a reply. This came in due time and signified his acceptance. The induction was set for the 30th inst. The report of the Home Mission Committee was now received. In connection with the consideration of its first recommendation, a communication from the Presbytery of Kingston was read, intimating that said Presbytery had agreed to cede Morton, etc., within their bounds, to this Presbytery. Upon this the recommendation of the committee was adopted and another committee appointed to visit the places above named together with Newboro', Westport, and Delta, and endeavour to prepare them for formation into a self-sustaining charge. Upon the committee's second recommendation, that "Some effort shall be made to have the Presbyterian cause introduced into as many of the villages and rural districts, within the bounds, as may be deemed advisable or possible," it was agreed to adopt the recommendation and to appoint a committee to consider the matter and report. The grants to be sought in aid of supplemented charges were passed as revised before the beginning of the half-year now current, with the exception of Newboro', etc., for which it was decided to ask \$3 per Sabbath during vacancy. Mr. D. McCrae, M.A., of St. Stephen's Church, St. John, was nominated for the Moderatorship of the General Assembly, and the following were chosen the Presbytery's commissioners to Assembly, Messrs. Mullan, Rowat, Stuart, and McKibbin, ministers; and Messrs. Hall, Wallace, Thompson, and Marshall, elders. Upon the remits anent Romish ordination, and the reception of ministers from other Churches the Court was unanimous. Respecting the former Mr. Dey moved, seconded by Mr. Leishman,