

Ministers and Churches.

At the annual meeting of West Church, Toronto, the receipts reported by the managers—apart from the balance from 1885—amounted to \$4,968.87. In addition, the special services under the direction of the Session cost about \$400, which, along with several other items, brings up the whole amount to \$5,700. Members received since last report numbered 275; members on the roll, 670; contributions to the poor fund, \$125; at the Sabbath school, \$30 scholars, with some sixty officers and teachers, and \$397 collected by Sabbath school. The Ladies' Aid Society collected \$205.81 during the year, and paid the managers \$120. There is a large and flourishing Young People's Association, and a Band of Hope, with about ninety members. The attendance is large both at the Sabbath services and the weekly prayer meeting.

The original New Orleans University singers gave an entertainment in Stayner, on the evening of the 17th inst. Just before the arrival of the company by the noon train, it was ascertained that the hotel keepers had resolved upon refusing admission to them. On arrival, they proceeded to the Cameron House, as their agent had previously made a contract with the proprietor for their board and lodging. The proprietor, however, denied them the hospitality of the house, not even permitting them to sit at the table which was served for dinner. Arrangement had meanwhile been made for their accommodation, and the singers were conveyed to private houses. The reason for this outrage upon unoffending strangers was, as is well known, not that they were persons of colour, but that the profits resulting from the entertainment were to be given to the Woman's Christian Temperance Union for charitable purposes.

The Rev. James Robertson, Superintendent of Missions in Manitoba and North-West Territories, writes: Permit me through THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN to inform your readers of the new terms offered by the C. P. R. to commissioners to the General Assembly, summoned to meet in Winnipeg in June next. The company will grant return tickets to all commissioners—ministers and elders—and their wives, from any point on the company's lines in Ontario or Quebec, for \$30 all rail; \$35 going by rail and returning by boat, or going by boat and returning by rail; and \$40 going and returning by boat. These figures do not include Pullman fares. On the boat meals and staterooms are included. An excursion will be organized from Winnipeg to the Rocky Mountains and to the Pacific, and the fare will be equally low with that to Winnipeg no doubt. This will be announced in due time. Persons leaving by train on Monday will reach Winnipeg on the morning of the day on which the Assembly meets.

The annual meeting of Knox Church, Milton, took place on Thursday evening last week. The attendance was good. The Rev. M. C. Cameron, B.D., occupied the chair. The manager's report was read by the secretary, Mr. Hugh Campbell, which was received enthusiastically by the congregation. It showed that the congregation was in a healthy, vigorous condition. Their handsome new manse is completely free from debt. Mr. John Lawson read the treasurer's report, which showed the progress of liberality during 1886. The Sabbath collections were \$87 in advance of last year's. The Schemes of the Church were better by \$842, with Augmentation yet to report. After paying every demand the treasurer was left with a balance on hand of \$86.03. The pastor stated that there were twenty-eight members added to the charge; he had made 401 pastoral visits, baptized twenty, and attended seven funerals. The Sabbath school, after paying large demands for new library, mission calls, had a balance on hand of \$18. The benediction was pronounced, which brought to a close one of the most harmonious and prosperous meetings ever held in Knox Church.

On Friday evening last Knox College Missionary Society held a most successful public meeting in Convocation Hall, which was filled to its utmost capacity, with a most appreciative audience. Mayor Howland presided, and delivered an unpretentious but fervent address. A paper, "Among the Eskimos in Labrador," giving most interesting particulars concerning the people, and the labours among them of the Moravian Missionaries, was read by Mr. G. A. Webster, B.A. Mr. J. Goforth, who soon intends proceeding as a missionary to China, gave an impassioned address, brimful with startling facts, and stirring issues on "Our Treatment of a Great Trust." This was followed by an admirable paper on "The Great Dark Continent," by Mr. A. J. McLeod, B.A., and the concluding address was by the Rev. G. M. Milligan, B.A., on the "Apologetic Value of Missions." The speech was a telling one. The choir led the singing, and a quartette was rendered with excellent taste and effectiveness. If the fine feeling and enthusiasm pervading the college is an indication, it is evident the missionary spirit has a large place in the hearts of the students of Knox College.

ZION CHURCH, Teeswater, held their annual soiree on Thursday evening, the 10th Feb. A good report was provided in the basement. After full justice was done to it, there was an adjournment to the church. At eight p.m. the pastor, Rev. A. R. Linton, B.D., took the chair. A number of anthems was well rendered by the choir of Zion Church, under the leadership of Mr. George Wilson. Appropriate addresses were given by Rev. Messrs. Hartley, of Bluevale, and Potter (McNoddy), of Teeswater. Readings were given by Messrs. Linton and Ritchie, also a recitation by Rev. A. Potter. The attendance was large, and would have been much larger but for the state of the roads. The other Churches were well represented at the soiree. On Friday evening there was a social for the Sabbath school children, which was well attended. The children, after getting their tea, passed a pleasant evening, singing from the Sabbath school Hymnal. A couple of readings were also given. The proceeds of the soiree amounted to \$150. We are happy to state that good feelings exist between the different congregations in the village, and that each can rejoice in the prosperity of the others.

THE congregation of Union Church, Smith's Falls, held their annual missionary meeting on Thursday evening, 3rd inst. The large church was filled. Able and telling addresses were delivered by the Rev. Mr. Barclay, of Montreal, Rev. Mr. Ross, of Perth, and Rev. Mr. Scott, of Manulick, the latter gentleman singing one or two solos. Rev. Mr. Mylne, of St. Andrew's Church, was on the platform, and took part in the opening and closing exercises. The addresses of the reverend gentlemen were brief, practical and very earnest. This was the first time the people of Smith's Falls had heard Mr. Barclay, and they were certainly not disappointed in him. All were very much pleased and gratified that he, at considerable inconvenience to himself, had responded to their solicitations, and came so far to set before them so earnestly and forcibly their duty in the cause of missions. Mr. Ross, so favourably known, held the attention of the audience closely in the efforts being made in connection with home missions in the North-West and other portions of the Dominion. Rev. Mr. Crombie, the pastor, presided; the choir, ably led by Mrs. J. A. Clarke and Mrs. F. T. Frost, rendered several beautiful hymns during the evening. The collection was a good one, amounting to \$387.24. The meeting was brought to a close at about half past nine.

AFTER the Week of Prayer last month, special evangelistic services were held in the First Presbyterian Church, Brandon, Man. The first meeting held was one of much power and blessing. A plain, pointed talk about personal relationship to the Christ of God sent some to their homes in great joy to tell of the precious blessing they had found, and others to spend much of the night in prayer, seeking the gift of God, which is eternal life. The pastor was then joined by Mr. Winchester, of Manitoba College, who remained one week. His services were much blessed among the young men. The meetings, although this is the fifth week, are still well attended, and much religious interest is manifest throughout the town. Two meetings are held each day. The people are thoughtful and earnest, and open to conversation on personal religion. After the second week the pastors of the other Churches were invited to aid in the work and since then they have been carried on as union meetings. Providence seems to speak to the people through the disappointed hopes and the heavy afflictions which visited the town last autumn. The Salvation Army have come upon the scene, and they are now emptying the bar-rooms by their meetings every night, and for the time being Brandon seems to be a place of special blessing.

THE annual meeting of Erskine Church, Duncannon, was held recently. The reports from all departments were encouraging. The Building Committee report only a little over \$100 of debt on the church and sheds. The Managing Committee report a small balance on hand. The Session reports twenty-one added to the Church by profession in both charges, making a total membership of 100. The Sabbath school is growing in interest. An interesting feature of the children's social was the presentation of a beautiful silver medal by Mrs. Cameron to Thomas McKay, for the highest number of marks in an examination on the whole of the Shorter Catechism, those only who were present every Sabbath during 1886 being eligible for competition. Shortly afterward, a number of the members and adherents of Erskine Church met at the manse, in the form of a surprise party, when Mr. and Mrs. Cameron were each presented with a very handsome chair (arm and rocker) as a mark of the esteem in which they are held by the congregation. Mr. W. P. Grierson read a neat and kindly address expressive of the esteem in which the pastor and his wife are held by the congregation. Mr. Cameron then made a few suitable remarks on behalf of himself and Mrs. Cameron, thanking them for their kind expression of their confidence in him, shewn by the presentation they had just made.

THE anniversary services commemorative of the opening of the Presbyterian Church, Norwood, were held on Sabbath, the 6th, and on the evening of Monday, the 7th inst. The Rev. M. Macgillivray, M.A., of Perth, occupied the pulpit on Sabbath, and delivered two really eloquent, thoughtful and practical discourses. The church, at both diets of worship, was well filled, and the worshippers evinced their appreciation of the sermons by the eagerness and attention with which they listened to their delivery. On Monday evening tea was served in the cheery and commodious schoolroom. Tea over, all repaired to the church. The pastor, Rev. J. Carmichael, took the chair. He said that the congregation is steadily increasing in membership and influence; that owing his incumbency the additions to the membership have averaged twenty-eight annually. Rev. Mr. Anderson, in a few happy remarks, expressed the pleasure he felt at being present. Rev. Mr. Thomson, of Hastings, gave a unique and humorous address on "Music." Mr. McArthur, of Havelock, gave a pointed and practical address on "Motive." Mr. Macgillivray, of Perth, gave a thoughtful and well digested address on "Woman's Place and Work in the World"; and Mr. Hay, of Campbellford, a well arranged and most timely address on "Socialism in the Church." The remark may be made that such addresses tend much to elevate the moral and intellectual tone of a community, and are sure more becoming the character of the Gospel ministry than the light and uneventful stories that are so constantly indulged in at tea meetings. Between the addresses, solos, quartettes and anthems by the choir were rendered in a truly artistic and happy manner, and reflected great credit on the attention and care which had been given to this part of the evening's entertainment. After the customary votes of thanks and the benediction, the large audience dispersed in a happy and pleased mood. The proceeds were \$142.

THE annual missionary meeting of St. James Square Presbyterian Church was held on Monday evening week. The attendance was not so large as it ought to have been, and certainly would have been under other circumstances. While a keen political conflict is at its height the ordinary current of affairs is disturbed. The Rev. Dr. Kellogg occupied the chair. The reports of the various missionary organizations were presented in concise form by Mr. Robert

Darling, sec.-treasurer of the mission committee of the congregation. He was able to state that the year's contributions were in advance of last or any previous year in the congregation's history. For Home Missions, the sum of \$1,132 was raised; Foreign Missions, to which the Home Gleaner Mission Band contributed \$450 \$1,277.23; Collegiate Education, including \$125 to Manitoba College, and contribution to Knox College Endowment Fund, \$1,948.33; French Evangelization, \$179.53; Augmentation Fund, \$826.81. Among other objects benefited by special contributions, amounting to \$840.75, may be mentioned Jewish Missions, \$45.50; and the McAll Mission, Paris, \$30; Foreign Missions \$128, of which one member contributed \$100. The adoption of the reports and the appointment of the Mission Committee for the year, of whom Dr. Kellogg is president, and the Hon. Oliver Mowat, vice-president, was, on motion of Principal Kirkland, seconded by Mr. C. B. Robinson, carried unanimously. A most interesting address on mission work and its claims in Manitoba and the North-West Territories, was delivered by the Superintendent of Missions, the Rev. James Robertson. The Rev. Hamilton Corbet, from Chefoo, then gave a most graphic description of his field of labour, the character and customs of the people and the blessed results that have followed the acceptance of the Gospel by them. The earnest and devoted missionary was assured of the deep interest in which his future labours would be viewed by those who had listened to him.

EIGHT years ago on the 2nd of February the new church at Eyretonville was opened, Rev. James Sievwright, B.A., of Goderich, and Rev. William Graham, the retired pastor, conducting the services of the day. On the following Monday Joseph McCoy, M.A., was ordained by the Presbytery of Huron, and inducted into the pastoral charge of the congregation. During the eight years which have elapsed since then, the congregation has made substantial advancement. One hundred and twenty-nine have been added to the membership, with a net increase of fifty-five, making the present membership one hundred and eighty-four. The debt of about \$1,100 on the church building has been all wiped out, and a comfortable new brick manse, costing about \$3,000, has been erected, on which there is still about \$1,700 debt, but which, no doubt, will be paid in due time. The anniversary services were held on Sabbath, February 6, and the annual social was on the Monday evening following. Rev. Dr. Beattie, of Brantford, delivered two able discourses to large congregations on Sabbath. In the morning the sermon was largely doctrinal, though by no means dull or wanting in practical appreciation; in the evening the practical talked largely. The social on the following evening was a decided success. Though the weather was anything but favourable—the rain and sleet having fallen all the Sabbath and Monday—and the roads exceedingly slippery, yet the attendance was large at all the meetings, as may be judged from the collections on Sabbath, and proceeds of tea meeting, amounting to \$103. Many friends came up from Seaford, showing their interest in their neighbour congregation. The refreshments furnished in the basement, by the ladies of the congregation, were excellent; the music by the choir was very fine, and the speeches by Rev. A. D. McDonald, of Seaford, Rev. George Jamieson, of Walton (retired), and Rev. Dr. Beattie, on "Church Etiquette," were above the average in that mingling of amusement with solid teaching which is so desirable in soiree speeches.

THE annual meeting of Chalmers Church congregation, Woodstock, was held lately. There was a large attendance present. The meeting was opened with devotional exercises by the pastor, Rev. W. A. Mackay, B.A. After a few remarks by the pastor, in which he expressed his devout thankfulness for the state of the congregation, Mr. Peter Craib was elected chairman, and Mr. F. Chalmers, secretary. The first report read was from the Session. It congratulates the congregation that through the grace of God the past year has been one of pleasant activity and progress. The communion roll now was 222 persons in active membership, thirty-four having been added during the year—nineteen by certificate, and fifteen on profession of faith. It summons all the people to renewed consecration and effort during the present year. It refers to the regular and increasing attendance at public service, and urges more attention to the Wednesday evening prayer meeting. It reviews the work of the missionary societies, and Sabbath school teachers, and directs attention to the class of young people every Wednesday afternoon for the practice of singing. The report from the Board of Trustees showed total receipts during the year \$3,159.82, of which \$1,450 was paid to the pastor; the balance of which, with the exception of \$600, was spent on general expenses. The report shows an increase over 1885 in all the means of revenue. It commends the free pew system, and hopes that during the year it may be adopted. The last paragraph says: Your trustees would conclude their report by expressing the hope that the harmony and good feeling which has existed in the congregation during the past year may be continued in the years to come, and that our esteemed pastor may long be spared to go in and out among us breaking unto us the bread of life. The following is an abstract of the Sabbath school report: There are twenty-eight teachers and officers, and 245 scholars on the roll; the largest attendance was 175; the smallest, 115; the average 151; the total collections were \$51.51. The missionary report covers only a period of nine months, ending with December, 1886. The total amount raised during that time was about \$200. The report urgently appeals to the people to exercise greater liberality in their contributions to missions. A Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was formed and much is expected from it. The following are the names of the new Board of Trustees: F. Chalmers, James McKay, W. Griffith, D. Robertson, W. B. Thornton, James Gunn, V. Schwalm, D. Dodge, H. H. Wallace, W. P. McClure, Thomas Amos, George Robertson, John Heal and J. Weir. Auditors: W. F. Ross and John A. McKay, secretary; C. W. Oliver, Treasurer. A vote of thanks was tendered to the retiring Board of Trustees, to the missionary collectors and to the choir.