

Church News

In Canada.

In the past few years the Ladies' Aid of St. Andrew's church, Amherstburg, has expended \$1,112.38 for congregational purposes.

Rev. F. H. LARKIN, of First church, Chatham, preached with great acceptance in St. Andrew's church, Amherstburg, on Sabbath, 10th inst., the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the pastorate of Rev. Thomas Nattress.

ON SABBATH, 17th inst., the pastors of St. Andrew's church, Windsor, and St. Andrew's, Amherstburg, Rev. J. C. Tolmie and Rev. Mr. Nattress, exchanged pulpits.

The members and adherents of the congregation of Willis' church, Jarratt's Corners, assembled together in the manse and presented their pastor, Rev. A. F. Webster, with a handsome fur overcoat. The address was read by Mr. John Clark (treasurer), which showed the high esteem in which Mr. Webster is held, though only just recently settled among them.

The Presbyterian church choir, Flesherton, of which Mrs. J. Blackburn is organist, accompanied by their pastor, Rev. J. Wells, M.A., gave Mr. and Mrs. Blackburn a pleasant surprise at their home in Flesherton, a few evenings ago, and presented Mrs. Blackburn with a well filled purse and very kindly worded address expressive of their and the church's appreciation of her services so cheerfully rendered in the church and Sabbath school for the past six years, also expressing in the kindest manner their sympathy with Mr. Blackburn in his long affliction, he being an invalid now over five years.

Rev. R. G. McBeth, M.A., of Augustine church, Winnipeg, writes in the Winnipeg Tribune: "I have just returned from a visit to the Roland mission field in Southern Manitoba, and found our cause prospering in the hands of Mr. C. T. Baylis, our missionary there. The congregations are increasing at every point. A new church is to be built at Roland in the spring, and all the money necessary is subscribed and half of it paid into the treasury. The debt on the Clegg church is being reduced, while a new church is being talked of for the third appointment. Mr. Baylis is much loved by all his people, and his energy in the Master's work is highly commendable."

Annual Meetings.

The reports of Melville church, Fergus, show receipts amounting to \$3,400 for all purposes. Woman's Aid receipts, \$184; Woman's Foreign Mission, \$246; Missionary Association, \$857, less balance cash on hand last year of \$247; Sabbath school, \$292; less cash on hand at beginning of the year, \$35; Willing Workers, \$21; Harvesters Mission Band, \$33; Y. P. S. C. Endeavor, \$55. This makes a grand total collected for missionary purposes alone, of \$1,356.

This annual tea-meeting of the congregation at Craigvale, presided over by the pastor, Rev. W. McConnell, was an unqualified success. The choir from Barrie, under the leadership of Mr. Ward, assisted. At the close of the meeting, the speakers and choir, together with other friends, were invited over to the "manse" where supper had been provided by the ladies, and after enjoying a social hour, all dispersed to their homes feeling they had spent a pleasant and profitable evening. The entertainment by the Sabbath school was announced to take place the following evening, but owing to the very severe weather had to be postponed.

The annual meeting of the church at Collingwood, attracted a good attendance, and was one of the most pleasant, harmonious and successful ever held in the church. The chair was occupied by Mr. W. A. Copeland, and Rev. Dr. McCrae conducted devotional services. The report of the session showed that sixty-eight new members had been added to the roll during the year, and there has been progress in every department of church work. All the reports from different societies and organizations were most encouraging. The total amount raised for missions was \$546. The manager's report was very favorable con-

sidering the financial depression which has prevailed. All the members and adherents were urged to contribute systematically by envelope. The question of enlarging the seating capacity of the church was discussed. It was decided that the seating accommodation must be increased at once, as many who come here have to be turned away, and the church is altogether overcrowded. The managers were instructed to secure plans and submit them as early as possible. Messrs. Henry Lake, D. MacL. Darroch and Geo. Montgomery, were elected to the board of managers.

The annual report of Chalmers church, Halifax, shows that at no time has the church been in better working order, or more useful to the city and the country than it is to-day. Number of families is 134. Seven came and seven went in course of the year. There are 290 members on the roll. Received sixty-seven. Removed forty-nine. Total 308. When Mr. McLellan became pastor in 1884 there were 103 on the roll. Since then 453 have been received, and 308 removed. Average attendance on Sabbath services 290. Prayer meeting eighty. Contributed for missionary purposes \$485.25. For other benevolent and religious purposes nearly \$600. Total contributions \$1,997.23. There is a balance of \$45.56 in favor of the church.

Rev. A. C. REEVES presided at the annual meeting of Lakeside congregation. The reports were satisfactory. There are 17 members on the roll. The annual financial statement showed receipts of \$900.85 to the stipend fund and balance on hand of \$69.85; \$87.58 in hand for the building fund; \$333.67 in the general expense fund; and \$55.15 had been collected for missions. There are ninety scholars in the Sabbath school, with receipts \$75.32. The Sabbath school missionary account amounted to \$85.50; the W. F. M. S. to \$69.27; the Ladies' Aid to \$234.32. After the reports had been read and adopted, the following members were elected to the Managing Committee: Messrs. A. Fairbairn, H. M. Davidson, and J. W. Ridpath. Messrs. F. J. Burgess and E. A. Tanner were re-elected as auditors, and Messrs. Chas. Tanner and Edwin Benson as ushers.

The annual meeting of St. Stephen's church, Amherst, received reports from the session, Sabbath school, Y. P. S. C. E. Society, W. F. M. Auxiliary and Mission Band, showing that the past year was one of the best in the history of the church. Forty-six were added to the membership. Sixteen were lost through death and removals. The present membership is 256. The treasurer's report showed that \$3,273 were raised for all purposes. Of this sum \$1,011 were given for the Schemes of the Church and other religious and benevolent objects. As follows:—Foreign Missions, \$523; Augmentation, \$60; French Evangelization, \$41; Pointe-aux-Trembles school, \$50; Home Missions, East and West (of this amount \$30 did not pass through the agent's hands), \$201; College, \$25; Assembly Fund, \$4; Synod and Presbytery, \$7; Library, \$3; other religious objects, \$97; total for schemes, etc., \$1,011. Of this amount the Sunday school contributed \$159, the Y. P. S. C. E. contributed \$31; W. F. M. Auxiliary, \$36; Mission Band, \$80.

ZION CHURCH, BRANTFORD.

The forty second annual meeting of Zion church, Brantford, Ont., was largely attended. Rev. Dr. Cochran presided, and Mr. J. A. Wallace acted as clerk. Dr. Cochran reviewed the work of the year in the different departments of Church and Mission work, and congratulated the congregation upon the state of matters financially and otherwise. He remarked that the year 1894 had been a trying one for many families in the congregation by reason of lack of employment, but that, notwithstanding this, the receipts were sufficient to meet all demands, and, in some cases, beyond former years. He exhorted them to maintain the history of the church as one that looked not only upon its own things, but sought the prosperity of their brethren in the regions

beyond. He made special mention of the praiseworthy efforts of the Sabbath school teachers and the collectors for missions and the different agencies in the Church, whose officials by their cheerful service greatly lightened his labours, and encouraged his heart. The report of the kirk session was read by Mr. Thomas McLean, showing that 105 had been received into membership during the year; that twelve had died; sixteen had been dropped from the roll, and sixty-one had been regularly dismissed, leaving the membership at the end of the year 779. The session referred to the absolute necessity of Dr. Cochran's taking every year a lengthened vacation, as he had done last summer, as no minister, without a regular assistant, could continue to bear the burden of such a congregation and its missions without rest. The Sabbath school report was read by Mr. J. A. Ogilvie, and the report on Sabbath school finances by Mr. A. L. Baird. From these it appeared that there were 700 Sabbath school scholars on the roll and eighty officers and teachers in connection with Zion, St. Andrew's, and Balfour street schools; that \$339 had been given to missions by the schools, and \$228 had been spent in the maintenance of the schools by the congregation. The report of the Woman's Missionary Society for Home Missions and Foreign Missions, and the Senior Mission Band, were submitted by Dr. Cochran. The former had given \$200 and the latter \$124, for the several objects under their care. Mr. J. F. McLaren submitted the report of St. Andrew's mission, showing that \$330 had been raised during the year. Dr. Nichol's report, which he afterwards read, showed that another \$40 had been raised by the Dorcas Society, making a total of \$390. The future interest of the mission, in regard to house-to-house visitation and the week-day and Sabbath evening services, were considered at length, and the whole matter left in the meantime in the hands of the session and the officers connected with St. Andrew's and Balfour street mission schools. A hearty vote of thanks was tendered Dr. Nichol by the session for his unwearied efforts during the past few years in behalf of St. Andrew's mission. The board of management for the mission was re-elected for 1895, namely, Messrs. Dr. Nichol, Alexander Moffatt, Robert Henry, J. F. McLaren, and W. J. Knowles. Miss Jessie Robertson presented the report of the King's Daughters' Circle, and Miss Violet Clark that of the Christian Endeavour Society. The report of the Ladies' Benevolent Society was read by Dr. Cochran, and also that of the Missionary Association. The Benevolent Society received upwards of \$120 during the year in behalf of needy families of the congregation, but private assistance largely increased the aid thus given. The Missionary Association collected during the year the handsome sum of \$1,979.32 for the ordinary schemes of the Presbyterian Church, and the total for missionary and benevolent objects amounted to \$3,030. In addition to the ordinary contribution for the aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, \$217 was given for the Endowment Fund by a few of the members of the congregation last year, and \$386 during the past three years. The report of the board of management was presented by Mr. J. A. Wallace. It referred among other matters to the resignation of Prof. Boyce as organist, and appointment of Miss Staniland to that position, with Mr. Charles Seace as choir conductor, and Miss Lillian Houlding as soloist. The treasurer's report was submitted by Mr. William Grant, who for a long number of years has efficiently discharged the onerous duties of that office. It showed receipts to the amount of \$7,947. Certain sums paid since the treasurer's statement was prepared, and which could not be added, makes the amount over \$8,000. The managers retiring by rotation, Messrs. William Watt, sen., J. A. Wallace, R. W. Robertson and G. K. McGregor were re-elected. Messrs. Thomas Watt and John T. Wallace were appointed auditors for the year 1895; and the following were appointed ushers:—Messrs. Peter Duff, Fred K. McPherson, William Cameron, Nelson Builder, George Grant, George Whyte, Harvey Strathdee and William Friend.