

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.

At the regular quarterly meeting of the Presbytery of Montreal held on Tuesday last the business was largely of a routine character and was transacted with despatch in two sittings. Special attention was, however, given to the matter of re-arranging certain congregations and missions in two different sections of the Presbytery with a view to their more efficient working in the future. It is now twenty one years since the union of the different Presbyterian churches of the Dominion, and it is happily quite possible to group together congregations and missions that formerly were affiliated with different branches of the Presbyterian family in order to make workable parishes. This occasionally involves some slight sacrifice on the part of a few of the people, and in order to carry their consent the matter has to be handled carefully. But when, as in this case, ministers who are likely to be affected by such re-arrangements declare their readiness to surrender their positions in order to facilitate the object, their self-sacrifice can hardly fail to commend it to the favorable consideration of the people. This has been proved to be practically true more than once already within the past few years and it is confidently expected by the Presbytery that it will be met in a worthy spirit by the several congregations interested, in the present instance as well.

Perhaps the most interesting report presented at the meeting was that by Mr Dewey regarding the Chinese work in the city which continues to make good progress. A successful daily morning school has been recently opened in charge of Miss Thomson and supported by Mr David Yule. A number of the Chinese scholars have recently returned home carrying with them favorable impressions and naturally increasing the interest in their native villages which it is hoped may be followed up by some active agency. Quite a number of others have, after a period of instruction, gone to different places in Canada or the United States. Some of these have written to Dr. Thomson, the missionary here, expressing their disappointment that the churches in these smaller places show no interest in them. Surely this fact only requires to be known to secure that wherever they may go some active Christian worker will look them up and at least give them an invitation to the services of the church. A number have applied to be received into Knox Church on profession at the next opportunity. The collections in the school for the past year have amounted to about \$500. and revenue from other sources of about the same amount is reported.

During the morning seditment of the Presbytery it became known that the illness of the Rev. J. M. Boyd of Beauharnois, referred to last week, had taken a dangerous turn, but no one supposed the end was so near. He passed away before the day was over, at the comparatively early age of fifty-five. He had ministered in this charge for fifteen years and previous to that time had been pastor at Demorestville, Ont., where he is still affectionately remembered. Mr. Boyd was a genial kindly man who carried sunshine with him everywhere. Though seldom taking much part in the business he will be much missed in the Presbytery as well as in his congregation and home. His remains were removed on Thursday for burial in Ottawa near which he was born and where a number of his relatives still reside.

The Methodist Church has suffered a serious loss in the sudden and unexpected death of the Rev. A. M. Phillips who was well known in Toronto. He died in the General Hospital from the effects of an operation performed a week ago for renal calculus. He was only forty nine years of age, but was recognized as one of the most thoughtful and original preachers in the denomination.

The mission in St. Gabriel Ward taken over by St. Paul's Church a few weeks ago to be worked by their young people already

shows a decided improvement from the careful visitation of the district. The Sunday school has grown from an average of twenty five to over a hundred and the Sunday evening service is largely attended. A reading room has just been opened which will be supplied with papers and magazines and placed at the disposal of the young men of the neighborhood for their use in the evening. It is also proposed to have occasional lectures and concerts.

At a social meeting in St. Gabriel church on Monday evening last to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of Dr. Campbell's induction as pastor. Congratulatory speeches were made by representatives of the Anglican, Methodist, Congregational, and Baptist Churches, as well as by several Presbyterians, including Dr. Wardrop, ex-moderator of the General Assembly. Before the meeting closed an illuminated address was presented to Dr. Campbell by Mr. James Harper on behalf of the congregation, and a handsome brass and marble piano lamp to Mrs. Campbell from the ladies. Both the pastor and his estimable wife have a warm place in the hearts of their people.

The lectures in the Presbyterian College closed on the 17th inst., and most of the students have left the city to spend the Christmas vacation at their homes or in supplying some of the more distant mission fields where their visits are heartily welcomed.

The Rev. F. M. Dewey, of Stanley St. Church, read an able paper at the last meeting of the Ministerial Association on "Christ and His teachings upon the Holy Spirit." The paper was followed by an earnest discussion on the importance of the Spirit's work being fully recognized.

The congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Martintown, left vacant a few weeks ago by the departure of the Rev. Mr. Burnet for Scotland, has given a unanimous call to the Rev. P. F. Lanzill, of Fort Erie, in the Hamilton Presbytery.

BRITISH COLUMBIA NOTES.

Rev. E. D. McLaren, of St. Andrew's, Vancouver, has been resting an inflamed knee for the past two weeks. He hopes to be able to occupy his pulpit once next Sabbath.

Rev. J. M. McLeod, of Zion church, in the same city, has just returned from an extended trip through the United States and the Eastern Provinces. As a result he looks remarkably well.

Another of our ministers, Dr. Campbell of Victoria, has been called Eastward by the serious illness of his daughter in Minneapolis. Rev. D. H. Reid of the American Presbyterian Church supplies the pulpit of the First church during the pastor's absence.

At a meeting of the Presbytery of Victoria on the 1st inst., Rev. W. B. Cumming was inducted into the pastoral charge of St. Andrew's, Nanaimo. He enters upon the work of the Master in the Coal City under most favorable conditions for one strong in body, mind and spirit. A call, very cordial and unanimous, from Wellington congregation to Mr. E. G. Perry, licentiate, was sustained by Presbytery and accepted—ordination and induction to take place on the 10th inst. Mr. A. E. Camp, a classmate of Mr. Perry, has also accepted a call to Eburne, in the Presbytery of Westminster. Thus the last vacancy in the Synod of B.C. has been filled—eight settlements having been effected during the year.

The Rev. James Barclay, D.D., of St. Paul's church, Montreal, has been nominated for the Moderatorship of the General Assembly by the Presbytery of Victoria.

An agreeable Thanksgiving social was recently held in the lecture room of St. Andrew's church, Victoria. Special cause for thanksgiving this congregation has in the happy removal of its heavy financial embarrassment. By the great liberality of one member the indebtedness was reduced to \$22,000 less than half its former dimensions. Arrangements have also been made whereby this sum will be gradually reduced and finally extinguished in ten years. More than the amount has been actually subscribed in sums varying from \$5 to \$3,000,

and \$12,000 has been secured by promissory notes. Truly in the midst of "hard times" such liberality speaks volumes for the hold which the Church has upon the affections of the people.

GENERAL.

A new Presbyterian Church is to be erected between Bonfield and Rutherford stations.

At the anniversary of St. Paul's Church, Ottawa, Dec. 13th., the Rev. E. A. Scott preached two able and interesting sermons. During the services the new organ was used for the first time.

Rev. J. D. Fraser has decided to accept a call from St. Stephen's Church, St. John, N. B., as successor to Rev. Dr. McCrae, who has been appointed Principal of Morin College, Quebec.

The Rev. A. J. McMullen, B.A., of Cowal, has received a unanimous call to the congregations of Springville and Bethany, in the Presbytery of Peterboro'. Induction on New Year's Day in the Springville Church.

The members of the Y.P.S.C.E., and of the pastor's class, St. Andrews Church, London, (Rev. R. Johnston, pastor) has decided to contribute twenty five cents each towards the reduction of the Foreign Mission Deficit.

The Presbyterian Mission Band, Kemptville, held a most successful and enjoyable concert on Friday 11th inst., at which no \$35 were taken in. The children who filled the whole programme acquitted themselves admirably, doing credit to themselves and to those who trained them for the occasion.

The Rev. Mr. Innis was inducted into the pastoral charge of Boboysgeon and Dunsford, on Dec. 15. The service was very interesting and was largely attended by members of the congregation. Rev. A. O. Reeves, of Lakeside, presided. Rev. Mr. Potter, of St. Andrew's, Peterborough, preached the sermon. Rev. Dr. Torrance, of St. Paul's, Peterborough, addressed the minister, and Rev. Mr. Tanner, of Omamee, addressed the people.

A large number of people assembled at the Carleton Presbyterian church St. Johns N. B. recently to attend the re-opening of the church, which has been closed for over six weeks undergoing repairs. The pastor Rev. Mr. Burgess, preached an appropriate sermon from 11. John xiii 15. In the evening Rev. Mr. Rennie of Calvin Presbyterian church, occupied the pulpit. The church was erected fifty years ago and of the five trustees who were then selected Mr. Jarvis Wilson alone is alive. He attended both services on Sabbath.

A very interesting event took place in the Presbyterian church, Treheron, Man., on Friday evening, Dec. 4. At the close of the thanksgiving service the congregation spent a social time together. Among the features of the evening was the presentation to Mrs. Christina Fannie Robson of an address, signed on behalf of the congregation by Miss Jessie Ross and Miss Carrie Robertson, and a silver tea service and cake basket. Mrs. Robson, though completely taken by surprise, replied in suitable terms, thanking the congregation for their kindness.

The annual social of the Primary Sabbath School Teachers' Union of the Presbyterian Church was held last evening in Westminster Church, Toronto. Miss Russell, the President of the Association, occupied the chair, and a very pleasant programme was executed. Miss Readman, the Vice-President of the Association, took up the lesson for next Sunday, and instructed the teachers how they were to teach their various classes. An interesting address was delivered by the Rev. W. G. Wallace, pastor of Bloor Street Presbyterian Church.

PRESBYTERY OF BRUCE.

This Presbytery met in Paisley on Tuesday, Dec. 8th, at 1.30 p.m. Rev. J. R. Craigie, Moderator.

A deputation appeared from Inverhuron stating that no services had yet been given to the people in that section, and asking for an explanation of the resolution passed