

## Ministers and Churches.

### Our Toronto Letter.

The season of picnics is sometimes the season of sad experiences. Not often, however, when one considers the possibility of accident with several hundred children running loose, and each desirous of emulating the boldest spirit there. The West Church Sabbath School was one of the unfortunate ones this year. Among their own members were two strangers, the guests of some of the children who regularly attended the school. One of these, a lad of eight years, went paddling in an apparently shallow lagoon on the Island. Suddenly he disappeared, and the other stranger, who was sitting on the bank, ran into the water with all his clothing on, and caught the drowning boy as he came up again. But he too stepped on the edge of the treacherous hole, and both disappeared. They do not seem to have risen again, and their bodies were not recovered till some half-hour after. The lad who went in after the drowning boy was the only son of a widow, who was spending some time in the city, and trying to make his way here. It is easy to moralize when the disaster has occurred, but little could have been done to have prevented it. With the utmost care death slips in and carries off the one he has marked for his own.

The work in the western part of the city is progressing. The Bonar congregation opened another section of their church on Sunday last. There is one of the most vigorous Sabbath Schools here that is to be found in the city. It had long outgrown the capacity of the former building, already enlarged, and the Managers determined upon a considerable extension. This has been completed, at a cost of \$5,000, and last Sabbath the addition was opened. The pastor, Rev. Alex. Macgillivray, took the morning service, and the congregation observed the sacrament, a most fitting opening for the new part of the building. At the afternoon service addresses were given by the Rev. W.G. Wallace of Bloor St. Church, and by Mr. John Winchester, K. C. of the Parkdale Presbyterian Church. In the evening the Rev. Dr. R. H. Warden, the Moderator of the General Assembly, preached. The congregations were large, and the congregation manifested the most helpful spirit in view of the heavier obligations. The work here progresses rapidly, with little noise, but with unbroken continuance. Mr. Macgillivray and his loyal people are to be congratulated upon the good work done, and upon the good prospect of enlarged opportunity.

The neighboring congregation of Fern Avenue is also filling up. The northern section of the Parkdale division of the city, as indeed the whole western section, is so full that it is next to impossible to obtain a house to rent there. The congregation of Fern Ave. has been alive to the increased population and its spiritual need, and in consequence has grown considerably during the last year. The work of these outlying fields is very trying, and we are not surprised to learn that the Rev. Mr. Graeb, the pastor of Fern Avenue, has been obliged to take a few weeks rest. During the month of August also he will exchange with the Rev. J. R. Johnston, of Preston. Mr. Johnston is well known in Toronto and will be cordially welcomed by his many friends here.

At the last common service at the Dovescourt Church there were seventeen new members received by the session, and welcomed by the congregation. The serious problem of providing increased accommodation for the rapidly growing congregation must be faced by the people here in the near future. Already it is impossible to carry on the work of the Sabbath School as successfully as it might be done, because of the too cramped quarters. The period is a critical one in the history of any congregation, and at no time is a helping hand from a stronger sister more welcome than when passing the difficult ridge that separates the strong from the weak. It would be a generous thing to hold out a helping hand without waiting to be asked.

We are told that the other steamboat lines are playing a waiting game while the test case against the Steamer Argyle, which carried passengers out of Toronto on the Lord's Day, is being argued. They would like to do the same thing, but do not care to try the fire till they see whether it will burn their smaller sisters. This reveals the gravity of the occasion, and we hope those concerned in the prosecution will take note of it. The Lord's Day Alliance is

mentioned as the prosecutor. It is not. The case is taken up by those whose duty it is to see that the law is enforced. The Lord's Day Alliance has taken its proper position with respect to this matter. That Society is not the public prosecutor, much as some would like to force it to take up this position. It will throw its whole influence on the side of those who seek to have the law respected, but its place is to assist.

The summer preacher is with us, and on the whole he is a very pleasant fellow. Of course he is not equal to the pastor; that goes without saying; but he is the best substitute that is to be found. He has a hard time of it. He faces a few people scattered over a large church, fanning as if life depended on the effort. In one seat he catches an inspiring glance from one evidently listening, and after dwelling as long as possible in that vicinity he goes on the hunt for another good listener. The bare seats and the succession of indifferent faces takes it out of him, but off in another corner he will often find another face that gives him courage to keep on till the end of the sermon. Then as soon as he pronounces the benediction every soul of them turns his or her back on the preacher. He deserves better at our hands than this. Of course he is paid for it, but money doesn't go far in settling this account. A simple, "Thank You," weighs more than all he will get for his month's work.

### Eastern Ontario.

Rev. J. L. Millar has been elected Moderator of Glengarry Presbytery.

The next regular meeting of Glengarry Presbytery will be held in Lancaster, on Sept. 9.

Rev. W. J. Smith, of Collander, has been elected Moderator of North Bay Presbytery.

Rev. H. Carmichael, M. A., Dunbar, has been elected Moderator of Brockville Presbytery.

Rev. G. C. Little, of Corbellen, has been called by Victoria Harbor and associate charges.

Barrie Presbytery has sustained the call from Collingwood to Rev. J. A. Cranston, Rockwood.

Next regular meeting of Barrie Presbytery will be held at Midland on 17th Sept. at 3 p. m.

Barrie Presbytery has granted leave of absence for two months to Rev. L. McLean, of West Nottawasaga.

Rev. J. W. Tanner, Lancaster, preached an appropriate sermon to a large congregation of masons and their friends.

Brockville Presbytery is about organizing a Young Peoples Presbyterian Society, and appointed a committee having this object in view.

St Andrew's congregation, Lindsay, has increased the salary of its pastor, Rev. J. W. McMillan, from \$1,500 to \$2,000, and in addition presented him with \$200 towards defraying his expenses to Europe.

Revs. J. Cormack, G. Weir and H. D. Leitch were appointed a committee by Glengarry Presbytery to draft a plan for a series of special services to be held throughout the bounds for the deepening of the spiritual life of the congregations.

Communion services were observed in St. Andrews, Carleton Place, on Sunday, when thirteen new members were added. Rev. Mr. Hutcheon, of Almonte, conducted the preparatory services on Friday evening, when three adult baptisms took place.

Last meeting of Brockville Presbytery was held in the pretty town of Cardinal, and the young ladies of the church entertained the ministers and elders present at a tea served in the school room. It was a very pleasant affair and was greatly enjoyed.

At last meeting of Brockville Presbytery it was reported that the Presbytery had contributed generously to the Century Fund both Debt and Common. About \$10,300 has been subscribed to the latter and all except \$2,000 has already been paid in cash. Of this amount more than \$4,200 has been subscribed by the Brockville churches.

At the last meeting of North Bay Presbytery arrangements were made for the induction of Rev. R. McKibbin at Loring, and the Rev. A. Henderson at Magnetawan. A very successful Presbyterial Sunday School Convention was held, when S. S. workers were present from nearly all the Schools within the bounds. The meetings were noted for the absence of oratorical fireworks, and the very earnest and practical manner in which the vital questions were considered.

A pleasant event at last meeting of Owen Sound Presbytery was the presentation of a purse containing \$100 in gold to the venerable Rev. Robert Rogers whose jubilee as a minister of the church was celebrated a few months ago. Mr. Rogers occupies a high place in the esteem of his co-presbyters who wish him great comfort in his declining years.

Arrangements are being made for a series of missionary meetings, to be addressed by Rev. J. Goforth of China, during September, and also a series of Home Mission meetings later on. Rev. J. Cormack reported that Glengarry Presbytery had subscribed \$13,347 towards the Century Fund, of which amount \$11,200 has been already paid for the Common Fund.

Regret is expressed at the announcement of the resignation of Rev. Dr. Waits, of Knox Church, Owen Sound, where he has ministered to a large and attached congregation for the past thirteen years. Dr. Waits intends taking up his residence in England in the hope that the change may be beneficial to the health of his wife, who is a confirmed invalid.

### Ottawa.

At the recent communion in Knox Church six names were added to the roll.

Hon. William Mulock, Postmaster General, of Canada, is now in London on his way home from Australia.

Many of the Sabbath Schools in this city, are now meeting at 10 o'clock in the morning, instead of the afternoon.

Dr. Geo. Baptie, of this city, has been appointed coroner in place of Dr. Freeland, who was recently appointed collector of inland revenue for the port of Ottawa.

Rev. Dr. Bayne, of Pembroke, was the preacher in St. Paul's last Sabbath. The Doctor is a vigorous preacher, and presents the message in an attractive form. He is always welcome to Ottawa pulpits.

At the last meeting of Ottawa Presbytery, in the absence of Rev. J. W. H. Milne, Moderator, Rev. Wm. Patterson, of Buckingham, was called to preside, and right well did he discharge the duties of the chair.

The annual outing of the scholars of Bethany Sunday School to Britannia was a great success. Special cars conveyed the picnic party to the grounds. They were in charge of Rev. J. Eadie, J. A. Bullman and R. J. Brown.

Mr. Wm. Moore, son of Rev. Dr. Moore of the Bank St. Presbyterian Church, has been promoted to a first lieutenancy in the Royal Garrison Artillery stationed at Malta. Mr. Moore entered the service a little over a year ago.

The Almonte Gazette, in noticing the laying of the corner stone of the new Erskine Church, makes reference to the "cut" of Rev. A. E. Mitchell which appeared in the Citizen. It certainly failed to convey any adequate idea of the pleasant personality of the popular pastor of Erskine Church; but the "Artist" will be forgiven if he promises "not to do it again."

The proper observance of the Lord's Day came up for discussion in Ottawa Presbytery, when the following resolutions were unanimously adopted: "That this presbytery records its strong denunciation of Sunday excursions, and appoints a committee to take such action as to them may seem judicious in the premises for the protection of the Lord's Day; and that the committee be instructed to co-operate with the Lord's Day alliance and also to use the public press so far as possible, and to expose any iniquitous proceedings that may be carried on in connection with Sunday excursions." A strong committee of ministers and elders was accordingly appointed with Rev. Dr. Moore as convener.

Standing committees with the following conveners were appointed by Ottawa Presbytery: Church Life and Work, Rev. T. A. Sadler, Russell; Home Missions, Rev. Dr. Armstrong, Ottawa; Augmentation, Rev. D. M. Ramsay, Ottawa; Sabbath Schools, Rev. R. Eadie, Hintonburg; French Evangelization, Rev. Wm. Patterson, Buckingham; Statistics, Rev. Jas. Taylor, Aylwin; Students' Exercises, Rev. D. J. Scott, East Templeton; Church Property, Rev. Dr. Moore, Ottawa; Young People's Societies, Rev. J. McNicol, Aylmer; Foreign Missions, Rev. J. D. Morrison, Bristol; Supply of Vacancies, Rev. A. E. Mitchell, Ottawa; Examiners for Licenses and Ordination, Greek and Latin, Rev. D. M. Ramsay; Hebrew, Rev. J. McNicol; Philosophy, Rev. Dr. Armstrong; Theology, Rev. J. W. H. Milne; Church History, Rev. J. D. Morrison; Personal Religion, Rev. Dr. Moore.