

## Ministers and Churches.

THE Congregation of Bank Street Church, Ottawa, held their tenth annual meeting on the evening of the 11th inst. These meetings have each succeeding year since the organization of this congregation grown in interest as it has increased in numbers and prospered materially. A larger number than usual assembled last evening to hear the several reports read, and certainly they were most satisfactory and encouraging, more especially as our worthy pastor's salary had been increased \$300 at the previous annual meeting under the grave apprehensions of some of the more timid ones that we were incurring a liability too great for our resources; but this like every other liberality in connection with our church has proven, that they who trust in the Lord need not be afraid. Mr. Harvie, Clerk of Sessions, gave a general report of the work during the existence of the church to the present time. Congratulating the congregation upon their liberal efforts, the general prosperity and unanimity which have prevailed among all its members, and especially those more closely connected with the management of church affairs; the increase of members, the generally good attendance of weekly prayer meetings—Bible-class and Sabbath School. The report also spoke favorably of the Temperance Society in connection with the Sabbath School—there being no fewer than 200 members enrolled who have pledged themselves to abstain from all that intoxicates. And he said it might be remarked that if every Sabbath School would enrol its members under the banner of Temperance while they are yet untainted by the vicious practices and intemperate tendencies of the age—the foundation would be laid for glorious results in the next generation. The Revenue of the past year, amounted to \$5,672, which enabled the managers to meet all the working expenses and interest, and wipe out one thousand dollars of the debt; but of the above amount called revenue, to his honor be it said, Mr. Thomas McKay gave the generous donation of \$500, and a promise of another five hundred any time during the incoming year, provided the congregation made an effort to liquidate another thousand of the debt of the Church. This gentleman's large heartedness and liberality has often come to the surface, not only in connection with Bank Street Church, but every worthy or charitable enterprise. A note-worthy incident of the evening was the presentation of a beautiful work-table to Mrs. Wm. Hutchison by the Ladies' Society, for her uniform kindness and her indefatigable labors in everything pertaining to the welfare of the Church. The address accompanying it was read by the Rev. Mr. Moore, when her son Mr. W. M. Hutchison replied on her behalf. There is also a movement on foot having for its object the presentation of a gold watch to Mr. Wm. Hutchison, who has held the arduous and responsible position of treasurer since the congregation was formed. The Rev. Mr. Moore gave for the first time a statement of the duties performed by him during the past year, and it is safe to say that four fifths of those assembled at that large meeting were amazed at the amount of labour to which the ardent minister of God subjects himself. Truly it must be a labor of love.

At the annual business meeting of the congregation of the Central Church, Hamilton, recently held in the lecture room of that edifice, Mr. John Bell, Chairman of the Board of Managers, occupied the chair. Mr. J. M. Gibson, secretary, read the annual report, showing the finances of the congregation to be in a very healthy condition. The income from all sources was over \$10,000 during the year. The report showed a balance on hand of \$500. The recommendation of the managers that \$600 per annum be added to the minister's salary was very heartily approved of. This increase makes the salary of the minister \$8,000 per annum. It was stated that the new organ in course of construction in the church is expected to be ready for use on Sunday, the 7th February next. The annual election of officers of the congregation for the year took place, resulting in the election of the old Board of Managers and the re-election of Mr. Bell as Chairman, Mr. Gibson as Secretary, and Mr. John Campbell, Treasurer. Mr. Roland Hill was added to the Board of Managers for the ensuing year. Mr. J. W. Martin was elected a trustee to fill the vacancy caused by the removal from this city of Mr. Proudfoot. Mr. R. K. H. and Mr. John Fair were elected auditors for the year. After other business, including votes of thanks to the managers and the choir of the Church, the meeting adjourned.

The annual soiree and meeting of St. Gabriel street Presbyterian Church, Montreal, took place on Wednesday evening. There was a large attendance. The finances are in a favorable condition. Messrs. James Robertson, A. R. Brown, George Lynch, and P. M. McTavish, were elected trustees, and Messrs. T. Watson, and D. Tall, were elected auditors.

On the evening of Wednesday of last week the annual congregational meeting of the Charles street Presbyterian Church, Toronto, was held in the school room, the Rev. Mr. Reid, M.A., in the chair. The report of the Session showed that notwithstanding the long vacancy, and repeated disappointments in obtaining a pastor, the attendance and actual membership had increased during the past year, and that the contributions of the Sabbath school had also increased considerably. The Sabbath school scholars, in consequence of their personal acquaintance with, and letters from Rev. Dr. Fraser, devoted the funds to the Formosa Mission. The treasurer's statement showed that the ordinary revenue for congregational and missionary purposes had been sustained, but the usual effort to reduce the debt on the building had not been made during the past year. The report was received, the trustees thanked and re-appointed. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Cathron, and the choir, for their efficient services. Everything was, in the circumstances, so encouraging that it was resolved to proceed at once with another call to a minister.—Com.

The annual meeting of the congregation of Cooke's Church, Toronto, for receiving the financial statement of the trustees for 1874, and the election of officers for 1875, was held in the lecture room of this church on Wednesday evening, the pastor, the Rev. J. G. Robb, B.A. presiding. The treasurer, Mr. Thomas Kerr, read the report of the trustees, which showed the total receipts for congregational purposes for the year to amount to \$5,065 40, and the amount received for missions, Sabbath schools, and charitable purposes, about \$1,330, making a total of \$6,395 40. The trustees elected for 1875 were Messrs. J. C. Hamilton, Jas. Hunter, John Oliver, W. J. Hughes, Thos. Henry, Alexander McClelland, W. Rennie, Hugh Miller, and P. G. Close. Messrs. Thomas Kerr and Thomas Hueston were appointed auditors for the ensuing year.

The Sabbath school anniversary of St. Andrew's Church, Hamilton was held on Tuesday evening of last week. About 800 children assembled, and were treated with tea, cakes, and fruit. Mr. Buruet, the pastor, asked the Divine blessing, and the children sang very sweetly a number of hymns, such as "Who will go?" "Happy Day," "Beyond Life's raging fever," &c. The Secretary's report and the report of the finances of the Sabbath School Association were read, and on motion approved. The school is in a very flourishing condition, in point both of the number of scholars and teachers, with a balance on hand of over \$27. The Rev. Alexander Gordon Glas and the Rev. Mr. Pullar favored the children with interesting addresses.

The members of the Front Congregation of Rev. Walter R. Ross' (Pickering) charge waited upon him on New Year's Eve, and presented him with a most happy address, burdened with expressions of good will and affectionate regard, and what was a peculiarly pleasant feature of the surprise is it being associated with a substantial token, viz., a purse and \$75. The connection existing between Mr. Ross and his congregation is of the most pleasant and agreeable nature, and the company expressed their hope that the changes necessary from Union would not affect their position as pastor and flock.

A most successful soiree was held in the Canada Presbyterian Church, Latona, on New Year's Eve. The attendance was large, and the amount realized was \$195, in aid of the building fund. The chair was occupied by the Rev. A. McDiarmid, pastor. Mr. Adam Cranston, singing master (a blind gentleman), conducted ably the singing part of the entertainment, with a class of 30 scholars, all belonging to the congregation. Suffice it to say, to the credit of their teacher, that the singing was truly excellent. Appropriate speeches were delivered by Dr. Gunn, Mr. McGregor, J. H. Hunter, and others. Excellent readings by the Rev. Wm. Park, of Durham.

The twenty-first annual meeting of Gough-street Presbyterian congregation was held on Wednesday evening, of last week. Mr. Thos. Fotheringham in the chair. The managers' report showed the receipts for the year to have been \$4,227 34; expenditure, \$3,930 89; and a balance on hand of \$919 93. In addition thereto there have been raised for missionary and benevolent purposes about \$9,000. The membership of the congregation now is 450. An addition of \$500 was made to the pastor's salary. Votes of thanks were tendered to the managers and to the chairman of the meeting.

On the evening of the first of January a number of the members of the Canada Presbyterian Congregation, Ancaster, paid a visit to the Mission. After providing and partaking of a sumptuous repast, the treasurer presented the pastor with a New Year's gift, in the shape of a purse of \$54. A very pleasant evening was spent. Mr. McLeod, in returning thanks, gave a brief address suitable to the occasion.

The Presbytery of Guelph has appointed the ordination of Mr. James Bryant to be held at Glendon, on 26th January, Mr. A. D. McDonald to preach and preside, Mr. Anderson to address the minister, and Mr. Davidson, of Alma, the congregation on their respective duties. An adjourned meeting of the Presbytery is to be held in Chalmers' Church, Guelph, on the second Tuesday of March, at 9 o'clock, forenoon, and the next regular meeting in the same place, and at the same hour, on Tuesday, 18th April.

On New Year morning the Presbyterian congregation at Bakerson presented their pastor, the Rev. Dr. Bain, of Perth, with a buffalo robe and rug, valued at some thirty or forty dollars, both very acceptable gifts this cold season of the year.

The Presbyterian congregation at Watford presented their pastor, Rev. I. Abraham, with a buffalo overcoat last Monday, as an appreciation of his services.

We understand that the Rev. R. Thynne has accepted the call from the congregations of English Settlement and Proof Line.

The Rev. J. P. Baikie has been called by the congregations of Hanover and West Bentick.

## WEST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TORONTO.

The fourteenth annual meeting and soiree of this congregation was held on Thursday evening, 14th inst., and was a most successful affair in every respect. There was a large assemblage, and the proceedings were of a pleasing character. The Hon John McMurich was in the chair. The report read by the Secretary, John Winchester, Esq., showed that the ordinary revenue during 1874 amounted to \$1,954, having largely increased since 1870, when it was only \$1,012. Besides there have been raised for schemes of the Church, and Knox College, over \$630, so that the total contribution amounts to over \$2,500. The Sunday-school report (the fifteenth anniversary had just been held) showed 213 children as the largest number present on one day, the average being 175, and the whole number about 300. \$133.66 were contributed by the school for various objects. There are twenty teachers, besides superintendent and librarian. The session report shows there have been 50 baptisms and 29 deaths, 63 added to communion roll, and about 50 removals. The session consider it would be a benefit to the Church to have Deacons appointed, who would assist the Elders. An addition of five Elders has been made to the session itself, by which it has been greatly strengthened. Interesting addresses were delivered by Rev. A. Gilray, Mr. Antcheson, student, and by Rev. J. G. Robb. The latter gentleman showed very ably the absurd claims of sceptic naturalists to be the chief depositories of the wisdom of the world. He said they treated the Mosiac account of creation with scorn, as only fit for ages of ignorance and superstition, and yet, showed far more credulity in believing the very absurd theories set forth by the materialistic philosophers of the day. They hold that all things began with crude atoms, and these at length, in the water, formed themselves into a kind of oyster, and this again took fins and scales and became a fish, and then put on feathers and wings and became a bird, then a quadruped, and a biped, and after passing through the stages of Chimpanzee or Orang Outang, changed into man. Such is the theory of creation which they profess to believe. These sceptic naturalists have been very fond of setting forth crude theories respecting the antiquity of our planet and its deposits, hoping thus to prove the Bible untrue.

At one time a skeleton was found in the alluvial deposits formed by the Mississippi at its mouth. It was affirmed that the deposit must have taken at least 50,000 years to form, and that the skeleton had been in it long before the period that Bible allots to creation. The United States Government sent out an able commission for their own purposes to report on the whole subject of the deposit, and they declare the whole deposit was made within 4,000 years. Brydone found on Vesuvius seven layers of lava between seven layers of soil, and it was at once boldly declared that each layer took at least 2,000 years to form, and the whole some 14,000. Again the Divine record seemed at fault. But soon the city of Herculaneum was discovered beneath the seven layers, thus proving they had all been formed during the Christian Era.

Thus, boldly and recklessly have sceptic naturalists time and again affirmed that they had obtained undoubted facts which would prove the Bible untrue. But when touched by the thimble of truth, they have started up in their true character, not facts at all, but merely daring assertions, without proper foundation, on the part of men who wished it to be so, or else by men misled by their wild theories, which had got the better of their judgments. Yet, these assertions have invariably been disproved. Mr. Robb stated that the whole of religion might be comprehended under one word, "GIVE." The great author of Christianity gave His life for us, and gives His salvation to us, and he expects us to give ourselves to Him; "Sinner, Dumb-bell, give me thy heart." Then we should give our all to Him; our lives, influence, and means, to the promotion of His glory. We should not grudge what we give to Him, or think we are called on too often by ministers and others to give to the advancement of His cause, but feel it a privilege to give all we can for this end.

The chorists were enlivened by several pieces of music by a choir led by Mr. Hutchison, the preceptor.

Last week's Mark Lane Express says, "the wheat crop of Great Britain is above the average, and we shall enter the year 1875 propitiously. We have had a splendid seed time. The continental market is quiet without change in prices."

## Science and Religion.

Prof. Shields, of Princeton College, concludes a reply to Prof. Tyndal's speech as follows: "A glimpse is enough to show us the vastness of the theme. Not by any one mind, not by any one people, not by any one age can it be mastered. It is the mighty argument of successive generations, proceeding with stately steps from its premises in a remote past toward its conclusions in a distant future. If we will surrender ourselves to it we can see whether it is carrying us, and exult in the prospect. In the view of religion, everything may appear miraculous; in the view of science everything may appear natural; while in the view of philosophy both will only appear more and more consistent aspects of one and the same reality. Let science, if it can, resolve the whole course of nature into one continuous process of correlated forces; let religion, if it must, exhibit that course of nature as one dazzling series of miracles; a true philosophy will yet behold them blending together as but the same logic and even pulse of one Almighty mind, ever resonating through the whole creation and flashing with life all creatures. And yet indeed, to us who can see but a speck, a span, of the vast concourse of spheres, they must seem confused, dark and often contradictory. But there may be beings in the universe whose capacities and knowledge and views may be so extensive as that the whole Christian dispensation may in them appear natural; as natural as the visible course of things appear to us. Be that as it may, if we will read the past, it will not seem incredible that the most extreme investigators are now but groping through the darkness towards some central point where at length they shall meet in a focus of light. Only, we may be sure, they will meet there, not like those two rash knights at their first encounter, not like those eager champions who are now filling the air with challenges and imitations, but rather like exhausted and bleeding warriors, after having fought their way into recognition of each other's truth and virtue, to clasp hands as friends who had but mistaken themselves for foes."

## Presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Smellie, Fergus.

We recently noticed the presentation of a gold watch to the Rev. Mr. Smellie, and a valuable set of furniture and a sum of money to Mrs. Smellie. The address which accompanied the presentations, and which was read by A. D. Ferrier, Esq., was as follows:

Reverend and Dear Sir, and Madam:—We have the pleasure of waiting on you this evening, for the purpose of presenting you with one or two things as tokens of the regard and esteem which the people belonging to the congregation of Melville Church entertain for you both.

To you, Sir, as our Pastor, we would honestly profess our sincere attachment. We know that from the very first, you have proclaimed to us faithfully and earnestly the whole word of God, and pressed upon us the necessity of Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We know that you have endured much bodily toil, as well as much anxiety of spirit in the discharge of your ever-recurring and arduous duties. We know too that you have been faithful in your pastoral visitations amongst the flock, and have sympathized with your people in their times of joy, and in their times of sorrow. Perhaps the good seed sown may not to outward appearance have produced such a large increase as you might desire, but we trust under the good hand of God, there may still be much fruit gathered into His glory, even though it may be many days hence. We, trust Sir, that you may be spared yet many days to go out and in amongst us, unworthy though we may be, and that the Good Spirit of Christ may be with both Pastor and people.

To you, Madam, the females more especially of the congregation would acknowledge their many obligations for your sympathy with them on all occasions, and for your long and patient labours in teaching the young girls connected with the congregation, both in the Sunday School and the more advanced instructions of the Bible Class. We know of your excellent example in every relation of life, and believe that it has been very beneficial to our people.

We earnestly pray that you may be long spared to your numerous family, whom we regard as partly belonging to ourselves, and that the Almighty may so over-rule your labors and residence in this place, that when His good purposes are accomplished with us all, we may meet in the Better Land, and be for ever with the Lord.

When a newspaper remarks that Sabbath schools ought not to interfere with family instruction and training, it is doubtless stating an important truth. But when it says further that the family instruction of this age is better than that of the past, we must make objection. Whether or not it is due to the Sabbath-school, we do not say, but the fact is that there is less of good solid teaching in Christian homes than there was fifty years ago. And the result of it is seen in the Christian life. Young persons do not regard the Lord's day as they used to, they are not so well indoctrinated, nor have they as much religious intelligence. The reading of Sabbath-school literature, in books and newspapers, is no doubt often good, but it will not take the place of the Catechism and such thorough biblical instruction as our fathers were wont to give at the fireside of the home. Christian families with their stunted and ornamented with religiously less valuable than the sure knowledge that was communicated to the children of the past.

Our English exchanges contain the intelligence of the death of Rev. Gavin Martin, at Nassoorabad, in Rajpootana, India. Mr. Martin labored as a missionary of the United Presbyterian Church, and was a man of singular devotedness, and proved remarkably useful at the time when the famine desolated that part of India. He was one of the foreign missionaries supported by the United Presbyterian Congregation of Broughton Place, Edinburgh. Mr. Martin leaves a widow and family.

## Address and Presentation at Colborne.

The teachers of the Presbyterian Sabbath School, Colborne, met at the mansion on New Year's Eve, for the purpose of giving a surprise to the superintendent, James Scougle, Esq. At the same time large numbers of the congregation were arriving armed with baskets, &c., when it became evident that there was a general interest in the gathering. An address was read by the Rev. Mr. Duncan, on behalf of the teachers, to Mr. Scougle, referring to his connection for many years with the Sabbath School, both as teacher and superintendent, testifying to his regularity and faithfulness in these positions, expressing warm interest in the welfare of his wife and family, as well as in his own, and presenting to him a very beautiful silver ornament as a small mark of their esteem. The crust was made to order by Messrs. Bywater and Rutherford, jewellers of Colborne, and is of the very best quality, very massive, furnished with six bottles, and pronounced by all who saw it to be the handsomest article of the kind they had seen. Mr. Scougle, though taken completely by surprise, thanked the teachers in a few well chosen remarks. And said he was sorry he had done so small a part of his duty, hoping that he might be more faithful in the future than he had been in the past.

This being a cold day, the Rev. Mr. Duncan and his family were in their turn taken by surprise, when Miss Janet Sinclair, accompanied by Mrs. Stewart, standing by the side of a new sewing machine, with all the recent improvements, proceeded to read an address to Mrs. Duncan, expressing the warm attachment of the members of the congregation to her, their interest in her and family, and then presented to her the sewing machine, together with a costly and elegant mantle, and a purse containing \$31. The total value of the gift is over ninety dollars.

Mr. Duncan briefly replied on behalf of his wife, thanking the donors, and saying that he valued this more than a gift to himself, expressing his joy in seeing the young people of his Church working for its well-being and happiness, and prayed that at the "end of all things" which is at hand, they might all receive the welcome of the Saviour to the mansions in the sky.

Having partaken of the sumptuous tea provided, and spent a few hours happily together, all joined in singing the hymn, "I am sweeping through the gates." Prayer being offered the meeting quietly broke up, all being pleased, and we hope profited thereby.—Com.

## The Caithness Free Church Presbytery and the Late Rev. John Mackay.

At last meeting of the Free Church Presbytery, the following minute in regard to the late Rev. John Mackay, Lybster, was unanimously adopted:—"This Presbytery, while they recognize and desire to submit to the hand of the All-wise Disposer of events, in the removal by death of one of their number, the Rev. John Mackay, Lybster, record their deep sense of his painful bereavement, caused. Mr. Mackay stood high in the esteem of his brethren, and in that of the community. He was possessed of remarkable mental endowments, which he assiduously cultivated, and of excellent scholarship and acquirements. For the business of this Court, in which he always took a lively interest, his practical wisdom and severity always made him a valuable counsellor. His genial character, amiability, and uniform courtesy endeared him to all who had the pleasure and profit of his acquaintance. In his ministry of the Gospel, he proved himself a scribe well instructed in the Law of God. His fresh and original powers of thinking, Godly mection, and impressiveness, made his ministry refreshing to the people of God, and were, it is believed, the means of gathering not a few souls into the fold of Christ. The Presbytery desire to sympathize with his widow and family in their loss, and commend them to the care of the God of the widow and fatherless; and also to sympathize with the bereaved congregation in their loss of a pastor so distinguished by Godly example and ministerial capacity."—Northern Echo.

Dec. 3rd. 1874.

## Presbytery of Bruce.

This Presbytery held its quarterly meeting at Kincairdine on the 29th and 30th ult. There were 13 ministers and 7 elders present. A call from Port Elgin and Dunblane, in favor of the Rev. R. Robert Thynne, was sustained, and forwarded to that brother. The salary proposed is \$300 and free house, or \$970 without house. The Rev. D. Duff, of North Brant, being present, was asked to sit and correspond. On application the Rev. J. Straith was appointed to moderate in a call at North Bruce before the next meeting of Presbytery. Agreeable to petitions received, Underwood and Centre Bruce were united into one pastoral charge. The Rev. J. Anderson was appointed to preach at Underwood and Centre Bruce on the following Sabbath, and intimate this decision. It was resolved to grant supply of ordinances to the congregation at Ripley, and to appoint the Rev. J. Fraser, with Messrs. Duff, K. and Morrison, elders, in their session. At their request Tara, Allanford and Elsinore were united into one pastoral charge. A call was laid on the table of Presbytery from Florence and Dawn in the Presbytery of Chatham, in favor of the Rev. D. McKencher, missionary at Prince Arthur's Landing. Mr. W. Webster, commissioner from the session and congregation of Florence and Dawn, and Rev. D. Duff, a commissioner from the Presbytery of Chatham being present, were heard in support of the call. A communication was then read from Mr. McKencher declining the call. It was accordingly laid aside. The next meeting of Presbytery is appointed to be held at Kincairdine, on the second Tuesday of March next, at 2 o'clock, p.m.—A. G. FORBES, Pres. Clerk.

D.M.S.

At 57 Elm street, Toronto, on the 18th January, the wife of Mr. C. BLACKBURN ROBINSON, proprietor of the BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN, of a daughter.