

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

The echoes of the vote on the Liquor Act on the 4th inst. continue to be many and clear. Our daily press still publishes belated returns, and the question is still largely asked, "What do you think of the vote on the Liquor Act?" It is doubtful if the returns have all been thoroughly examined yet; it is satisfactory however to know by the last published report, that the vote for, now comes up to 166,050, giving a majority for the act of 78,028. The feeling of satisfaction among temperance advocates is universal, and the conviction, and demand are also universal, that the situation shall not continue in Ontario such as it is at present. Very many have, through the press or otherwise, given the country the benefit of their judgment as to what ought to be done, but it now rests with the Legislature to say authoritatively what shall be done, and in deciding this important question, all views no doubt will be carefully considered, and though what may be done will not be satisfactory to all, yet if a great improvement over the present bar-room and saloon system is not made, it will certainly be the fault of the Legislature, which will no longer be able to plead ignorance of what the country wants as regards these two features of the liquor business. At the meeting of the Presbyterian Ministerial Association held last week, a committee was appointed to meet and confer with any similar Committees appointed by ministerial bodies, to consider what action should now be taken to advance the temperance movement. Generally there appears an anxiety on the part of all temperance organizations, to unite in a demand on the Legislature for immediate action in the direction which the large vote and majority for the Liquor Act call for. No government can afford to be blind or deaf to the demands of the people as expressed in the vote cast.

Knox College Conference, which began on the afternoon of Monday the 8th, closed on Thursday evening with a lecture by Dr. J. Humphrey Anger, Mus. Doc., on "The History and Development of Church Music during the Canadian Era." This lecture was held in the large hall of the College, which was filled. The lecture was deeply interesting and it was accompanied with illustrations by a select choir. Papers on literary and scientific subjects, as well as theological, were read at the Conference, and members of the staff of the University of Toronto and other theological schools in the city lent valued and able assistance. All the papers read showed careful preparation and were listened to with deep interest. The time for discussion of the subjects treated is far too short to be of any real value, and it was also noted that it would be most desirable if, at least those who were to open discussion upon the papers read and subjects treated in them, could have some knowledge beforehand of their contents and method of treatment. Though well attended, alumni of the College outside of the city were not so well represented as on some former occasions. It will be of interest to your readers in the city of Ottawa and in the Ottawa Valley, where he was so well-known and beloved, to know that Rev. Dr. Wardrope, looking still hale and hearty, was present and took the opening exercises of one of the sessions. From grave to gay is said to be a natural and frequent transition, and so, on Friday evening, the quiet halls of the venerable College which are trodden usually only by the feet of learned and reverend divines, and of sober youths intent on mastering the mysteries of theology and other subjects, were resplendent with light and many coloured decorations, were thronged with hundreds of guests, re-echoed the sounds of music and the voice of song, and the hum of the many voices of those who flock to the annual "At Home," which in those "degenerate days," appear to be considered a necessary part of the education of those who are looking forward to the sacred office of the ministry.

A much more serious matter to interests of the College than even the most successful "At Home," is the declinative, which was cabled during the week to Mr. Mortimer Clark, Chairman of the College Board, of Rev. John Kelman of the professorship made vacant by the death of the late Prof. Halliday Douglas. The vacant place cannot now be filled for the present College year, and before the next, there will be ample time to look out and select some-

one well qualified to fill the Chair. During the week, a business meeting of the Alumni was held for the election of officers for the ensuing year, at which Rev. Prof. MacLaren was appointed Honorary President and Rev. J. M. Duncan was re-elected President. The latter gentleman reported on the Caven Library fund. He stated that he had received responses from only about one-fifth of the Alumni to whom circulars asking contributions, had been sent out, a month ago and from these he had received subscriptions or money amounting to upwards of \$2,000. The total cost is expected to be \$30,000, or thereabout. A number of ladies in the city, who take a kindly interest in the College and the comfort of the students, also met during the time of the Conference and made arrangements for continuing their good work in fitting up and making the rooms of the students in every way more attractive and comfortable.

Rev. J. T. Sutherland, pastor of the Unitarian church in the city, gave the Sunday before last a lecture or sermon on "The New Thought of the Bible." He has succeeded in setting some people talking at least. "The Bible," he tells us, "is no more the word of God than the writings of Plato, Dante, Luther, Shakespeare, Whittier, Emerson or of any others of the best writers of all ages were the word of God. It is only one of the best sacred books of mankind." This, and much more of a similar kind. His subject last Sunday evening was, "The New Thought of Jesus." Judging from the public condition of Unitarianism in Toronto and in Canada, not many are prepared now, or have been in the past to accept the views of this kind of Unitarian teaching.

Rev. Professor Clark, of Trinity Episcopal University, a man of great mental activity and much in request, preached a sermon lately in St. George's church on the Judgment Day, one of a series in the four last things. In it he takes strong ground against the doctrine of Evolution, considered as the springing from a germ of all kinds of life, and form. In this case he holds there is no such thing as conscience, or free will, and it is only a matter of opinion whether there exists a God. If men's acts are the result of evolution, then wrong-doers are objects of compassion, crime is a disease and should be treated in a hospital.

Rev. Dr. Sutherland, Methodist Foreign Mission Secretary, has been speaking before the Toronto University Political Science Club, on the "Church in Relation to Social Problems." This is a knotty question and in these days much to the point. One of the Church's great needs at present, Dr. Sutherland thinks, is men of ability thoroughly to master the great social problems of our time; but in the ethics of Jesus Christ are to be found the only solution of these problems. The work of the Church is to strike at the selfishness of our lives which lies at the root of all these complications.

On a recent evening Bishop Baldwin of Huron, gave an interesting address in Association Hall on behalf of the Toronto Jewish Mission. The Jews of to-day, he said, are directing the press and entering the Cabinets of Europe, while their wealth is beyond the dreams of avarice; this means, he considers, that there is a mighty future in store for Israel, who will yet as a nation acknowledge Christ, be gathered together into and possess Palestine, and Jerusalem will be the great centre of the world.

Educational subjects of various kinds are occupying at present with all who feel interest in them, a large amount of attention. High School Inspector Seath has laid before the Minister of Education, a report on the Schools of Toronto, which indicates a state of things, especially in administration, far from perfect. The Minister has acted promptly on this report, and its effect is quite likely to lead to important changes in School management and organization in this city.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt, who is proving himself an excellent Minister of Education, is also taking great interest in Forestry in Canada, and under his lead, steps are being taken to establish a School of Forestry in connection with the University of Toronto and the Agricultural College in Guelph combined. In addition to, how best to preserve our existing forests, many other practical matters of a like nature, all of them of great economic importance, would come under the view and treatment of such a School.

Technical Schools and technical education, as I have already stated, on which depends to so large an extent the most effective use of our great natural resources, are securing, and deservedly, an ever increasing amount of attention. The other view of education, the religious, which needs to be constantly kept in sight if we are not to become altogether material and nothing more, was the subject of an address by Rev. Dr. Milligan last Monday before the Ministerial Association. The subject of Dr. Milligan's address was "The Religious Element in National Education."

Quebec.

The Presbytery adjourned to meet in Sherbrooke, 3rd March, 1903.

Rev. D. J. Graham has accepted a call to the annex in Montreal.

Initial steps were taken with a view to opening work at Riviere du Loup.

The present assessment for Synod and Presbytery fund was maintained.

Presbyterial certificates were granted to Revs. C. E. Gordonsmith and Wm. A. Stewart.

At the last meeting of the Presbytery of Quebec, Rev. A. Stevenson, late of Danville, was appointed to Grand Mere for two years.

The Manual, "Aids for Family Worship" was approved with the suggestion that a thanksgiving prayer be added to those for special occasions.

Ministers were urged to connect themselves with the Widows and Orphans' fund, and the fund was commended to the support of congregations.

Rev. C. A. Tanner, convener, submitted the report on French work within the bounds, and various recommendations were adopted thereat.

The resignation of Rev. J. R. MacLeod as Clerk of Presbytery, which has been on the table since July was taken up. The Presbytery urged upon the Clerk to withdraw his resignation. The resignation was not accepted.

Rev. D. McColl, B. A., tendered his resignation of the charge of St. Sylvester and Leeds village, Mr. McColl being desirous of returning to, or visiting Scotland. Action on resignation was deferred till March meeting.

It was resolved to invite Rev. Dr. MacLaren, General Home Mission Secretary, to visit as many of the congregations as possible. All ministers were instructed to hold missionary meetings in their respective congregations.

Northern Ontario.

Presbytery of Owen Sound.

The Presbytery of Owen Sound met on the 2nd inst., and was opened with devotional exercises led by Rev. Mr. McAlpins.

An application was made by the congregation of St. Paul's, Warton, for leave to raise by mortgage the sum of \$1,800 to pay off the balance on their new manse.

Mr. McNabb, the missionary appointed to the Indian Peninsula, tendered his resignation owing to the fact that he was unable to secure a residence for his family in the district. The resignation was accepted with much regret, and the hope was expressed that the congregations would see the way to take immediate steps for the erection of a manse for the use of their missionary.

Rev. Mr. Davidson reported that Rev. Mr. Manthorne has been appointed to Lion's Head by the assembly's H. M. committee; that Mr. Manthorne, formerly a minister of the Baptist church, was seeking admission to the ministry of the Presbyterian church, and would make application through the Presbytery of Owen Sound.

It was moved by Mr. Rodgers and agreed that the Presbytery place upon record its appreciation of the long and devoted services of the late Samuel Carr as an elder of the church in Keady, and of the Presbytery of which he was a frequent member, and express to the bereaved widow and family the heartfelt sympathy of the Presbytery in the loss which they sustain, and its prayer that the God of all consolation may comfort and sustain them in their sorrow.

Eastern Ontario.

The ladies of Knox church, Cornwall, had a very successful sale last week.