

Ministers and Churches

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

The first meeting of the Toronto Presbytery in the New Year was a disappointing one. We read the items of business on the little board in the entry, and mentally cancelled other engagements we had made for that day. Three Assembly Remits, an Overture, a Petition for the organization of another mission in Parkdale, a discussion upon the vexed question of Presbyterial Visitation, a Call to a prominent city charge, this certainly offered a satisfactory bill of fare. And when, after listening to a lecture of more or less and desultory talk, we toted up the result and found that two Remits and an Overture had been referred back, that the Scheme for Presbyterial Visitation had also been referred back, and some wise heads added to the committee "to define what is meant by Presbyterial Visitation," we wanted to use expressions not quite in keeping with the good resolutions formed two days before. It was a relief to be assured by a member of Presbytery that the day's experience was a most unusual one.

There was, however, a gleam of light in the prevalent dullness. One member, a young brother, rose, and with great self-possession and an admirable fluency of diction dilated upon the prevailing tendency to honor eminent missionaries and professors in Colleges, but to pass over the man whose only distinction was that he was a successful pastor and preacher, yet to succeed as a preacher in these days of clamor for change was more difficult than it was to gain distinction in any other line of ministerial service. He asked Toronto Presbytery to mark its appreciation of pulpit power by nominating for the highest place of honor the Church had to bestow, one of its members whose success as a preacher and pastor was greater at the end of a twelve years' pastorate than at any time during that period. He would therefore propose the name of the Rev. G. M. Milligan, D.D., minister of Old St. Andrew's, Toronto, as the Presbytery's nominee. It was a brilliant little interlude, and the members showed their appreciation by a ripple of applause and a hearty endorsement of the nomination.

It is peculiarly pleasant to look again upon a familiar face and to hear a well-remembered voice after a decade of busy years. Alexander Urquhart left College in '84, and did excellent work in our Northwest before crossing the lines to the south. He is now settled in an important charge in Indianapolis, where J. C. Smith of '85 is also settled. Mr. Urquhart was always genial, and the admixture of the frankness of the Western American has made a very happy combination in his disposition. He was warmly welcomed on his recent flying visit to Toronto, and would be gladly received were he to return to one of her charges.

The welcome to old friends is the more cordial because, for an ever-increasing number the welcome must be deferred till we, too, cross to that better country where they have gone. Swiftly the boat is unmooored and night, but a cloud shuts out the morning into which they have entered. Before we have grown accustomed to the vacant places of the one, another suddenly drops out of the ranks of the workers, steps into his boat, casts off, and he too disappears. Yesterday we mourned the loss of Principal Kirkland, so long familiar as the quiet worker; doing without noise what a smaller man would have proclaimed from the housetops. We learn his real value when we look at the disheartening blank his passing has made. Today we join with others in their sorrow at the loss of Bishop Sullivan, the courteous gentleman, the brilliant orator, and the eminent administrator. He, too, has heard a call, and has obeyed it. Who can take up the work of these men? We dare not name the man, but the Master knows, and has chosen. M.

Rev. John McEwan, of Toronto, spent Christmas at Lakefield.

The Rev. J. G. Shearer, of Hamilton, has been speaking in Woodstock in the interest of the Lord's Day Alliance.

EASTERN ONTARIO.

The sum of \$40 was realized from the Sabbath School entertainment held in Calntown recently.

The annual Sunday School entertainment at Horning's Mills, was held on 26th December. Proceeds about \$65.

Rev. D. D. McLeod, of Barrie, has been nominated by the Presbytery as Moderator of the General Assembly.

The Rev. McFarlane, of South Mountain, occupied the Presbyterian Church pulpit at Bishop's Mills last Sabbath.

Miss Eagleson, organist at Centreville Presbyterian Church, was presented with a purse of \$45 and an address of appreciation.

Rev. J. M. McLean took Dr. Bayne's services at Pembroke two weeks ago, the latter being at Pakenham, assisting at the anniversary services there.

The Presbyterians of Hopetown are going to put up an \$1,800 church in the spring. They have already nearly one thousand of the amount subscribed.

A successful entertainment was recently held in the Presbyterian church in Onemee, realizing about \$58. Mr. Tanner filled the duties of the choir.

Owing to the illness of the Rev. Mr. Hutchinson, of St. Andrew's Church, Almonte, the service in this church on Sunday evening, January 1st was withdrawn.

Dr. MacKenzie, of St. Stephen, N.B., who was "approached" with regard to the vacancy at Port Hope, gave intimation some time ago that he was not a candidate.

Mr. Arch McMillan, occupied the pulpit of St. Andrew's Church, Sonya, on Sabbath evening, 1st inst., and delivered an excellent discourse to an attentive and large audience.

The ladies of St. Andrew's Church, Lindsay, have secured the services of the Rev. Munro Fraser, of Hamilton, to deliver his popular lecture "From Egypt to the Holy Land," Thursday evening, February 6th.

Mr. D. Inglis Grant, the rising young minister, was married to Miss Dennis at the residence of Rev. Mr. Frizell in Toronto. Rev. Dr. Grant, father of the groom, officiated. A host of friends wish the young couple much happiness.

The recent anniversary services in St. Andrew's Church, Pakenham, were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Bayne, of Pembroke. The social on Monday evening netted the handsome sum of \$300.

The call from St. Andrew's Church, Guelph, to the Rev. A. J. McGillivray, of St. James Church, London, has been before the Presbytery of Guelph, and ordered to be transmitted. It is signed by 255 members and 67 adherents. The stipend promised is \$1,600, without a house.

Rev. W. H. Smith, late of Ferrona, was inducted into the pastorate of the Summerside Presbyterian church on Thursday evening last. There was a very large congregation, the church being well filled, and the services throughout were of a most interesting and impressive character. After the induction a social was held in the hall to welcome the new pastor.

The members of the Billings Bridge church turned out in large numbers to celebrate the re-opening of their church. The Rev. Dr. Moore officiated. The congregation is to be congratulated on the success of their efforts to enlarge and improve their place of worship. The seating capacity has been about doubled, and instead of being warmed by a box stove, as formerly, the building is now thoroughly heated by a hot air furnace.

The Rev. John Lindsay, of the Presbytery of London on the 29th ult., Rev. T. Wilson presided. Rev. A. MacGillivray, M.A., preached. Rev. W. McKay delivered the charge, and Rev. George H. Smith, B.D., addressed the congregation. At the evening reception music was furnished by Miss Maggie Murray and the Embro Male Quartette, and J. D. Ferguson and J. Lindsay. Mr. Smith presided.

Dr. Grant, of Orillia, (Knoxian) is to preach anniversary sermons at Milbrook, Sunday, 15th inst.

The Presbyterian Christmas festival held in Kemptville, was a most enjoyable event. Miss Alice Maude Bayne of Carleton Place, rendered several readings in her inimitable style. Music by the choir, solos, club swinging by Miss Marie McDowell, a pleasing speech by our popular M. P., Mr. F. T. Frost, selections by Kemptville's orchestra, also helped to form a programme which was heartily enjoyed by a large and appreciative audience. The proceeds amounted to a sum in the vicinity of \$80.

The anniversary services in connection with the Presbyterian Church, Tweed, were held on Sunday, 1st inst., when Rev. M. McGillivray, M.A., of Chalmers Church, Kingston, preached both morning and evening. At the following took part in the programme: Mrs. McKay, of Macleod, (nee Miss Mary Gunn, of Toronto); Miss Maggie Patterson, of Peterboro; Rev. M. McGillivray, M.A., of Kingston, and Rev. J. G. Potter, B.A., of Peterboro.

The death is announced of Mrs. Nathan Eastbrooke, of Cornwall Island, at the advanced age of 83 years. She was born at Cornwall in 1815, her maiden name was Caroline Bagge. At the age of sixteen she married Nathan Eastbrooke, and with him resided for twenty-eight years. They have resided on Cornhill for upwards of thirty years. Mr. Eastbrooke still survives, although now in his ninetieth year. The funeral service was conducted at the house 17 of the Rev. James Hastie, of Knox Church, Cornwall.

WESTERN ONTARIO.

Rev. P. F. Sinclair has been occupying the pulpit of Knox Church, Aylmer.

Mr. A. H. McGillivray, B.A., preached in the Tavistock Presbyterian church on a recent Sunday.

Rev. R. J. M. Glassford has been spending a few days at Caledon East, where Mrs. Glassford's mother is lying ill.

Rev. John Currie was made the happy recipient of a fine study chair from the teachers of the Kilmartin Sunday School.

Rev. Thomas Wilson, of London, is announced to preach the anniversary services in Knox Church, Dutton, on Jan 15th.

Hepworth congregation has been granted leave to raise \$1,000 by mortgage to consolidate the debt on their church property.

The Christmas services in the Drummond Hill Church were largely attended, the Pastor, Rev. James Wilson, filling the pulpit.

The Rev. M. L. Leitch and Mrs. Leitch, of Stratford, called on a few of their friends in Elora, last week, and received a warm welcome.

Last Sabbath the Rev. M. McGregor, of Tilsonburg, preached anniversary services at Alvinston; the Rev. W. G. W. Fortune going to Tilsonburg.

Last Sabbath evening the Rev. Dr. Waits delivered his annual sermon to young men. There was a song service and male chorus in connection therewith.

Miss Beattie McLaren, of Port Elgin, has been presented with the General Assembly's diploma for correctly repeating the answers to all the questions in the Shorter Catechism at one recitation.

The Galt Reformer sneaks in high praise of Mr. John Taylor, in his last year at Knox College, who has had charge of different mission stations during his vacations, the last being at Byng Inlet.

At a meeting of session last week Mr. A. M. Gibson of Fiesherston was elected representative elder to the Orangeville Presbytery for the current year—representing the united congregations of Fiesherston and Eugenia.

The week of prayer has been observed in Knox and Kilmartin congregations. Messrs. Thomas Young, of Dorwent, and Thomas McCord, rising young students of Knox College, Toronto, assisted the pastor, Rev. John Currie.

The many friends of the Rev. R. Aylward, of Park Hill, who was laid aside for more than three months by a severe illness, will be pleased to hear that he is now quite convalescent, and able to resume his pulpit and pastoral work.

The concert in connection with the Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church, held on the evening of the 23rd December, was well attended and was in every way an unequalled success. The programme consisted mainly of addresses, singing and recitations.