

Church News.

ST. ANDREW'S church, Halifax, was damaged by lightning on the 16th ult.

THE Presbyterians at and Yorkton, N. W. T., are preparing to build a church in the spring.

REV. MR. CATTAN, of Strachan, Scotland, has accepted a call to St. Andrew's church, Pictou, N.S.

A PARLOUR is in aid of the Presbyterian church at Uptergrove, was recently given by Mr. P. Thomas.

THE proceeds of the soltee under the auspices of the Ladies Aid Society, Rodgerville, amounted to over \$105.

At St. Andrew's Church, Winnipeg, last Sunday, Rev. Mr. Flett, dwelt upon the subject of Indian missions.

THE Ladies Aid Society of Knox church, Winnipeg, has raised between \$1,300 and \$1,400 this year for the Scheme of the Church.

At the annual tea meeting of the Onondaga church, W. Patterson, Esq., M.P., in the chair, the proceeds amounted to over \$190.

Two new churches are to be erected in Musquodoboit this season. When finished there will be five Presbyterian churches in that valley within a radius of twenty miles.

REV. W. J. THOMPSON, a minister of the Church of Scotland, arrived in Halifax in the last steamer from England. He preached last Sunday in St. John's church. He enters on our home mission field.

At the Londonboro tea-meeting Rev. D. M. Ramsay occupied the chair, and excellent addresses were delivered by Rev. Messrs. McDonald, Musgrave and McLean. The proceeds, which amounted to about \$50, are to be used for erecting horse sheds.

REV. DR. McCURDY, of University College, Toronto, is now engaged in delivering the "Stone" lectures at Princeton, N. J. Could not some arrangement be made to have these valuable lectures repeated to the students of our theological halls?

At a meeting of the Board of Managers, Knox Church, Calgary, N. W. T., it was agreed to recommend the congregation to make henceforward no call whatever upon Home Mission Funds. This is progress. Plans have been prepared for a new church building.

At Medicine Hat, an interesting meeting of the Presbyterian Sabbath School was held lately, in which several children took creditable part, and were awarded prizes. Rev. Mr. Herald, examined the more advanced classes, and Mr. McCaul, Superintendent, the younger pupils.

MR. ROBERT LITTLE, Kirkville, Ont., was recently presented by a number of his friends in the Dunrobin congregation with a number of handsome gifts and an address. Mr. Little, before removing to his present home, had been for a number of years elder and S. S. superintendent.

At the recent communion services, Spencerville, Rev. Mr. Kellock, pastor, twenty nine new communicants were received. Rev. Mr. McArthur, of Cardinal, preached. An exchange says: "The audience were highly pleased with Mr. McArthur's sermon, and think that their Cardinal friends showed good sense in calling him."

THE Young People's Association, of Knox and Chalmers' Church, Guelph, held a union meeting of a very enjoyable character on the 16th ult., in Chalmers' Church. The Associations were fortunate in securing Prof. Valance, of Glasgow, whose recitals were highly appreciated. Prof. Brown, of the Agricultural College, occupied the chair.

A MOST instructive and interesting lecture was delivered by Rev. G. M. Milligan, of Toronto, in the basement of Knox church, Beaverton, on Tuesday evening last. The subject was "The Needs of the Hour." Mr. Milligan was listened to by a large and appreciative audience, and the committee have reason to congratulate themselves on the complete success of the lecture.—*Lindsay Post.*

IN the Port of Spain Gazette of the 23rd ult., we find an address of farewell to Rev. John W. Macleod, which has been accompanied with a purse of \$100. The farewell meeting was held in St. Andrew's church, Princetown, on the 7th Jan. Deep sympathy was expressed with Mr. Macleod on account of his health, and an earnest hope of his recovery. Mr. Macleod responded gratefully.

ON Monday evening the 22nd ult., Rev. Dr. MacVicar, Principal of Montreal Presbyterian College, lectured in College St. Church, Toronto, on "What great men know but dare not speak of," to a large audience. The lecture was a thorough exposure of Romanism as seen in the Lower Provinces. The lecture, we understand, will form the basis of an article to appear in the March PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW (Quarterly).

IN one settlement in the far West, included, too, in the Presbytery of Regina, the Superintendent of Missions reports that on a recent visit he found that two of the congregation present had not attended a service in fourteen years, and another had not heard a sermon during nine years. Another man in the neighbourhood, the father of a family, had attended service only three times in his life.—*Knox Church (Calgary) Meetings.*

THE members of Wakefield and Masham Presbyterian congregations met on Thursday, 11th ult., at the manse to receive Rev. Mr. Gamble and Mrs. Gamble, on their arrival home from their wedding tour. A very enjoyable evening was spent; and before the conclusion Mr. and Mrs. Gamble were made the recipients of a number of handsome presents, among which was a complete set of Dickens' Works, handsomely bound, presented by the congregations.

THE anniversary services of the Norwood Presbyterian church, Rev. J. Carmichael, pastor, were held on the 14th ult. Principal Caved preached, morning and evening, to large congregations. On the following Monday a tea-meeting was held, at which the pastor gave some interesting statistics, showing progress. Addresses were delivered by Rev. Messrs. Gee, Gibson, Thomson and Hay. Proceeds \$105, which, with proceeds of the children's entertainment on Tuesday evening, made the hand some sum of \$130.

A STUDENT of Knox College, Mr. Patterson, preached very acceptably in Dumfries St. church last Sabbath, morning and evening. More members were present at the communion in the morning than ever before, the Rev. Mr. Boyle dispensing the sacrament. Fourteen new members were added by profession of faith. Mr. Patterson delighted his audience by his plain, earnest, practical way of putting the truth. His style is unique, his illustrations forcible, and his appeal direct and whole-some.—*Paris Brant Review.*

DUMFRIES St. church, Paris, is to have an organ. Mr. H. Thompson very ably led the opposition, but without avail. Other members, says the *Brant Review*, strongly urged the advantages of an organ, and \$1,100 were subscribed the same evening. Of this, \$900 was the result of nine contributions. Miss McVicar volunteered her services as organist for a year, and being already a musician of acknowledged ability, the position is certain to be well filled. The salary of the preceptor was raised to \$250, and Mr. Friend, of Ingersoll, elected to fill the vacancy.

THE following letter, signed "Retrenchment," appears in the *Halifax Witness*: "Now that the position of agent of the Presbyterian Church in the Maritime Provinces is vacant, allow me to suggest that when the position is again filled that the salary be reduced to, say, \$300 per annum. There are scores of competent persons who do more financial work every year at even a less salary than the one above named. Why should our missionary and other collections be depleted for salaries to any greater extent than is positively necessary to have the work rightly performed?"

IN 1884 Presbyterian mission stations in the North West numbered barely 120; now 340. Since 1882, there have been erected in the western fields 55 new churches, 11 manse, and three church manse, at a cost of not less than \$160,000. Within four years, families and communicants have tripled, and contributions (despite the general severe depression) quadrupled. The area of settlement is about 30,000 acres, and the population less than 200,000. There are at present three self-sustaining congregations without pastors, and 1,200 families, of our Church without any supply.

MR. W. P. MCKENZIE, until a few weeks ago labouring as Presbyterian missionary at Fort McLeod, is now pursuing his studies at Knox College, Toronto. Mr. McKenzie, it will be remembered, went to the front last summer with the Alberta Mounted Rifles as one of the chaplains. After that experience he went for a few weeks' visit, during which time he lectured upon the Rebellion and the Campaign in two or three of the cities of the Dominion, devoting the proceeds to the fund for the new church, at McLeod. He laboured in that field for some eighteen months.

THE annual meeting of Melville Church, Scarborough, was held in the church at Highland Creek, on Tuesday, February 2nd. The pastor, the Rev. R. M. Craig, took the chair, when the financial reports of the congregation were presented, which show the congregation to be in a very satisfactory condition. The total expenditure of the year was as follows: For strictly congregational purposes, \$625; for missions, etc., \$145; other religious purposes, \$16, making a total of \$806, while the total receipts for the year were \$940, leaving a balance in the treasurer's hands of \$134. The managers were appointed, and the building committee instructed to proceed as soon as possible with the building of a basement for Sabbath School purposes.

ON Saturday the 20th ult., Rev. Principal Grant delivered the Saturday afternoon lecture, Trinity College, Toronto, taking for his theme "Robert Burns." A large audience was present, and the enthusiasm was quite remarkable, a large number of Scotch people being present, both because Principal Grant was to speak, and because he was to speak about Burns. The lecture during its delivery was greeted with frequent laughter and applause, and when the lecturer sat down he was enthusiastically applauded. Provost Boddy, in moving a vote of thanks, referred to the significance of Principal Grant's appearance there as testifying to the cordial relations existing between Queen's and Trinity on the University question.

A LOVO felt want has at last been supplied in one of Montreal's many suburbs by the formal opening of the new Presbyterian Church, at Coté St. Antoine 21st ult. The new church is situated on Crawford avenue, close to the Coté St. Antoine highway, and is near the public school house. The building is capable of seating two hundred and fifty persons, and while not making any great pretensions as regards architectural design, it is admirably adapted for the purpose for which it was constructed, and is a comfortable and attractive place of worship. Rev. Jas. Fleck, pastor of Knox Church, preached in the morning. An open meeting of the Sabbath School was held at three o'clock, the church being well filled with children and their friends. In the evening the Rev. A. B. Mackay, pastor of Crescent St. Presbyterian Church, preached to a large congregation.

THE Rev. Mr. Cumberland, of Amherst Island, is making an effort to have the Old Fredericksburg church, of which the late Rev. Robt. McDowell was pastor, restored. The Rev. Mr. McDowell, who came from Albany in 1784 to minister to the U. E. Loyalists on the Bay of Quinte, was the pioneer Presbyterian missionary of Upper Canada, and what is now the Synod of Toronto and Kingston might, in 1800, have been called his parish. Mr. Cumberland stated that the old church was in a dilapidated condition, and that the Presbytery of Kingston desired to have it repaired and a tablet placed in it to commemorate the life and labours of the faithful missionary. There were now 70,000 Presbyterians within the bounds of Mr. McDowell's old parish, which extended from Hamilton to Brockville, and as far north of Toronto as Newmarket, and seven cents from each of these would be sufficient not only to restore the old church, but also to build a new one. An appeal will be made to other congregations to assist in this laudable effort.—*Napawan Review.*

THE new Presbyterian church, Simcoe, Ont., Rev. R. M. Croll, pastor, was dedicated on the 14th ult. Rev. S. Lyle, Hamilton, preached in the morning. Rev. W. W. Carson, pastor of the Methodist church, Simcoe, in the afternoon, and Mr. Lyle again in the evening, to very large audiences. On the following Monday a service was held, at which addresses were delivered by Revs. Lyle, of Hamilton, McMullen, of Woodstock, Hamilton, of Lyndoch, Thynne, of Port Dover, Wells, of Jarvis, and Parker, Gemley and Carson, of Simcoe. The proceeds amounted to the sum of \$175. The plate collections on Sunday aggregated \$200. The new church presents a most attractive and imposing appearance. It is the most creditable piece of church architecture, so far as outward appearances go, in Simcoe. It is of red brick, with white, brick and Ohio stone facings. The lighting is by a gasolene machine, bought of Keith & Fitzsimmons, of Toronto. The completed church is a credit to all the persons engaged in its construction. With the basement completed, the cost, as it stands, furnished with everything, will be, in round numbers, \$11,000.

FROM the annual report of the West- Presbyterian church, Toronto, Rev. Robt. Wallace, pastor, we learn that during the year 28 members or adherents were removed by death, 60 children and two adults baptised, 87 received into membership, and over 90 taken from the roll either by removal from the bounds or by death. There are now 440 names on the communion roll. The heavy loss of members has arisen chiefly from the fluctuating class from which the membership is largely drawn, namely, railway employees. The Managers report that the ordinary revenue exceeds that of the previous year, being, per Sabbath, about \$63. During the year an organ was placed in the church, and sundry improvements made tending much to increase the comfort of the congregation. In 1875, the average attendance of the S. School was 175, and the staff of teachers numbered 22; last year the average attendance was 441, with 49 officers and teachers, an increase of nearly 300. The Ladies Aid, Willing Workers, Young People's Society, all appear to be in a very flourishing condition.

DURING the last four weeks the congregation of Dunbarton, of which the Rev. R. M. Craig is pastor, has been moving in earnest. On the 23rd of January, the annual meeting was held. The managing committee presented the financial report for the year, from which it was learned that the total expenditure was \$947, of which \$188 was for the schemes of the church. After the committees were appointed for the present year, a discussion took place regarding the providing of better church accommodation, as it has been felt for some time that the present church building has not been at all equal to the requirements of the congregation. To further consider this matter a special meeting was held on February 6th, when a committee was appointed to canvass the congregation for subscriptions for the building of a new church. This committee reported at an adjourned meeting held on the 13th February, when the report was considered so very satisfactory that it was unanimously agreed to proceed at once with the erection of a new church. The church is to be built on the site of the present one, with basement, and seating accommodation for about 300. Already the material is being placed on the ground, and it is extremely gratifying to see the unanimity of the people, and the heartiness with which the work is undertaken.

THE new and beautiful Presbyterian Church, in Pembroke, Rev. W. D. Ballantyne, B. A., pastor, to which we have made frequent reference during its erection, was formally opened on Sabbath, the 7th ult. Rev. Dr.

Cochrane, of Brantford, preached in the morning from Ps. xlv. 7-10, to a very large audience. In the afternoon at three o'clock a large and interesting meeting of Sunday-school scholars and young people was held, in which again the Methodist Sunday School united with the Presbyterian. In the evening the Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, preached to the largest congregation that has ever been seen in Pembroke, estimated at from a thousand to twelve hundred, from Matthew x. v. 29. In this great gathering the capacities of the new church were thoroughly tested in every point, and the congregation, especially all who have had the work in charge, have the most abundant reason for satisfaction at the result. All the appointments of the church are of the most complete kind, and are marked by perfect good taste. It is conceded on all hands that this church is not only perhaps the most beautiful in the whole Ottawa Valley, but also one of the most comfortable and completely equipped in every way. The congregation, whose need of a new church was very great, is to be congratulated upon the complete success of their large undertaking, and it may reasonably be expected to enter now upon a career of progress and prosperity. In the advancement of every good work, which will be productive of blessing to the town and whole neighbourhood. The collection during the day amounted to \$431. On Monday evening a large, representative and most appreciative audience assembled to hear Dr. Cochrane's lecture, "Across the Rockies, through Salt Lake City to the Golden Gate of California." The proceeds of the lecture, which were generously all given by Dr. Cochrane for the benefit of the church building fund, amounted to \$113, making the total at all the services \$547, to which must be added a cheque received since by Mr. Ballantyne for \$50, and other contributions, making altogether \$600.

OBITUARY.

THE St. John papers announce the death, from inflammation of the lungs, of James MacMillan, St. John, the well-known bookseller and publisher. He was a consistent and useful member of the Presbyterian Church, and highly respected in the community.

CIRAS ROBSON, Esq., one of the oldest business men of Halifax, died at his residence on Thursday, 18th ult. He was, says the *Witness*, a man of superior education and intelligence, singularly well read, and also a writer of much ability. For about two years, 1857 and 1858, he was one of the editorial writers in connection with the *Presbyterian Witness*. As a Presbyterian he occupied a prominent place for very many years, and his influence was always on the side of progress. He was one of the founders of Poplar Grove Church, one of the original sixteen who called Dr. MacGregor, and stood by him during the whole of his pastorate. He was elected to the eldership in 1847; and the functions of that office he performed with rare fidelity for nearly forty years. Mr. Robson was proficient in sacred music. The *Witness* has been, and still is, largely used in our churches, owes much of its excellence to his taste and skill. He took a warm interest in hymnology, and issued a choice selection of hymns for use in Sabbath Schools and prayer meetings. When Dalhousie College was reconstituted in 1853, Mr. Robson was one of the governors elected by synod. He rendered very great service to the Church as a member of standing committees and boards. He was a man of deep piety, strong faith, and sound judgment.

FRED. FENTON, LATE COUNTY CROWN ATTORNEY, YORK.

IN one of the palaces in the city of Paris there is a painting which illustrates our feelings over the departure of our esteemed friend. The painter has by his subject the death scene of one of France's noblest patriots. At the feet stands an angel clad in deepest mourning, whilst at the head appears an angel, all radiant as with the light of Heaven. Death had caused deep and general sorrow, but in the dark hour there came the remembrance of a brave life filled up with many generous and tender deeds. Thus we were impressed by the sudden removal from our midst of one whose daily life was a testimony to truth and honour. The first deep thought of sorrow was in a measure relieved as we remembered the strong, yet quiet faith and singular devotion to the principles of integrity and righteousness which characterized the life of Mr. Fenton. "Being dead he yet speaketh." It is of Mr. Fenton, as we knew him in Christian work, that we shall speak specially now. Eleven years ago, amongst the fifty members that then composed College St. congregation, we found Mr. and Mrs. Fenton. From that time till he removed beyond the bounds of College St. church he was not only most exemplary in his attendance on divine worship on the Lord's Day, but as a manager he was ever anxious to advance in every possible way the interests of the congregation. His fellow managers cherish only the deepest and tenderest regard for him. Nothing was thought a trouble that would in any way aid the work of the congregation. Even when removed at too great a distance for his family to attend regularly, he still continued his kindness and liberality. The congregation has lost in him not only a kind friend, but also a wise and able counsellor. Mr. Fenton was, however, not only a loyal member of his congregation, his Christian life found expression in many forms. Knox College found in him a warm and liberal friend. In his official capacity he was thrown into contact with infidelity in some of its worst aspects. He addressed himself to the examination of the leading sceptical works of the day. It was truly interesting to hear him in his house of an evening, opening up and exposing the logical errors of such books as *Cred of Christendom*, by W. R. Greg. Few were in the position to see the practical results of so called "free thought" and downright infidelity as Mr. Fenton. He felt more instruction should be given in the pulpit to the young men concerning the more dangerous and popular forms of scepticism. This city has lost one of her most faithful and noble-minded officials. May his mantle of fearlessness in doing the right fall on the one who shall be called to take his honoured place. If we are asked where his finest qualities of heart were most manifest, we answer in his home. Free from all affectation, he was the true husband, the faithful and fond father. He has left that home for the heavenly, but he has left it filled with tender and noble memories. Yes, he has left it walked round with virtue. We feel assured that he in whom his faith rested will be the abiding consolation of the mother and her family. We cannot but close this imperfect notice with a few words coupled with some verses which Mr. Fenton wrote to a friend when absent from home last autumn:—"I live on trusting in the goodness and mercy of Almighty God to restore me to usefulness in His own good time, and I know He orders all things well."

One thought I have, my ample creed,
So deep it is and broad,
And equal to my every need—
It is the thought of God.

Each morn unfolds some fresh surprise,
I cast at Life's full board;
And rising in my inner skies
Shines forth the thought of God.

At night my gladness is my prayer,
I drop my daily load,
And every care is pilloved there
Upon the thought of God.

I ask not far before to see,
But take in trust my road;
Life, death, and immortality
Are in my thought of God.

To this their stored strength they owed,
The martyrs' path who trod;
The fountain of their patience flowed
From out their thought of God.

Be still the light upon my way,
My pilgrim staff and rod,
My rest by night, my strength by day,
O blessed thought of God!

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