

new organ was recently installed and the service of praise receives careful attention. Indeed every department of congregation work is prosecuted with vigour and efficiency.

Zion congregation reported an addition of 23 names to the membership last year and there were 25 baptisms. All the reports presented were optimistic in their character. The total receipts amounted to \$3,738.49. There is no debt, excepting about \$400 on the new organ; and a portion of this is subscribed but not yet collected. The Rev. A. A. Scott, M.A., has been pastor of this charge for more than a score of years; he is an able preacher and greatly beloved by young and old in the congregation. The session, like that of the sister church, is exceptionally strong. Rev. A. A. Scott, M.A., moderator; Frank Donald, clerk, and Messrs. Peter Ewing, James Moffatt, jr., W. J. Patterson, N. M. Riddell, Neil MacDonald, E. M. Ewan, M.D., A. Cochrane, J. M. Sinclair, M.D., W. A. Patterson, Jas. Cavers, and D. H. McIntosh, M.D.

In this town the medical men are largely Presbyterian—there being five altogether who are members of one or other of the churches here. Of them three are elders in Zion Church.

In the session report of Zion Church are found the following pugnacious sentences, worthy of a wider circle of readers than the annual report affords. Here they are: "The performance of duty! Why that is the chief mission of every man in living his human life. It is duty and not success, it is duty and not even happiness that is the chief end of life. Christ the "Grand Man," said, "I came unto the world to do the will of Him that sent Me," that is "Duty is the chief goal of My Life." As it was with Christ, so it must be with us: we must seek duty and surrender ourselves to it. If the church of Christ brings with it a duty, it should be our chief aim in life to find what that duty is, and then do it."

**MARITIME PROVINCES.**

The convocation of the Presbyterian Theological College was held in St. Matthews church on Wednesday evening, the 25th, Principal Pollok presiding. There was a large congregation present that is usual on such occasions and much interest was manifested in the services.

The report of the faculty showed that 38 students has been enrolled for the term, of whom fourteen were third year sixteen were second year and six were first year. There were also two general students.

The graduating class numbered fourteen, as follows: Frank Baird, New Brunswick; Murdoch Buchanan, Cape Breton; J. G. Colquhoun, Pictou; Gordon Dickie, Milford; G. A. Grant, Trinidad; A. J. Macdonald, Cape Breton; D. J. Macdonald, P. E. Island; F. H. Mackintosh, Pictou; R. P. Murray, Cape Breton; H. R. Read, Cumberland; D. M. Reid, Musquodoboit; D. C. Ross, Pictou; W. A. Ross, Pictou; G. A. Sutherland, Colchester.

The college degree and diplomas were presented by Principal Pollok and the degree of B.D. was conferred on Rev. A. F. Fisher, B.A., George A. Grant, M.A., Hilbert R. Reid, B.A., and George A. Sutherland, M.A., and also on Rev. A. M. Hill, B.A., a graduate of the session of 1899.

Mr. George A. Grant mentioned above is a son of Rev. Dr. Grant, missionary in Trinidad.

In his address to the graduating class Principal Pollok paid a high tribute to their ability, studiousness and manly Christian character.

On the following evening (Thursday) at a meeting in Fort Massey church, Messrs. Sutherland, Grant, Colquhoun, McIntosh and W. A. Ross were licensed by the Presbytery of Halifax to preach the everlasting gospel, following which Mr. W. A. Ross was ordained for home missionary service in connection with St. Andrews Church, St. John's, Nfld., and Messrs. Sutherland and Colquhoun were ordained for home missionary work in British Columbia. Two others of the graduating class have also volunteered for home mission work on the Pacific coast.

Rev. H. H. Macpherson, who has been pastor of

St. John's Church, Halifax, for upwards of twenty years, a few weeks ago tendered demission of his pastorate. The pastoral he will be severed the sixth of May and Mr. Macpherson, it is understood, will go back to his native province, Ontario.

According to paragraphs published in the newspapers, the name of Rev. A. Gandler of Fort Massey, among others, is mentioned in connection with the pastorate of St. James Square, Toronto, vacant by the resignation of Rev. L. H. Jordan. The people of Fort Massey will regard such a move as an aggravated breach of the commandment, "Thou shalt not covet."

Four of the graduating class at Pine Hill are going to the North West.

Rev. H. H. McPherson preaches his farewell sermon in St. John's church on the 6th May.

Rev. J. M. McLean of St. John's church, Chatham N. B. is laid up with quinsy.

Rev. Dr. Bruce of Church Point N. B. has been away for his health and is expected home in May.

The congregation of Souris P. E. I., presented Rev. J. R. McKay with an address and purse of \$100 on the eve of his retirement from the pastorate of Souris and Bay Fortune.

The collection taken up at the closing exercises of Pine Hill College in St. Matthew's church last Wednesday evening amounted to \$338.37.

**State of the Funds.**

There has never perhaps in the history of the country been a year in which so many special appeals have been made to our people. It was naturally expected that these would interfere, to a greater or less extent, with the contributions for the regular schemes of the church. It is, therefore, encouraging to know that the contributions for the schemes were larger during the year which recently closed than in any preceding year in the history of the church. A few days before the close of the year, it was feared that there would be a deficit in the Augmentation Fund, and a heavy shortage in the Home Mission and Widows and Orphans' Fund. The books were kept open for a few days beyond the usual time. Before they were closed, because of generous responses by a number of friends and congregations, the deficit in the Augmentation Fund was made up, and the Home Mission deficit reduced to \$9.0. Since the closing of the books, and in response to a special appeal, this amount has been received, so that the Home Mission Fund is now free from debt.

At the beginning of last year, the Aged & Infirm Ministers' Fund was \$1,810 behind. Now the Fund is free from indebtedness, as are all the other funds of the church with the exception of the Widows' & Orphans' Fund. For this fund the revenue last year, was \$2,625, less than the amount required. To have equalized the expenditure with the revenue would have meant the reduction of grants to widows for the past half year, from \$75 to \$58. The Committee, however, believing that this would not be creditable to the church, resolved to pay the grants in full, under the conviction that when the facts were known, the shortage would be made good. Now that every other fund is free from debt, the Committee has issued an urgent appeal for a special collection to be made on Sabbath the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May in every congregation and mission station of the church. They earnestly appeal to every minister and missionary and to every session, asking that the opportunity be given to their people, and a special collection announced for the Sabbath named. Many of the annuitants on this fund are the widows of ministers who bore the burden and heat of the day in earlier years, when salaries were small. The church entered into an agreement with these ministers whereby it pledged itself that, if they contributed a certain fixed annual rate for Widows' and Orphans' Fund, it would, at their death, give their widows an annuity. The honor of the church is, therefore, at stake in connection with this matter. Now a few of the widows of these early ministers depend for their support, in a large measure, on the annuity received

from the Fund. The Committee, therefore, expresses the hope that every session will give their people an opportunity to contribute toward this special collection on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May, so that they may be able, along with all the other Committees of the church, to report to the General Assembly that their fund is free from debt.

The following are the receipts for the several schemes for the year ending 31st March 1900:—

Home Missions	\$ 80,239 29
Augmentation	23,124 53
Foreign Missions	116,461 55
Indian Famine Fund	19,709 40
Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund (including bequests, Ministers' rates &c.)	14,352 27
Widows' & Orphans' Fund	10,060 41
Assembly Fund	4,491 83
French Evangelization	26,597 31
Pointe aux Trembles	10,126 82
Knox College, including Scholarship Endowments, &c.	8,818 71
Montreal, Presbyterian College	12,881 83
Queen's College (Toronto Office exclusively)	2,121 00
Manitoba College	3,586 00
Sundry funds	14,475 27
	<hr/>
	\$316,776 25

This does not include the amount received as interest on investments, nor does it include the contributions for the Century Fund. Counting these, the receipts in the office last year considerably exceeded half a million dollars.

Quite a number of congregations last year neglected to contribute to one or more of the church schemes. In many cases, especially where contributions are made by Sabbath collections, this is owing to the fact that for the first two or three months of the church year, no special collection is taken, and the others are crowded into the remaining months of the year. The remedy for this is to begin early in the church year to take collections for the schemes. The contributions, this year, for the general work of the church are likely to be seriously affected by the special effort on behalf of the Century Fund. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that measures be adopted to prevent this and it is hoped that from the very beginning of the new church year, the matter of the ordinary schemes be kept prominently before our people, and also that the utmost economy, consistent with efficient administration, be exercised by the several committees and boards. According to the action of last Assembly the detailed receipts for the several schemes are hereafter to appear in the annual report of the Statistical committee.

ROBERT H. WARDEN.

Toronto, May 1, 1900.

**Dr. Mowat's Jubilee.**

An interesting feature of the exercises in connection with the Queen's convocation was the celebration on Wednesday of the fiftieth anniversary of the ministerial work of Rev. John B. Mowat, D. D., professor of Hebrew in the faculty of Theology at Queen's. Prof. Mowat, who is a hearty old man though well advanced in his seventies, began ministerial work in Kingston fifty years ago to-day and for 42 years has held his present position to the satisfaction of the college and the great advantage of those who attended his classes. Prof. Mowat is a brother of Sir Oliver Mowat, and in his manner of speech is not unlike the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. The honor of which he was recipient was tendered by the Presbytery of Kingston, and among the many members present were not a few whose hair has silvered in the service of the church alongside of Dr. Mowat. The Rev. W. M. McLean of Belleville presided and among those who took part were Dr. Wardrope, who recalled the fact that besides Dr. Mowat and himself there were only two who were present at the opening of Queen's College Toronto, The Rev. W. T. Wilkins of Trenton, clerk of Presbytery read a handsome illuminated address to which Dr. Mowat replied in fitting terms.