

## Ministers and Churches.

### Our Toronto Letter.

There have been so many events during the past week, events of various kinds and complexities, that one scarcely knows where to begin to record them. On Monday every citizen that we met, with one exception, was utterly incapable of doing business, and could talk on but one topic. If a man asked you a question, ten to one it was if you had heard whether the train bringing the contingent was on time. One man deliberately went on with his work and did not even rise to see the procession. We would give the halt of what we are worth, and that means a good deal to us, to have the cool self control of that one man.

Election day was not half so exciting. Men went about their business, having voted, most of them, before going down to their offices and warehouses. With the results most men seem satisfied, though the secular press is making copy out of accusations against exciting racial hatred and religious strife. The honors, or dishonors, for this city are pretty evenly divided between Grit and Tory. It will not affect the average man in the least. It serves admirably for a leader to the hard pressed editor now. The intelligent reader will observe that it usually appears in the third or fourth column.

The event of the week from the Presbyterian point of view, has been the course of lectures delivered in Knox College by Professor Kilpatrick, of Manitoba College. Convocation Hall has been comfortably filled every evening. That there was a good audience on Monday night did not surprise us, for curiosity drew many there. But that it continued, that a man lecturing on theological themes actually held his first audience, and kept winning others each night, is not usual. But Dr. Kilpatrick is an exceptionally good lecturer; he is both teacher and lecturer. He leads his audience into deep and still deeper thought, until each listener is thoroughly interested in the sometimes abstruse subject dealt with. Were the subject stated badly, it would not hold the most interested for an hour; and it is a unique compliment to Prof. Kilpatrick that he carried his with him to the close.

The annual convention of the Ontario Lord's Day Alliance has been held during the week. Slowly and steadily this movement is gaining ground. It was the intention that it should grow from a centre outward. There is likely to be a repetition of the first growth of the Christian Church. The centre does not grow. The points to which, with apostolic zeal, the Secretary has gone outside Toronto are already sending of their substance to the centre, as the saints from some of the points where Paul planted churches sent their gifts to the poor at Jerusalem. The trouble seems to be that at the centre there is perpetuated a system that does not meet with the approval of the Christian people of Toronto. Those who are carrying forward the work know right well what the source of the trouble is, but so far have not dealt heroically with it. Were they to adopt it now measures the cause of the maintenance of the Lord's Day, which lies near to the heart of the Christian public, would receive the most cordial support.

Nothing has been learned as yet of the purpose of those called to fill the pulpits of the city churches or those outside of the city. The Presbytery of Paris met on the Tuesday of this week, but it is doubtful if it would feel free to take up the consideration of the call to Mr. Hamilton from the Markham congregation. True, Mr. Hamilton has intimated to his session that he intended to place his resignation in the hands of the Presbytery, but it has not been formally received as yet; and the stickler for use and wont, and for the carrying out of the letter of the injunction—"Let all things be done decently and in order,"—will certainly raise objection about the unseemly haste. Meantime two congregations are kept in an excited condition for another month.

Is there any need to pursue the usual routine when it is well known, even if it be not officially known, that the one called is likely to accept the call. Of course Mr. Hamilton has not given any intimation of his mind in the matter. But he has said openly, and the Presbytery understands that he is about to resign his charge. He does so that the congregation may feel free to enter upon new work in a new field and under new organization. He steps out that the minister may not be in the way, even in thought, of a reorganization of the congregation in its new location.

That is fully set forth by our correspondence from Brantford. Why then should not the Presbytery feel free to put into Mr. Hamilton's hands the call that has been sustained though it has not been in the hands of the clerk for the regulation period. We believe that the Presbytery will follow this course.

Mr. Back has accepted the call to St. Andrew's and St. Paul's, Vaughan, but will not be inducted there till the 6th of November next. It is as soon as we could expect him to come. We do not know him but we hear good things of him, and shall welcome him because of the good record that has preceded him. He will soon win a place for himself, for the good people of Vaughan do not make mistakes in their choice of a minister.

There is no man in the Presbytery with more experience in interim moderatorships than the Rev. J. A. Grant, of Richmond Hill. We shall get after him for an article upon the trials of the moderator of vacant charges. Doubtless he could many a tale unfold were he so disposed. That he has not given his experiences is an evidence of an admirable reserve that might well be practised by men in other stations who receive confidences. Our system of securing admission to a vacant charge as a candidate encourages a form of application which must often scunner the moderator to whom it is addressed, and tempt him to put it into the fire. We shall hope for something better. Could not some of those who have been often through the mill as moderators devise something that would be an improvement on the present method?

Overflowing audiences greeted Dr. Kilpatrick on Sunday in Bloor St. church, where he preached anniversary services. In the morning he spoke to the "Doubter," choosing Thomas the disciple as the example. The doubt of the present age is not antichristian in the sense in which that of the first half of the nineteenth century is opposed to Christianity. It is an eager groping after the truth a "wistful" seeking after God. Its cause is perhaps the enlarged horizon not given Thomas, and the insistent appeal of the visible pressing the spiritual farther and farther back. The remedy was the abiding consciousness of the living Christ. If He were alive, and we admitted Him into the life, doubt would surely vanish.

### Northern Ontario.

Rev. W. M. Martin, B. D., Exeter, preached in Brucefield last Sabbath.

Rev. Dr. McCrae, on retiring from the pastorate of the Collingwood church, was presented with a purse of gold.

The subject of Rev. Dr. Wait's fortnightly address to the young people in Knox Church, Owen Sound, last Sunday evening was "Primitive and Perfected Manhood."

The Owen Sound Advertiser, says: Rev. R. W. Dickie, B. A., of Orangeville, will conduct the anniversary services of Division street church on the 18th inst. Mr. Dickie is one of the brilliant young men of the church.

The Penetanguishene Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Society, recently held its annual meeting. The contribution sent to the Presbyterian Fund amounted to \$35, and a bale, valued at \$12, was sent to the North-West Indians. Officers elected for the ensuing year:—President, Mrs. W. R. Johnston; Vice Presidents, Mrs. G. H. Wright and Mrs. J. Leatherdale; Secretary, Miss MacL. Jamieson; Assistant Secretary, Miss Beck; Treasurer, Mrs. N. S. Kenny.

Sunday 4th November was a red letter day for the minister and members of St. Andrew church, Fort William, as it saw the opening of the enlarged and newly furnished church. It was foretold last spring that enlarged space would be necessary for the growing congregation, and plans were got out that called for sittings for about 250 more people than were formerly accommodated. The church as completed is a modern one in every respect. With only a small number of cubic feet added the sittings in the church have been nearly doubled. A gallery has been built around three sides of the building, containing four rows of seats, all of which are arranged for convenience and for good hearing and sight of the speaker. New pews have been put in all through the church that are comfortable and well arranged. Dr. DuVal, of Knox church, Winnipeg, conducted the re-opening services, preaching two sermons to the congregations that filled the church, and formally dedicated it to the worship of God. Rev. W. L. H. Rowand has our hearty congratulations on the enlarged and beautified edifice thus auspiciously dedicated.

### Eastern Ontario.

The Presbyterian congregation of Osceola have purchased a library and are about to erect church sheds.

Rev. Lach. Beaton, Sidney, N. S., has received a unanimous call to the Moose Creek church, Presbytery of Glengarry.

Mr. W. McDonald, who was assistant to Rev. D. J. McLean, of Arnprior, during the past summer, occupied Mr. McLean's pulpit again last Sunday.

The Anniversary services held in St. Andrew's Church, Brighton, were well attended last Sunday. Dr. Beattie of Cobourg, delivered two able and instructive discourses.

Rev. J. Burnett, of Martintown, occupied the pulpit of Knox church, Lancaster, on the 4th inst., morning, and Rev. J. U. Tanner, B. A., conducted the evening service.

In the absence of Rev. Mr. Blair, who preached in Chalmers church, Guelph, the pulpit of the Presbyterian Church, Campbellville, on Sunday last was occupied by Mr. Cranston, Knox College, Toronto.

The Almonte Gazette makes mention of the "two very earnest and excellent sermons" preached in St. John's church, by Rev. Norman A. Macleod, B. D., of New Edinburgh, on the 4th November.

We are always pleased to note improvements made in manses for the comfort of our ministers. The managers of the Dalhousie congregation have had a furnace put in the manse, adding much to its warmth.

On last Sunday Rev. E. S. Logie, Winchester, preached anniversary services in the church at Cedar Hill, and was warmly welcomed by many former friends, who were greatly pleased to listen to the Gospel message from his lips again.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered in the Kinburn church on Sunday morning, 4th inst., a large congregation being present. The pastor, Rev. N. H. McGillivray, delivered an appropriate sermon from the text "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith."

Mr. S. O. Oshoo, from Persia, medical missionary, who will shortly go to labor among the Mohammedans of his native land, spoke at the services in Middleville and in Darling on Sabbath last. He told what the gospel has done for his people, and what his brother, who was here some years ago and is a missionary, has been able to do so far.

### Western Ontario.

Rev. R. Leitch, of Delaware, occupied the pulpit of the Komoka church on Sunday afternoon last.

In the absence of Rev. H. A. Macpherson who is in Muskoka, Rev. R. Pogue, of Hespeler, preached in Knox church last Sunday.

At the recent annual thank-offering meeting of the Brucefield Auxiliary, Dr. Menzies, returned missionary from China, gave an effective address.

An exchange of Presbyterian pulpits was had between the Rev. John Ross, of Brussels, and the Rev. R. S. G. Anderson, of Wroxeter, on Sabbath last.

Last Sunday week Rev. F. Smith, Bradford, preached in Knox church, Acton, for Rev. H. A. McPherson, who was conducting anniversary services in West Essex.

A large singing choir has been organized in Knox church, Galt, under the efficient leadership of Dr. Davies. Already 40 have signified their intention of joining.

The Rev. A. Blair, B. A., Nayagawess, preached in Chalmers' Church, Guelph, last Sunday week. His pulpits were supplied by Mr. Frank Gillespie, of Knox College.

Rev. J. W. McMillan, B.A., Lindsay, preached in Erskine church, Hamilton, last Sabbath. The Times properly styles Mr. McMillan "one of the strong young men of the Presbyterian church."

Rev. Wm. Mathieson, a well-known retired Presbyterian clergyman, died at Mount Forest, aged 86. He left a considerable amount of money, most of which is bequeathed to Presbyterian missions and to various charities.

Rev. D. H. Fletcher, D. D., of Macnab St. church, Hamilton, is receiving the hearty congratulations of his friends on the fortieth anniversary of his ordination. He has spent 28 years of faithful ministry in Hamilton, and his bow still abides in strength.