

Church News

[All communications to this column ought to be sent to the Editor immediately after the occurrences to which they refer have taken place.]

MONTREAL NOTES.

The entire Protestant community of Montreal was startled on Wednesday, May 4th, by the news that the Rev. John Nicholls, of St. Mark's church, had died suddenly during the night after only a few hours illness from cerebral hemorrhage. Mr. Nicholls had been pastor of St. Mark's church for twenty-three years and had been a most active worker in many different directions, so that he was widely known. There was a large attendance at the funeral on Friday, among those present being a large number of the Protestant ministers of the city. The late Mr. Nicholls was a native of Staffordshire in England where he was born in 1840. He was educated in Durham for the ministry of the Methodist Church. Shortly after coming to Canada in 1894 he joined the Presbyterian Church and was called to the pastorate of St. Mark's church where he has continued ever since. He was a good preacher and a most diligent pastor, ever watchful of the highest interests of his flock. He was always ready for any duty that might be imposed upon him by the Presbytery, was actively interested in several of the city charities, for a number of years gave special attention to the management of the Fresh Air Fund. He was one of the most active members of the Committee of the Bible Society, and for years edited its monthly publication for circulation among the subscribers. He was a prominent member of the Protestant Ministerial Association, and at the time of his death President of the Presbyterian Ministers' Association. He leaves a widow, one son who is a practicing physician in the city, and one daughter who is a graduate in Arts in McGill University.

A week ago news was received from Eastern Central Africa of the death of the Rev. T. H. Allan, a young missionary belonging to a well-known Presbyterian family in the city, who went out with his wife two years ago, in connection with the African Inland Mission. His station was some two hundred and fifty miles inland from Mombasa on the east coast. His time on the field had, of course, been largely occupied with the work of establishing the mission, erecting the necessary buildings and acquiring the language. As it is one that had never been reduced to writing he was systematically preparing a dictionary and had prepared about three thousand words when his final illness came that carried him off in a few days. There were no results that could be tabulated but he had gained to some extent the confidence of the natives of the district and the way has been prepared for his successor. Much sympathy is felt for the bereaved father and mother who practiced much self-denial to further their son in the desire of his life.

On Tuesday, the 3rd inst., the Rev. D. Hutchison, late of Cumberland, was inducted into the pastoral charge of St. Therese, etc. The Rev. W. T. Morrison, the former pastor presided, the Rev. A. J. Mowatt preached a suitable sermon, the Rev. Dr. MacKay addressed the minister, and the Rev. F. M. Dowey the people.

The Rev. Dr. Wardrop, of Guelph, has been visiting friends in Montreal for a few days, and on Wednesday evening last spoke at the prayer-meeting in Erskine church.

On Monday evening, May 2nd, the Rev. Dr. Ross moderated in a call from Taylor church which is used in favor of the Rev. W. D. Reid, B.D., formerly of Victoria church, and was made unanimous. The salary promised is \$1,250 per annum. Mr. Reid is likely to accept the call, and should he do so he will enter upon an extensive field of usefulness with a good congregation to begin with and a church equipment that will afford abundant facilities for his work. We wish him every success in his new field.

MANITOBA NOTES.

There are 35 attending Manitoba Summer Session. Six in the graduating year.

Manitoba is looking for a number of ordained men. Gietna, Rosenfeld, Dauphin, Treherne,

Glenboro, Birtlo, Morris, Minnigoua, Russell, are all vacant.

The induction of the Rev. J. J. L. Gourlay takes place in Knox church, Thornhill, Man., on the 12th inst., at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The congregation will be glad to have a settled minister once more, as they have been without for over a year.

GENERAL.

Rev. Edwin Smith has received a call to Shediac, N.B.

A new church will be erected during this summer at St. Helen's, Ont., at a cost of \$4,500.

Rev. R. S. Whidden was on Tuesday of last week inducted into the pastoral charge of North Bedouque, P.E.I., congregation.

The John street Presbyterian church, Belleville, will be improved so as to provide a better Sunday-school room. The changes will cost \$4,500.

Rev. W. A. Rae, a recent graduate of Knox College, was ordained at Rat Portage on Friday evening last. Mr. Rae will labor in the Rainy River District.

Ottawa Presbytery has decided to refuse the request of Fitzroy Harbor congregation to pay the cost incurred in the suit of Mrs. Hyland against the congregation for arrears of her late husband's salary.

Rev. W. J. McCaughan, pastor of St. Andrew's church, Toronto, who has spent the last few weeks at Clifton Springs, N.Y., for his health, has quite recovered, and expects to occupy his pulpit next Sabbath.

Rev. D. J. McLean, Annprior, will be assisted in his pastoral work during the summer months by Mr. Jas. Wallace, M.A., a student of Queen's University. Mr. Young of Queen's College will be in charge at Bath during the ensuing year.

Rev. C. A. Webster, M.D., of Beavertown College, Syria, returned to Toronto on Monday after an absence of eight years, and addressed the Ministerial Association on the subject of his work in the east, leaving the same evening for New York, where it is his intention to take a special course on diseases of the eye at one of the universities.

The session of the Second church, Richmond, Va., has elected Rev. Donald Guthrie, late of Walkerton, Ont., co-pastor of the church. Mr. Guthrie has been assisting the pastor, Rev. Dr. Hoge, during the last three months, and the congregation is now desirous of making a permanent arrangement with him. Dr. Hoge has been pastor of this church for over fifty years.

Rev. Dr. Cochran's evening sermon in Zion church, Brantford, on the 1st inst., was based upon the latter part of the Sabbath school lesson for that day, "Christ Cleansing the Temple." Dr. Cochran strongly criticized many of the practices resorted to in order to raise money in the Church, and condemned the rivalry between Churches which led to their establishment where they were not required. Talk as we may about the unity of the Church, he said, the desire to be the leading denomination is often far greater than to increase to communion of saints. He also depreciated the building of magnificent churches far beyond the means of the congregations, encumbered with heavy mortgages under which they must struggle for years. The gold and silver of the temple should be the spontaneous gifts of the worshippers, the free-will offerings of a grateful people.

The twenty-second anniversary of Central church, Toronto, Rev. Dr. McTavish, pastor, was celebrated last Sabbath. In the morning Rev. Dr. Thomas, of Jarvis Street Baptist church, preached to a large audience from the words of the 87th Psalm, 5th verse, "And of Zion it shall be said, this and that man was born in her." In the evening the seating capacity of the church was not sufficient to accommodate the crowd. Rev. Prof. Robinson, of Knox College, preached. He took for his text the whole of the Ten Commandments and gave a most learned and convincing elucidation of his own conception of Israel's code of law; treating each of the Commandments separately and then combining them, showing their relation to one another and their distinction, some being moral laws and others religious laws, but all coming under one head, what God requires of man.

HONAN PRESBYTERY.

The Presbytery of Honan met at Chang to fu, Dec. 23th-30th, 1897, Rev. M. McKenzie, Moderator pro tem, in the chair. Two new members, Dr. Percy C. Leslie and Mr. John Griffith were welcomed to our staff.

Reports were presented from the three stations, Ch'u Wang, Hsin, and Chang to fu.

At Ch'u Wang treatment of patients and preaching in the chapel and hospital were carried on for eight months of the year. During the year of the four summer months the dispensary was closed owing to the absence of the physicians. The attention with which the patients heard the Gospel was more encouraging than in previous years. Two persons were baptized, and the names of sixteen persons (eight men and eight women) were recorded as catechumens during the year. Treatment at the men's dispensary during the year numbered 10,000; and at the woman's dispensary 467 since it was opened in November. A station-class of 37 men, was taught for eight days, and one of 4 women for seventeen days. Our two native helpers spend about 125 days, and the missionaries about forty days on preaching tours. Twenty Chinese acres of land (3½ Eng. ac.) were bought for Mission purposes in the town of Ch'u Wang, and 180 ft. of buildings were erected for Woman's medical work at a cost of \$260.66. The first Christian marriage ceremony was performed at Ch'u Wang, one of the contracting parties being a native of Ch'u Wang. It is a sad duty to have to report the withdrawal of Mr. and Mrs. MacLennan from our staff owing to the ill health of the latter.

At Chang to fu the preaching in the chapel has gone on as usual all year; the numbers of those coming was not so great as formerly, but those who came showed greater interest. A house was built for Mr. Goforth. Two station-classes were taught, one of thirteen women the other of fifty men, some for part others for the whole time. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed twice, twelve persons were baptized and the names of thirty-nine recorded as catechumens. The dispensary was opened in August, since then 6,726 treatments were given. The school for boys has been attended steadily by the maximum number of pupils.

At Hsin Chen work has gone on steadily; prospects are better than last year, our enemies in town are decreasing. The name of one old woman in the town has been recorded as a catechumen. Treatments in the dispensary have numbered 11,600. The names of seven persons have been recorded as catechumens, and one baptized. The names of one Church-member and three catechumens have been struck from the roll. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed twice, and one marriage ceremony performed. 52 days were spent in touring.

Mr. Slimmon, in order of rotation on the roll, assumed the duties of Moderator for the ensuing year.

The Rev. Robert Campbell, D.D., of Renfrew, was nominated Moderator of the next General Assembly; and Rev. D. MacGillivray and Messrs. Jas. Rodgers and Jas. Ross, of Montreal, were appointed Commissioners to the same.

The committee on study of the Chinese language reported that Miss Dow and Mr. Mitchell had passed their first year's examination, and Miss Pyke, Mrs. Menzies and Mrs. Malcolm their quarterly examinations successfully.

The Treasurer's and Auditors' reports for 1897 were received and adopted; and estimates for the year 1898, amounting to \$17,502.67 were considered serious and approved for transmission to the Foreign Mission Committee.

On the evening of Wednesday, Dec. 29, Presbytery met according to previous appointment to ordain Mr. John Griffith to the office of the holy ministry. The Moderator presided, Mr. MacKenzie preached a sermon, basing his remarks on Matt xxviii, 18-20, Mr. Mitchell offering the ordination prayer, and Mr. Goforth addressing the newly ordained minister.

The Clerk was instructed to forward certified copies of the Minutes of Presbytery to the Clerk of the General Assembly.

The application already made for the addition of another single lady doctor to our staff was renewed. A large amount of routine business having been disposed of, on the evening of Dec. 30 Presbytery adjourned sine die to meet again at the call of the Moderator.—W. Harvey Grant, Clerk.