

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 stated quarterly meeting of the Presbytery of Montreal was held on the 17th inst. in Knox church. This meeting has usually been held hitherto in January, but it was thought that December would better suit the convenience of many of the members. There was a good attendance and interesting reports were given as to the various missionary operations conducted within the bounds of the Presbytery, Home, French and Foreign. Considerable discussion took place as to the necessity for providing additional services at the various summer resorts in the neighborhood of the city. The matter will come up again for further consideration at the March meeting, when action has to be taken. Leave of absence for six months was granted to the Rev. Mr. Drummond, of Russelltown, with the consent of his session, in order that he may supply the pulpit of St. Andrew's church, Toronto. Mr. Drummond was formerly assistant to the Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, and is already well known to the congregation.

THE most important report made to the Presbytery was that regarding the Foreign Mission in the city among the Chinese under the oversight of the Rev. Dr. Thomson. It is just a year since Dr. Thomson entered upon his duties, and the progress made has abundantly justified his appointment. There are now twelve Chinese Sabbath schools in operation throughout the city, with a total attendance of 286. As a good many, however, attend more than one school in the course of the day, the number of different persons attending is only 150. There is also a Monday evening school with an average of fifty-seven, and a night school has been opened in one of the buildings of the Protestant school commissioners with seventeen pupils. The Sabbath evening service in Knox church lecture room brings together an audience of fifty to seventy. Naturally the first great inducement to the Chinese to attend these schools is the opportunity of learning English, but even in teaching them to read simple English many a word can be spoken for the Gospel by the earnest teacher, and the kindness which they are receiving from their teachers, of which they are duly sensible, predisposes them to listen with respect. As the result of such efforts partly here and partly at other places where they have received similar kindness, a considerable number have expressed their desire to confess Christ. Five Chinamen recently took the communion in St. Paul's church, and on the 13th of Dec. four more were received into the membership of Knox church. Several have also united with the American Presbyterian church. Not the least interesting feature of these schools is the liberality of the Chinese, notwithstanding the fact that they are supposed to be here solely for the purpose of accumulating money. The collections in these schools for the Foreign Mission Fund of our church during the year have amounted to \$433.50. Besides this other sums have been sent to the American church for mission work in the Province of Canton, from which come all Chinamen resident in Canada. A grand social reunion of all the Chinese scholars with their teachers is to be held in St. Paul's church on the 30th inst.

THE anniversary services of St. Paul's church, Ottawa, were held on Sabbath, the 15th inst., and were well attended. The services were conducted by the pastor, the Rev. Dr. Armstrong, assisted by Prof. Swinger, of Montreal.

THE Rev. Prof. Ross, of the Presbyterian College, preached in St. Gabriel church on Sabbath evening, the 15th inst. He also conducts a bible class every Sabbath afternoon in the American church.

THE Montreal Christian Redeemer Union held its regular quarterly meeting in Branks church, on Thursday evening, the 19th inst. An address was given by the Rev. Mr. Mowatt, and a special Christian Redeemer prayer meeting was led by Mr. Archibald, secretary of the Quebec Sabbath School Association.

THE Rev. Dr. Myron, pastor of Union Tabernacle, New York, preached at the opening of the new Methodist church in Westmount,

on the 15th inst. On the Friday previous he lectured in the Windsor Hall on "Shams," and on Monday in Unity Hall, Point St. Charles, on the "Lights and Shadows of a Great City." Dr. Myron is a Presbyterian who has been prominent in city mission work, and can turn his varied experiences to good account on the platform. Few speakers have so complete control over an audience as he.

A Scotch concert was given in the lecture hall of Taylor church on Friday, the 20th inst.

General.

REV. D. H. HODGINS, Oak Lake, Man., was presented with a gold-headed cane by the officers and members of Court Royal Oak, C.O.F.

VERY successful anniversary services were held in the First Presbyterian church, Seaford, on the 15th and 16th inst. The Rev. Dr. Battisby, of St. Andrew's church, Chatham, preached Sabbath morning and evening to overflowing congregations. On Monday evening, 16th, a large congregation assembled to hear the famous lecture of Rev. J. S. Henderson, Hensall, entitled "Rambles in Wonderland" and to a very interesting and instructive description of his journey through Palestine by Dr. Battisby. The choir assisted by Mr. Geo. Cline rendered very sweet music. This was one of the most profitable anniversaries held by the congregation.

THE sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed in Guthrie and Central churches, Oro, on the 15th inst. Nine new names were added to the communion rolls of these two churches. Since the settlement of the Rev. N. Campbell as pastor of the Oro churches, 168 names have been added to the rolls of the churches. A couple of Sabbaths ago the anniversary services were held in St. Andrew's, Oro Station, conducted by the Rev. W. R. McIntosh, of Allandale, which were of a most interesting character. This is a growing congregation. The church is free from debt, and forty-two members were added during the year. There were in all 190 communed last Sabbath, which was the largest number that ever communed on any one occasion.

REV. ALFRED H. MOMENT, D.D., of Brooklyn, New York, conducted the anniversary services of St. Paul's church, Bowmanville, on Sabbath, 15th inst. Dr. Moment, who is a native of the locality, and well-known as a preacher of intense earnestness and power, has lately returned from a two years' visit to the continent of Europe and the east, spent in travel and study. The church was crowded. The morning sermon on the twenty-third psalm, and the evening sermon on "The River of God," were enriched from the speaker's journeys, but were especially remarkable for their fervent and heart-searching exhibition of what man is without God, and what God's grace does for men. The collections for the day amounted to \$178. St. Paul's is in the happy position of having no debts.

THE thank-offering meeting in connection with the Thames Road church was held on Wednesday afternoon, December 11th. In spite of the stormy weather there was a good attendance of the women of the congregation. The Rev. A. Stewart, of Clinton, in his usual happy and cultured style gave an address on the "History of the Missions of our Church." The offering amounted to \$56.00, an evidence that the missionary spirit is developing in the country congregations. Mrs. James Monteith solemnly dedicated this gift to the Lord. The president, Mrs. Fletcher, presided, and at the close of this most enjoyable meeting, the girls of the Mission Band served refreshments to those present.

THE Presbytery of Owen Sound in making nominations to the vacant chairs in Knox College, resolved: "That in the judgment of this Presbytery, the interests of Theological education will be best furthered by filling the chairs now vacant in Knox College with men of ability and promise, who are in close touch with the life and work of the Presbyterian church in Canada." It was then moved by Dr. Somerville, seconded by Mr. B. A. McLean, and agreed:—"That the Presbytery represent to the Board of Knox College that in its judgment the Rev. B. M. Ramsey, B.D., is eminently qualified by character, scholarship and ability to teach, to fill the chair of Old Testament Literature and exegesis now vacant, and it respectfully nominates him to

that position." It was moved by Dr. Fraser, seconded by Mr. Acheson, and agreed:—"That the Rev. J. Somerville, B.D., an honored alumnus of the College and member of this Presbytery, is, by reason of his scholarly attainments, his experience and success as a teacher and a minister, his valued services on the Senate and Examining Board of the College, his great interest in and influence over young men, and the high esteem in which he is generally and deservedly held throughout the Church, eminently qualified for the work of teaching and training students for the ministry of the Word. The Presbytery therefore respectfully nominates Dr. Somerville for appointment to the chair of Apologetics and Church History in Knox College, in the assurance that if appointed he will fill the position for which he is well fitted by his natural gifts and graces, as well as by his education and experience to the satisfaction alike of the College Board, the Senate and the students, and to the credit of the Church."

Presbytery of Stratford.

AT Mitchell and within Knox church there, Tuesday, the 17th Dec., 1895, the Presbytery of Stratford met *pro re nota*, to induct Mr. W. H. Bradley, B.A., into the pastoral charge of that church and congregation. Twelve ministerial members and three elders were present. The moderator, Mr. W. W. Graw, constituted the court with prayer. Mr. Wm. Cooper, B.A., conducted public worship. Mr. Leitch narrated the steps taken towards filling the vacancy. He put the usual questions to Mr. Bradley. These were answered satisfactorily. Mr. Leitch then led in prayer, and there was in due form inducted Mr. Bradley into his new charge. Mr. Panten then addressed the new minister in words of fraternal counsel, and Mr. Congrove addressed the congregation. After the benediction the people withdrew, greeting their new pastor, who was introduced by Dr. Hamilton. Mr. Bradley signified his adhesion to the formula and his name was added to the roll of Presbytery.—W. W. McKENZIE, Clerk.

Presbytery of Inverness.

THIS Presbytery met at Whycoomah on the 3rd inst. Present, Messrs. A. Grant, E. S. Bayne, A. McMillan, D. McDonald, ministers, and Neil McLean and Edward Campbell, elders. Mr. Bayne presented a call from the congregation of Whycoomah to Rev. Alex. Ross, M.A., of the Presbytery of Lindsay, Ont. It was signed by 241 communicants and 448 adherents, and accompanied with a guarantee of \$800 stipend, and \$150 for an assistant. Mr. Ross was present and stated that his name was placed on the roll of the Presbytery of Lindsay by order of the General Assembly after his retirement from the active duties of the ministry on account of failing health; that his health had much improved since his retirement; that he was in a position to take up active work anew; that he would be glad to labor in Whycoomah, and in the Presbytery of Inverness, which was in great need of more Gaelic ministers; that his mind was to accept the call when a certificate would come from the Presbytery of Lindsay transferring him to this Presbytery. The Presbytery was greatly pleased with the prospect of having Mr. Ross as one of their members, and instructed the clerk to write to the clerk of the Presbytery of Lindsay asking for a certificate of transference as proposed. Provisional arrangements were then made for the induction of Mr. Ross on the 24th inst. Rev. D. McDougall to preside, Rev. A. M. Thompson to preach, Rev. A. Grant to address the minister, and Rev. E. S. Bayne and Rev. A. McMillan the people. Rev. H. Currie, who had labored for two months at Malsgawatch and River Dennis, was appointed to supply Lake Ainalie for the 8th and 15th inst., and Little Narrows for the 22nd and 29th. The reports of Mr. L. H. McLean, B.A., and Mr. Duncan McRae, catechists, were adopted, and the conduct of the clerk in forwarding them to the Home Mission Committee, and in asking the claim of Mr. McRae to be paid, approved. Mr. L. H. McLean was certified to the Senate of the Presbyterian College, Halifax. Both these brethren as well as our other catechist for the summer, Mr. Edward G. Taylor (Queen's), Mr. W. A. Morrison, Mr. Alex. Smith and Mr. H. S. Davidson did excellent work and acquitted themselves very creditably in their fields of labor.—D. McDougall, Clerk.