

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

REV. D. J. MACDONNELL has returned with restored health and strength.

A NEW Presbyterian church is being erected at Leslie, in Pontiac county.

REV. GEORGE BRUCE, St. Catharines, has accepted the call to St. David's Church, St. John, N.B.

REV. J. C. SMITH, of Guelph, has declined the call of the St. John's, N.B., Presbyterian congregation.

KNOX COLLEGE Endowment scheme goes on encouragingly. In Toronto the subscriptions amount to about \$23,000 up to date.

THE Commission of the General Assembly in the matter of Dr. Barclay's claims, have decided in several matters in favour of Dr. Barclay.

STEPS are being taken to obtain increased accommodation for the Davenport-road mission, which is at present supplied by Rev. Dr. Hamilton.

THE attention of all parties interested is directed to the appointment of Rev. J. H. Ratcliff, Ancaster P.O., to be Convener of the Home Mission Committee, and for the supply of vacancies in the Presbytery of Hamilton, in place of Rev. Geo. Bruce.

SAYS the Bradford "Witness": "Rev. Mr. Rodgers, of the Collingwood Presbyterian church, preached a temperance sermon to his congregation on Sabbath last. Sermons of this kind are very rare with the ministers of the present day, and not because their need is not felt in the land, but owing to the happy faculty our clerical gentlemen have of evading the issue—for some cause perhaps best known to themselves."

A SUCCESSFUL tea-meeting was held last Monday evening, Nov. 20th, at Newbury, in aid of the funds of the Presbyterian congregation. An unusually interesting programme was submitted, consisting of vocal and instrumental music, readings, and addresses. The following gentlemen took part in the exercises: Revs. Dr. Webster, B. Lawrence, D. M. Kennedy, of the M. E. Church, J. Whiting (C. M.), and W. J. Taylor, of the English Church. G. W. Ross, M.P., was also present, and delivered an effective address. Dr. Roome occupied the chair. Receipts of the evening, \$70, which cancel a long standing debt against the congregation.—COM.

ANNIVERSARY services were held in the Parkdale Presbyterian Church on Sabbath, the 16th inst. The pulpit was occupied in the morning by the Rev. Mr. Gilray, who chose for his text John i. 14: "And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory—full of grace and truth." The preacher pointed out the appropriateness of the use of the word flesh in the text as bringing Christ nearer to people than any other word; while he had no sympathy with the belief that this made Christ less than God. He was very God dwelling among men, working at their occupations, and subject to similar temptations while working out the way of salvation for sinful humanity. The Rev. Prof. McLaren preached in the afternoon from Zachariah xii. 10-14. The preacher said the scene of the work referred to in the text was the world. Christ's spirit breaks down the middle wall of partition between Jews and Gentiles; it overleaps all barriers of nationalities and languages, and gives a place to the children in the visible Church of God. The Church of God, like the mountain which receives the showers of rain and sends out the same in numerous streams to the surrounding country, blesses people who are not connected with it. There are some who come so near to the Church of God that they are like a delicate balance that may be turned either way by a single grain of sand, but choose the pleasure of sin for a season and miss the grandest object of life, the salvation of their souls. In the evening Hon. S. H. Blake gave an address which was characterized by singular power and earnestness. The speaker commenced by describing the dark hour in Christ's life preceding his crucifixion, and continued until he arrived at the scene mentioned in Mark xv. 16, followed the narrative to the 26th verse. The church was well filled in the morning and afternoon, and was crowded at night. In the morning the pastor, Rev. Mr. Hunter, gave a brief account of the membership of the congregation. The congregation was organized three years ago with forty members, thirty-three of whom are yet in connection with the church. Two years ago there were fifty members, and one year ago there were 106 members. Up to the

present there has been a total of 191 members on the roll, and after deducting those who have removed beyond the bounds of the congregation, there are 150 active members still in connection with the church.

THE new Presbyterian church, Neepawa, Manitoba, was opened for divine service on Sabbath, the 29th ult. The Rev. Jas. Robertson, Superintendent of Missions, preached able and appropriate sermons morning and evening to large congregations. On the Monday evening following a tea-meeting in aid of building fund was held, which resulted most successfully in every respect. The following gentlemen were present and addressed the meeting: Revs. Messrs. James Robertson, Winnipeg; D. Stalker, Gladstone; D. McCannel, Carberry; G. K. B. Adams, and D. McRae, Neepawa, and Messrs. J. A. Davidson, M.P.P., and M. H. Fieldhouse, Neepawa. Excellent music was furnished by the Neepawa union choir, under the leadership of Mrs. Adams. The collections on Sabbath, with proceeds of tea-meeting, netted nearly \$200. The church, although plain and not large, is neat and comfortable, capable of seating about 175. It will answer in every respect the present requirements of the congregation. The cost, not including three valuable lots, the gift of Messrs. Davidson and Hamilton, will be about \$1,500, and is all provided for by the congregation, except a loan of \$400 from the Church and Manse Building Fund. The town of Neepawa, although scarcely a year old, can justly claim a place in the front rank for the number and character of its church edifices, reflecting, as these do everywhere, the enterprise, intelligence, and Christian liberality of the people. Special credit is due to the enterprising town proprietors, Messrs. Davidson and Hamilton, for the liberal encouragement they give to all enterprises of this kind. The number and character of the churches already erected, and in course of erection in this and other parts of the Presbytery, are an unmistakable evidence of the great practical value of the Church and Manse Building Fund. It cannot fail to be most satisfactory to the liberal contributors to this fund to know that it is already producing such good results. It must also and specially be a source of great satisfaction to the Superintendent of Missions, its successful promoter, to be called upon, as he will be, in this comparatively small district alone, before the year ends, to assist in opening for divine service handsome and commodious churches at Rapid City, Neepawa, Carberry and Minnedosa, the erection of which is largely due to the temporary aid received from the Fund.

ST. JOHN'S Presbyterian Church, Brockville, was reopened on Sabbath, 12th Nov., having been closed for enlargement and repairs during the past five months. The pastorate of Rev. Dr. Jardine, since his advent to this town, has proved so acceptable as to render it necessary to obtain greater accommodation for those desirous of benefiting from his services. The skill of the architect, and the liberality of the people, have resulted in the enlargement of the old church, so as to make it practically a new building, well adapted to the purposes of an active and increasing congregation. The side wall of the old church was taken down, a large wing added to the west side, and the pulpit placed on the east wall. By this simple plan the accommodation has been nearly doubled, and a commodious basement secured for Sabbath school and social work, at the comparatively small cost of \$8,000, three fourths of which has been subscribed. The church authorities had invited Rev. Principal McVicar, Rev. D. Mitchell, of Belleville, and Rev. Geo. M. Milligan, of Toronto, to conduct the opening and dedicatory services. The weather was not propitious, the day proving one of heavy rainfall; but the congregations were very large, that of the evening filling every nook and corner, while hundreds were turned away. In return for a like courtesy shown by the congregation of St. John's at the dedication of the First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Mr. Burnfield, pastor of the latter, closed his church to enable his people to join with the sister church in their opening services. There was also a large number present from the other churches. Principal McVicar preached at the morning service, from Ps. cxix. 72: "The law of Thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver." Rev. Mr. Mitchell, in the afternoon, chose the text Rev. xxi. 22: "I saw no temple therein," and Rev. Mr. Milligan's subject in the evening was 1 Pet. i. 8: "Whom having not seen ye love." The sermons were considered very able, and the attention they called forth was very manifest. There

was a good collection at each diet of worship. On Monday evening a social was held in the basement, which was then opened for the first time, and proved to be well adapted for social purposes. Instead of a number of speakers, Rev. David Mitchell had been specially invited to deliver a lecture. His subject was "What's in a name," upon which he spoke for an hour and a quarter, bringing out many suggestive thoughts, and by humour and pathos amusing and instructing the audience. Rev. Mr. Milligan is to lecture this evening (Thursday) in the Victoria Hall, for the building fund of St. John's church. It is confidently expected that there will be a large audience to hear him speak on his well known theme, "The Contented Man—Who is He?"—a lecture distinguished for originality, humour, and power of eloquence. Rev. Dr. Jardine and his people are to be congratulated upon the auspicious circumstances under which they enter upon a new career. [This was unavoidably crowded out of our previous issue.]

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.—This Presbytery met in Hamilton, on November 21st. Present, twenty-five ministers and ten elders. Next meeting of Presbytery was appointed to be held in Dundas on Monday, Jan. 15th, at 7:30 p.m. Conferences on the State of Religion, Temperance, and Sabbath schools, will be held on that evening, and on Tuesday evening. The following resolutions anent the Temporalities' Expense Fund was adopted: That the Presbytery recommend that the sessions of all the churches within the bounds give the Assembly's deliverance in connection with the appointment of the Committee their earnest consideration, and adopt such means as they may think best to employ with the request of the Committee. An overture from the Session of Dunville, anent the supply of supplemented congregations by ordained missionaries was received, laid on the table, and ordered to be printed for the use of members. The resignation of Lynedoch and Silverhill by Mr. Pullar was accepted, to take effect after January 7th. A call from St. David's Church, St. John, N.B., to Rev. Geo. Bruce, was considered, and was accepted by Mr. Bruce. Mr. Ratcliff was appointed Convener of the Presbytery's Home Mission Committee, in place of Mr. Bruce, Mr. Scouler Moderator of Session at Haynes Avenue congregation, and Mr. Benson at Merriton. Mr. Lyle gave notice of overture anent the term service in the eldership.—JOHN LAING, Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF GUELPH.—This Presbytery met in Chalmers Church on Tuesday, Nov. 21st, at 10 o'clock. There was a very full attendance of ministers and elders, and commissioners from congregations on important business. After the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, the Rev. J. A. R. Dickson presented a report of the Committee on the State of Religion, suggesting arrangements for its meeting to be held in Galt in January, which were adopted. Remits from the General Assembly were read by Rev. Mr. Torrance, and were placed in the hands of committees for consideration and report at next meeting. The dissolution of the connection of Rev. W. S. Ball with Knox Church, Guelph, was decided to take place on December 6th, his settlement at Proof Line being effected on the same day. A resolution recognizing Mr. Ball's worth and services was unanimously passed. The call to the Rev. J. C. Smith, B.D., from St. Andrew's Church, St. John, was taken up. The call being received and reasons for translation being read. The Rev. J. A. R. Dickson pleaded for the translation on behalf of the Presbytery of St. John. The Rev. G. M. Milligan, B.A., of Toronto, pleaded on behalf of the congregation of St. Andrew's, St. John. Mr. Charles Davidson, on behalf of St. Andrew's Church, Guelph, gave answers to the reasons of translation, and Col. Higginbotham on behalf of the congregation. The Presbytery adjourned at 1 o'clock till 2.30 p.m. At 2.30 the Presbytery resumed, when Mr. Smith, after a very effective address, gave his decision to remain in Guelph. This was received with great joy by all present. A petition was received from Hespeler for the services of Mr. Haigh in the evening as well as in the morning. Messrs. Johnson, Braid and Little, from Hespeler, and Messrs. Beattie and Henderson from Doon, and Messrs. Hepburn and Webster from Preston, stated the influence the change would create on the respective congregations. On deliberation it was left over till next regular meeting, that time might be given to Hespeler congregation to arrange for Mr. Haigh's entire services. The trial discourses of Mr. Neil, called to Nassagaweya, were then heard.