

## Ministers and Churches.

### Our Toronto Letter.

At last, the day so long and anxiously looked forward to and prepared for has come and gone, and all know now somewhat more clearly than ever before, how the province of Ontario stands with regard to the bar-room and the saloon part of the liquor business. Those who expected that the requisite vote would be polled, who could only be the most sanguine, will be disappointed; the more calm and sober minded cannot but be gratified with the result as a whole. The keenest, most clearly defined struggle between the liquor and anti-liquor traffic has been fought, and, we may say won by the antis, although the total vote needed to abolish the bar and saloon has not been secured. Toronto was splendidly organized for the fray, well instructed through many agencies in the issue, and the result shows the good effect of the work done, and well repays it. Briefly put, the great advance in sentiment for sobriety and against the liquor selling in bars and saloons, or the effect of better organization and work done, is indicated by the fact that, while in the plebiscite of 1898 the majority against prohibition was 4,137, the majority on Thursday last for the liquor act of 1902 to close up the bar-room and saloon, was 15,311. Temperance men and workers for it in the city, are upon the whole well satisfied, cheered and encouraged by the result of the vote. It is as clear as noonday from the voting of Thursday, that any government in Ontario may feel justified, if not indeed called upon by that vote to greatly restrict the number of places for the public sale of liquor. The educational effect upon the country of this campaign needs only to be followed up by earnest and intelligent effort in the same direction, and the day will be won for the cause of temperance so far as the bar-room and saloon are concerned. The lesson of the campaign just closed for all who long for that day is, fight on, be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in this good work, and victory is sure, and before very long.

On Monday evening of last week Association Hall was filled to its utmost capacity with an enthusiastic audience to hear Joseph Devlin M.P. and Hon. Edw. rd Blake M.P. plead the cause of Home Rule in Ireland, such as we enjoyed in other self-governing Colonies of the Empire. Appropriate mottoes were arranged in different parts of the hall, and the meeting was hearty, united and enthusiastic. Suitable and well-worded resolutions in favour of the object of the meeting, which was held under the auspices of the Toronto Branch of the United Irish League were put and at once unanimously carried. Mr. Joseph Devlin, whose youthful appearance was a great surprise to most, made a speech eloquent in the warmth of feeling which pervaded it, forcible by its array of facts, its moderation and its hopefulness and fairness. Hon. Edward Blake's speech was also convincing and able, but lacked the power, warmth and directness of the youthful looking and eloquent Irish orator. A collection in aid of the objects of the League was taken up which amounted at the meeting to \$825, since increased to nearly double that sum.

Knox College Conference began last Monday, and its programme as published, may be divided into literary, social, scientific and theological subjects. Each topic is introduced and discussion upon it opened by speakers previously appointed. A specimen of each subject may be given—"Victor Hugo," "Restrictive Legislation and Moral Reform," "A Glimpse of Palaeontology," "Christianity as presented by Paul, compared with the Christianity of the Gospels," "The Philosophic Doctrine of Immortality."

It would be unpardonable to overlook a piece of news, that, St. Andrew's Day was duly honoured by the Scotchmen of Toronto by attending church on Sunday evening in Old St. Andrew's, to hear a sermon from Rev. Dr. Milligan, and a ball on Monday evening in the Temple Building. Both were largely attended. The reverend doctor, who is Scotch from the crown of his head to the sole of his foot, took his text from Ps. lxxxv. 9. In the course of it, he traced the history of Scotland from the early days, to shew the extent to which the richness of character, and that strong devotional spirit, which is the glory of the race had been developed by the evangelistic teaching of the church, and the religious devotion of the people.

State, in recognising the foundation principles upon which national greatness must rest."

The Technical School of this city is doing a good and widespread work both for it and the whole country. At a distribution of prizes last week, Hon. R. Harcourt, Minister of Education, speaking of the progress made in Canada in technical education, expressed the opinion that, the Dominion will soon occupy a prominent position in all the departments of technical training. President Loudon of University College, who distributed the prizes, praised the good work done in the school, and mentioned that, the University was about to establish a degree in "Household Science."

Dr. Parkin, late Principal of Upper Canada College, who has been absent for some weeks in Oxford, making arrangements connected with the Rhodes Scholarships, has again returned to this country to consult with educationalists in Canada and the United States respecting their allotment, and the selection of candidates for them. It is a difficult and complicated task. The number of scholarships available to the Colonies and the United States is some 200, each of the value of \$1,500, and to be held for three years. In addition to the good to be expected from bringing so many of the brightest young minds together from many different quarters, they ought to furnish a powerful stimulus to those seeking the best education that England and all the countries concerned can give.

The important subject of homes for the poor in this city has been brought up for consideration by Controller Graham, and has also been referred to the sub-committee of the Ministerial Association. As our cities grow, this subject must become of ever-increasing importance, especially to avoid over-crowding and its evils. This committee recommends that "a block in some outlying district should be selected, and small houses of sanitary and convenient construction be erected, thus permitting breathing space, and giving room for a small garden for each house. In connection with building, but of a different kind, a movement is on foot to obtain funds to provide a new and much larger Convocation Hall for Toronto University. Of \$50,000 which will be required \$15,000 have been promised. The Caven Hall fund for Knox College library is, it is gratifying to know, making good progress.

Mr. Willison, who has so successfully for several years past filled the place of editor-in-chief of the Globe, has severed his connection with that paper and the directors on the very best terms, and it will gratify many to know that, his recognised ability in this kind of work is not to be lost to the country, but only transferred to another field.

Rev. Dr. Courtice who succeeded Rev. Dr. Dewart in the editorship of the Christian Guardian, the well known organ of the Methodist church retires next month from this work, and his place will be taken by Mr. Bond. Dr. Courtice is referred to by a brother-editor, as "the genial and well beloved brother," and Mr. Bond as "his amiable successor."

### Montreal.

The St. Lambert Presbyterians held a pleasant "Scotch Social" the other evening, which was largely attended and greatly enjoyed.

Rev. Professor Ross, of the Presbyterian College, is preaching with much acceptance in the American Presbyterian church. He is a great favorite with the members; and could get a unanimous call if he wanted it.

There has been added recently to the reception room of the Presbyterian College a valuable historical picture, being that of the first Presbyterian Union Committee as they are sitting in deliberation in the St. Paul's Presbyterian church of this city. The picture is very large, and is the work of Lorenz, the artist, and Mr. James Inglis, photographer. Accompanying the picture is a sketch outline key, with original autograph signatures of the members of the committee. Only about two or three are left now, among whom are the Rev. Dr. Ure, of Goderich, and Mr. James Croil, of Montreal. The picture is the gift of Mr. David Morrice, one of Montreal's merchant princes, and liberal as wealthy. He has been a munificent benefactor of the college in the past, the fine Convocation Hall being a monument to his generosity.

The anniversary sermon of the local St. Andrew's society was preached in St. Paul's church on Sunday evening by the Rev. J. Lyall George, M. A., senior chaplain. There was a large attendance of members. The text was from Dan xi, 32, and in his opening remarks he instanced the great national history of the Jews, as shown in the story of the Macabees who suffered martyrdom rather than worship Bacchus, eat swine's flesh or give up the observance of the Lord's day and the rite of circumcision. Scottish history affords not a few parallels of like heroism, and Scottish religion has a close connection with Scottish theology. The family religion and training, as pictured in Burns' 'Cottar's Saturday Night,' had purified the national life at its fountain-head, and the observance of the Sabbath, though some men sneered at it as needlessly strict, was absolutely essential to the national welfare. The preacher then cited a noble line of Scottish worthies: Wallace Bruce, Knox, the Covenanters, Samuel Rutherford, Thomas Chalmers, Thomas Guthrie, Hugh Miller, Norman MacLeod, Robert Moffatt, David Livingstone, President McCosh, of Princeton; John G. Paton, the missionary of the New Hebrides, and the three great Canadians lately passed away, George Leslie Mackay, James Robertson and George Munro Grant. Scotch folk had exerted a mighty influence on the world, and their clannishness and their brotherly sympathy led them to help each other. Might they all unite in the noble work of charity till they reached their 'ain country,' the 'land o' the leal.'

### Northern Ontario.

Last Monday evening the Taylor family of East Nottawasaga Presbyterian church, presented their pastor Rev. J. A. McConnell with a beautiful fur coat as a token of their esteem for him.

Anniversary services in connection with the opening of Knox church, Copper Cliff were held in Sudbury 23rd Nov. It is three years since this church was opened and dedicated to the worship of God. The Presbyterians in this thriving time, are staunch and true to the church of their fathers, and have been liberal in their offerings for the maintenance of ordinances in their midst. After paying off the debt of the church, they built a beautiful manse, part of which has likewise been paid for. The pastor, Rev. J. H. White M. A., preached an appropriate sermon in the morning, and in the evening Rev. H. S. Graham, Sudbury, preached an eloquent sermon to a crowded congregation. A social gathering took place on the Monday evening following when suitable addresses were delivered by Rev. H. S. Graham, Rev. J. H. More, Copper Cliff, and the members of the congregation, and musical selections of a high order were given by the choir. The offerings made at both diets of worship wanted but a few cents of \$50.00.

### Algoma.

At Naims, the Roudry camp movement is doing good work by means of papers and teachers.

The Thessalon Presbyterians are contemplating the building of a good large commodious church, up to date in every particular.

An American Lumber Company is building a large saw mill at this point, which will employ about 1,000 men.

Victoria Mines where "The Mond Nickel Co." is at work, is regularly supplied this winter and the employees show their appreciation by a regular attendance.

The marriage of Rev. Mr. Drennan, who is now in charge of the work at Massey Station, to Miss Mary MacLennan, of MacLennan, Ont., will take place on January 1st.

The Ladies' Aid of the Presbyterian church, Webbwood, met at the manse last Friday and presented Mrs. (Rev.) MacInnis, their president, with a beautiful fur coat. This is a timely present, and one that other congregations might profitably follow.

Miss M. Shankes, who has been organist at St. Paul's church, Sault Ste Marie, was waited upon by the members of the choir and presented with an address and memento, previous to her departure to Mattawa, where her father goes as Roadmaster. St. Paul's loss is Mattawa's gain.

Rev. W. A. Duncan, who has now passed his twelfth year as pastor of St. Andrew's church,