

THE monthly meeting of the board of Upper Canada Tract Society was held last week, with Rev. J. Burton, B.D., in the chair. Rev. Robert Renison was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Board of Directors. The secretary was appointed to receive applications from anyone desirous of engaging in colportage work. Two good men are wanted to carry on and enlarge the work of the Society in Ontario. In November the colporteurs in Ontario and Manitoba sold no fewer than 1,151 Bibles and the best religious books. Mr. Bone and Mr. Potter are still specially engaged in missionary work among our sailors. In November the board paid off \$750, being half of the debt due on the book-room. The board granted a full supply of tracts to the Knox College Students' Missionary Society for their special Sabbath work in the Central prison. During November special grants of books, etc., were made to poor Sabbath schools. Free grants of tracts are going out every month to lumber camps, mission fields, hospitals, etc. During the month a number of churches have very kindly sent in their Thanksgiving collections to aid the many-sided missionary work of the Society. In November Dr. Moffat, the secretary, visited eighteen localities to present the work, and met with very much kindly help.

THE Rev. John McDougall, of Honan, China, delivered a lecture on the missionary aspect of that country before a fair-sized audience in St. Andrews church, London, last week. Although the lecturer's stay in China was short, owing to the illness of his wife, yet during the few years of his residence there he witnessed many painful things, chief among which were the outrages and insults heaped upon the missionaries by the lower classes, incited in most instances to acts of violence and extortion by the literary class. Many times the missionaries in their stations barely escaped with their lives from the hands of a Chinese mob. The speaker appealed earnestly for more missions. In the province where he laboured there were four missionaries to 22,000,000 heathens. The Chinese were a great people, numerically, physically and mentally, their land was one of wonderful resources, and if China in her heathen state, with her frightfully immoral life, was to take her stand with the nations of to-day the result would be a serious menace to our western civilization. Christianity was the only hope and safeguard. The pastor, Rev. J. A. Murray, with Rev. E. Sawers, Rev. James Gordon and

Rev. William Gordon occupied seats on the platform. Charles Wheeler presided at the organ, and the following ladies and gentlemen participated in the musical programme: Mrs. Cooper, Miss B. Boone, Miss Gilmour, Mr. Brebner and Mr. McIntosh.

THE *Smith's Falls News*, noted the death of Rev. William Aitken, once Presbyterian minister there. It says: Mr. I. M. Clark on Monday last received intelligence of the death of the Rev. William Aitken, at his home in Leven, Fifeshire, Scotland, on the morning of November 21. The deceased was the first minister of the Presbyterian Church here, now known as St. Paul's, having been inducted pastor at the age of twenty-seven, on May 14, 1846, which pastorate he held until his resignation, in March, 1868, almost twenty-two years, during which time he was held in the highest esteem and respect not only by those of his own congregation but by his fellow-citizens generally, as he always took an active interest in the welfare of all. He was for many years an active member of the Board of Education and made himself very useful in forwarding the educational interests of the community at that time. He excelled as a scholar and in literary attainment, and was an excellent preacher. Upon his resignation of his charge here in 1868, he was appointed a lecturer in the Presbyterian College then being established in Montreal, which position he filled acceptably for some time. Later on he was appointed missionary to British Columbia, where he spent about three years, after which he returned for a short time to Smith's Falls, visiting his old friends, finally returning to his native town and home in Scotland, where he spent his remaining years.

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