

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 closing exercises of the Pointe-aux-Trembles schools were held on Thursday afternoon the 22nd inst. A considerable number of ministers from the city and other towns took advantage of the opportunity to be present, including Prin. MacVicar, Dr. Robert Ducloux, Dr. Amaron, Mr. Heine, Mr. Walter Paul. The chief feature of the programme was the examination of the classes in the different subjects in which they had been taught during the Session. The first class consisted of scholars from ten to eighteen who had not known the alphabet on their arrival six months ago. They proved able to read simple French with considerable ease and fluency. Many of the exercises were in English and most of the senior pupils showed themselves capable of passing from the one language to the other with perfect readiness. An arithmetical problem was worked out on the black-board with the necessary explanations in French, and immediately afterward a proposition in Euclid was demonstrated in English. In answer to a question one of the boys told the first half of the story of Joseph's life in French and finished it with equal fluency in English so as to leave one in doubt almost as to which might be his native language. The examination in Scripture was particularly interesting. They showed their acquaintance with the chief portions of Bible history and were wonderfully ready and full in their answers as to the fundamental doctrines of the Gospel. The chief differences between Romanism and Protestant teaching were clearly set forth. They also recited in concert the answers to questions in the *Shorter Catechism* in French. The questions were put by one of the visiting ministers and were chosen from different parts of the Catechism without suggestion from the teachers. This standard manual is evidently conned with care, and yet the whole showing of the school proves that it is possible to teach the Catechism without interfering in any way with the efficiency of instruction in other more secular subjects. One hundred and fifty five pupils have been in attendance this session. Nearly one half of these are from Roman Catholic families and twenty of them have been admitted to the membership of the church for the first time on profession of their faith.

Last Sunday was a somewhat important day in the French Mission churches of the city. The most striking service was that held in Lacroix Church, Rev. R. P. Ducloux pastor, at which forty five persons were baptized. These represented fourteen different families in whole or in part who had left the Roman Catholic Church and desired to be received into the Protestant church by an Evangelical baptism. The repetition of this rite is of course not insisted on but is administered in such cases when desired. In this instance a number of those baptized had previously been received into the membership of the church, but further study of the Scriptures had awakened doubts as to the validity of the Roman rite which had been administered to them and to their children. They accordingly asked to be allowed to participate in the ordinance with the group of new converts who were making their confession for the first time. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered in the evening.

In St. John's Church it was also communion Sunday. The church was filled, seventy seven communicants sat at the Lord's table. Fifteen new members were received into full communion. Six of these renounced Romanism and four others had formerly been connected with that church. The services were most impressive. Quite a number of Roman Catholics were present who had never seen a Protestant communion service before and to whom it was a revelation.

In the St. Jean Baptiste mission the communion was administered to twenty four members, four of whom were received on profession of faith. All had been previously

Roman Catholics. These numbers are of course not large at best, but they represent a movement which is telling enormously even on those who remain within the church. Rome will henceforth be able to hold control over the people of this Province only by a great abatement of its claims, and by greater spirituality in its teaching. The calumnies which it has so often circulated regarding Protestantism are rapidly losing their effect. It is noteworthy that at not one of the French Protestant services held last Sunday, though special intimation of them had been made beforehand, was there the slightest attempt at disturbance or interruption. Twenty years ago they would have raised a riot and the whole police force of the city would not have sufficed for the protection of the congregations.

The Rev. J. L. Morin, formerly pastor of St. John's Church and now of McGill College, has left for a brief trip to the old world. He is accompanied by Mrs. Morin. They will join Father Chiniquy in the south of France, and he is likely to return to Canada with them. For some weeks past he has been unable to address any meetings owing to the state of his health.

GENERAL.

Miss Margaret McKellar, M.D., of Indore, arrived at Victoria, B.C., on April 8.

Miss Bella Ross has returned home from India. Miss Ross has been for the past fourteen years a missionary of the Presbyterian Church at Indore, Central India.

Rev. Mr. McGillivray, from Honan, China, has reached San Francisco on his way to Canada and will be in Toronto some time this week.

The induction of Rev. Mr. Fisher to the pastorate of the Presbyterian congregation, Deloraine, Man., took place on April 6.

The members and adherents of St. Andrew's congregation, Carlton Place, assembled in the lecture-room of the church on the evening of April 13, the occasion being a farewell social to Rev. and Mrs. McNair. Mr. Jas. Gillies occupied the chair. After an impromptu musical and literary programme, Miss Miller, on behalf of the ladies, read a farewell address. The presentation was made by Mrs. Jno. Cavers. Mr. McNair acknowledged the presentation on behalf of himself and Mrs. McNair, after which short speeches were made by Rev. Geo. Lang and Mr. W. J. Patterson, more music was rendered, and a very pleasant gathering was brought to a close.

On Saturday evening, April 17, a meeting was held of the male members of the Church of the Covenant, Toronto, at the residence of their pastor, the Rev. James McCaul, to initiate steps for erecting a place of worship on the south east corner of Roxborough street and Avenue Road, with the intention, if possible, of turning the first sod for the foundation not later than 17th May, being the fourth anniversary of the pastor's settlement among them. As there is no other Presbyterian congregation in this immediate neighborhood this movement seems an appropriate one, and we wish it success.

Rev. George Bell, D.D., registrar of Queen's University, and the first graduate of that institution, has retired from active duties, and will, with his wife, remove to Toronto to live.

April 18th was the fourth anniversary of the pastorate of Rev. D. C. Hossack at the Parkdale Presbyterian Church, and this circumstance, together with the fact that it was Easter Day, made the services in the church particularly bright and interesting. Rev. R. P. Mackay, missionary secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and a former pastor of the church, occupied the pulpit in the morning, and preached a most thoughtful and interesting sermon from the text, "And of His false s have we all received, and grace for grace" (St. John i. 16). In the evening Rev. D. C. Hossack preached to a crowded congregation.

A most enjoyable social evening was spent on Tuesday April 20 by the congregation of Parkdale Presbyterian Church, the occasion being the fourth anniversary of the induction of the pastor, Rev. D. C. Hossack. The chair was occupied by Mr. Wm. Murchison, Chairman of the Board of Managers, who in his opening remarks

made mention of the splendid progress of the church under Mr. Hossack's pastorate. The congregation had now become so large that too time might soon arrive when they would have to consider the question of providing more church accommodation. The choir of the church, under the leadership of Mr. Gorrie, gave an excellently rendered programme. At the conclusion of the programme Major Carlaw, on behalf of the congregation, presented Mr. Hossack with an elaborately finished writing desk, a chair, a travelling bag and an address expressive of the appreciation in which he is held by the large congregation of the church. The hope was also expressed that the happy relationship existing between pastor and congregation might long continue. The occasion was also the anniversary of his birthday, and the opportunity was taken of tendering him hearty congratulations. Mr. Hossack in reply, after expressing his sincere gratitude for the very kindly worded address, said that he did not need any reminder to make him know that he had the kind regards of his congregation. He could only say that in the future he would endeavor to serve them even better than in the past. During his four years' pastorate, he said, they had had 81 baptisms; 405 members had removed from the congregation, but they had added 627, 391 by certificate and 236 by profession of faith. In conclusion he said that he hoped that the bond that now existed would not be severed for a very long time. The large congregation then adjourned to the lecture room, where refreshments were served by the ladies of the church.

A pleasant and enjoyable hour was spent in Cooke's Church on Wednesday evening April 14th, when Mr. Guost, the lato organist, was presented with an address and handsome onyx table and parlor lamp. The presentation was made by Miss Jessie Alison on behalf of the choir.

Rev. D. M. Ramsay, pastor of Bethel Presbyterian Church, Mt. Forest, who is about to leave for Knox Church Ottawa, was presented with a handsome gold watch, chain and locket by his congregation.—A farewell entertainment and concert by the choir of the church, under the musical direction of Mr. F. Warrington of Toronto, was given to Mr. Ramsay. Rev. Mr. Ramsay is now the inducted pastor of Knox Church Ottawa. The induction took place on the night of April 23rd in that edifice. Upon the platform with Rev. Mr. Ramsay were Rev. Dr. Campbell, Moderator of Ottawa Presbytery; Rev. W. T. Herridge, interim Moderator of Knox congregation; Rev. Dr. Moore, Rev. Dr. Armstrong, Rev. R. E. Knowles, Rev. O. Bennett, Hawkesbury and Rev. Mr. Gambier, Wakefield, and Mr. J. A. McMillan. Prof. Birch presided at the organ. Rev. O. Bennett preached an eloquent sermon from the words, "Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful," 1 Cor. iv. 2. Rev. Mr. Herridge, interim Moderator, then related the history of the events that had led up to the present call. Rev. Dr. Campbell put the usual questions to Rev. Mr. Ramsay and extended him the hand of welcome to Knox Church and to the Ottawa Presbytery. Rev. Dr. Armstrong then delivered a short, open and hearty address to the pastor-elect. Rev. Dr. Moore urged upon the congregation to be regularly in their places, to speak kindly of their pastor, and of their church, to help their pastor in visiting and above all things to pray for him. As the congregation raved out Mr. Geo. Hay and Mr. J. A. McMillan introduced the new pastor to the people among who he is apparently destined to do fruitful and faithful work.

April 18th was a red letter day with the congregation of Dorecourt Presbyterian Church. Three years ago, as a small mission band, they moved from Dufferin street to the present site on which they had built a small mission chapel. In less than two years the work under the ministry of the present incumbent, Rev. S. Carruthers, had prospered to such an extent that the mission, by permission of the Presbytery, became a regularly established church. This was only the beginning of still greater prosperity, for the congregation increased to such an extent that the seating capacity became totally inadequate, and about three months ago it was decided to enlarge the