

## 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 Inaugural Lecture of Prof. MacBride, of McGill University, given recently, in which he announced himself as an evolutionist, has aroused a good deal of criticism in the local papers from various standpoints. The new professor is virtually the successor of Sir William Dawson in the chair of Zoology, and as he had always championed the other side it was natural that some of those who agreed with him should express their dissent from the new attitude now assumed by the present occupant. Some statements were also made in a needlessly offensive way which provoked hostile remark. The professor who has been laid aside for a few days with a sprained ankle took no notice of any of these criticisms by any communication to the press. But on resuming his classes took occasion to repudiate any sympathy with the materialistic philosophy which is so widely associated in the public mind with evolution views. The following were his exact words and are worth reading:—"During my illness, as you are aware, many criticisms have been levelled against sentiments supposed to have been contained in my inaugural lecture. It has been insinuated that by implication I denied the existence of an Intelligence in Nature. This insinuation I wish to repudiate with the utmost indignation. And I cannot avoid expressing my amazement at the attitude which some of my critics have taken up. They seem to imagine that the existence of a Divine Being is denied if law or order are described where formerly caprice, discontinuity and arbitrary pleasure had been supposed to reign. If we believe in a God we must believe Him to be the great underlying Cause of everything that happens in the universe; but my critics seem to imagine that unless the view is accepted that every species of animal came into existence in a wholly unnatural and inconceivable way a Divine agency is denied. They do not seem to see that the logical consequences of such a position is that God cannot be inferred from the laws of Nature, that the Heavens do not declare the glory of God, nor the firmament show forth his handiwork." This is a satisfactory statement of his position and will allay any fear that the teaching given in this class will be hostile to religion. The fact is that Prof. MacBride is a Presbyterian and has been active in Christian work.

The religious tone of the University is very fairly indicated by the success and growing prosperity of the College Y.M.C.A. At the annual meeting held a few days ago there was a good attendance of both students and professors. While the report showed that the Association had now become well established as one of the institutions of the

University. Sunday last a special service was held to emphasize it as the day of prayer for colleges, in which also some of the professors took part.

The Rev. M. S. Orley, of Westminster church is laid aside from work by a severe attack of pleurisy. His services were taken last Sunday by the Rev. John McCarter, of the Jewish Mission, and Mr. S. McLean, of the Presbyterian College. Even under the most favorable circumstances Mr. Orley will be unable to resume his duties for several weeks.

On Sunday morning last the Rev. Mr. Mowatt, of Erskine church, read from the pulpit a long and interesting letter from Dr. P. C. Leslie giving an account of the journey across the continent and of his arrival in China, on the way to Honan. At the time of writing he and his companions, MacKenzie and Griffiths, were still some days from their destination, but were already learning much as to the nature of their future work. The feeling that great political changes were at hand he found to be general and the missionaries cherish the hope that through the political upheaval a more open door might be found for the Gospel.

It is announced that the vacancy on the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction, caused by the death of the late Dr. Cameron, has been filled by the appointment of William McLaren, of Hamilton. Mr. McLaren is a brother of John I. McLaren, Esq., the eminent Toronto barrister. Like him, he was at one time a Methodist, but for some years back has attended St. Andrew's Presbyterian church.

### NOTES FROM KAMLOOPS PRESBYTERY.

A special meeting of Presbytery was held at Enderby on Jan. 28th when the call from Mt. Pleasant church, Vancouver, to Rev. Geo. A. Wilson of Vernon was considered. Much to the relief of his co-Presbyters Mr. Wilson stated his decision to remain in Vernon. The call from Mt. Pleasant was a very unanimous one but for the present Mr. Wilson believes his work to be in Vernon.

A special meeting was held in Sandon on Feb. 9th, to ordain Mr. John A. Cleland, a graduate of Montreal Presbyterian College of the '97 class. Mr. Cleland has been in Sandon two months and has done good work. The prospects for the future of this interesting field are the brightest.

From Sandon the Presbytery adjourned to Kootenay where Mr. A. D. Menzie was ordained. The field has been vacant since October when the missionary Mr. James Nairn left to resume his studies at Montreal. Mr. Menzie was a Queen's man, of '97 class, and has been in British Columbia during the past eight months supplying different vacant fields.

Nelson Presbyterian congregation held its annual congregational meeting on Feb. 10th. Every department shows good work. Nelson is the commercial metropolis of the Kootenay, and its future is assured. The town has grown greatly during the past year, and Presbyterianism grows apace, since the induction of Rev. Robert Frew last October great progress has been made, and the people are greatly attached to their pastor. Two lots have recently been purchased by the Ladies' Aid for the erection of a manse.

Slocan city celebrated the sacrament of the Lord's supper last month, ten new members were received. The present missionary Mr. W. Erskine Knowles leaves in a month to attend the summer Session at Winnipeg and it is expected that his successor will be an ordained man. This is a self-supporting mission field, and as the Presbyterian is the only Church in town the field is a comparatively strong one, and flourishing—Kootenay closed its year, with a balance on the right side, after paying considerable arrears of debts. The pastor Rev. D. Gandier has reason to be greatly encouraged. The Roselanders purpose commencing a new church in the spring, to be in a central location.

### GENERAL.

Rev. J. W. H. Milne, of Maneswood, will accept the call tendered him by the Glebe church, Ottawa.

The Rev. Dr. George Bryce, of Winnipeg, is the nominee of the Whitty Presbytery for Moderator of General Assembly.

Rev. Dr. Grant, of Orillia, has gone to Clifton Springs in the hope that his health may be benefited by the rest and change.

Mr. W. B. Findlay, a graduate of Knox College, has accepted a unanimous call from Erskine church, Claremont, and his ordination will take place the second week in March.

Scotstown church has this year added 24 new members to its communion roll. This speaks well for the diligent pastor the Rev. A. King, and for his eloquent and lucid preaching.

Rev. D. Anderson, Guelph, has accepted the call to the Presbyterian church, Milverton, and will be inducted about the end of next month. Arrangements will be made at the regular meeting of the Presbytery, to be held on March 8th.

The Rev. Mr. Logan was inducted at Chelsea, Que., Tuesday, Feb. 15th, over the united congregations of Chelsea and Cantley. Rev. M. H. Scott, of Hull, presided. Rev. D. M. Ramsay, of Ottawa, preached a thoughtful and searching discourse from the words: "Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." Rev. Mr. Gamble, of Wakefield, addressed the newly inducted minister; Rev. Dr. Armstrong, of Ottawa, addressed the people.

On Sunday morning last Rev. Dr. Moffatt, of Toronto, preached at the First Presbyterian church, Chatham, taking as the subject of his address 2 Timothy ii. 1: "My son be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." The reverend gentleman applied his discourse to young men and spoke earnestly to them. He pointed out that they needed this strength in hours of weakness, in days of darkness, in years of trial and in a living loving Christ. The sermon was a most helpful one.

There was a splendid attendance at the semi-annual meeting of the Toronto Presbytery of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, held in St. Andrew's church, Toronto, on Friday last. The morning Session opened with a devotional service, led by Mrs. MacBride, Miss Mayfair, and Mrs. Carlyle. This was followed by the address of the President: Mrs. Gray, who spoke briefly of the splendid work accomplished by the Society during the past six months, and exhorted the members to continue their efforts in the work of spreading the Society's influence and increasing its usefulness. Reports were read by Miss Craig, Secretary; Miss Reid, Treasurer; Miss Bradshaw, Supply Secretary. All the reports were encouraging and were adopted. At the afternoon Session, missionary addresses were delivered by Rev. Mr. McGillivray, of Honan, China; Mrs. J. A. Paterson and others.

### NORTH AMERICAN LIFE.

The result of the business for 1897 of this progressive home company, as published and particularly referred to by *The Monetary Times*, Canada's leading financial journal, in its issue of January 23, 1898, clearly shows the unexcelled financial position to which this company has attained, and is a guarantee that the company is a good one for its policy-holders.

New policies issued amount to..... \$3,856,024.00  
Cash income (interest and premiums)..... 693,559.49  
Total assets..... 2,773,177.32  
Not surplus after providing for all liabilities..... 477,121.33  
The reserve fund stands at..... 2,215,990.00  
The total insurance in force is..... \$18,945,878.00

The assets of the company are in excellent shape and well looked after—indicated by the increase in cash income from interest, etc., showing an increase of \$15,092, while the interest and rents due and accrued at the end of the year show, we are told, a decrease. Notwithstanding that \$271,000 was paid to policy-holders during the year, the company is able to show an addition of more than a quarter of a million to reserve.

### A MINISTER'S STATEMENT

Rev. C. H. Smith of Plymouth, Conn., Gives the Experience of Himself and Little Girl in a Trying Season—What He Depends Upon.

The testimonials in favor of Hood's Sarsaparilla come from a class of people whose words are worth considering. Many clergymen testify to the value of this medicine. Read this:

"By a severe attack of diphtheria I lost two of my children. I used Hood's Sarsaparilla as a tonic both for myself and little girl and found it most excellent as a means to restore the impoverished blood to its natural state and as a help to appetite and digestion. I depend upon it when I need a tonic and I find it at once efficacious." REV. C. H. SMITH, Congregational parsonage, Plymouth, Conn.

**Hood's Pills** cure liver ill, easy to take, easy to get at.