

Ministers and Churches

MR. KERR, Inspector, Standard Life Insurance Company, left on Thursday for Winnipeg.

THE Rev. T. H. Peatchell has received a hearty call to the Presbyterian Churches of Wellandport and North Pelham.

LAST Sabbath at communion service in Knox Church the number was as follows: morning service, 622; evening service, 126; total, 748.

AT the communion services at St. James Square, held last week, fifty-nine new members were added, making 116 since the induction of Dr. Kellogg.

THE Rev. Andrew Wilson lectured in Knox Church, Woodstock, last week, on "Scotland's Martyrs, and the Principles for which they Suffered," to a large and appreciative audience.

ON Sabbath, January 30, the sacrament of the Lord's supper was dispensed in Cooke's Church, Toronto. The pastor, Rev. Mr. Patterson, preached an appropriate sermon from Luke xxiii. 42, 43. There were added to the membership of the Church sixteen by profession of faith, twenty-six by certificate, making eighty-five new members since August last.

MELVILLE CHURCH, Brussels, held its annual meeting on Monday, 31st January. The attendance was the largest in the history of the congregation. Interesting reports were given in regard to the various departments of work. During the year nineteen members were received by profession of faith and sixteen by certificate; whilst ten were removed by death or dismissal. The present membership is 202. Early in the year a manse was purchased, and \$100 added to the minister's salary. The missionary spirit of the congregation evinced itself in contributions of over \$500 to the Schemes of the Church.

THE annual meeting of St. Andrew's congregation, Chatham, was held on Wednesday, February 2, Rev. J. R. Battisby, M.A., in the chair. The statement of the treasurer was for fifteen months, showing receipts for that time to be \$3,686.03; after disbursements were made, a balance of \$135.92 was still on hand at the close of December, 1886. The report of the Session showed that \$338 had been collected for the Schemes of the Church, and disbursed for the same. The meeting was a most harmonious one, and all reports encouraging. Cordial votes of thanks were given to the lady collectors, and to the choir with its able leader, Mr. Thomas Moffat.

THE sixtieth public meeting of Knox College Metaphysical and Literary Society, which was largely attended, was held in the Convocation Hall on Friday evening last, Professor McCurdy presiding. The programme was an admirable one, and its respective parts were well rendered, and warmly appreciated by the audience. Not the least interesting was the debate, "Whether Art has had a Beneficial Influence on Moral and Religious Life?" The affirmative was maintained by Messrs. W. P. McKenzie, B.A., and J. J. Elliott, B.A., and the opposite opinion was upheld by Messrs. Manson and J. McI. Duncan, B.A. The chairman awarded the palm of victory to the supporters of the affirmative.

THE annual meeting of the Central Presbyterian Church, Toronto, was held last week, Rev. P. McF. Macleod in the chair. The report of the Session showed the Church to be in a flourishing condition, there being on the communion roll 512 members, sixty-one more than a year ago. The managers' report and treasurer's statement showed that the floating debt of \$985 at the end of the previous year had been paid off, that the current expenses had all been met, and a balance of \$18.08 remained on hand. The honour of paying off the floating debt of the Church, which had hampered their efforts, belonged largely to the Ladies' Society. An effort was to be made to pay off the mortgage debt of \$25,000, and the meeting appointed a committee for that purpose. The managers elected were William Wilson, A. H. Crawford, Thomas Christie, Petrey, George Acheson, James Watson, Garnett Meldrum and Donald Bain.

THE Rev. Thomas Scouler and family arrived in New Westminster on January 17, after a pleasant trip across the continent. The induction took place on the 19th. Rev. R. Jamieson, Moderator, presided, Rev. Mr. Tait, Langley, preached an eloquent and appropriate sermon from the text, "He that winneth souls is wise," Rev. D. Fraser, Victoria, addressed the pastor, and Rev. T. G. Thompson, Vancouver, the people. The church was filled. Next evening the congregation of St. Andrew's Church met in the skating rink to extend a social welcome to their new pastor, Rev. Thomas Scouler. The Chairman of the Managing Board read a kindly and generous address of welcome, to which Mr. Scouler made a hearty and fitting response. Subsequently an address was read, expressive of the congregation's appreciation of the valuable services rendered during the vacancy by the retired pastor, Rev. Robert Jamieson who, owing to illness, was unable to be present. A brief written acknowledgment, accompanied with congratulations to the new pastor and to the congregation, sent by Mr. Jamieson, was afterward received. The meeting was brightened by excellent music, contributed by cultured vocalists, whose efforts were warmly appreciated.

THE annual meeting of the congregation of Stanley Street Church, Montreal, was held on the 26th January. Colonel A. A. Stevenson presided. The Session's report showed that there are eighty-five families and one hundred and fifty single persons in connection with the congregation, that thirty-six names had been added to the communion roll and twenty removed during the year, and that the spiritual interests were encouraging. The treasurer, Mr. James Ross, read a very carefully-prepared financial report. It showed that the congregation had raised during the twelve years of its existence \$80,000, apart from benevo-

lent and missionary contributions, that the only encumbrance now existing is a mortgage of \$3,140, that although they had commenced the past year with about \$500 of outstanding accounts, these and all current expenses had been paid, and the books were closed with a small balance in hand. He also stated that from the voluntary promises of the people for 1887 the expenditure likely to occur was amply provided for and that they were now, more than ever, in a position to pursue the work of winning souls to Jesus. The reports from the Sabbath School, the Missionary and Ladies' Associations were also very encouraging. A cordial vote of thanks was tendered to the Rev. Professor Scrimger for the valuable and hearty assistance he had rendered the congregation whilst it was without a pastor. Votes of thanks were also tendered to the managers and choir for their services during the year. Brief addresses were delivered by the Rev. Professor Scrimger, Rev. George Wells, the pastor, William Drysdale, James Ross, and Colonel Stevenson. Refreshments being provided by the ladies, a very pleasant hour of social intercourse was enjoyed at the close of the meeting.

THE annual meeting of Zion Church, Brantford, was held last week in the lecture room, Dr. Cochrane in the chair. Tea was served by the ladies of the congregation, after which the business was entered upon. After devotional services, Dr. Cochrane briefly referred to the work of the year. Twenty-five years ago he was called to the pastorate, when what is now the city of Brantford was a town of some 5,000 or 6,000 inhabitants. During that long period, in spite of many pressing calls to larger fields, he had never felt it his duty to leave. The various reports were then submitted, and unanimously adopted. The report of the Kirk Session, read by Mr. Thomas McLean, showed that there had been thirty-four members dismissed during the year; that six had died; that the names of twenty-four had been dropped for absence from the city; that seventy-nine new members had been received, making the membership at present 630. The treasurer's statement, submitted by Mr. William Grant, showed that \$6,168 had been received during the year, of which \$4,465.32 was for pew rents and collections. Every account for the year, and all the interest had been paid, leaving balance on hand of some \$279. Mr. James A. Wallace read, as secretary of the Board of Management, an interesting résumé of the progress of the Church since Dr. Cochrane's settlement, with the recommendation from the Board that \$200 should be added to the pastor's salary. The proposal was unanimously and cordially adopted. He also read the report of the Missionary Association, showing receipts to the amount of \$900. Mr. Hossie submitted the Sabbath School Association Report for the year, including the work done in the Church school and the Mission school. Teachers on the roll, fifty-seven; average attendance, thirty-eight; scholars on the roll, 470; average attendance, 282. The sum of \$500 had been raised for Sabbath school and missionary objects, by the schools and friends in the congregation. The report asked the Board of Management to take steps to improve the lecture room of the church, and a committee, consisting of Messrs. Dr. Nichol, Hossie, Captain Kerr, Thomas McLean, George Watt and J. K. Osborne, was appointed to consider the whole matter, and confer with the Board of Management. Mr. Mayor Henry submitted the report of the musical committee, referring in highly eulogistic terms to the services of the choir. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the members of the choir for their services during the year. Mayor Henry, Dr. T. M. McIntyre and Mr. J. K. Osborne, were appointed on the musical committee for the present year. Mr. George Watt, Mr. Henry and Mr. David Gibson, were elected to the Board of Management for the next three years. Messrs. Thomas Watt and A. N. Ogilvie to audit the accounts, and Dr. Cochrane and Mr. James A. Wallace to prepare the annual reports for printing. The meeting was large and enthusiastic, and the reports indicated that the different departments of work were thoroughly organized and most efficiently wrought.

PRESBYTERY OF STRATFORD.—A regular meeting of this court was held in Knox Church, Stratford, on the 11th ult. Rev. A. Henderson, of Atwood, was appointed Moderator for the next six months. Mr. Chrystal reported that the committee appointed had visited Nissouri. Delegates from both congregations were heard, after which it was agreed that Mr. Penman's resignation of that charge be accepted, to take effect after the 30th ult. Mr. Grant, of St. Marys, was appointed Moderator of that Session during the vacancy, and leave was given him to moderate in a call when the people so desire. Mr. Campbell, of Granton, was asked to preach in Nissouri on the 6th February, and declare the pulpit vacant. A circular from the Convener of the Augmentation Fund was read, showing that \$900 was the amount this Presbytery ought to raise in support of that fund. Mr. Turnbull, of St. Marys, was requested to divide the amount among the several congregations, and all were enjoined to give this Scheme their hearty support. The matter of holding services at Donegal Schoolhouse was again taken up, when the Presbytery advised Mr. Kay, in the circumstances, to discontinue these services. A reconsideration of the resolution anent Mr. McPherson's retiring allowance, passed at last meeting, was entered upon, when it was agreed that the following be added as explaining why the Presbytery recommended an addition of \$250 to the \$2,000 proposed as an equitable sum for the settlement of the whole claim: Mr. McPherson having taken exception to the wording of the finding of the last meeting of Presbytery, anent the difficulty, the Presbytery would add this explanation, that in employing the word "equity," they did not mean an equity founded on the promise of a retiring allowance of \$500, but an equity founded on all the circumstances; but as he has expressed his willingness to accept the amount of \$2,250, being the present worth, according to mortality tables of the amount promised, and to forgive all arrears now due, viz., the sum of \$500. As a settlement of the whole, the Presbytery would further recommend that the congregation pay this amount, that peace may be the

sooner restored. The session records of First Presbyterian Church, St. Marys, Millbank and Elma Centre and Monkton, having been examined, were ordered to be attested as carefully and correctly kept. The Presbytery then adjourned to meet in the same place at half-past seven a.m. on the second Tuesday of March next, and was closed with the benediction.—A. F. TULLY, Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF ORANGEVILLE.—This Presbytery met at Shelburne on the 11th ult., Mr. McFaul, Moderator, in the chair. There were present nine ministers and six elders. The severe weather and drifted roads prevented many from being present. Mr. McLeod gave in the report of the committee appointed to confer with Rev. W. E. D'Argent anent his application for reception into the Presbyterian Church. The Presbytery, having heard the report, unanimously agreed to apply to the next General Assembly for his reception. The Presbytery took up the petition from Vanatter, asking that a station be erected there, and united with St. Andrew's Church, Orangeville. Mr. W. H. Hunter was heard in support of it. Also the petition from Knox Church, Caledon, praying for union with St. Andrew's Church, Orangeville. Messrs. John Maxwell and John Rowan were heard in support of this petition, and in opposition to the erection of a station at Vanatter. Also the opinion of the Session of St. Andrew's Church, Orangeville, was read. After consideration, a committee composed of Messrs. Fowle, Armstrong and Crozier was appointed to visit those places and Black's Corners with a view of inducing them to unite to form one pastoral charge. Mr. Hunter submitted the report of the committee appointed to visit Mr. Tait's late field, with a view to rearrangement. The report advised: 1. Separate St. Andrew's, Caledon, from Mono Mills, and attach it to Caledon East, the two to form one charge; 2. Attach Adjala to Mono Mills and Mono East to form one charge; 3. Adjala to stay St. Andrew's, Caledon, the amount which the latter paid toward the manse property at Mono Mills. The report was adopted. Mr. Craig was appointed interim Moderator of the Session of Caledon East and St. Andrew's, Caledon. Mr. Alexander Steele, of Orangeville, was appointed treasurer for the Presbytery. Rev. J. A. Ross accepted the call to Dundalk and Ventry, and his induction was appointed for February 9, at two o'clock p.m., Mr. McFaul to preside and address the people, Mr. McClelland to preach, and Mr. Hunter to address the minister. Mr. Ross laid before the Presbytery a petition signed by people living around Proton railway station, asking that they be organized as a mission station, and united with St. Andrew's Church, Proton. The Clerk was instructed to cite parties to appear for their interests at next regular meeting. A petition from the Session and managers of St. Andrew's Church, Proton, was received, promising \$350 annually, and asking the Presbytery either to apply for a supplement or connect them with some other station. The Presbytery's Home Mission Committee was appointed to inquire into this matter, and report at the special meeting at Dundalk. The Rev. J. B. Hamilton was ordained and inducted into the pastoral charge of Singhampton and Maple Valley on the 21st December. Session records to be produced for examination at next meeting. As the Gandier people desire to know the amount of aid they can depend getting from the Presbytery to assist them in rebuilding their church, the congregations within the bounds are requested to notify the Clerk of the amount they can give. The next meeting of Presbytery was appointed to be held in Orangeville on the second Tuesday of March, at eleven o'clock a.m.—A. CROZIER, Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF GUELPH.—This Presbytery met on the 18th ult., in Knox Church, Elora. Mr. J. K. Smith, M.A., was chosen Moderator pro tem. Payments were called for to the Synod and Presbytery Funds. The Committee on Church Property in Puslinch gave in their report, which was received. At their own request, and for reasons assigned, extension of time was granted to the Committees on Remits, Standing Orders, and the Triennial Presbyterial Visitation of Congregations in the bounds. The Committee on Statistics was continued, with instructions to examine those for the year 1886, which had begun to come in, and report on them, instead of those for the previous year, as published in the Appendix to the Minutes of last General Assembly. Reports were received and approved from those present who had been appointed to take special charge of the Schemes of the Church. There was brought before the Presbytery a statement of the provision made for the supply of the Mission Stations under its care, and of the only vacancy in the bounds. A request from Eden Mills, for the continuance of Mr. Strachan's services among them for another year, was presented, and unanimously granted. Dr. Middlemiss gave notice to the effect that inasmuch as there appears to be an error in the record of the last General Assembly on the overture by Mr. Charles Davison, transmitted by the Presbytery of Guelph, on the use of the Bible in our public schools, he would move at next meeting, that the overture be retransmitted and the same parties appointed to support it before the General Assembly to meet in June of this year that had been appointed to support it before the last. Mr. J. K. Smith reminded the Presbytery of the action of the Synod in reference to the McDowell Memorial Church, giving the names of congregations from which no contribution had been received, when he was advised to re-issue notices to such of what was expected from them and request early attention to the same. A petition, signed by forty-eight persons living in Metz and neighbourhood, to be organized into a congregation in connection with Second Church and Sixth Line, Garafraxa, was received and considered, and the usual steps ordered to be taken. At two o'clock in the afternoon the Presbytery met in Conference on the State of Religion. Mr. Smith presided at the opening exercises. Mr. Rose read a paper on "How Best to Deepen Spiritual Life in our Congregations," and was followed by Mr. J. K. Smith. Several of those present addressed the Conference on the topic which had been thus introduced. The Clerk and Mr. Rose were appointed a committee to prepare resolutions on the different subjects to be considered, and report as found