

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

One event has so overshadowed all others in interest this week in Presbyterian circles in Toronto and it is of such great general interest that I shall confine myself to it. It is the funeral services connected with the death of the late Rev. Dr. Robertson. The scripture read and prayer offered at the meeting of the Presbyterian Ministerial Association on Monday turned upon it. On Tuesday the Presbytery of Toronto met, but adjourned from respect to the memory of the prince in Israel who had fallen. On Wednesday a turnout it again met at the house of the deceased, where a private religious service was held with the family. The remains were then conveyed to Bloor Street Presbyterian Church, attended by the Presbytery in a body. The services were conducted both at the house and in the church by Rev. Mr. Wallace, as pastor of the family. With him on the platform were the Rev. Dr. Somerville of Owen Sound, Principal Caven, Rev. Dr. Warden, Rev. Dr. MacLaren, Rev. C. W. Gordon of Winnipeg, and Rev. J. A. Macdonald, editor of the Westminster. As the presbytery entered the church they filed off to the right and left and occupied the side pews, the centre being filled by the students of Knox College. Among the audience were several ministers of our Church from outside the city, representative clergymen from other bodies, and a large attendance of interested friends and sympathizers.

The services were begun by the singing of hymn 291, "For all the saints who from their labours rest"; 2 Cor. 4:15:5:10, were read by Rev. Dr. Somerville, and Rev. Dr. MacLaren offered prayer. His voice, low at first, rose in volume and tone as his heart filled with holy thanksgiving and gratitude to God for all that His servant now, and had done for His work and cause in the Church, and poured itself out in sympathy for the church and the family bereaved. The whole service was remarkable for the note of deep, sacred, elevated thankfulness, gratitude and praise to God for having raised up, qualified and so long spared Dr. Robertson to do such a great and lasting work for the Church, the cause of Christ and the county. Hymn 199, "Peace, perfect peace," was sung after prayer. The congregation being made up so largely of men, the deep, massive subdued volume of sound was very striking.

Rev. Dr. Warden who has so long and intimately been associated with Dr. Robertson in the work of the Church, first addressed the congregation. He referred to the goodness of God to our Church in the men whom from time to time He had raised up to be its leaders, among whom was the deceased. He compared the position of our Church now, west of Lake Superior to the Pacific, with what it was when the late Superintendent took up his work, and attributed the great change and progress to his incessant and wisely directed labours, more than to any other single cause. The Church and manse building fund, by whose aid, 393 churches and 82 manse have been built, now valued to be worth \$570,000 or \$580,000, and for which he had alone raised almost \$100,000; and the inauguration of the Summer Session in Manitoba Theological College to secure continuous service for mission fields were pointed to in illustration of his far-seeing wisdom.

His arduous and incessant labours, and the impossibility of prevailing upon him to rest until death ended them were feelingly spoken of. When urged to rest, his answer was, "the next three or four years are to be the decisive years for the west and the night was coming when no man can work." He was a "true patriot who loved his country and laboured to the last for its weal." His unselfishness, and self-sacrificing spirit, the loveableness of his character were such that he would be "missed in every church, in every manse, in every home in which he was known in the West, by the very children even, with whom he was a favourite." Last Sabbath, the Doctor said "was appointed to be observed in all our churches as a day of special thanksgiving to God for His goodness to our Church, and in His inscrutable providence, the man who had done so much for the Church was on that day living still and silent in the sleep of death." He prayed that this great loss might be overruled to renewed consecration by all now "in the presence of the poor worn out body of this servant of God," for "the night cometh when no man can work."

The Rev. C. W. Gordon of Winnipeg, who had been closely identified with Dr. Robertson's work in the West, was the next speaker. It was some moments before he could proceed. The uppermost feeling in every heart today, he said, must be that of humble, devout gratitude to God for the leaders whom He had given our Church, and for the long and conspicuous way in which He had enabled Dr. Robertson to lead and labour. No one could know all he was and had done. In the mines, the lumber camp and among railway men; in every section of the country, town and little village, men were to be found who had been uplifted, helped and encouraged by him to live the better life. He had a perfect genius for remembering people, and details respecting them, and the explanation of this was, that he loved them with his heart's love. "His heart was in his work, he lived for it and died for it." His sympathy went out to all our missionaries and workers, and no one felt he was utterly down, or his back quite to the wall, so long as they had the Superintendent to write to and fall back upon. In the east, he said, "we could not know the great wealth of love for the departed which for the West he represented." They did not call him "father," for he never appeared old to them, but they called him "brother." He was a man of "vision," and saw the meaning of the great movement in the work; he did not fear to die, but he regretted to die while so much remained to be done. He appealed to the young men before him to rise up and enter upon and do this work in the spirit of the great man who had fallen at his post.

After this Rev. Dr. Caven led in prayer, and in the tones of his voice, and all through his prayer, there were expressed hope, comfort, gratitude, and a note of Christian victory and holy triumph. The hymn, "O God of Bethel" was sung over. After this the audience standing, the organ softly playing, the Moderator of the General Assembly, those who had been on the platform and mourners leading, the remains were slowly conveyed to the hearse. Members of Presbytery and Knox College students accompanied them some distance, and they were borne, attended by the Moderator, the mourners and others to the Mortuary Chapel in Mount Pleasant Cemetery. There, amid solemn silence, with heads bowed low the Scriptures were read, and prayer offered by Rev. Mr. Wallace. Amen was said, and gazing upon the coffin, with movement almost imperceptibly slow, noiselessly, gently it lowered out of sight, and we left to its last, long earthly rest the remains of one, the record of whose services for the cause of Christ, for his Church and Country will, we believe, only brighten with the long revolving years.

The casket was opened and while we passed slowly by and gazed for a moment upon the pale, emaciated features, sunken eyes and hair, silvery white; the words came to mind, "Servant of God, well done, rest from thy loved employ."

Quebec.

Rev. A. E. Mitchell, pastor of Erskine church, Ottawa, preached in the Aylmer church on Sunday last.

Rev. W. D. Reid, of Teulon church, Montreal, is preaching a series of sermons on "The Church and Society."

Rev. J. W. Falconer, of Truro, N. S., has accepted the call to Fort Massey Presbyterian church, Halifax. He succeeds Rev. Alfred Gandier, now of Toronto. He will be inducted on the 16th inst.

The Presbytery of Halifax met at Kennetcook, Jan. 2nd, for the induction of Rev. C. D. Mackintosh, M. A., into the pastorate of the Gore and Kennetcook. There were present Rev. Henry Dickie, moderator pro tem, and Revs. M. G. Henry and Geo. E. Ross, ministers, and Messrs. Frieze and Wier, elders. There was a large and enthusiastic congregation.

On Sunday of last week at the Victoria church, Point St. Charles, the pastor, Rev. D. McVicar, delivered his farewell sermon before a large congregation. During a very successful pastorate of nearly five years in the district, Rev. Mr. McVicar had, by the active part he took at all times in works of charity, made a large number of friends among all denominations, and the majority of them were present to thank him for the good work done, and wish him success in his new undertakings.

At the last meeting of the Ottawa Presbytery Rev. R. Whillans, of Campbell's Bay, etc., tendered his resignation of his charge.

Eastern Ontario.

The ministers of Smith's Falls exchanged pulpits last Sunday.

Rev. B. Innis, the pastor of the Bobcaygeon church, has resigned.

Rev. Carl Alum preached in St. Andrew's church, Carlton Place, on Sunday morning, 5th inst.

Rev. John Hay, B. D., of Renfrew, is the Honorary President of Queen's Alma Mater Society.

Rev. J. W. H. Milne, of the Glebe, Ottawa, preached anniversary sermons in the Ashton church last Sunday.

The Presbytery of Whitby meets Jan. 21st in Oshawa. The Presbytery of the W. F. M. S., meets at the same time.

Rev. Arch. Graham, of Lancaster, preached to large congregations in St. Andrew's church, Almonte, on the 5th instant.

Communion services were observed in St. Andrews, Carleton Place, on Sunday, when seven new members were added.

Rev. J. C. Cameron formerly of Brockville, is now assistant pastor in one of the leading Presbyterian churches in Philadelphia.

St. Andrew's church, Lanark, held their annual social on New Year's night. It was a very successful affair and a most pleasant evening was spent.

The anniversary services in St. Paul's church, Smith's Falls, will be held next Sabbath, when the Rev. D. M. Ramsay, B. D., of Knox church, Ottawa, will be the preacher.

By the will of the late Mrs. Nichol, the sum of \$1,000 was bequeathed to Chalmers' church, Kingston. The gift will be applied on the building debt which will very soon be reduced to \$7,500.

For the last two Sabbaths the pulpit of St. Andrew's church, Almonte, has been occupied by Rev. Graham, of Lancaster; and for the next two weeks Rev. George Gilmour, of London Junction, will be the preacher.

On the 6th instant a lecture was given in the Dunnegan church, by Mr. Eshu, formerly of Persia, but now a medical student at Queen's College, Kingston. Mr. Eshu intends returning as a medical missionary to his native land when his studies are completed at Queen's.

The annual congregational meeting of Knox ch. Perth, was held Tuesday last and largely attended. The reports presented were of an encouraging character. The plate collections amounted to \$852, the highest in the history of the congregation. The collections for Missions on Communion Sundays were in advance of last year.

The friends at Pakenham—minister and people—are encouraged by the outlook for 1922. Their anniversary services, mentioned in last week's DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN, put into the treasury about \$500, leaving only an indebtedness of about \$300 on their beautiful church which cost \$12,000. This is one of the most attractive places of worship in the whole Ottawa Valley; alike creditable to the good taste and Christian liberality of the members of St. Andrew's church.

Rev. T. J. Thompson, pastor of John Street church, Belleville, at the close of his sermon last Sunday evening intimated his intention of resigning the pastorate of the church and will preach his farewell sermon on Sunday evening next. In presenting his resignation he said he was seeking temporary relief from pastoral cares that he might spend some time in other scenes, to enjoy the refreshment of rest and study, and to obtain the widening which may result from a more extended acquaintance with the methods of workers in other fields.

The programme for the twenty-fifth Convention of the Presbytery of Glengarry Sunday School Association to be held in Knox Church, Cornwall, on the 21st and 22nd January, is published. Addresses are to be delivered by Revs. Dr. MacNish; A. Graham, Lancaster; J. A. Macfarlane, M. A., Director Canadian Bible Institute; D. A. Coburn, Lunenburg; A. Givan, Williamstown; J. Matheson, Sumnerstown; Dr. Ryckman, Cornwall; J. U. Tanner, Lancaster; Messrs. Hill Campbell, J. A. Jackson, B. A., General Secretary Ontario S. S. Association; A. McInnes, W. J. Scott, and Miss E. McGregor.

Rev. J. D. Ferguson, B. A., is conducting evangelistic services this week in the northern part of the Stratford Presbytery.