

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

In many of the homes of our people there are curios that have been brought from other lands, many of them indicating the customs of the people of those lands. It occurred to some members of the Church Missionary Society that these might be gathered together, and a tolerably accurate idea given of the mode of life of those among whom our missionaries are laboring. The idea was a bigger one than it seemed at first sight, and when it was seriously taken up, led to more work than had been anticipated. But the interest grew as the work grew, and an excellent man was placed at the head of it. So there gradually took shape the Missionary Exhibition that has been the sensation of Toronto during the past week.

Those who did not spend at least one afternoon at the Exhibition are regretting that fact now, and saying that, should this idea ever be worked out again, nothing short of grip shall keep them from it. We have come to treat grip with considerable respect this winter, hence the exception in its favor. Some went every day, and then were sorry when the exhibit closed. There was much to be seen, and more to be learned, in the courts into which the \$100,000 worth of curios were gathered.

It was a happy thought to dress some of those taking part in the costumes of the people whose domestic utensils and clothing and weapons were exhibited. Some of those so dressed showed that they were very conscious of the fact that it was a foreign dress, but others, particularly Rev. and Mrs. Heber Hamilton, wore them as if they were to the manner born. Of course they have spent a number of years among the Japanese and were as much accustomed to the graceful Japanese dress as to the European. And to the hundreds who spent a half-hour in the Japanese corner of the life of the missionary to Japan will always be more than it was formerly. Such exhibitions have an excellent educational influence.

The last meeting of the Toronto Presbytery was a long one, but there was more talking than business. Yet the talking has prepared the way for business at the next meeting, and there is a very full docket for March. The Weston congregation came forward with a proposal to support ordinances. The sister congregation of Woodbridge had already indicated her willingness and indeed desire to be separate from Weston. The distance is altogether too great for one minister to work effectively, and by union with Knox Church, Vaughan, less than four miles away, a compact and strong charge could be formed.

The Bolton congregation would thus be left alone, and fears to step up as yet. She has more strength than she thinks she has, but fears to try it. A committee of Presbytery will try to reassure her in the interval; and this is one of the things that will come up for final settlement at the March meeting.

The question of the appointment of Synodical Sabbath School Secretaries has not yet been discussed in the Toronto Presbytery. It is likely that some modification of the scheme outlined in the Remit as sent down to Presbyteries from the General Assembly, will be recommended. It may be held that the Presbytery must either say "Yea" or "Nay" to the Remit, but if it is possible, it is likely that an alternative scheme will be submitted. That, too, will come up at the March meeting.

Lasky and West King has called a man who has more inches than majority of his brethren—the Rev. J. A. McConnell, of Waldemar, in the Presbytery. It will test even Mr. McConnell's endurance to drive the 22 miles each Sunday and preach three times that this charge demands. He will have the pleasure, moreover, of meeting a brother minister twice each Sunday, for the two parishes cover practically the same ground, and form almost the only remaining remnant of the old divisions of Free and Old Kirk. Of course the congregations are loyal Canada Presbyterians but the churches were built for the Free and Old Kirk, and stand quite near each other, two of them being within one mile of each other. It does seem a waste of man power, when the newly settled districts are calling so eagerly for men, and indicated their willingness to support them. His answer will be considered at the March meeting.

The Toronto Presbytery unanimously re-affirmed its decision of last year, approving of the remit to give increased powers to Synods. The Rev. J. A. Turnbull was given another six months in the Moderator's chair. A ministerial

wag hoped he would redeem his record, but if he maintains it he will do well.

The Forward Movement was very fully and sympathetically discussed. It was intimated that definite organization had been tried for work in New York and elsewhere in the United States. Some organization has also been effected in Ottawa, in Montreal, in Winnipeg; and the hope was expressed that similar organized efforts might be begun in Toronto. As a step in that direction Mr. Phillips Hall, who has taken a leading part in this work in New York has been invited to address the ministers of Toronto, on Tuesday the 12th inst., in the Association Hall. Definite action may then be taken for a concerted movement.

Ottawa and Vicinity.

Rev. D. M. McLeod, of St. John's Presbytery, N.B., has been called to Billings Bridge. Ottawa Presbytery ordered the transmission of the call.

Rev. Mr. McFarlane preached at Bank street church on Sabbath morning, and Rev. F. W. Gilmour in the evening. Mr. Gilmour occupied the pulpit of McKay street church in the morning.

The ministers of Ottawa have already met to discuss arrangements for entertaining the General Assembly, which meets here in June. A meeting has been fixed for February 25th, when definite arrangements will be made.

A few days ago Rev. J. A. Macfarlane addressed the Methodist Ministerial Association on the proposed Canadian Institute and Bible study. The association endorsed the call for a meeting on Friday at the Y. M. C. A. to discuss the matter.

The annual festival of Erskine church Sunday school was held in the hall, Concession street, Friday evening. The attendance of scholars, teachers, parents and others was very large. Tea was served to the scholars between 6 and 8 o'clock, after which an interesting and varied programme was carried out. The acting superintendent, Mr. T. Bowman, who takes much interest in the work, presided.

At the recent meeting of the Presbytery the following Ministers and Elders were elected commissioners to the next General Assembly which meets in Ottawa next June: Revs. J. B. Simcoes, T. A. Sadler, R. M. Ramsay, I. Bennett, A. Logan, Dr. W. T. Herridge, Dr. Armstrong, Dr. Wm. Moore, J. A. Morrison and Moir; the laymen are E. B. Holt Geo. Hay, Dr. Thorburn, K. H. Crowley, F. P. Bronson, Jas. T. Pattison, J. R. Reid, J. C. Campbell, F. A. Cohn, H. Robinson.

A reception was given by the Ladies' Aid of Erskine church on Monday evening to Rev. Mr. Mitchell and Mrs. Mitchell. There was a large attendance, including a number of city ministers. Letters of regret were read from members of Presbytery and others, who were unable to be present. Early in the evening tea was served, after which an excellent programme was rendered. Rev. Mr. Ramsay, who was moderator of session during the vacancy, and is held in high esteem by the congregation, genially presided. After the singing of an hymn, the chairman gave a short address. This was followed by a solo from Mr. C. Watt; an address, Rev. Joseph White, a former pastor; duet, Miss Andrew and Mr. Watt; address, Rev. Mr. Garrett, rector of St. Luke's church; solo, Miss Andrew; address, Rev. Mr. Firth, pastor of the 2nd Baptist church; song, Rev. Mr. Eddie, Hintonburgh; address, Rev. Mr. Mitchell. A cordial vote of thanks was tendered to the chairman; and the reception was voted a decided success.

The children of Knox church Sunday school have held their second festival of the season. The superintendent, Mr. S. J. Jarvis, presided, and an elaborate programme was presented by the pupils. Prizes were presented by Rev. Mr. Ramsay to those present every Sunday during the year; to those in primary classes present 50 Sundays or more; and to those who correctly answered half the questions in the Shorter Catechism. To those on the quarterly roll of honour four times, 8 in number; three times, 10 in number, prizes were given, presented by Mr. R. Masson. Those who merited selected lists of Scripture passages, 21 in number, received prizes donated by Miss Blackburn. Five who introduced three new scholars to the school were given prizes by Principal MacMillan. Mr. Hiram Robinson, another elder, also donated sets of prizes to members of the primary class who recited all the golden texts, and to those

who recited half the texts. Knox Sunday school is well managed, and excellent work is being done by the teachers of the young of the congregation.

Ottawa Presbyterial W. F. M. S.

The 14th annual meeting of the Ottawa Presbyterial Woman's Foreign Mission Society, was held in Bank Street Church, S. S. Hall, on Tuesday, 5th inst.

The President, Mrs. George Hay, led in the opening devotional exercises. The reports of the different Auxiliaries, Mission Bands and Secretary of supplies were read and adopted. It is gratifying to note that the report of every Society, within the bounds of the Presbyterial represented showed that marked advance had been made, it not in every line of the work, in some at least. Owing to illness in the Orphan's Home, the Paton Mission were unable to present their report.

Numerous suggestions on matters pertaining to the work of each Auxiliary were read by the President, who reminded them, that the Central Committee on the Foreign Missions, created by the World's committee, in connection with the Ecumenical Conference, had suggested to the different Woman's Missionary Societies the carrying out of a programme, for the study of missions, the course to cover seven years. A program for six months will be found in the December number of the "Missionary Tidings."

The officers elected for the year were:— President, Mrs. Geo. Hay; Vice-Presidents, the Presidents of each Auxiliary in the Presbyterial; Treasurer, Miss Gibson; Cor.-Secy., Miss Durvie; Secretary of Supplies Miss M. Masson.

Afternoon Session

After Hymn 471 had been sung, Mrs. Armstrong read Isaiah 42 chapter, followed by "Prayer for Foreign Work and Workers" led by Mrs. Jarvis.

The Presbyterial Secretary reported the number of Auxiliaries 28; total membership about 700; scattered helpers number 74; contributing \$54.50. Mission Bands number 11, with a membership of about 270. Eight bales of clothing were sent out to the Crowland Reserve, the total cash value being \$570.52. The Treasurer reported receipts of about \$1600.00. The dedicatory prayer was offered by Mrs. Crombie. Miss Hopkirk gave an appropriate solo accompanied by Mrs. Beddoe.

The President read her annual address, saying in part, we have much cause for gratitude, at the beginning of a new period in the world's history, the outlook being hopeful. An earnest plea was made for greater appreciation and more general use of missionary literature, particularly the publications of our owngeneral society. Historical Associations are being organized on every side, but what more interesting history could we have—than that of the lives of our missionaries and the fields they occupy? In the Temple of Fame, in New York, were inscribed the names of many heroes, but in a far greater temple were enrolled the names of our martyr missionaries, who had given up their lives, or spent them in the master's work, both at home and abroad. What shall we do with our inheritance? Do we live up to our privileges? How shall we help on the work? Let me answer first by reading all we can and storing the mind with knowledge of the work. Secondly, by diffusing that knowledge. Again by studying the topic for the month; and lastly by working all together, for in union is strength.

Mrs. Goforth, of Chang 'se fee, China, said curiosity was a prominent feature of the Chinese character. Her interest in missions was first aroused by reading "China's needs and claims," a work written by Hudson Taylor, of the China Inland Mission, and that interest was deepened by reading Proverbs 24th chapter, 11th and 12th verses. She gave many instances of answered prayer—some instant and some long deferred—in their work. She closed her soul-stirring address with an earnest appeal for the prayers of her audience.

At the conclusion of this session the delegates and members were entertained to tea by the "Ladies' Aid of Bank st. church.

Public Meeting.

In the evening a public meeting was held in the church, at which Rev. Mr. Goforth gave a most interesting account of their escape from the Boxers. The miraculous escapes of his party were so numerous, as to become almost common places. Both he and Mrs. Goforth were ready to go back, age, were eagerly waiting for the comment "Forward to China."