

## MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

KNOX CHURCH, Dundas, is to have weekly practices for the purpose of improving the congregational singing.

THE Presbyterian congregation of Bluevale and Eadie's station have given a unanimous call to the Rev. Mr. McKay of East Zorra.

REV. MR. MCLEOD of Paris moderated in a call at Glenmorris on the 13th inst. The call was given in favor of Rev. R. Scrymgeour of Paris.

THE new Presbyterian Church in Egmondville is nearly completed. It is said to be one of the handsomest churches in the county of Huron.

ON Sabbath, the 10th inst., the Presbyterian congregation of Seaforth had the privilege of hearing two excellent sermons from the Rev. Mr. Nichol of Montreal. At the evening service the church was crowded.

REV. J. W. BELL, M.A., of Listowel, has received a unanimous call from the congregation of Port Perry. Mr. Drummond is appointed to prosecute the call before the Presbytery of Stratford, which meets in St. Mary's on the 19th inst.

THE literary society in connection with the Central Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, held its second meeting on the evening of the 14th inst. The president, Rev. S. Lyle, read a paper on "The Chief Characteristics of the English Essayist."

THE Rev. John Gray, M.A., of Orillia, was at Bradford on Sabbath the 10th inst., assisting in the dispensation of the Lord's Supper. In his absence the pulpit of the Orillia Presbyterian Church was occupied by Rev. Mr. Brown of Newmarket.

ON Sabbath, the 3rd inst., Mr. James Smith, B.A., of Knox College, preached his farewell sermon to the congregation of Dunbar, where he had been laboring for the previous six months. His work is spoken of as highly appreciated and eminently successful.

A SOCIAL was held in connection with the Wellington street Presbyterian Church, Brantford, on the evening of Tuesday, the 12th inst. Mr. William Turnbull presided as chairman. An address was delivered by Mr. J. S. Thompson. The evening was pleasantly occupied with readings and music, all apparently highly appreciated by the audience.

### CHURCH OPENING.

The new church recently erected on St. James' Square, Gerrard street, by the congregation formerly known as that of Gould street, was opened for divine worship last Sabbath. In the morning the Rev. W. H. Taylor, D.D., of New York, preached from John i. 14: "And the word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the father, full of grace and truth." The afternoon service was conducted by Rev. John Jenkins, D.D., of Montreal, who preached from Exodus xxxiii. 18: "I beseech thee shew me thy glory." At the evening service the church was crowded, many having had to stand in the aisles and vestibule. The sermon was preached by Dr. Taylor, from Exodus xxiv. 11: "They saw God and did eat and drink." The attendance at all the services was very large although that at the evening service exceeded; and the sermons were listened to with marked attention, and much appreciated.

A tea-meeting was held on Monday evening, which was characterized by marked success in every aspect. There was a very large attendance. The beauty and good taste of the floral decorations, the delicacy and abundance of the viands, the artistic execution of the various pieces of music, and the pleasing and instructive character of the speaking, all called forth unbounded admiration. Tea was served in the school-room at half-past six; and at eight o'clock, after having done ample justice to the good things provided, the company moved into the church, and the chair was taken by the pastor, Rev. J. M. King, M.A., who in his opening address gave a brief statement of the present financial position and prospects of the congregation. Addresses, all more or less stirring, lively and humorous, were afterwards delivered by Rev. W. S. Rainsford, Rev. Dr. Jenkins, moderator of the General Assembly, Rev. Dr. Potts, Rev. Dr. Robb, Hon. O. Mowat, Attorney-General of Ontario, Rev. Dr. James, of Hamilton, Rev. Dr. Castle, and Rev. Dr. Taylor, of New York. The proceedings were brought to a close shortly before eleven o'clock, by Rev.

Dr. Reid pronouncing the benediction, and the large assembly dispersed all apparently satisfied with the evening's enjoyment. Strangers were struck with the combined elegance and convenience of the pews in the new church. The lighting, heating, ventilation, and acoustic properties seem also to be faultless.

### ERSKINE CHURCH.

#### LAYING THE CORNER STONE.

The corner stone of the new church being erected on Caer Howell Street, at the head of Simcoe Street, by the Bay Street congregation, was laid on Tuesday the 12th inst.

A goodly number of the members and friends of the Church were present, as well as many of the ministers of other congregations in the city, of whom the Revs. John Smith, pastor of Bay Street Church, Dr. Topp, Prof. Gregg, J. A. R. Dickson, J. M. Cameron, James Pringle, Mr. Morgan, of Brooklyn, N.Y., W. C. Young, and Messrs. John Riddell, chairman of the building committee, J. A. Paterson, and others, occupied the platform.

The meeting was called to order by the Rev. John Smith, and after the singing of the Hundredth Psalm and reading of a portion of Scripture, the Rev. Prof. Gregg engaged in prayer for the advancement of the new church and the coming of Christ's kingdom throughout the world.

Mr. J. A. Paterson then read the following memorial:—

The congregation known for the last thirty years as that of Bay Street Presbyterian Church was organized in the year 1837 by the late Rev. Dr. Thornton, of Whitby, as a congregation in connection with the United Secession Presbytery in Canada, which was a branch of the United Secession Church in Scotland. Ten members formed this organization, viz:—John Ross, John Carse, William Thom, John Campbell, John Struthers, George Barren, Mrs. Shillinglaw, Mrs. Paton, Mrs. Leys, and Mrs. Litster. All of these original members are now deceased (most of them many years past) with two exceptions, Mrs. Leys and John Campbell, who are still living at an advanced age, though no longer members of Bay Street congregation. In March, 1838, the first elders, John Ross and John Campbell, were ordained by the Rev. Messrs. Thornton and Roy. In October of the same year the congregation called the Rev. John Lawrence to be their pastor; but the call, for reasons not assigned in the minutes, was not accepted. Early in the following year the congregation called their first pastor, the late Rev. Dr. Jennings, who, having been ordained in Scotland as a missionary to Canada, was inducted to the charge on the 9th June, 1839. Before this time, and until the following year, the congregation had worshipped in a small brick church on March (now Lombard) street, which had formerly belonged to the Baptist denomination, but in May, 1840, a small rough-cast building on Hospital (now Richmond) street, previously belonging to the Episcopal Methodists, was rented, and in October, 1841, purchased by the congregation. In January, 1847, a committee was appointed to take into consideration the enlarging of the building then occupied, or the building of a new church, and in April of the same year, it was decided to erect a building which would hold 800 sitters, and not cost more than \$5,800. In accordance therewith the site at the south-east corner of Bay and Richmond streets was bought from the late Jesse Ketchum, and the building was finished in November of the year 1848, and has been occupied by the congregation until now. The former church on Richmond street was occupied by the Catholic Apostolic Church, who lately became the purchasers of the Presbyterian Church on the corner of Gould and Victoria streets. This latter church, known as the Gould-street Presbyterian Church, was built in 1857 by seceding members, who in 1853 seceded from Bay-street Church, and formed the nucleus of a congregation, now under the charge of Rev. J. M. King, in their new church on Gerrard-street. On March 31st, 1874, the Rev. Dr. Jennings resigned the charge of Bay-street Church after a long and faithful pastorate, extending over thirty-five years. Early in 1875 certain members seceded and formed what is now known as the Central Presbyterian Church, under the charge of the Rev. David Mitchell. On the 20th July, 1875, the Rev. John Smith (formerly minister of the congregation at Bowmanville, in the Presbytery of Ontario,) was inducted as pastor of the congregation—the pulpit of which he has since filled with unwavering fidelity and singular success.

On 1st May, 1878, it was resolved to sell the Bay-street property, and erect a new church on Caer Howell street, head of Simcoe street. For the sum of \$13,000 the College of Physicians and Surgeons became the purchasers of the former property. This is now the third removal of the congregation has made, further to the westwards each time, and deriving new strength and life at each successive removal. They return most devout thanks to God for His kindness and mercy in the past, and look forward to the coming years with no ordinary feelings of bounding hope and honest pride, but yet with due feelings of the responsibilities entailed, and in humble dependence on God's assistance. We would lay to heart, but not in any aggressive sense, what was said to the valiant son of Nun: "Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded thee. Turn not from it to the right-hand or to the left; that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do

according to all that is written therein, for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

The foundation-stone of this building to be known as Erskine Church, at Toronto, erected for the worship of God, is laid on Tuesday, the 12th day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight, and in the forty-second year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and in the forty-second year of the life of this congregation. The Rev. Dr. Jenkins, of Montreal, moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada; the most noble John Douglas Sutherland Campbell, the Marquis of Lorne, Knight of the Thistle, and member of the Privy Council, Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada; the Honorable Donald Alexander Macdonald, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario; Sir John Alexander Macdonald, Premier of the Government of Canada; the Honorable Oliver Mowat, the Premier of the Government of Ontario; Angus Morrison, the Mayor of the city of Toronto. The population of the city is now 70,000—it would be interesting to know what it will be when this document comes again to the light of day in a generation who may view it as a specimen of writing of antique character, perhaps the aboriginal.

Pastor—Rev. John Smith.

Elders—Messrs. James Alexander, John Bain, William Munro, Alexander Nimmo, Donald McCrea, John W. Robertson, Wm. Adamson, George C. Robb.

Managers—Messrs. John Riddell, Chairman; John Young, Secretary-Treasurer; John Brown, Donald Gibson, Thomas Mitchell, George Moir, James Park, John Paterson, Douglas Scott, James Stephen.

Building Committee—The Pastor, the above elders and managers, and Messrs. McBean, Hathaway, Jeffrey, Rankin, Graham, Hamilton, Wm. Park, Falconer, Stark, Samo, Leith, Grant, Davidson, J. Mitchell, R. Mitchell, R. Shields, C. Shields, C. Robertson, J. W. Brown, and Wm. Sturrock.

Trustees for holding Church Property—Messrs. John Riddell, John Bain, and John A. Paterson.

Architects—Messrs. McCaw & Lennox; Contractors, Jos. Gearing, mason, brick, and carpenter work; R. Crabb & Brasier, plastering; William Elliott, painting and glazing; Wheeler & Bain, galvanized iron; George Duthie, slating; Duncan Forbes, felt roofing; John Ritchie & Son, plumbing and gasfitting.

Together with this document there are also deposited in the foundation-stone the Acts and Proceedings of the General Assembly of 1878, the Presbyterian Year Book for 1878, Knox College Calendar, Annual Report of the Congregation for 1877, copies of the last issues of the "Presbyterian Record" for the Dominion of Canada, "Canada Presbyterian," and the Toronto daily newspapers; also the current coins of the Dominion of Canada.

Rev. John Smith, in addressing the congregation, began by referring to the fact that the instinct of worship was universal in man. Every people yet known had some form of higher being to whom they bowed in adoration. France had made the attempt during the first revolution to do away with all forms of worship, but for reasons of State the Roman Church had been again set up by the first Napoleon. One thing which distinguished Christianity from all other religions was its power. Other forms of religion were like a locomotive without fuel, or a watch wanting a mainspring. There was something about the Gospel of Christ which was different from all others. This was not the power of the sword, nor of pleasure, nor gain, but the power of love. As the sun melted the ice upon the mountain side, so the rays of the Son of God softened and melted the heart of stone. Upon occasions of this kind it was customary to particularly praise the denomination under whose auspices the services were held. He was not willing it should be thought the Presbyterian Church needed praise. He was willing she should be judged by her work. It had been said that the people were becoming extravagant in the building of so many fine churches, and he did not know but that there was some truth in the accusation; but he trusted they would not go too far either in this city or this Dominion. He thought there should be some degree of similarity in the beauty of the churches and of the dwellings, and he thought they had not got much beyond that yet. At any rate they had moved up to their new site where the field, so far as this denomination was concerned, was not occupied, and they did so merely in the hope of increasing their usefulness, of rescuing the perishing, and saving immortal souls.

Addresses were also given by Revs. Dr. Topp, Mr. Morgan, J. A. R. Dickson, John Potts, D. J. Macdonnell, Prof. McLaren, and Dr. Robb. Rev. J. M. Cameron closed the meeting with the benediction. From the descriptions given of the new building it appears that it will be a credit to the locality and to the city. The total cost will be about \$26,000.

### KNOX COLLEGE LITERARY AND METAPHYSICAL SOCIETY.

The first public meeting of the society for the present session was held in Convocation Hall on the evening of Friday, the 8th inst. The College club opened the proceedings by rendering "Jessie, the