

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

The visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall has overshadowed all else during this week. The city has been given up to revelry, and though there has been very much to commend and there has been very much more to deplore. Were it possible for the royal visitors to see us as we are instead of seeing the gilded surface we present to them, they would not be impressed with the sturdiness of Canada as we have been led to believe they have been.

The vulgar curiosity of men and women in all classes was pitiable. On the other hand it ought to be said that in all classes there have been those whose self-respect and whose respect for our visitors came out in a marked degree. But the scene at the Legislative Buildings, on Friday night, when, with an utter disregard for age or sex, there was a mad rush to be first to touch the hand of royalty, does not make us think better of our Canadian citizens. It is easy to lay the blame upon the lack of proper police control. There should have been no need for this control. Those who were present were presumably law-abiding citizens, whose desire was to show their allegiance to the representative of royalty, and their respect for the members of the royal family who were our guests.

Beneath this strata were those who celebrated in their own way. Over the bar of one saloon in the city on one evening there were twelve hundred dollars spent in liquor. There were other saloons more favourably situated than this one; and in some instances, we doubt not, the amount taken in would far exceed this sum. The result was seen in the street, and too often among the younger men. It is such experiences that make the statement credible that drinking is on the increase. We would fain protest against the acceptance of this statement, but in the face of such scenes as were witnessed during the closing days of the past week, protest seems foolish. We can only set ourselves to seek the most effective corrective.

That is one side, and we are glad to dismiss it first. The other side shews a people whose welcome was hearty and real. There was not so much cheering as we have heard at other demonstrations. At times it seemed as if a painful silence might well be broken by a British cheer. But when it was given it was given with a will, and the royal party were quick to recognize and respond to it.

There were addresses in abundance. Our own Church wisely refrained from thrusting herself upon the attention of the public. She gave her expression of continued loyalty in her official address, and does not need to be constantly protesting how much she loves her king and the Empire over which he bears rule. Her members did not care to segregate themselves, but as citizens joined in the general welcome given to the Duke and Duchess.

In church circles, as in other departments of work there, has not been much of note. The Ministerial Association began its meetings on Monday last, when the new President, the Rev. T. H. Rogers, gave his inaugural address. This will be followed in a fortnight by a paper by one of the fathers of the Church, the venerable Dr. Gregg, who has chosen for his subject a review of Dr. George Adam Smith's recent book. The promise of an excellent programme will make the meetings interesting from the start.

All the departments of College work are again in full swing. Lectures began last Monday. The department of special lectures to the ladies of the Training Home for missionaries began early in the week; and this also is now fairly under way. There is a good attendance of students, and they are already settling down to work with a will. One new feature, that does not come directly within the scope of College work, but that offers an advantage of which many will avail themselves, is a series of special lectures on church music arranged by the management of the Conservatory of Music, and given to students at a very low rate. These, if well attended, and the course of study faithfully prosecuted, will be most beneficial to those who will afterwards have so much to do in the conduct of the church praise. Too little attention has been paid to this important subject in the past, and the praise of our church services has gradually drifted out of the control of the minister and his session, and into the hands of those who are musicians and nothing more. The result has been a musical service that is showy but not devotional.

Already there are preparations for the approaching Conference in Knox College, which is to be held this year in the opening weeks of December, instead of the closing days of January and the first days of February. The change was made after careful consideration, and largely upon the recommendation of those who found it difficult to attend just after the new year opening. The expectation is that there will be a much larger attendance than formerly, and we hope it may be verified. But those coming will need to make their plans accordingly and it is not too early to begin. The programme, as printed in the last Knox College Calendar, will be followed in almost every particular, but other programmes will be issued immediately.

Ottawa.

Rev. Dr. Moore, Convener of the Foreign Mission Committee, is in Toronto this week attending a meeting of the Committee.

The session of Mackay Presbyterian church has decided to increase the number of elders. Next Sabbath the pastor, Rev. Norman MacLeod, will preach on the Qualification and Duties of Elders; and a week thereafter the congregation will vote, when the six names receiving the highest number of votes will be declared elected.

It is with much pleasure we learn of the excellent work being done in Stewarton church. Minister and people co-operating earnestly and zealously in furthering the Kingdom of the Master. On Thursday evening the ladies of the congregation will be "at home," in the Church from 8 to 10 to the members and friends of the Church.

At the annual meeting of the Woman's Foreign Missionary society of Bank street church Mrs. Crombie gave an interesting address on missions. Rev. Thurlow Fraser read from the leaflet the message of Dr. McKay, of Formosa, to the church. Dr. Moore led in prayer. The thank offering which was taken up at the close amounted to \$75. Mrs. Gardner presided at the meeting.

Last Sabbath the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed at the forenoon service in Stewarton church when seven were added to the membership. There were large congregations at both services and, in the evening, Mr. Herbison preached with much power from the words, "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" "Come and see."

Rev. Dr. Armstrong, in St. Paul's last Sabbath morning, made reference to the meeting of the Home Mission Committee he had attended in Toronto early in the week. He stated that the work was constantly expanding and remarked on the necessity for still larger contributions to enable the Church to follow our people into the new fields with Gospel ordinances.

The Presbyterian Ministerial Association met on Monday in the parlors of Bank street church. Rev. Dr. Herridge presided. There was a good attendance of members. Rev. D. M. Ramsay was elected president and Rev. A. E. Mitchell, secretary. A committee was appointed to draw out a programme for the season's work. Rev. Dr. Moore was appointed to look after biblical instruction in the Normal school. Rev. D. M. Ramsay will read a paper and deliver his inaugural address at the next meeting.

At the annual meeting of the choir of St. Andrew's church the report of the honorary secretary-treasurer, Mr. Alexander, showed the finances to be in a healthy condition. The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: Hon. President—Rev. Dr. Herridge, President, F. H. Chrysler, K. C., Vice-President, Col. Blackadar, Hon. Sec'y-Treas.—L. H. Alexander, B. A., Members of Council—Mrs. W. Hutchison, Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Allen, Messrs. Bethune, Lawson, Ross.

The efficient Field Secretary of the Lord's Day Alliance—Rev. J. G. Shearer, B. A.,—was in the City a couple of days early this week. He addressed the congregation of Bank street on Sabbath evening, giving a cheering account of the progress of the work since his last visit. At a special meeting of the Ottawa branch, held on Monday afternoon, it was decided to prosecute a vigorous canvass for new members and for subscriptions, so that the best possible showing might be made by the end of this month. The following ministers were appointed to further the interests of the alliance in the counties in Eastern Ontario: Rev. D. M. Ramsay, Glenora county; Rev. Norman MacLeod, Stormont

county; Rev. S. G. Bland and Rev. A. E. Mitchell, Lanark and Renfrew counties; Rev. J. W. H. Milne, Prescott and Russell counties; Rev. John Scanlon, Carleton county. It will be the duty of these ministers to see that the work of the alliance is carried on systematically in these counties, to co-operate with the local branches, and to establish new societies where possible. Rev. Mr. Shearer gave a short address on the work of the Alliance. Rev. S. G. Bland presided.

Bank street church looks fresh and attractive after the process of renovation which has just been completed. A re-adjustment of the electric lights is a great improvement. At the communion service last Sabbath morning twelve additional names were added to the membership.

The Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Seylaz of Hull, have been celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of their wedding. Mr. Seylaz is the pastor of the French Presbyterian church. The members of the Ladies Aid of St. Andrew's church and the teachers of the Presbyterian Ladies College besides many friends of the couple were present. A most enjoyable time was spent and Mr. Seylaz and his estimable wife received many congratulations from their friends. Many beautiful presents were received among which was a silver pitcher from Mrs. C. Seybold, Miss Seylaz gave a silver cream jug and sugar bowl while the ladies Aid of St. Andrew's church gave a silver tea set including a silver water jug and a dozen silver forks. Tea was served during the evening at which Mrs. Walter Bronson presided.

A pleasant event last week was the celebration of the semi-jubilee of Dr. Glashan as the inspector of public schools in this City. Mr. Hiram Robinson, who was Chairman of the Board when Dr. Glashan was appointed, was appropriately asked to preside at the meeting in the Assembly Hall of the Normal School. The presentation of a fine oil portrait of the Inspector by Miss Stewart, principal of the Maria Street school, which also read an appreciative address in which allusion was made to the great number of pupils which had passed through the schools during Dr. Glashan's inspectorate, and to the honors they had won in all walks of life—in business, in the professions and on the battlefield. His scientific work, she said, had been suitably recognized by the bestowal of the degree of Doctor of Laws by Toronto University, but his work in the schools had been the greater, if not the more brilliant achievement. Congratulatory addresses were given by Rev. Dr. Herridge, Principal McMillan, of the Collegiate Institute, Mr. Thomas McJanet, of the Kent Street School, and others; there were also read messages from Hon. G. W. Ross, Premier of Ontario, from the Minister of Education, and many others. The City of Ottawa is to be congratulated on having so efficient an Inspector of public schools in the person of Dr. Glashan—"the best Inspector in Ontario," as one of the speakers tersely put it.

Montreal and Quebec.

To the great delight of the St. Giles' congregation the Rev. J. R. Dobson has declined the unanimous call extended to him by St. John's church, Moncton, N. B., the largest congregation in the Maritime provinces. The church building will accommodate 1,100 persons. There are 240 families and 614 members, besides adherents, in attendance. The church property is valued at \$40,000, and the debt is very small. The revenue last year was \$6,000.

A new church was opened at Upper Lachine, one of the out-side stations of Lachine congregation, on the 29th ult., by the Rev. N. Waddell, B. D., their former pastor, who was unanimously requested to preach the first sermons in their new building. A very large congregation greeted him, standing room being scarcely available. The collections on Sunday, together with the proceeds of a tea-meeting held on Tuesday evening, amounted to \$165. The church is almost free of debt.

A very pleasant social was given by the ladies of Zion Church, Hull, in the basement of the church on Tuesday evening of last week. The choir rendered excellent service, and Mrs. Bonnie gave a popular reading. A very important part of the program was an address and presentation of a travelling satchel to Mrs. J. R. MacKay, on the eve of her departure to California. The presentation was made by Mrs. H. Scott in a very happy style. Mrs. MacKay expects to be away for the winter, and will go feeling she has the sympathy and prayers of the members of the congregation.