

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

There are decorations galore to-night. Red and blue bunting with the white interlacing are everywhere to be seen. Along the line of march the small shops are vying with the larger ones in an effort to make the welcome to the soldier laddies cordial. And right glad will they be when it is all over, and they are at liberty to go to their homes again.

Tuesday the Toronto Presbytery met, and at the morning sederunt considered three calls and took note of a fourth. We have already mentioned two of them, that of Knox church to Mr. A. B. Winchester, and of St. James Square to Mr. A. Gandier. The third was from Mr. Albert to Mr. A. E. Duncan, formerly of Camington, and the fourth was a prospective call from Markham. At the afternoon the Presbytery held a Conference of the best methods of reaching the limits of the work before the church during the present winter. The lectures at Knox College by Prof. Kilpatrick, and the approaching elections interfered somewhat with the success, so far as numbers were concerned, but not with the earnest spirit that prevailed. The subjects set down for the evening were connected with the training of the young.

The Christian Temperance Association began its seasons work on Sabbath with a crowded meeting in Massey Hall, at which the noted singers, Messrs. Excell and Gabriel, were present. The work of the Union does not all appear on the surface at these Sunday afternoon meetings. They bring it before the public, but most of the work is very quietly done by the band who seek to win from vice and crime many who have become or are fast becoming, slaves of strong drink. That they are applying the only sure remedy—the Gospel of Jesus Christ—none for a moment doubt. The work is un denominational. Rev. Mr. Dewey, one of the Methodist ministers in Toronto, was the speaker on Sunday. He said some plain things, some very sensational things, and some very sensible things. For instance he proceeded to demonstrate that the Commissioners' Board of Toronto existed for the protection of the liquor traffic, rather than for the protection of the citizens. He illustrated it by describing a scene in the Commissioners' office, when a deputation of a score of citizens waited upon the Board to plead that license be not granted to a saloon at the corner of Alice and Yonge Streets. The reception given by the Board was by no means a cordial one, nor a respectful one apparently. Mr. Dewey also said some pertinent things about the necessity of making the best use of what legislation we have. Temperance people were too fond of talking and too lax in acting. If the laws now on the Statute Book were rigidly enforced the liquor traffic would be held in check very much more than it is. Mr. Dewey was thankful that prohibition was not given to Canada in the present indifferent state of the people toward the enforcement of law.

Many are looking forward with pleasure to the services next Sunday in Bloor Street Presbyterian church, when the Rev. Prof. Kilpatrick will conduct anniversary services. He is said to be one of the ablest preachers in the West. His lectures at Knox College during this week have introduced him to Toronto Presbyterians and won for him an abiding place in their respect and esteem. In spite of the excitement of the week many took advantage of his presence to hear him and all were delighted. But we hope the man who intends to build a good Convocation Hall for Knox College will soon appear. We would rather have him superintend the work himself than have his executors look after it. It would be easily possible to crowd a hall, capable of seating 1,000 at Knox College, if they could be made comfortable and hear without such effort.

We notice that William Briggs of the Methodist Book Room is bringing out a book by the Rev. Dr. Mackenzie on Old Testament Sacrifices. Mr. Mackenzie is a scholarly writer and the book will be eagerly anticipated.

Rev. Mr. Mylne, on the 24th inst. left Smith's Falls for Chicago, where he goes to officiate at the marriage of his son, R. C. Mylne, V.S. He will spend a week or ten days there and will then go on to his home in San Diego, Cal. He greatly enjoyed his visit to old friends, and once familiar scenes, and returns to his Western home in excellent health.

Eastern Ontario.

Rev. D. J. McLean of Arrprior, preached in the town hall, Lanark, on Sunday last.

Rev. Murray Watson, of Montreal, has been preaching lately at Barr's Settlement, Renfrew county.

Rev. Mr. Graham, of Lancaster, was the preacher in the Presbyterian church, Vankleek Hill, last Sabbath.

Rev. Stephen Young, of Riding Mountain, Man., has been enjoying a holiday with his parents in Ramsay.

Rev. W. S. Smith, in St. Paul's, Middleville, preached a sermon on "Facing toward Heaven" last Sabbath morning.

The Bible Institute conducted by Rev. J. A. Macfarlane in Perth, is proving very interesting and popular. There have been large meetings at Knox church every evening of last week.

Rev. J. J. Cameron, who resigned the pastorate of the Presbyterian congregations of Toledo and Athens in September, has received a unanimous call to the Presbyterian church at Inverness, P. Q.

Rev. J. S. McIlraith, Balederson, preached in the Congregational church, Middleville, on Sunday evening. His sermon, which was a practical exposition of Ecclesiastes 10-9, was full of good thought for the contemplative mind.

While Principal Grant was in Brockville last week, addressing the Provincial Sabbath School Association, he was entertained at the Revere House at a banquet by the Leeds county graduates of Queen's, who will found a Leed's county scholarship in their Alma Mater.

Eight young men appeared before the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew, presented their papers, and the Clerk was instructed to certify the young men to Queen's, to Knox College, to the Presbyterian College, Montreal, and to Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey.

The ladies of old St. Andrews, Lanark, held their monthly W.F.M.S. meeting at the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. John McLaren, "Pine Grove," on Thursday afternoon. After general business was transacted a sumptuous supper was served by the hostess and an hour or so spent in social conversation.

Rev. D. Cameron, of Oakville, Ont., visited some of his old friends at Vankleek Hill last week. Mr. Cameron was the first ordained minister in the Presbyterian church there and it was his first charge. From there he was called to Kirk Hill, where he labored for 15 years, and where he has still many warm friends.

Sunday last Mr. W. W. McLaren, of Queen's, who supplied in Old St. Andrew's church, Lanark, last summer, preached his farewell sermon. Monday evening a social was held in the town hall, at close of which Mr. McLaren, was presented with a purse, and along with it takes away with him the congregation's best wishes.

At the last meeting of the Lanark and Renfrew Presbytery arrangements were made for a visitation of the churches by Rev. Jonathan Goforth, of China, who escaped with his life from the hands of the Boxers. Mr. Goforth will hold the first meeting of the itinerary in St. Andrew's Church, Perth, on the 11th of November. In the evening of that day he will hold a second service in Knox Church. Rev. Mr. Currie has charge of the details of the arrangements for the visitations in other parts of the Presbytery.

With a very impressive service, the fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of the Free Church, at Kirk Hill, for public worship, was celebrated on Monday afternoon of last week. The church was handsomely decorated for the occasion. When Rev. D. Cameron, who was pastor of the church thirty-one years ago, arose to open the devotional exercises, which were conducted in Gaelic, the body of the church was filled. Rev. J. B. McKinnon, of Dalhousie Mills, also assisted. Revs. K. A. Gellan, Dunvegan; D. MacKenzie, Kirk Hill, and D. MacPhee, were present. The pastor Rev. J. W. Maclean, read an interesting historical sketch of the church, which showed that from the day the first meeting house was built, early in this century, up to the present time, the history of the Free Church at Kirk Hill has been one of continued progress, and devotion to the cause of Christ, the first communion being celebrated in 1851. During the service, Rev. D. Cameron, of Oakville, who was pastor of the church for fifteen years prior to his leaving Kirk Hill thirty-one years ago, was presented with an address and purse by Rev. Mr. Maclean.

The recipient was visibly affected on receiving this mark of esteem and affection. His reply was an interesting account of his early experience in connection with the Kirk Hill Church, and some of the many hardships and personal privations the members and he himself had to undergo. In closing his address the reverend gentleman thanked the people for their kindness. The meeting was brought to a close by singing, and the pronouncing of the benediction by Mr. Cameron, after which the entire audience was photographed in front of the church.

In response to an invitation from the pastor of St. John's church, Almonte, some twenty-five boys and young men gathered at the manse on a recent Friday night, and after spending a social evening, and enjoying refreshments provided by Mrs. Mitchell, it was decided to form a Boys' League in which all the boys over fourteen and young men in the congregation are invited to become members. The following officers were appointed: Hon. Pres., Rev. A. E. Mitchell; press, Dr. T. R. Paterson; sec., Stuart McLeod; treasurer, Alex. Sutherland.

Rev. A. E. Mitchell, delivered a series of addresses on mission work, with special reference to China, in St. John's, Almonte, every night during last week with the exception of Monday night. On Sunday night, he spoke on the principles of missions; on Tuesday night on the problems of missions; on Wednesday night on the methods of missions; and Thursday night on the results of missions. In each address the present was compared with the apostolic times so as to determine whether the church was following in the footsteps of Christ, the founder, and of the apostles.

Northern Ontario.

Rev. J. A. Ross, Churchill, has commenced a series of lectures on the Parables.

Rev. Jonathan Goforth gave a stirring address recently at the annual thank offering meeting at Churchill.

Mrs. Goforth is announced to address the ladies of the Barrie Presbyterial of the W. F. M. S., on Nov. 8th.

Bradford and West Gwillimbury, Presbytery of Barrie, have extended a call to Rev. Dr. Fraser Smith, who recently returned from India.

The Kirkfield pulpit, was occupied last Sunday by Rev. Dr. Watson, of Beaverton, who preached with all his old time vigor. The Kirkfield people are always delighted to listen to Dr. Watson.

Ottawa.

The principal items of business at the meeting on Tuesday in Bank street church, were as follows:—The translation of Rev. Mr. Back, who is called to Vaughan, Presbytery of Toronto, was agreed to; and Rev. Robert Williams is to preach the Shawville and Portage du Fort pulpits vacant, and will also act as *interim* moderator.

The resignation of Rev. Dr. Campbell was accepted, and Rev. D. M. Ramsay was appointed *interim* moderator.

Rev. Dr. Armstrong reported that all the money asked for from the H. M. Committee had been granted for the current year; and Rev. D. M. Ramsay made a similar report respecting the Augmentation Committee.

Rev. M. H. Scott, Hull, and Rev. A. S. Ross, Nepean, were appointed to represent the Presbytery at the annual meeting of the W. F. M. S. Presbyterial. On this occasion Rev. J. Goforth, Honan, is expected to deliver an address.

The next meeting of the Presbytery will be held on the first Tuesday of December.

The Erskine church was constituted Trustee for the Presbytery, to hold the old site, to sell the same if deemed advisable to do so, and use the proceeds under a guarantee that the sum of \$800 be forthcoming whenever the Presbytery should think it necessary to establish a Sunday School or Mission at or near the old site in the West end.

Rev. A. E. Mitchell, Almonte, conducted the morning services in New Edinburgh, preaching in the evening for the Rev. Dr. Moore, who occupied the New Edinburgh pulpit.

DEATH.

At Trenton, Ont., on October 21, 1900, Isabella Lockhart, beloved wife of Angus Urquhart, Esq., and daughter of the late Rev. Robert McGill, D.D., one time minister of St. Andrew's Church, Niagara, and later of St. Pauls, Montreal.