

Rev. R. Martin, of Erskine church, Hamilton, conducted preparatory services in Knox church, Burlington on Friday two weeks ago.

Mrs. (Rev.) John Morrison, Cedarville, who has been on the sick list for some weeks is improving.

The managers of Cedarville and related charges held a social meeting recently in order to get acquainted with Mr. and Mrs. Lee, when a pleasant hour was spent by all. The minister will now be found at the manse.

The Blenheim congregation is steadily growing. At the communion service last Sabbath twenty-five names were added to the membership.

Mr. W. W. McLaren, B. A., son of Rev. J. B. McLaren, Columbus, has graduated from Knox College, Toronto, winning the first general proficiency scholarship of \$60, and the travelling scholarship of \$400. During his course in the University and Knox College he has won \$700 in scholarships. He intends taking a post graduate course in Scotland.

Before Mr. Barclay left Lynedoch he was the recipient of a well-filled purse, from each of his congregations, accompanied by addresses expressing very high regard for him, a thorough appreciation of the good work he had done, and deep regret for his removal. Mrs. Barclay received a purse and a complimentary address from the Ladies' Aid Society of the Lynedoch church. Mr. Barclay is now settled at Waskada, Man., where he is sure to do good work.

Rev. R. S. Laidlaw B. A., preached his farewell sermon in Knox church, Woodstock, last Sabbath. The Sentinel-Review says: Mr. Laidlaw is just completing his engagement with Knox church as assistant to the pastor, Rev. Dr. McMullen. During his stay in the city Mr. Laidlaw has made many friends and he has their heartiest good wishes for his future success in the ministry.

Mr. W. Caven Barron has tendered his resignation as organist and choir-master of the First church, London, and it is understood that it has been accepted by the session. Mr. Barron, however, has consented to continue for a few weeks until a successor is chosen. It is with regret that the official body accepts his resignation, and with best wishes for his continued success.

The Sunday evening meetings at the Burns church, Braemar, which were discontinued during the winter months have been again re-organized. A very interesting missionary meeting was held this week. An excellent paper was read by Miss Jennie Murray, and addresses were delivered by Rev. J. D. Ferguson and John A. McDonald.

At Knox church, Woodstock, Sunday evening Rev. Dr. McMullen expressed his hearty appreciation of the efficient work of Rev. R. S. Laidlaw during the past year as assistant pastor. He had ever found him a faithful co-worker and his assistance had done much towards advancing the interests of the church and congregation. In the larger sphere of work in which Mr. Laidlaw would enter in the future, Dr. McMullen predicted success in the highest degree.

The meeting of Knox Church Guild, Woodstock on Monday evening assumed the form of a reception to Rev. A. S. Kerr, B. A., the newly appointed assistant, and a farewell to Rev. R. S. Laidlaw, B. A., who has filled the position so acceptably for the past year. Mr. Kerr was present and in the course of the evening expressed his appreciation of the welcome accorded him. Rev. Mr. Laidlaw in an appropriate address at the close, thanked the members of the Guild and the congregation for the earnest support tendered him at all times. He congratulated the officers of the Guild on the success of the organization and bespoke for the new officers another successful term under the management of Mr. Kerr.

Notes and News

The communicant membership of the English Presbyterian Church at December 31st last has been ascertained to be \$1,555, as against 79,620 at the end of 1902—an increase of 1,935.

One hundred scholars connected with the Sunday-schools of the English Presbyterian church have repeated the whole of the Shorter Catechism, 37, without error or omission.

A sermon in "braids Scots" was preached on Sunday evening the 3rd inst., in the Crumond United Free Church at Davidson's Maine, near

Edinburgh, by the Rev. D. G. Mitchell, the minister of the church.

Camels are now being used in some parts of South Africa for police work. They patrol from 600 to 700 miles a month, and keep in excellent condition.

Fraulein Madeleine Niente is said to be the first woman pharmacist in Germany. She was born at Carlsruhe in 1881. She had to take her preliminary studies in Switzerland.

The turbine engines which will be introduced into the new ships will make the task easier in many ways, for by this plan the engines for a given power are lighter than those at present used on British and German vessels. They take up less space, are more economical of coal, and require fewer men to look after them.

Speaking generally, the Scottish Education Bill has been received by the English and also by the Scottish Press with a chorus of praise. It is, they say in effect, a good measure for a free and progressive people.

Sir Donald Currie, who has given £100,000 to develop London education, knows the value of it, for he had very little himself of a conventional kind. He began his commercial career at the age of fourteen in a shipping office. He is now one of the richest shipowners in the world.

Women in Russia are to be given the chance of taking up agriculture as a regular profession. The government is founding an agricultural high school for women, whose students will administer the crown domains on equal terms with men.

The Salvation Army now has 900 institutions in America, 3,280 officers, and spends in relief for the poor \$800,000 yearly.

Photograph finger plates are a novelty introduced into a London house. The hostess, herself an expert amateur in photography, has the doors of all her reception rooms and those of the first floor bedrooms supplied with finger plates of porcelain on which are photographed graceful classical figures or beautiful bits of scenery. The hostess's own bedroom has the photographs of her children on the finger plates, while those on the nursery door represent favourite animals of the little folk.

Ottawa.

Farewell Meeting.

Stewarton church was crowded Monday evening, when the members of the congregation met to enjoy a social hour together and to show their appreciation of their retiring pastor, Rev. Robt. Herbison. The event of the evening was the presentation to that gentleman of an illuminated address and a purse containing \$125 in gold. In the address, which was read by Mr. McConnell, the congregation expressed the sincerest sorrow and regret at his departure, and spoke of the good work of Mr. Herbison, in his untiring and earnest efforts in promoting the cause of Christ. The address concluded by wishing him all success and enjoyment on his tour and studies abroad and expressing good wishes for his welfare in his future fields of labor. The address was signed by Messrs. McConnell and McCharles on behalf of the congregation. Mrs. Graham made the presentation.

Mr. Herbison thanked them for their kindness not only last night but ever since he was connected with the church. He had found many warm friends at Stewarton church and they would have a warm place in his heart. Their kindness to him during the latter days of his pastorate would never be forgotten. He thanked the teachers of the Sunday School, the choir and their officers of the church for their hearty assistance and co-operation.

Mr. Achison was in the chair and addresses were given by Rev. Norman McLeod, Rev. Dr. Moore, Rev. J. H. Turnbull, Rev. J. W. H. Milne, Rev. Wm. McIntosh and Rev. Dr. Armstrong, and music was furnished by the choir. Rev. Mr. Herbison will leave in a week or so on an extended tour through the British Isles, finally taking a course of study in Germany.

Whitby Presbytery.

At the last meeting of Whitby Presbytery reports were received from the conveners of the committees on Augmentation, Home Missions, Church Life and Work, and Sunday Schools. The reports were encouraging and the reading

of them gave opportunity for short conferences. On presbytery being informed that there was a deficit in the Foreign Mission Fund it was agreed that all the congregations of the presbytery be requested to help to make up the deficiency.

Very cordial congratulations were extended to Dr. Abraham on his having received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Knox College.

The matter of enlargement of the powers of Synod was considered and it was agreed that in the revised report of the Assembly's committee No. 1 be disapproved and Nos. 2, 3 and 4 be approved. It was further agreed that the presbytery approve of bringing before Synods annually the work of the church in all of its several great departments and of requesting the standing committees of assembly to aid in so doing, but re proposed methods of conducting Home Missions, no recommendations were offered.

Commissioners to the General Assembly were appointed as follows: Dr. Abraham and Mr. Hodges, ministers, and Messrs. Wm. Taylor and John Forgie, elders.

The clerk reported that after correspondence he had found that the Records of the Presbytery of Ontario are in the vault of the library of Knox College.

Mr. McLaren asked for three months leave of absence, his request was granted.

Mr. Hodges was appointed to give the opening address at the next meeting of presbytery.

Notices from several presbyteries were read of applications that would be made to the General Assembly for leave to receive ministers.

The next meeting of presbytery will be held at Oshawa on the third Tuesday of July.

An Ideal Vestry.

Probably as handsome and as tastefully furnished a vestry as is to be found in any church in Canada is that in the First Presbyterian Church, London, of which Rev. W. J. Clark, is the pastor.

The walls of the room are paneled and finished in Flemish oak, to a height of about five feet. Above this, the walls are covered by a handsome ingrain paper, rather dark and somewhat severe, but giving an ecclesiastical appearance that is appropriate.

At the west side is a handsome red tile fireplace, with wrought iron fire dogs and a brass grate.

The furniture is also of Flemish oak, to match the room, and is of a design of centuries long since lost sight of in the misty past. There is a settee, rich in its plainness and severity; a Morris chair and an easy chair and a table. Nothing more appropriate than the furnishings could possibly be conceived, and it is a tribute to the taste of the committee who purchased it.

On the walls are hung pictures of Rev. William Proudfoot, who organized the First Presbyterian Church in January, 1833, and who was its pastor until 1851. Then there is a picture of the eminent son who succeeded his eminent father, Rev. J. J. A. Proudfoot, who was pastor of the church until 1889, and who passed away in this city a year or so ago. On another wall hangs a picture of the aged Andrew Denholm, who was sexton of the First Presbyterian church for 37 years, and who died some years ago. Besides these pictures, there is a beautiful landscape, and a handsome bevel glass mirror is also set into one of the walls. All the pictures are framed in oak to match the room. The floor is oiled, and is covered by a rich rug.

As well as having a fireplace the room is heated by steam, and there are also electric buttons in the wall to summon the choir.

In short the vestry of the First Presbyterian church is an ideal one—one which is a credit to the church and to the ladies who furnished it, and to the pastor for whom it was provided.

Tobacco and Liquor Habits.

Dr. McTaggart's tobacco remedy removes all desire for the weed in a few days. A vegetable medicine, and only requires touching the tongue with it occasionally. Price \$2.

Truly marvellous are the results from taking his remedy for the liquor habit. It is a safe and inexpensive home treatment; no hypodermic injections, no publicity, no loss of time from business, and a certainty of cure. Address or consult Dr. McTaggart, 75 Yonge street, Toronto.