

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

During the meeting of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston last week Toronto has been full of ministers and their elders. In many instances clerical garb was conspicuous by its absence, the minister preferring to appear in an ordinary business suit. This has its disadvantages, and it is doubtful if they are counterbalanced. Reverence for the ministerial calling is fast passing, but it is following in the wake of reverence for the minister. A distinct garb and bearing in keeping helped to preserve the outward respect due to those who were considered as in a special sense the called of the Lord. The minister now takes his place among other professional men, as one of them, and makes his own reputation. He certainly should not be excused because he is a minister, but the fact that he is a minister should give him a standing other than that of a merely professional man.

The meetings of the Synod were well attended. At least half as many more than usual were present, but nine out of every ten were ministers. The reason is not far to seek. The time of year is one of the busiest, and then there is usually so little real business that the elder whose time is worth anything does not care to waste it. Were the meetings held in the autumn there would be a better attendance both of ministers and elders, and there would be a better spirit characterizing all its sessions.

The meetings this year were not uneventful. A break occurred during the first afternoon that shewed, better than words could do, what estimate the Synod places upon its time and the business down on its docket. The Secretary of the Ontario Lord's Day Alliance, who had not even corresponded with the Clerk of the Synod, nor that a place be given him at any of the seditious, came in during the morning session, asked for and obtained a hearing. During the course of his remarks he suggested that a deputation from the Synod should approach the Government and ask for a more rigorous enforcement of the law with respect to the maintenance of the Sabbath. "Why should we not all go" said some one, and they decided then and there that they should all go. The docket was knocked into smithereens, and the members trooped to the Legislative halls for the afternoon. The Synod evidently does not take its own work seriously.

The Presbytery of Toronto held a busy session during the meeting of the Synod. During the noon adjournment the members met and received and sustained a call from Weston to the Rev. R. M. Hamilton, B. A. The stipend promised is \$300 and a manse. Mr. Hamilton accepted the call, and the Presbytery will meet on Thursday, the 30th inst., for his induction. The induction sermon will be preached by the Rev. W. G. Back of Maple, the charge to the minister will be delivered by the Rev. Dr. Parsons and that to the people by the Rev. S. Carruthers.

Intimation was received that the Rev. Alex. Esler has accepted the call of Cooke's Church congregation, and the Presbytery will meet on the evening of June 11th for his induction. The induction sermon will be given by Rev. A. B. Winchester, the charge to the minister will be delivered by the venerable Dr. Gregg, once minister in this church, and the address to the people will be given by the Rev. Dr. Milligan.

At an evening seditious the Presbytery sustained still another call. In doing so a record was established that we do not think can be beaten. Mr. E. L. Pidgeon appeared before the Presbytery of Montreal for preliminary trials for license. That Presbytery applied to the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa for leave to take him on probationary trials. The application was granted on Tuesday evening by the Synod sitting in Montreal. Mr. Pidgeon was then transferred by telegraph to Toronto, where the Synod of Toronto and Kingston was in session. Toronto Presbytery received the transference, and its examining committee met with Mr. Pidgeon and heard his probationary trials. At the noon adjournment of Synod the Presbytery of Toronto met, heard the favorable report of its examining committee, sustained the trials for license and thereupon licensed Mr. Pidgeon with four other candidates. Immediately a member of Presbytery departed for a town some twenty miles distant, held a congregational meeting, moderated in a call to Mr. Pidgeon, had the call signed, and well signed, returned to Toronto post haste, met the Presbytery at an adjourned meeting after the evening seditious, presented

the call which was sustained, put into Mr. Pidgeon's hands and accepted by him. The Presbytery agreed to meet at Markham on the 28th inst., for his ordination and induction to that pastoral charge. There isn't much red tape about that piece of business, and yet the edges of what there is isn't frayed.

The other candidates for license who appeared on Wednesday last were Messrs. T. G. Taylor Ph. D., Hugh Munro, D. K. McKerrill and M. McArthur. Mr. J. J. Hastie was transferred to the Saugeen Presbytery, Mr. W. A. Brommer to Kingston Presbytery, Mr. R. J. Pritchard to Paris Presbytery, and Mr. F. C. Harper to Barrie Presbytery.

Northern Ontario.

Improvements are about to be made to Temple Hill church, Rocklyn, for which tenders have been called.

Sand Hill congregation, under the pastoral care of Rev. Jas. Matheson, shows signs of prosperity, their church property being now reported free of debt.

"Central" is the new name given to Knox church, Caledon. Another Knox church near by made the change desirable and Presbytery acquiesced.

Grand Valley congregation is making ready to build a new church on a new site, and permission has been given by Presbytery to sell the old church property.

A spire is to be built on the Feversham church which, says a local correspondent, "will, no doubt, add very much to the appearance of our beautiful little church."

Mr. W. C. McIntyre, a young student of Queen's University, preached in Finch on a recent Sunday evening. He is a good speaker and delivered an excellent sermon.

The Christian Endeavor Society of Chalmers Church, Flesherton, have elected Miss Hattie Sullivan president to fill the vacancy caused by the removal of Mr. H. Stewart, to Kintore.

Rev. J. R. McLeod, of Three Rivers, Que., occupied the pulpit of St. John's Church, Almonte, two weeks ago. Last Sunday Rev. Mr. McNicol, of Aylmer, Que., preached in the same church.

At the last meeting of Orangerville Presbytery Revs. Buchanan, Anderson, Cockburn, Orr and McKay, ministers, and D. McPherson, elder, were appointed Commissioners to General Assembly.

The promised Gaelic sermon, by the Rev. Dr. Watson, of Beaverton, in Orillia Presbyterian church, says the Packet, is looked forward to with much interest by the many in this district who still speak that language.

The members of Saugeen Lodge, I. O. O. F., Markdale, accompanied by brethren from Flesherton and Holland Centre attended Cooke's church in a body on Sabbath the 5th inst., when the pastor Rev. John Hunter preached the annual sermon from Ps. 133: 1.

At the regular communion recently held in Cooke's church, Markdale, eighteen new members were received, eight by certificate and ten on profession of faith. The finances of the congregation are reported in a prosperous condition; all of which must be gratifying to the indefatigable minister of the congregation.

Rev. Godfrey Shore, Portsmouth, left \$12,000 to his wife. It was understood he was to have bequeathed \$3,000 to Queen's College, but as his will was made only prior to his death no such bequest was made. Rather than have trouble Mrs. Shore offered Queen's \$3,000, interest on which should be paid her until death. It was declined.

Mrs. (Rev.) W. McKenzie, of London, Ont., is visiting her many friends in Almonte. She came from Montreal, where she was present to see her youngest son, Mr. Bert McKenzie, receive his degree of B. Sc. He is now a well-fledged mining engineer. While in Montreal Mrs. McKenzie had the pleasure of meeting her eldest son, Rev. W. P. McKenzie, of Boston, who also came over to see his youngest brother hooded.

At the public service in Chalmers Church, Fishertown, on Sabbath the 5th inst. the pastor, Rev. L. W. Thom, referred feelingly to the bereavement which had befallen his predecessor, Rev. John Wells, of Holland, Man., in the death of his only and beloved daughter, Miss Alice, who had passed away (aged 26) on the Friday previous; and also paid a touching tribute to the

memory of the deceased, who had been a general favorite in the congregation. At the close of the service a special meeting of session was held when a resolution of condolence was adopted, extending the session's sincere sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Wells in their season of deep sorrow.

The Packet says: "The Rev. Dr. Grant's annual lecture in Orillia Presbyterian Church under the auspices of the Presbyterian Bible Class on Friday evening, dealt with "Three Johns"—John Calvin, John Knox, and John Wesley. The lecture outlined the careers of these three great leaders of religious thought and pointed out that the churches which they had founded retained, in all essentials, the characteristics with which they had endowed them. They represented opposite schools of thought, the first two Calvinism, the third Arminianism under one or other of which all the Protestant churches might be classified. In concluding Dr. Grant urged the young to emulate these great men in their thirst for knowledge, and to spend their time in gaining it rather than in frivolous amusement. Dr. Braton ably presided and a cordial vote of thanks was passed to Rev. Dr. Grant.

Western Ontario.

Rev. Robert Thymne and Miss Barbara Thymne, of Souris, Manitoba, are visiting at Bluevale.

The translation of Rev. Mr. Wallace, Port Dalhousie, to Tilsonburg, has been refused by the Hamilton Presbytery.

Mr. James Anthony, a graduate of Queen's has accepted a call to Waterdown, where he has already done excellent work as a student. His induction takes place on 28th inst.

The following members of Chalmers church, Guelph, recently elected to the eldership have accepted: Messrs. D. D. Christie, John Davidson, Peter Dunbar, Geo. Fyfe and Geo. Holmwood, and their ordination and induction takes place next Friday evening.

People at Madawaska contributed \$150 toward the erection of an Anglican church; Toronto churches gave \$200; and Mr. J. R. Booth, of this City gave a free site and will supply the stone and haul the material gratuitously. Mr. Booth is a member of St. Andrew's Church; but his liberal giving is not confined within denominational limits.

The Rev. H. M. Scott of Zion church, Hall, conducted the morning service last Sabbath in Bethany church. He spoke on the century fund, and said that \$75,000 was still required to make up the \$200,000 for the carrying on the advanced work of the church. A special effort was being made, he stated, to raise the necessary amount within the next two weeks.

MacNab Street Church, Hamilton, held a double anniversary last Sabbath—the forty-seventh of the organization of the congregation and the 20th of the induction of Rev. Dr. Fletcher as pastor. Special services were held to commemorate the double event, Rev. A. B. Winchester, of Knox Church, Toronto, preaching at both services, and music of a high order being sung by the choir, assisted by Mr. Fred Jenkins, of Cleveland, Mrs. McArthur and others. The pulpit was beautifully decked with flowers. At both services the congregations were large. Rev. Dr. Fletcher, the pastor, was present, and took part in the services. Incidental to his sermon, remarks the Times, Rev. Mr. Winchester, speaking of the anniversary, said it was likely that among these present there were not more than could be counted on the fingers of one hand who were at the organization 47 years ago. (As a matter of fact there was but one.) The only other one living, as far as is known, Mrs. J. D. Macdonald, was not able to be present.

In conferring the Degree of D. D. on Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, M. A., of St. John, N. B., Pine Hill College has honoured itself. Dr. Fotheringham is a distinguished graduate of Toronto University and Knox College; has done excellent work for the Church in connection with his Sabbath School publications; has had a long and fruitful pastorate; and will in every way worthily wear his new honours. And Dr. Fotheringham's many friends throughout the Church offer him hearty congratulations.

Barrie Presbytery meets at Barrie on the 28th inst.