

# Ministers and Churches.

## Our Toronto Letter.

There is the strongest kind of temptation to wander away from one's own church these days. The pastor is away, and we are more interested in the supply of St. Michael's than we are in that of St. Jude's, and most of the people are away anyway. It will be thought that we have gone out of the city, so pew No. 76 is empty. It is likely to be empty next Sunday too, for this thing grows by being humored. It may be empty when the pastor returns too, if it has been well humored during his absence.

We struck this line of moralizing because there are two or three men, in addition to the man who preaches in the church to which we belong, that we should like to have heard on Sunday last. We ended by going to our own church, both morning and evening, and we were well repaid. An old friend preached, and he preached well. Even with a liberal deduction for the fact that we were prejudiced in his favor, he preached well, and we hope to hear him next Sunday also.

We suppose the other personal friends preached equally well, though they had not the inspiration of our presence to stimulate them. But the strength of that temptation to leave our own church set us wondering why we went to that church anyway, rather than to another. The only answer we could honestly give was that it was the nearest church. That is not sufficient. Every Christian is a working unit, and in the Divine economy each working unit has his place, and he cannot work satisfactorily out of his place. No one else can do the work assigned to him, though some one else must neglect his own. So the whole economy is thrown into disorder.

The church for each Christian to attend is the church in which he can do the best work for Christ. Usually he chooses the church where he is most pleased with the preacher or with the people, if he rises above the question of distance. This other question that is really the only question to be seriously considered, is side-tracked. If the roll-books were purged according to that principle, and all members who could do better work elsewhere were removed from the roll of St. Columba's, and transferred to the place where they belong, there would perhaps be a small revolution in this city. Certainly there are many members in our large congregations who are either out of place or are unfaithful to their trust. We prefer the former as being the less serious charge.

The summer preaching this year is good. Toronto has had W. C. Clarke, of Brampton, and R. Hadow, of Watford, and R. M. Hamilton, of Brantford, and John Pringle, of the Yukon, and Thos. Nixon, of Smith's Falls, and Donald Mackenzie, formerly of Orangeville. All these are our own men, and they are doing good work in quiet fashions. They would do equally good work in some of the congregations in which the members are standing on the housetop, telescope in hand, looking over the sea or across the border for one whose general bearing and deportment shall merit consideration.

Rev. J. G. Shearer is indefatigable in the work of the Lord's Day Alliance. Last Sabbath he carried the war into the camp of the enemy, so far as Toronto is concerned, at least into the eastern camp. Munro Park and its vicinity does not keep the Sabbath day except as the majority of Canadians keep the First of July. Even men and women who are pretty regular in religious observances when in the city proper, grow strangely careless when living under canvas or under a board roof. The corporations who exist to make money are quick to see how money may be made by ministering to the amusement of careless Christians and others, and they improve the opportunity. As a result, the tone of Christian life, so far as the observance of the Sabbath is concerned, is being imperceptibly lowered. There is no overt act to focus attention, but a residence at Kew Beach or Munro Park, for even one month during the summer, could not fail to dull the spiritual perception, so far as the due observance of the Sabbath is concerned.

A wide circle of friends read, with the keenest sorrow, the brief notice of the death by drowning of the young house-surgeon of Kingston Hospital, Dr. Carmichael, on Friday evening last. The sympathy of all will go out to his father, the venerable Dr. Carmichael, of King. He was justly proud of his son, who had taken a distinguished course at Queen's University, and whose life gave promise of much better things in the future. It will be the prayer of all that the aged

father may be sustained in the severe trial through which he is now passing.

## Ottawa and Vicinity.

The organ in St. Paul's church is now free of debt.

Meeting of Ottawa Presbytery in Bank Street church, next Tuesday, at 10 a.m.

Rev. James Taylor, B. A., of Aylwin, will take the services in St. Paul's next Sabbath.

Rev. Prof. Jordan, D. D., of Queen's, preaches in St. Andrew's, morning and evening, next Sabbath.

In the Stewarton Presbyterian church Rev. Mr. Penman, in the absence of Rev. Mr. Herbinson, occupied the pulpit at both services.

In St. Paul's, last Sabbath evening, Rev. Dr. Armstrong made reference to the persecutions in China. In the course of his remarks he said: "The missionaries are passing through a fiery trial. The Apostle tells us not to think it a strange thing that there should be persecutions and trials in connection with Christian life and work. Some even blame the missionaries for the war; but this is wanton injustice. It is well for us to look at it from a Chinese standpoint and ask how any self-respecting Chinaman could do anything else but desire that the foreigners be put out of his country; not the missionaries, but the political foreigners, who would carve out the land for themselves. It will be a great struggle, this. In the end China will get better government and more light, but I don't believe that China will be divided up among the western nations. Rather will the conflict with these nations weld her into unity. As to missions, the cause of Christ will be advanced, because falsehoods will be brought to light and superstitions swept away."

## Maritime Provinces.

Rev. J. F. Polley is leaving Little River, N. S., at the end of July.

Rev. Geo. McMillan, Kentville, is spending his holidays amongst his old friends at Malpeque, P. E. I.

Rev. W. T. Bruce, M. D., has been released from his charge of Burnet church, N. B., on account of continued ill health.

Rev. Dr. Macrae is to supply his old charge St. Andrew's church, St. John's, Nfld., during the absence of Rev. A. Robertson in the old country.

Dr. Isaac Murray assisted Rev. Edwin Smith at the Communion on the 15th inst., at Long River, in the church in which he was ordained more than 50 years ago.

Rev. Thos. Corbett, Blackville, N. B., was presented with a gold watch and an address by his Christian Endeavor Society as an appreciation of his interest in the organization.

St. James' church, Whitney Pier, Sydney, C.B., will be dedicated on August 12th. Rev. Dr. McMillan will preach morning and evening. In the afternoon Rev. J. F. Forbes will preach in Gaelic.

Rev. Roderick MacKay has been inducted into the charge of Sherbrooke, N. S. At the close of the services the managers presented him with a cheque for \$125, with the promise of monthly payments in advance in future.

## Winnipeg and West.

Rev. A. E. Mitchell, of Almonte, Ont., who is on his way east, has been asked to remain over and preach in St. Augustine church. He has kindly consented to do so, and his many friends in this city will be pleased to hear him.

Mr. John S. Campbell, a prominent farmer of Silver Plains, is in the city, and says that wheat cutting will commence in that district next week. Mr. Campbell has about 200 acres of excellent wheat which he will commence to cut on Monday.

Rev. James Graham Paterson, of Scotland, who is now returning from a trip around the world, conducted services in Westminster church on a recent Sabbath.

Dr. Thornburn, who is accompanied by his wife, has gone west. Mrs. Thornburn is a delegate to the National Council of Women at Victoria, B.C.

Rev. John Pringle, whose stirring addresses in many pulpits has aroused so much interest in the church's work in the Yukon, is on his way to resume work. Mr. Pringle has declined the call extended to him from St. Augustin church, in this city.

## Northern Ontario.

Rev. D. W. Best, St. Andrew's, Beaverton, has been preaching in Uxbridge.

Mr. John Bailey, B. A., Toronto, has been preaching in Knox church, Beaverton.

Rev. S. H. Eastman, Meaford, has been preaching in Wentworth church, Hamilton.

Rev. W. W. Craw, M. A., Thorndale, has had the degree of Ph. D. conferred upon him.

Rev. J. B. McLaren, Columbus, has been visiting old friends in Guelph and neighborhood.

Dr. McLaren of Knox College, Toronto, and Mrs. McLaren, are at Victoria hotel, Beaverton, Lake Simcoe.

A call has been extended to the Rev. P. F. Sinclair, by the Sonya congregation, Lindsay Presbytery.

Rev. Mr. Ross and family, Bruss'ls, leave this week for a six weeks' holiday at Presque Isle, near Owen Sound.

A garden party given by the ladies of Powassan church at the minister's residence, resulted in the collection of \$34 for congregational purposes. It was a very enjoyable affair.

Rev. J. McD. Duncan, Woodville, always provides good supply for his people. On recent Sabbath his pulpit was occupied by Rev. Dr. McLaren, of Toronto, and Rev. J. W. McMillan, of Lindsay.

The Rev. J. R. Frazer and Mrs. Frazer, of Uxbridge, have been spending a week with friends in Beaverton. Mr. Frazer preached in St. Andrew's church on the morning of Sabbath the 22nd, and in Knox church in the evening.

Rev. A. McVicar has given his presbytery a very encouraging report of the Emsdale field. There are three stations, and they promise an aggregate of \$10.05 per Sabbath, a very gratifying amount indeed when the circumstances of the people are taken into account.

The pulpit of St. Andrew's church, Beaverton, was occupied last Sabbath by D. Y. Rossi, M.A., of St. George, who is holidaying at his summer cottage, Lake Simcoe. Mr. Rossi never refuses to help a brother minister, and so he is always in harness when supposed to be taking a well-deserved rest.

A very interesting meeting in connection with the W.F.M.S. was held at Bolsover on Tuesday, the 17th ult. Mrs. McDonald, Glenora, conducted the meeting, and very ably discussed the great need of the gospel of Jesus to our poor ignorant sisters in foreign lands. At the close of the meeting a society consisting of eleven members was formed. The officers elected are as follows: President, Mrs. Dalgleish; 1st vice-president, Mrs. Burgess; 2nd vice president, Miss Mary McPherson; secretary, Mrs. L. Gilchrist; treasurer, Mrs. McGirr; tidings secretary, Miss Alice McGirr.

The Presbytery of North Bay is doing itself honor by the way congregations are responding to the demands on them for the Century Fund. Their liberality is striking. Rev. S. Childerhouse reports \$5,000 per Parry Sound, with a probable additional \$1,000 more. The Sabbath Schools and Y.P.S.C.E. at \$500 for the same object; and Orval Station had subscribed \$100. Rev. A. McVicar, Huntsville, reported to \$1,200 for that congregation, and \$177 from Sprucedale. From various other points similar encouraging reports, with varying amounts, were received. Altogether this Northern presbytery is bound not to be behind sister presbyteries more favorably situated.

The induction of Rev. N. A. McDonald, as pastor of St. Andrew's church, Eldon, was a very pleasant event. Rev. J. R. Fraser, of Uxbridge, Moderator of Presbytery, presided; Rev. D. M. Martin, Cannington, preached; Rev. D. W. Best, Moderator of the session, gave a brief account of the congregation's history from the time of its becoming vacant until the time of induction. Rev. J. M. Cameron, Wick, addressed the newly inducted minister, and Rev. J. Smith, Kirkfield, addressed the congregation on their duties, giving them much sound advice. After the induction ceremony was over the ladies of the congregation gave a very pleasing reception in the basement of the church, accompanied with refreshments of a substantial character. The Rev. Mr. McDonald enters upon his work with every prospect of a fruitful ministry.

The Rev. Alexander MacKay, D.D., will conduct a Gaelic service in the lecture room of Knox Church, Toronto, next Sunday at 3 p.m. His theme will be, "Five Marks of True Believers." Ps. 119: 12-16. A large attendance of Highlanders is expected.