

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

A subject of absorbing interest in Presbyterian circles this week and far beyond them, has been the critical illness of Rev. Principal Caven, through blood-poisoning. The bulletins from day to day have been eagerly looked for and scanned, and day after day no improvement was reported, until happily for the first time, on Sunday morning, to private enquiries, the answer was "slightly improved," a state of things which fortunately at this writing, continues. In connection with his illness, the Toronto Methodist Conference took the following action, creditable to itself and justly honouring to Dr. Caven. It was moved by Rev. Prof. F. H. Wallace, D.D., seconded by Rev. John Potts, D.D., "That we, the ministers of the Toronto Conference of the Methodist Church in Canada, representing, we are confident, the feeling of our entire Church, hereby express our sincere sympathy with the Rev. Principal Caven, LL.D., of Knox College, in his present severe affliction, put on record our high appreciation of his character and career, and earnestly pray that God may, in His mercy, spare his valuable life, not only to the Church and college with which he is connected, but also to the country and the Church at large."

As there appeared in the columns of the DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN of last week, a somewhat full account of the Sunday jubilee services of St. James Square congregation, conducted by Rev. J. Munro Gibson D.D., of St. John's Wood Presbyterian church, London, England. I need only add that, the social gathering on the following Monday evening was a very happy one. Many old members whose faces have not been seen and who have not met for years within its walls, again met and revived old memories and renewed old friendships. The Lieut.-Governor, the Mayor of the city, Sir Thomas Taylor, and Rev. Dr. Gibson were the speakers of the occasion which was very happily presided over by the pastor, Rev. Alfred Gandier, B.D. The services of the occasion were, to a certain extent, continued last Sabbath by Rev. Dr. Gibson again preaching both morning and evening to large audiences.

On the Sunday following the celebration of Rev. Dr. MacLaren's jubilee in Bloor street Presbyterian church, the pastor, Rev. W. G. Wallace, dealt in an appropriate address with the life, character and work of Dr. MacLaren, and one of his boyhood's friends, Rev. Dr. Wardrope, who was ordained 58 years ago, told some interesting events in the life of Dr. MacLaren. He gave a brief history of his general work for the Presbyterian Church, for the course of education, and for missions.

Toronto Presbytery met on Tuesday evening and induced Rev. H. A. Macpherson, formerly of Acton, into the pastorate of Chalmers' church, the Rev. S. G. Pidgeon, Revs. Dr. Gilray and Dr. McTavish taking part in the service which was presided over by the moderator of the Presbytery, Rev. Wylie Clark. The new pastor and the congregation together, narrowly escaped a very serious common calamity, through the collapse of the wharf at Lorne Park on Saturday, where the Sabbath School was holding its annual picnic, and on which a large number of them were assembled at the time of the accident. A more cheerful incident was the reduction of the church's debt at the inauguration of the new pastor by \$1,600 and more to follow.

Dovercourt church, in a part of the city fast filling up and urgently needing now more accommodation, held its anniversary services a week ago, at which the Rev. Dr. Potts and Rev. D. C. Hossack preached, and in the afternoon, His Honour Judge Winchester addressed a meeting of the Sunday School and Bible class which was also largely attended by parents of the scholars.

On the same Sunday, Kew Beach congregation, in the eastern part of the city, prospering under the pastoral care of Rev. John Bell, M.A., and the growth of the city in that direction, held its anniversary services at which preached to large congregations in the morning Rev. Dr. Milligan, in the evening Rev. Dr. Armstrong Black, and in the afternoon at a Sabbath School and young people's service, Rev. T. B. Hyde of the Northern Congregational church.

A very large and solid and important body of divinity pulled out of the Union Station here on Tuesday, 2nd inst, at 1.45 p.m., being the General Assembly train for Vancouver. It was to be met at North Bay and other points along the route by other special trains with delegates, or by individual commissioners who were to board it at different stopping points. One trembles to think of what might become of the General Assembly, not to speak of the Presbyterian Church in Canada did any untoward accident befall this precious, special train load of ministers and elders and their wives and daughters. It is followed with great interest and many prayers. A special telegraph despatch announces its safe arrival at Banff on Saturday, where it was increased by the Lower Province contingent "weather perfect, country beautiful, officials doing everything in their power, Sunday quiet, and its sacred services enjoyed amid delightful scenery in a delightful day."

An event which will be sure to fill Cooke's church on Sabbath to its utmost capacity, and leave the belated outside, is the presence at its anniversary services of its late pastor, Rev. William Patterson D.D., the beloved of all in the city. More we cannot say just now.

The first public meeting of the now fully organized Women's Home Missionary society was held in Knox church on Tuesday afternoon. The foundation of this society is full of promise for our church and the best interests of our rapidly growing west. If other evangelical churches follow this example, and the Christian women of the Dominion combine heartily to keep all our west for Christ and righteousness and purity, the Dominion has before it a bright history. May God prosper and bless every such effort. In the line of home mission work, and the good example to be followed, is the conduct of Mr. C. D. Massey, on behalf of the Hart A. Massey trust, in offering \$25,000 for the new Methodist church to be built on Euclid Avenue, on easy conditions for the church now worshipping there, because it is in such close proximity to their works that a large body of their employees worship there. The Toronto Mission Union is about to spend \$15,000 on a new building on its old site, of which more than half has been subscribed. The Union proposes sending 201 children out this year under their Fresh Air Fund to enjoy the benefit of this freest of all commodities, which yet so many are deprived of.

All alumni, and we must now add, alumnae of Toronto University, will be glad to hear that the building of a Woman's Residence for lady students appears now all but assured; and that the Convocation Hall Fund, through another donation of \$5,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Goldwin Smith is over \$5,000 the amount required.

Eastern Ontario.

The Sacrament will be dispensed on Sunday at Clayton.

Rev. G. A. Woodside, of Carleton Place, will conduct preparatory service in the church on Friday.

Services at First church, Brockville, were conducted by the Rev. W. A. McIlroy, of North Williamsburg, last Sunday.

The congregation of Orono presented their pastor, Rev. J. A. McKeen, with a very generous purse on the eve of his leaving home to attend the General Assembly.

Mr. J. Hayden was presented with a farewell address and a beautiful copy of the Temple Bible by Mr. J. F. Clark on behalf of the Sunday School of the First church, Port Hope.

Rev. D. M. Buchanan, Lanark, left last week to attend the meeting of the General Assembly in Vancouver, B.C. Rev. John Ferguson, of Kingston, will officiate during his absence.

Prot. MacNaughton, of Queen's University, preached two eloquent sermons in Napanee on the 31st to large and attentive congregations. Rev. J. B. Conn, the newly inducted pastor, preached in his own pulpit last Sabbath.

The ladies of Zion church, Thessalon, held a reception at the home of Mrs. Donald McAlpine to welcome home their pastor's wife, Mrs. (Dr.) Armstrong who has been absent on an extended visit to Toronto, Guelph, Detroit and other places east and so of the ladies of the congregation partook of a daintily prepared tea and spent an enjoyable afternoon. Dr. and Mrs. Armstrong are to be congratulated upon the high esteem in which they are held by the members of their congregation.

Rev. Mr. Boyd, of Zion church, Kingston, preached at both services in St. Andrew's church, Picton, on Sunday last. Prof. Nicholson will preach on the 14th; Rev. Mr. Glover, Principal of Hiltcrest School, on the 21st; and Prof. McNaughton on the 28th.

In St. John's church, Cornwall, on Wednesday evening, addresses will be delivered on behalf of the Glengarry Presbyterian W.F.M.S., by Prof. Ross, Montreal; Rev. Mr. Weir, Avonmore, and Rev. Mr. Harkness. The chairman of the meeting will be the Rev. Dr. MacNish.

A most enjoyable and successful social was given by the ladies of Knox church, Perth, on Monday evening, at which A. W. Lochead, M.A., of the Student Volunteer's Union, and who expects to go to Honan next year, gave an address.

Communion services were held in both Cornwall churches on Sunday morning. In St. Andrew's church the service on Friday morning was conducted by Rev. J. Matheson, of Summerstown, and on Saturday by Rev. A. Govan. In Herbyziah church the Friday morning service was conducted by Rev. J. Harkness, of Cornwall, and on Saturday by Rev. J. Matheson.

On Monday, June 1st, the corner stone of the new church at Kenmore was laid by Judge McTavish. A large number from Kenmore and the surrounding country witnessed the ceremony. Among the speakers were Rev. J. H. Turnbull, M.A., of Bank street church, Ottawa, Rev. R. Herbyson, M.A., of Stewarton church, Ottawa, and Rev. E. Logie, of Winchester.

Last Sabbath was the 67th anniversary of St. John's church, Brockville. Rev. Robert Atkinson preached morning and evening. Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed at the morning service when a number of new members were received. At the afternoon service addresses were given by Rev. J. C. Scymamore and Rev. Mr. Atkinson. The collections at all the services were for the building fund.

A special meeting of the Lanark and Renfrew Presbytery was held in St. Andrew's church, Renfrew, on Tuesday, May 26, to consider the resignation of the Rev. J. R. Elmhurst, of the pastoral charge of Admaston, etc. The following representatives were present: Messrs. X. Plaut, J. Patterson and F. Griese, from Northcote congregation, and J. Reid and J. Ferguson, of Admaston. General regret was expressed at the resignation of Mr. Elmhurst, but as the field is an arduous one they would place no obstacle in his way. The Presbytery reluctantly granted the resignation, which is to take effect Sabbath, June 21st. Rev. Jas. Rattray was appointed to declare the pulpit vacant the last Sabbath of June, and Rev. J. Hay appointed moderator *pro tem*. Associated with him as a supply committee are Revs. A. A. Scott, of Carleton Place, and J. Rattray, of Eganville.

The ceremony of the laying of the corner stone of the new Sunday School building at Centreville, took place Monday afternoon. There was a large number present. The stone was laid by Mrs. Hugh Waddell of Peterboro', formerly of Centreville. After the ceremony the congregation adjourned to the church when the pastor, Rev. J. W. McIntosh, presided, and those who spoke were Hon. J. R. Stratton, Rev. A. Sinclair, Port Hope; Rev. George Yule, Springfield; Rev. Dr. Torrance, Peterboro'; Rev. J. G. Potter, Peterboro'; Rev. R. F. Hunter, Baltimore; Rev. Wm. Johnston, Millbrook; Rev. M. Drew, Fraserville; Rev. M. Wright, South Caven; Rev. M. Kelly, Bailieboro'; Ven. Archdeacon Allan, Millbrook; G. M. Roger, Mayor of Peterboro'. In addressing the gathering Hon. J. R. Stratton congratulated the congregation of the church on the progress which was evidenced in the erection of the building. He said that he was particularly interested in the matter, which afforded him more than usual pleasure, as Cavan was not only his own birthplace, but also the birthplace of his mother. He concluded by saying that on the completion of the building he would make a gift of a library to the value of \$250, or, if preferable to the authorities, he would place that sum at their disposal for the benefit of the school.

There was a large attendance of ladies at the meetings of the Peterboro' Presbyterian Society of W.F.M.S., including representatives from 21 Auxiliaries and 11 Mission Bands within the Presbytery. The reports presented by the Secretary and Treasurer denoted encouraging progress along the lines of increase in Auxiliaries, membership and contributions. The total amount