

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

THE Rev. Professor Scrimger opened the second series of Sunday afternoon lectures in David Morrice Hall lately, taking as his subject, "Is the Bible a Revelation?"

THE statement of the number attending the Ladies' Bible Class connected with West Presbyterian Church, Toronto, in last week's issue, should have been eighty-five, not thirty-five.

THE congregation of Beverly has set a good example to our country congregations. Last year as usual it did well for Home Missions. This year without waiting to be visited, arrangements have been made by the office-bearers, by which the contribution of last year it is expected, will be at least doubled. Let others go and do likewise.

ON Christmas eve, the Rev. John Fairlie was made the recipient of a fine brass-mounted set of harness from his congregation at Hawkesbury. The L'Orignal congregation and friends in the village, presented Mr. Fairlie with a handsome present in money, with many substantial gifts besides. Both presents were accompanied with many expressions of esteem and attachment.

A DEPUTATION of the united congregations of Shakspeare and St. Andrew's waited on their pastor, the Rev. J. McClung, on the 11th inst., and presented him with a purse of over fifty dollars as a token of their appreciation of his services amongst them. This is not the first and only kindness they have shown him since his settlement among them. Neither is it, as has been said in other cases, a supplement to a poorly paid stipend.

ZION CHURCH congregation, Carleton Place, held their annual meeting on Wednesday evening, the 16th inst. The various reports of the congregation which, were read and adopted, showed that the congregation is in a healthful and flourishing condition. Contributions to the different schemes of the church showed an increase considerably in excess of any previous year. Before the meeting was brought to a close, the congregation voted \$100 (one hundred dollars) to their pastor, Rev. A. A. Scott, in addition to his salary.

THE annual meeting of Knox Church, Cornwall (Rev. James Hastie, pastor), was held last Wednesday evening, and all the reports were very satisfactory, notwithstanding a vacancy of half a year, by the death of the late lamented Mr. Binnie. The money collected was apportioned to the several schemes of the Church. It was decided unanimously to proceed at once to erect a new church. An excellent corner lot has been secured adjoining the present site. A building committee was appointed, and a meeting of the congregation is to be held in three weeks to receive the committee's report as to plans, etc. This generous congregation has more than maintained their good name in their sympathy and kindness towards their new pastor in his recent afflictions.

THE sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed in the Presbyterian church, Bolton, on Sabbath week. The preparatory service was conducted by Mr. R. McIntyre, student of Knox College, who preached with acceptance to the people. Twelve new names were added to the communion roll. It must be very gratifying to Mr. Nichol and the congregation, in reviewing the history of both branches of his charge, to observe the marked success which has attended his labours. The membership is now 218, with two new beautiful brick churches, and manse, for accommodation and convenience, second to none in the Toronto Presbytery. It is gratifying that after nine years labour, the utmost cordiality and harmony exist between pastor and people. May it long continue to be so.

THE evangelistic services now being held in Collingwood, conducted by the Rev. J. M. McIntyre, have during the past week, been largely attended. The ministers of the town, and the Young Men's Christian Association are cordially united in the good work. A deep interest has been awakened among the members of the several congregations and quite a number are willing workers in trying to guide others to the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus. Already a number of our young people have been led to take their stand openly on the Lord's side, and on Friday evening over fifty persons went into the inquiry room, all evidently anxious to get more light. May the blessing from above descend richly on those engaged in this work,

and may many be led to give themselves to Him who alone is a sure refuge for the guilty and the lost.

AT the annual meeting recently held, of First West Gwillimbury congregation, Bond Head, the following resolution was unanimously carried:—That this congregation on this, its first opportunity, desires to place on record its great gratitude to Miss Nancy, Miss Janet and Mr. Andrew Cerswell for their munificent and costly gift of a manse, which was given at a time in the history of the congregation, when most urgently needed, to secure a resident pastor among us. And we would further express the hope that the large hearted donors may long live to see the work of the Lord prosper in this congregation in which they have always taken the deepest interest, and at the last that an abundant entrance may be ministered unto them into those better mansions which have been prepared, for those who love the Lord Jesus and delight to do His will.

THE new Presbyterian church in the village of Dutton, in connection with Wallacetown congregation, was opened for Divine worship on Sabbath, 13th inst. Admirable and eloquent sermons were preached by Rev. Professor McLaren, morning and evening, and Rev. J. A. Murray, of London, in the afternoon. On each occasion the church was crowded to excess, and many could not gain admission. The church is a neat brick structure—the best in the township. It cost \$3,500 and seats 300 comfortably. Those who built it deserve much credit for their liberality and energy. A tea-meeting was held in connection with the above on the Monday following. Upwards of 700 persons were present. After tea was served, the Rev. D. Stewart, pastor of the congregation, gave a brief sketch of the rise and progress of Dutton, and the history of Presbyterianism in connection with it. Interesting addresses were also given by the Rev. J. A. Murray, of London, Milloy, of Crinan, Urquhart, of Cowal, Fraser, of St. Thomas, and the resident ministers of the Baptist and Methodist churches. Choice music was furnished by the St. Thomas Glee Club. The proceeds of the church opening and tea-meeting amounted to \$235.

THE Belleville *Intelligencer* states that a large gathering assembled in the lecture-room of St. Andrew's Church lately, the occasion being the usual monthly entertainment given by the Young People's Association. The Rev. Mr. McLean, president, occupied the chair. After devotional exercises, an interesting programme, consisting of songs, readings, duets, recitations, music, etc., was carried out, in which the following members took part: Mrs. McLean, Mrs. Ritchie, Misses. Holden, Brownlee, Rutherford, Ostrom, and Messrs. F. Rutherford, Thos. Duncan, and A. Walker. The following took part in an amusing dialogue: Misses. C. Urquhart, L. Robertson, J. Neilson, Mr. Webster, and Mr. J. Watson. A new departure at the public gatherings of the association, was a debate on the question, "Is there more pleasure in the pursuit, than in the enjoyment of an object?" The affirmative was advocated by Prof. McGillivray, the negative by Mr. H. Walker. After a most interesting discussion, the president submitted the question, as argued, to the meeting, which decided, by a large majority, in favour of the affirmative. The singing of the Doxology, followed by the Benediction, brought to a close another of the enjoyable evenings provided by this society. The association, which numbers ninety-five, has in its present form, been in existence for four years.

AT their usual bi-monthly meeting in Acton, on the 15th January, the Presbytery of Guelph called for the report of their Committee on Remits from the General Assembly, and the same was given in, and read by Mr. George Smellie, convener, and was unanimously adopted, thanks being given to the committee, and especially to the convener, for their services. The report is as follows:—At Fergus, and within the manse of Melville Church there, the 31st Dec., 1883, which day the Presbytery's Committee on Remits met and was constituted with prayer. Present—Messrs. John Davidson, J. B. Mullan, A. D. Ferrier, and G. Smellie. Your committee after careful consideration agreed to recommend that the Presbytery disapprove of the proposed scheme for the distribution of Probationers, and express a preference for the former one with certain emendations, because, in their opinion—1. One central committee would be in better circumstances to judge of the wants of the entire field; and of the material available for the supply of these

wants than Synodical Committees. 2. The old scheme can be wrought at less expense than the proposed one. 3. According to the proposed scheme no provision is made for the transference of Probationers from one synod to another. 4. It is objectionable that Probationers be sent directly to congregations and not to Presbyteries. All Probationers and all vacancies should be put on their respective lists. But the Presbytery approved of fixing the amount of remuneration above eighty dollars per Sabbath, on the part of the richer congregations.

THE second public meeting of Knox College Students' Missionary Society was held in Convocation Hall last week. Owing to the severity of the weather the attendance was not as large as was anticipated. Rev. John Smith occupied the chair, and made a few remarks in which he referred to the importance of the work engaged in by the society and the success which had attended its efforts. Mr. T. Wilson was then called upon to read a report of his labours in the North-West during the past season. The field, he said, in which he worked was about 150 miles west of Winnipeg. Mr. Wilson was followed by Mr. A. Blair, B.A., with a paper on "The Missionary Outlook in Japan." He gave a very interesting account of the position of its inhabitants, both politically and socially. He thought that before another twenty-five years Japan would be as much of a Christian country as Canada. Mr. J. McGillivray then gave a report of mission work in the Muskoka and Parry Sound districts, in which he had laboured successfully for several seasons. He was followed by Rev. James Robertson, superintendent of missions in the North-West, who gave an address on the progress of the work at present being done there. Twelve years ago there were only nine mission stations and now there are two hundred and fifty. There are at present twenty-one fields with eleven hundred families without missionaries. The people themselves are very anxious that missionaries should be sent among them. The next speaker was Rev. Dr. Wardrope, of Guelph, convener of the Assembly's Foreign Mission Committee. He said that he had very strong convictions in favour of the Home Missions. He thought that these should be the first great work of the Church. It was necessary for them to cultivate the Home Missions if the Foreign Missions were to be successful. He spoke of the sacrifices those who go out on foreign missionary work have to make, and of the progress that has been made in this department of missionary work during the last few years.

PRESBYTERY OF GLENGARRY.—This Presbytery met at Lacaster on the 18th ult., with a very full attendance. After routine the Rev. Mr. Warden was heard in support of the scheme for the Augmentation of Stipends. After a full and exhaustive presentation of the scheme, Mr. Fraser moved, seconded by Dr. McNish, that a hearty vote of thanks be tendered to Mr. Warden for his very lucid and able presentation of the Augmentation Scheme. Mr. McGillivray moved, seconded by Mr. C. G. Mathee, that Dr. McNish's name be added to the committee appointed at last meeting to visit congregations paying less than \$750. Mr. Ferguson moved in amendment that the Presbytery meantime hold a conference to consider this whole matter. Mr. F. A. McLennan seconded, and the amendment carried. The Presbytery having sat in conference, presented the following motion which was adopted: "That the Presbytery appoint a collection for the third Sabbath of January; that the envelopes and leaflets explaining the scheme for Augmentation of Stipend be distributed in the best way practicable by the several sessions; that the ministers exchange pulpits if necessary, and that contributions be forwarded not later than the third Sabbath of February." The motion made by Mr. McGillivray, as above, was now adopted. The consideration of a petition from parties at East Lancaster, praying to be disjoined from Knox congregation, Lancaster, was postponed until the session of Dalhousie Mills and Cote St. George is heard. This session was then cited *ad acta* to appear at Summerstown on the 9th day of January. The committee appointed re Cote St. George Church was re-appointed, and ordered to report at Summerstown. A call from Florence and Dawn addressed to Dr. Lamont was now considered. Messrs. Wm. Brodie and Donald McGregor appeared for the congregation of Dalhousie Mills and Cote St. George, and the Rev. Mr. Calder for the Presbytery of Chatham. After parties were fully heard the Rev.