

CHURCH
WORK

Ministers and Churches

NEWS
LETTERS

OTTAWA.

The fine new church edifice, just completed for the Erskine congregation, will be opened on Friday evening by Rev. Dr. Robert Johnston, the minister of the American Presbyterian church, Montreal. At this service Rev. Dr. Armstrong, moderator of the General Assembly, and Rev. A. S. Ross, M.A., Moderator of the Ottawa Presbytery, will take part.

On Sunday next the preacher will be the well known Rev. G. M. Milligan, D. D., of Toronto. In the afternoon a service will be held under the auspices of the Sabbath school, when addresses will be delivered by Rev. W. T. G. Brown, of Hintonburgh, and by Rev. Dr. Ramsay, minister of Knox church. On Monday evening, Feb. 26th, a sacred concert will be held under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid. In addition to music, there will be an address by Rev. D. Strachan, of Brockville. On Sunday, March 4th, the services will be conducted by Rev. W. D. Reid, D.D., of Taylor church, Montreal. Thursday evening, March 8th, there will be a congregational "at home." After the opening we shall be able to give our readers some idea of the new church.

Referring to the magnificent growth of Erskine congregation during the past five years, The Journal says: The fire of 1900 not only destroyed their church on the corner of Elm and Preston streets, but also rendered homeless sixty per cent. of the congregation. Then again in 1903 forty families were burned out. To-day the congregation has a church property worth about \$40,000. After the fire of 1900 the members worshipped in a frame building standing on the present site and on which Bank street church had been conducting a Sunday school. Next Sunday they will worship in a large and beautiful new church. Not a little of this progress is due to the energetic and wisely-directed efforts of the pastor, Rev. A. E. Mitchell. When Mr. Mitchell assume the pastorate in February, 1901, there were but 85 members; now there are 512. In that year the congregation would not undertake to raise \$1,000 in order to secure a donation of \$100 from another source. Last year the revenue amounted to \$6,135. On the first Sunday of Mr. Mitchell's ministry there were 190 scholars in the Sunday school. Last Sunday there were 551.

WINNIPEG AND WEST.

The important pulpit of the Presbyterian church in Regina, which was vacant for about a year subsequent to the resignation of the Rev. Dr. Carmichael to become superintendent of home missions for Manitoba and Assiniboia, is expected to be again vacant within a few months. Rev. J. J. Patterson, successor to Dr. Carmichael, resigning to accept a call to St. Andrew's church, Sarnia, Ont. Mr. Patterson was called to Regina from Chesley, Ont., and during the term of his pastorate in the western capital has been very successful in all church work. A magnificent new church building has been erected and the membership of the church has been very much increased. Should nothing unexpected occur, it is anticipated that Mr. Patterson will remove from Regina early in the summer of the present year.

Dr. Herdman, superintendent of home missions for British Columbia, will speak in St. Stephen's church on his way home from the assembly's home mission committee meeting at Toronto, about the last of March. Dr. Herdman is an effective preacher, and a good organizer. He is doing a splendid work as H. M. superintendent in the great Pacific province.

EASTERN ONTARIO.

The anniversary social of Knox church, Perth, realized \$97.

There is now only one mission field within the bounds of Brockville Presbytery, that of Fairfield, which is in charge of Rev. Mr. Robertson.

Rev. John Griffith, returned missionary from Honan, China, has been the guest of his uncle, Mr. James Chalmers, "Poplar Vale," Smith's Falls.

Rev. J. J. Wright in his canvass of the Orono congregation received subscriptions amounting to \$157 towards the endowment fund of Queen's University, Kingston.

Mrs. (Rev.) A. Govan, of Williamstown, has returned home after a prolonged visit to her parental home.

Prof. W. M. Clarke, formerly church organist at Carleton Place, is now organist and choir-master of the Arnprior church.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed in Hephzibah church, Williamstown, on Sunday, Feb. 11. Rev. N. Waddell of Aultsville preached on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Rev. H. E. Abraham, Port Hope: History has changed, nations have changed, the earth has changed, since Christ said that he was the way, but there is no change in Him. He is still the way to the Father, and to everlasting life.

The local correspondent of The Guide, writes: Rev. R. B. Nelles, of Port Hope, preached two excellent sermons in the Millbrook church here last Sunday. We congratulate the friends of Port Hope upon having such an able evangelical preacher, whose discourses were highly appreciated here.

The anniversary services of St. Andrew's church, Appleton, on a recent Sunday were very largely attended, and the speaker of the day, Rev. M. H. Scott, B.A., of Hull, delivered two able sermons that were very much appreciated. Mr. Scott, who is a very fine singer, gave a solo in the morning and two in the evening.

At the 22nd anniversary of St. Andrew's church, Renfrew, Rev. A. E. Mitchell, of Ottawa, was the preacher and gave two powerful sermons. In referring to his address at the tea-meeting on Monday night the Mercury says: "It was an address in which humor, good advice and pathos were so blended as to deepen the good impression of his sermons of the previous day, and that a keen insight into human nature and tenderness with it make his remarks most effective."

The Elmvale Lance says: The Presbyterian anniversary this year sustained its usual high reputation. The services of Sunday were well attended, and the offerings amounted to about \$150. The Rev. R. N. Grant, D.D., of Orillia, preached excellent sermons morning and evening, and also addressed the children in the afternoon.

At the induction of Rev. A. M. Currie as pastor of the Church of the Redeemer, Deseronto, Rev. Wm. Shearer of St. Andrew's church, Picton, preached the sermon, Rev. A. H. Drumm of Belleville, addressed the ministers, and Rev. R. S. Lakliss addressed the people. Mr. Currie enters on his work in Deseronto with every promise of a successful pastorate.

The Perth Courier makes mention of the following unique coincidence: The worshippers at St. Andrew's Sunday morning who were present at Knox church in the evening had the pleasure of listening to two sermons on the same text in one day by two ministers. The text was found in the 4th of Luke, 33 and 34, from which Rev. Mr. Cormack preached a closely-reasoned sermon, full of matter, in the morning, and in the evening Dr. Herridge used the text in an eloquent and dramatic sermon.

At the last meeting of Brockville Presbytery the following elders were elected commissioners to the General Assembly: Jas. Cumming, Lyn; J. P. Fox, Winchester; E. A. Buckman, Brockville; Jos. Thompson, Athens, Alternates; Hugh Montgomery, Morrisburg; E. A. Greiger, Brockville, J. O. Beggs, Mountain and Hugh Cameron and James Cumming were appointed Presbytery representatives on the committee on bills and overtures for the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa.

Rev. Dr. Stuart reported to Brockville Presbytery on the new Presbyterian Psalter which has been in course of preparation for the past ten years by a joint committee of the Canadian and United States Assemblies, and is now completed. The report approved highly of the publication, but on the ground of economy it was not thought wise to recommend its use at this time. The Psalter it might be mentioned contains 23 different metres.

Knox Church, Beaverton and Gambridge.—Rev. A. C. Wishart, M.A., pastor, a prosperous year—As the expenditure in Beaverton congregation exceeds that of last year by over \$175, owing to unforeseen circumstances there was a small deficit, but in Gambridge there was a balance of \$111. Total contributions for missionary purposes from the congregations and the various organizations of the church amounted to \$784.00. Of this amount Gambridge raised \$401, and Beaverton \$386. Total money raised for all purposes from all departments amounted to \$2,513. Of this Beaverton raised \$169.00 and Gambridge \$1,224.00. Seventeen members were added to the roll, while twenty were removed by death or otherwise, leaving a net decrease of three.

Sturgeon Falls and Cache Bay, Rev. J. R. Mann, B.A. The annual meetings were held in February. Total receipts, \$2,169. Sturgeon Falls, \$1,754, and Cache Bay, \$415. Total for schemes, \$378. Sturgeon Falls, \$147; and Cache Bay, \$231. The total for schemes being \$90 in advance of last year. Ladies' Aid raised \$330. Men's Aid \$323; \$390 from the ladies and \$323 contributed by the men is applied to manse debt. Sabbath school contributed \$157, and has at the present time \$85 for church building fund. Cache Bay Ladies' Aid raised \$73 since their organization in October. Balances \$157; Sturgeon Falls \$110, and Cache Bay \$47. Added to the communion roll 38. All reports show a good advance on the previous year.

The annual meeting of St. Andrew's church, Picton, was held on Jan. 31st, 1906, the pastor, Rev. William Shearer, in the chair. The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$107.48 in his hands after paying current expenses for the year. The reports of the different societies, the Ladies' Aid, Young People's Society Christian Endeavor, and Sabbath school, were all read and adopted and showed to be in a prosperous and satisfactory condition. The following gentlemen were elected as managers in addition to those on the Board who did not retire, namely: Messrs. W. A. Smith, John C. Jamieson and James Wallace. A resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. A. G. Knight as follows: "That we, the congregational meeting of St. Andrew's church, take immediate steps to provide a manse for the minister and that a committee be appointed with power to act." The resolution was carried and the following committee was appointed, Judge Morrison, Walter Mackenzie, John C. Jamieson, Chas. S. McIlvray, Geo. A. Johnston and A. G. Knight. There is little doubt that at an early date the congregation will provide a comfortable home for the minister. The personnel of the committee above named insures this result.