

KNOX CHURCH, PERTH.

The sixtieth anniversary services of the formation of Knox church in Perth, says the Courier, were fittingly observed on Monday of last week. On the former day there were special services conducted by the Rev. J. A. Macdonald, of Toronto, and on Monday evening the congregation met together in a social way and enjoyed themselves as Knox people always do.

The history of Knox church since its beginning has been one of steady progress. The congregation was formed on the 13th Feb., 1845, sixty years ago, Monday night, having for their pastor Rev. Mr. Melville. Successive pastors were Revs. Duncan, Rogers, Burn, Ross, and Currie. The stone church—the present substantial edifice—was erected in 1854, and has ever been kept in harmony with the times and desires of its pastors and congregation. Of those who sat at the first communion table sixty years ago, only three are members to-day—Messrs. James Holliday, John Riddell and James Allan.

There were large congregations in attendance at the Sunday observance of the anniversary in spite of heavy roads, and drifting snow and cold weather. Rev. J. A. Macdonald was the preacher both morning and evening, and those who had the pleasure of hearing him were treated to two excellent expositions of the gospel. Sunday evening the reverend gentleman expounded the visit of Jeremiah to the potter, and with this as a foundation spoke of the formation of the ancient nations of Assyria, Greece, Rome and several of the European countries, and instanced how they were marred in the making; and the strength of the Anglo-American powers today was brought into comparison with the powers of other days. The only natural conclusion from the foregoing sentence is that the subject matter of the sermon was rich in thought and deep in meaning, and this is the case.

On Monday evening the congregational social was largely attended by country and town people. Refreshments were served in the lecture-room from six to eight o'clock, after which the congregation went into the church where the rest of the programme was carried out. As soon as the pastor took the chair, Mr. Malloch went forward and read an address which expressed the warm appreciation by the people of the work done by Mr. and Mrs. Currie in the congregation. As the address was being read Mr. Isaac Ferrier came forward with a presentation of a fine cabinet of solid silver which Mr. Currie was asked to accept from the congregation in behalf of himself and his wife.

Mr. Currie replied, expressing deep gratitude for the devotion to his partner and himself.

"A man," said Browning, "can have but one life and one death, one heaven, one hell," and the serious thing about it is that he, by the grace of God, is his own architect.

Present Day Preaching Socializing Christianity.

In an address before Drew Theological Seminary club, Rev. F. L. Patton, president of Princeton Theological seminary, has declared that much of the preaching of the present day is a mixture of sociology and sentimentality, and that, instead of christianizing society, the tendency is to socialize christianity. He also laid part of the responsibility of the diminishing number of candidates for the ministry on the professors of philosophy in colleges.

"The difficulty with most men," said Dr. Patton, "is their inability to tell where they stand—if they do stand. If they knew where the east was they could probably locate the other points of the compass. One is asked so often why more students in the universities do not come forward to enter the ministry. With their attitude unsettled on philosophical questions, they do not see their way clear to enter the ministry. A tremendous amount of responsibility just now rests on the men who hold the chairs of philosophy in the colleges of this land. If their pupils are allowed to take hold of purely materialistic doctrines and cling to them, they cannot become ministers of Jesus Christ unless they be hypocrites."

AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS' FUND.

It will be remembered that last year the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Committee, for the first time, paid the annuitants on the higher scale. This, however, left the fund in debt to the extent of \$3,462. To enable the Committee to continue the payment at the same rate it is necessary that this year there should be got from congregations of the church, western section, at least \$14,000. To this date not half of this amount has been got and unless largely increased contributions are received within the next two weeks, the revenue of the year will not only be insufficient by several thousand dollars, to pay the annuities on the increased scale, but the deficit of last year will be largely increased. The Widows' and Orphans' Fund has been greatly helped by a number of special contributions from individual members of the church. We feel certain that the claims of the aged ministers of our church, who have given long and faithful service, and exercised much self-denial in the furtherance of the Master's work, will touch the heart of many of our intelligent, Christian men, to whom God has given the ability to help, and all that is required is that the necessities of this fund should be brought to their notice to ensure a generous response. We trust that even yet, before the church year closes at the end of this month, many will forward a personal contribution to the treasurer, so that the Committee may be in a position to continue the rate of annuity as last year.

It is a great thing to feel that we are doing the work of the Lord day by day.

IOWA LETTER.

The intense cold of the first half of February much delayed the many special services now in progress. Encouraging reports continue to come in from many fields. And while the great work of the evangelistic committee in the large cities seems to overshadow the work and the results in the smaller fields, yet it is generally conceded that the greatest results are in the smaller fields, considering the number of people engaged in the meetings.

Would that this great West and Canada might share with Wales in the showers of blessings now being poured out there. It may be that the set time to favor Zion is come.

Rev. Murdoch McLeod, of St. Paul, Minn., has taken up the work in the Central Presbyterian church, Des Moines, the largest Presbyterian church in Iowa. Evangelist W. A. Sunday has just closed a very successful series of meetings in Mason City, Iowa. He is as enthusiastic in his evangelistic work as he was when playing baseball.

Rev. George M. Rourke, of Sac City, received six members at a recent communion. He went to Toronto to address the Temperance League January 20th. He has been one of the foremost workers in his county which is prohibition, while many of the neighboring counties are under the Mule Law; less than 65 per cent of the people in his county favor the saloon.

Rev. Andrew Herron, who labored 30 years in the Presbyterian ministry in Iowa, went to his reward in February. He was one of the pioneers who knew the hardships of frontier work. He was a brother beloved in the Lord.

Evangelist O. E. Harvey and his wife, Belle Hood Harvey, are doing a very acceptable work among the smaller churches in the synod of Iowa. They labor under the direction of the Evangelistic committee. Mrs. Harvey does most of the preaching. She is a beautiful spirited woman.

Members of the Greek Church in Japan bring their babies to English missionaries to be baptized when none of their own priests are at hand. Sometimes they ask permission to partake of the Lord's Supper, too; and among them are some very earnest Christians.

LIQUOR AND TOBACCO HABITS.

A. McTaggart, M. D., C.M.
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References as to Dr. McTaggart's professional standing and personal integrity permitted.

Sir W. R. Meredith, Chief Justice,
Hon. G. W. Ross, Premier of Ontario,
Rev. John Potts, D.D., Victoria College,
Rev. Wm. Caven, D.D., Knox College,
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