

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

THE Rev. Mr. Fairley, of L'Orignal has resigned his charge.

REV. MR. CAMERON, of Milton, who has been ill, is recovering.

REV. D. G. MCKAY tendered his resignation to the Maitland Presbytery, held at Wingham on 15th and 16th ult., of his charge at Bluevale and Eadie's stations.

THE Rev. Dr. Jardine, of Chatham, New Brunswick, has accepted a call to the Brockville Second Presbyterian Church, in place of Rev. Mr. McGillivray, gone to London.

THE Presbytery of Barrie has granted Rev. J. Leiper, of Barrie church, a three months' leave of absence that he may visit his native country on account of domestic affliction. His many friends will wish him a prosperous voyage and a speedy return.

REV. MR. WAITS, the talented pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Stratford, has been preaching in some of the Montreal churches the past couple of Sabbaths. The press says his discourses were eloquent and impressive, and were listened to with deep interest.

THE contracts for the erection of a new Presbyterian church at Gorrie have been awarded. Messrs. Wiles & Silverthorn have the carpenter work and painting, and Mr. Robert Blow the brick and mason work. The total cost of the building will be about \$2,000.

WE regret to learn that the Rev. Mr. McAuley, of West Puslinch, recently met with a serious accident. He fell from a ladder in his stable, by which his leg, a little above the ankle, was badly broken. He is doing as well as might be expected under the circumstances. Neighbouring ministers have arranged to supply his pulpit for April.

THE Rev. H. Warden, of Montreal, preached in St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, on Sabbath last. At the morning service he gave a detailed account of the work being done by the Presbyterian Church in Canada in home and foreign missions, and in French Canadian evangelization. The Governor-General was among the congregation present.

SABBATH, 27th ult., was the sixth anniversary of Dr. Burns's settlement over Fort Massey Church, Halifax. In closing his discourse on Rom. i. 16, the Dr. took occasion to notice that during these six years he had received one hundred and fifty-nine to the membership of the church, and that the congregation had raised nearly \$55,000, of which \$8,000 were for reduction of debt on church building, and \$12,000 for the schemes of the Church, including College.

THE improvements in St. Andrew's Church, Sarnia, are rapidly approaching completion. Not the least important result of the alterations which the building has undergone is a very decided improvement in its acoustic qualities—heretofore none of the best. The reopening services are expected to take place on the last Sabbath of the current month—which day, by the way, will be the fifteenth anniversary of the induction of Mr. Thompson into the pastorate of the congregation. Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, of Toronto, and Rev. Dr. Cochrane, of Brantford, will take part in the special services which will mark the event—the former preaching morning and evening, and the latter in the afternoon.

THE anniversary services in St. Andrew's Church, Whitby, were conducted on Sabbath, March 27th, by Rev. John Smith, of Erskine Church, Toronto, who preached morning and evening to large congregations, also addressing the children of the Sabbath school in the afternoon. The evening following (Monday) the annual soiree of the congregation was held, and ranks as the most successful social gathering in connection with the united Presbyterian churches of the town. Mr. Smith delivered his lecture on "Church Song," by which for an hour and a half he kept his audience interested, instructed and amused. The chair was occupied by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Abraham, and on the platform were Rev. John Shaw, Prof. Wrench, and Mr. Bowen, Welland Canal Missionary.

FROM the financial statement of Cobourg Presbyterian church for 1880-81, we take the following items. Contributions to Knox College, \$50; Manitoba College, \$11; Home Mission Fund, \$100; French Evangelization Fund, \$45; Foreign Mission Fund,

\$143; Missions, by Sabbath school and Bible class, \$116; Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, \$20; Widows' and Orphans' Fund, \$10; Assembly Expense Fund, \$10; Synod and Presbytery Fund, \$16; other benevolent and religious purposes, \$112; presenting a total for the schemes of the Church, etc., of \$633. The total contributions for all purposes amount to \$3,093. From the annual report of the managers we quote a sentence or two: "Your managers feel extremely encouraged in presenting this report. It will be remembered in our report of last year that we had paid out more than had been paid in, leaving a balance of \$213.40 due upon current expenditure, and no provision to pay interest account. We are pleased, however, to say that the above balance has been paid off, and that there is for the first time in many years a balance in the treasury."

THE annual missionary meeting of Knox Church, Woodstock, was held on Tuesday evening, 15th ult. The report of the Ladies' Missionary Society was read and adopted. The report shews that the congregation has been most liberal in its mission contributions during the year. The total amount raised for missionary objects for the year was \$981.94. Of this, \$444.25 (a portion of which is not yet actually paid) is given to the Formosa Mission. \$114.50 was raised by the Sabbath school. On motion, the amount of the whole fund unappropriated was allotted as follows: Knox College, \$80; Home Mission Fund, \$150; Foreign Missions, \$115; Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, \$15; French Evangelization, \$16.85; Assembly Fund, \$17. The following figures will shew the liberality of this congregation for the past few years: For the year 1874-5, \$239.47; 1875-6, \$278.48; 1876-7, \$562.70; 1877-8, \$690.16; 1878-9, \$764.08; 1879-80, \$779.91; 1880-81, \$981.94. Excellent addresses were delivered during the evening by the Rev. W. A. McKay, M.A., and by the pastor of the congregation. A motion was passed changing the close of the mission year from March to the 31st December.

PRESBYTERY OF PETERBORO'.—This Presbytery met on Monday, March 21st. A paper was read from St. Paul's congregation on the subject of the great good done by Mr. Hammond upon his late visit to Peterboro'. The Presbytery then entered upon the consideration of the questions on temperance sent down to Presbyteries from the General Assembly. The most of the brethren present gave reports as to the prevalence or otherwise of intemperance in their respective fields, and in answer to the other questions contained in the schedule. Rev. Messrs. R. J. Beattie, Bennett and Fotheringham were appointed a committee to draw up a report based upon the answers obtained during the conference on the subject of temperance, and to report at the meeting of the Presbytery to be held in connection with the Synod. Mr. F. R. Beattie presented the motion of which he had given notice at last meeting, for the adoption of an overture or evangelistic work. The overture was to the following effect: 1. That whereas the spiritual life of God's people may often be helped, and sinners be converted to God by means of special services; 2. That whereas the peace of congregations is often disturbed by so-called evangelists who find their way into their midst; 3. That whereas the Church has no direct control over the life and doctrine of such evangelists, therefore it is humbly overtured to the venerable General Assembly that such action be taken by it as shall secure: 1. That competent persons only shall be employed when evangelistic services are held in connection with the congregations of this Church; 2. Putting competent persons in the same relationship to the Church as regular ministers as regards responsibility for life and doctrine; 3. That such directions be given the office-bearers and people of our congregations as shall help to guide to uniformity of action, and tend to secure the peace of congregations and the prosperity of the cause of Christ in their midst. The overture was adopted and ordered to be transmitted to the General Assembly. The Rev. Mr. McMullen, of Woodstock, who was present, was invited to sit as a corresponding member. The Presbytery then proceeded to take up the call from River street Church, Paris, to the Rev. J. Ballentine, of Cobourg. The call and relative documents were read. After parties were heard, Mr. Ballentine intimated his conviction that it was his duty to accept the call. It was thereupon moved and adopted that the translation sought for be granted. Rev. Messrs. R. J. Beattie and F. R. Beattie, with Mr. Williamson, were appointed

a committee to draw up a minute expressing the feelings of the Presbytery towards Rev. Mr. Ballentine, and to report at next meeting of the Presbytery. Mr. Fotheringham reported on behalf of the Sabbath school committee. The report was received and adopted. The report of the Home Mission Committee was read by Mr. Cleland, and it was agreed that it be received. The Presbytery then agreed to hold a conference on "the state of religion" within the bounds. The paper from St. Paul's congregation in reference to the great good which had been derived from the visit of Mr. Hammond to Peterboro' was read. Several of the members stated that they had no report to make regarding any special work of grace within their bounds. Rev. Messrs. Torrance, Bennett and Clarke were heard regarding the apparent awakening in their respective fields, and the very large addition to the membership of the Church already realized and anticipated. Mr. J. M. Roger being present, was invited to take part in the conference, and he reported a marked work of grace in Peterboro' and in several of the adjoining districts which he had visited. The committee on the State of Religion were instructed to draw up a report based on the returns from the different sessions already on hand, and on the statements made in the conference meeting, and to forward the same, with Presbyterial authority, to the Convener of the Synod's committee on the State of Religion, by the 15th of April. The Presbytery then proceeded to appoint delegates to the General Assembly. Rev. Messrs. Clarke, Sutherland and R. J. Beattie were appointed by rotation, and Rev. Messrs. F. R. Beattie and Ewing by ballot. The elders chosen were: Messrs. Gabriel Orr, Coldsprings; W. E. Roxburgh, Norwood; George Morrison, Onemee; Alex. Douglas, Warkworth, and T. Casement, Lakefield. Messrs. F. R. Beattie and D. Sutherland were appointed to support the overture on Evangelistic Services, and Messrs. F. R. Beattie and N. Clarke that on the Examination of Graduates, on the floor of the Assembly.—WILLIAM BENNETT, Pres. Clerk.

REV. DR. MCKAY'S WORK IN NORTHERN FORMOSA.

AS SEEN BY A BRITISH NAVAL OFFICER.

One of the latest works that has been issued from the press is entitled the "Flight of the Lapwing." It is an imposing volume of 550 pages, containing maps, illustrations, etc. The "Lapwing," we may explain, was a British man-of-war, stationed for several years on the coasts of China and Formosa, and the author of this book, the Hon. Henry Noel Shore, R.N., was first lieutenant. In the preface the author states that his object in writing was to while away a leisure hour, and perhaps excite some slight degree of interest in one of the most patient, sober, and industrious nations in the world.

The book is written in a light and pleasing style, and contains a vast amount of information concerning the people of China. "Why do the Chinese never smile?" asked the late Charles Kingsley, "why do they look as if some one had sat upon their noses as soon as they were born, and they had been weeping bitterly over the calamity ever since?" Whatever sadness may appear in the countenance of a Chinaman in a foreign land, this writer makes it evident that in his own country John takes a very cheerful view of things, and laughs quite as much, if not more than other people, while even his nose seems to escape with a mere surface impression.

To the readers of THE PRESBYTERIAN the most interesting portion of this book will undoubtedly be that in which he speaks of Dr. McKay's work in Formosa. Two chapters, forty-eight pages, are devoted to this subject. The author of the "Lapwing" makes no pretensions to religion, he writes as an intelligent man of the world; it will be none the less interesting to hear him bearing the following testimony to the labours of our devoted missionary:

"There is some grand work being done by the missionaries in Formosa, both as regards the Chinese and the semi-civilized aborigines. Christianity is spreading slowly but surely in all directions, from Fain-foo and Takow, in the south, and Tamsui in the north."

After speaking of the hardships and privations endured by our missionary during the first three years of his work, some of these too horrible to be described, the writer goes on to describe Mr. McKay's method of working. He says, "Mr. McKay's custom