

## Quebec.

At the meeting of Quebec Presbytery the attendance was large, and much business of importance was transacted. Messrs. Jas. Houston and J. A. MacCallum, a deputation from the congregation of Danville, appeared pleading the cause of that small but plucky congregation. They intimated that if the committee on Augmentation would fail them the congregation would have to face the question of disbanding. A petition from Dr. W. Thompson, of Kinnear's Mills, and eighty-eight others, praying for the dissolution of the pastoral tie was submitted. Messrs. Jno. Allan, B. A. S. Stevenson and Jos. Reid were heard in support. A committee consisting of Revs. D. MacLeod, D. Tait, J. R. MacLeod, M. Shearer and E. G. Walker was appointed to visit the field, inquire carefully into its state and report, was appointed.

The special services being held in the Presbyterian Church at Point Fortune are well attended and seem to be making quite an impression upon the community. The pastor Rev. James Fraser, is being assisted by Prof. Ross, D.D., of Montreal; the Rev. M. F. Boudreau, of Grenville; the Rev. Mr. Beensish, of Point Fortune, and the Rev. Mr. Ballantyne, of St. Andrews.

## Eastern Ontario.

The Ladies' Aid of St. Andrew's church, Perth, have reported the net balance from their Scotch "At Home" to be \$105.

The Presbytery of Glengarry convened in the Presbyterian Church, Maxville, on the 17th inst. A large number of clergymen and laymen were present.

An entertainment will be held in the Avonmore Church on Christmas night. A good programme is being prepared and a large audience is expected.

The next regular meeting of the Presbytery of Lindsay will be held at Woodville on 18th March, 1902. Rev. D. W. Best, R. A., is now Clerk of this Presbytery.

Rev. Dr. MacTavish, of Deseronto, has been re-elected president of the Kingston Presbyterial union. This office he has held since the formation of the union.

At a business meeting of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor of Knox Church, Lancaster, held on the 18th instant, officers were appointed for the ensuing year.

In the term about to open at Queen's College Rev. Professor Jordan will give a course of lectures on the second part of the book of Isaiah. The class is open to the general public.

Anniversary services were held in Salem church on Dec. 15. The morning service was conducted by Rev. Mr. Foster, of Coneseon, and the evening service by Rev. Mr. Bamforth, of Rednerville.

On the 13th instant Professor Shortt, of Queen's University, lectured in St. Andrew's Hall, Williamston, before a very fair audience, many of whom were from a distance. The subject of the lecture was "Canada's influence on Britain's Colonial Policy" and was ably handled by the speaker.

A special meeting of the Presbytery of Sydney will be held at Reserve Mines, on Jan. 2nd, when Mr. C. C. McIntosh will be ordained and inducted to that charge. The Moderator of the Presbytery will preside and ordain. Rev. A. J. McDonald will preach, Mr. Meekle address the minister and Mr. K. J. McDonald the people.

The ladies of the W. F. M. S. and Ladies Aid of Knox Church, Lancaster, gathered at the manse on the 19th instant, to do honor to one of their number, Mrs. Robt. McDonald, who is leaving the place. Mrs. McDonald has been actively engaged in the work of both societies and the esteem in which she is held was aptly told in a short address by Mrs. A. Graham, accompanying the presentation of a crystal and silver fruit dish.

The annual meeting of the W. F. M. S., of St. Andrew's church, Richmond, was held at the home of Mrs. (Dr.) Danby. The officers elected were: President, Mrs. S. A. Woods; vice-presidents, Mesdames Dawson, Green, Morehouse and Danby; secretary, Miss Muir; treasurer, Mrs. R. H. McElroy; leaflet secretary, Miss T. Nixon. Good work has been done, as about \$25 were contributed and a box of clothing valued at \$25 was sent to the Portage la Prairie Indian school.

## Ottawa.

Rev. Dr. Herridge, of St. Andrew's, and Rev. J. W. H. Milne, of the Glebe, exchanged pulpits last Sunday evening.

Miss Cowan's class in connection with the Sunday school of MacKay church, provided a Christmas tree for the poor children of New Edinburgh. The entertainment was given on Christmas eve.

On last Sunday special Christmas services were held in most of the Churches with appropriate music. St. Andrew's is to have a service on Christmas morning instead of New Year's, as is the custom.

In connection with the opening services, the children of Erskine church had a good time on Thursday evening. The building was filled with the little people, their teachers and friends. After the tea they were given "A trip through South Africa," by Mr. W. J. Kissick, who was present with his moving pictures.

Bethany church Women's Foreign Mission society elected the following officers: President, Mrs. John Lorne McDougall; vice-president, Mrs. (Rev.) Robert Eadie and Mrs. Geo. Cummings; secretary, Miss Reid; treasurer, Miss McRae. Mrs. Sparks was appointed to draft a programme for the meetings of 1902. A junior branch, or scattered helpers, was organized with the following representatives: Misses Ely Whitlam, Lizzie Ambridge, Maggie O'Grady, Mrs. W. Hamright, Mrs. Wm. Bone, Mrs. Robert Seannell.

In Stewarton church the services last Sunday, were peculiar to the Christmas season—the sermons most appropriate tender and sympathetic; the music very beautiful and the church itself prettily decorated. There were large congregations. Nowhere, within our denomination, is better work being done than in Stewarton church. Mr. Herbison, the popular minister, is uniting in his efforts and his devoted people do everything possible to encourage him. He is a worthy successor to the much loved, genial R. E. Knowles. The church closes the year in a highly prosperous condition and with the brightest outlook.

The closing exercises of the Presbyterian Ladies' College was held on the evening of the 19th instant. There was a large attendance of the pupils and their friends. An excellent concert of vocal and instrumental music was rendered. Owing to it being so early in the school year no special effort was made, yet every one who appeared on the programme acquitted herself with credit. Those who contributed numbers were:—Piano solos, Misses J. Grant, O. Munro, Miss Allan, Misses M. Chambers, F. Powles, Miss Pelton, N. Ross and N. Bryce; violin solos, Miss Jarvis and the Misses McLatchie; vocal solos, Misses N. Swim and J. Grant. Miss Bourne and Master A. Ross were accompanists. The teachers, whose pupils assisted in the entertainment, were Mr. H. Puddicombe, Miss Duhamel, Mrs. Saunders and Miss Bourne.

The musical service at St. Andrew's on Christmas morning was of an inspiring character; and while the sermon was short it conveyed a wealth of happy suggestion to the large congregation. The theme was Joyfulness, and the gifted pastor, in thought pregnant with appropriate suggestion and timely admonition, urged that while joyfulness is a cardinal trait of Christian experience it should be even more pronounced at this festive season. With mirth and song are Christians admonished to serve the Lord, and what should call forth greater demonstrations of joy than a contemplation of God's wonderful love in the gift of His son to redeem the world? It was Christ the Saviour that Dr. Herridge held up as a cause for joy, while Christ, the perfect man with His unerring example was not forgotten.

## Montreal.

The Rev. Robert Campbell, D. D., pastor of St. Gabriel Church, Montreal, preached last Sabbath morning a sermon commemorative of the completion of his thirty-fifth year as pastor of that church. The words of the text chosen for the occasion were: "One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh; but the earth abideth forever." The appropriateness of the text will be appreciated as one reads the statement of the pastor concerning certain departments of his church work during his long pastorate. He said: "I have officiated at 674 funerals since Dec. 13, 1866. Many of you had your own share in the mournful events which

brought me to those 674 scenes of household distress, but on the pastor is chiefly laid the burden of bearing the congregation's sorrows. The funerals were offset by the marriages, and of these I celebrated no fewer than 373. It is a great delight to me to have been instrumental in imparting the initiatory rite of Christian baptism to 931 persons, of whom a few were adults, but most of them were children of a tender age. There have been 1,828 persons in the communion of St. Gabriel Church, of whom 139 constituted the first communion roll, while 1,689 were afterwards added. I have been permitted to stand up and deliver God's message to my fellows upward of 3,000 times at worship on the Lord's Day, besides other occasions on week days. Physically, I am a stronger man than I was thirty-five years ago, thanks being due in no small degree to a better knowledge of what we owe to our bodies in the way of treatment. Of the brethren of the Presbytery who were present at my induction only three remain, two of them ministers in Scotland, and the Rev. James Patterson, the honored clerk of the Presbytery of Montreal." Dr. Campbell then read an interesting document dated October 1866, the terms of the call to St. Gabriel Church. Of the names attached to the call only four survive—Messrs. Alexander Mitchell, W. J. Haldimand, John Cunningham and W. A. McRobbie. Of the 139 who formed the first communion roll, drawn up early in 1867, only 19 remain in the fellowship of St. Gabriel Church, while eleven survive and are doing good work for the Master in other spheres in this city or elsewhere. The service was made additionally bright by the singing of the well trained choir. The Rev. James Patterson, clerk of the Presbytery, offered up prayer.

## A Conversation About Presbyterianism.

(From "Until the Day Declare It.")

We clergymen speak a great deal about the Church nowadays," said Mr. Parker, "but sometimes with very little comprehension. I am afraid our faith falls very far short of the great ideal our Lord had in His mind when He said, "Upon this rock will I build My Church."

"Do you actually dare to quote that incomprehensible passage?"

"Certainly; because I believe, in common with other men who are more profound thinkers than myself, that the rock or foundation-stone upon which our Lord says His church is to be built is not Peter himself, but that unreserved and living faith with which he had just given utterance in the words, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." This is the sense in which St. Peter himself understood it, as you can see from the reference he makes to it in one of his Epistles, when he says, referring to our Lord, "To whom coming, as unto a living stone, . . . ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood;" inquired Grace.

"No, not exclusively; the word used in the Bible for a Christian minister is PRESBYTER, which means only an elder. In the catalogue of Christ's gifts to His Church we read that He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; but there is no mention of priests. The word presbyter you will find used from very early times in the Church, as, to mention one instance, in the "Autobiography of St. Patrick," where he tells us his grandfather was a presbyter, proving that the idea of a celibate priesthood had not at that time taken any hold on the Christian Church."

"Really! So then Presbyterianism dates back to the third century—or, rather, to New Testament times?"

"This is a curious admission to demand from an English Church Clergyman, but there is truth in it nevertheless. I am afraid if the Lord were to show us just what He thinks Himself of all our glorying in the perfection of our Church Constitution, we should find that He did not esteem it so highly as we do. What men and women are starving for is not Catholicity, but Christianity."

"What, then, do you understand by 'Christianity?' What would you say it meant to be a Christian?"

"To be a Christian," repeated Mr. Parker thoughtfully. "It is to be saved and raised up by Christ, and to live with Him—thro' Him—for Him!"

Rev. E. A. Wicher, of Claude, Ont., announced to his congregation last Sabbath that he had declined the call recently received from Kobe, Japan.