

Ministers and Churches.

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

At the May meeting of the Presbytery of Toronto held on Tuesday last, a synopsis of the Statistical and Financial report of the Presbytery was laid upon the table. It was by no means complete, for thirteen congregations out of the eighty-five have not sent in returns this year. There is on the whole a gain in the Presbytery. One congregation, Egypt, has been organized during the year and one, change Fairbank and Fisherville, is about to be raised from the status of a mission station to that of an augment-charge. The seating capacity throughout the Presbytery has been increased by 400; there are 892 more families under pastoral oversight, while the young persons under the care of the different ministers are 581 more than last year.

The gains and losses may be summed up briefly as follows. There are 172 more communicants than last year, and 920 have been added on profession of their faith in Christ. But the removals, from various causes total 1651. There have been 562 children baptized and 77 adults.

Coming to the working force of the Presbytery, there are 500 ruling elders and 708 managers or deacons. 1747 are engaged in Sabbath-school work and there are 17 Missionary Associations, 56 auxiliaries of the W. F. M. S., 31 societies of Christian Endeavor, and 6 Home Missionary Societies. But only 2882 out of a total membership of 17,345 attend the weekly prayer-meeting, not counting the adherents who may be more or less regular attendants. There are 13,669 in the Sabbath Schools of the Presbytery.

The congregations and mission stations paid \$68,669 for stipends during the year, and \$106,728 for building and current expenses. The total amount spent upon themselves, for maintenance and stipend and other expenses has been \$175,734.

Some of the contributions to the Schemes of the church have fallen off during the year, notably the contributions to the College Fund, except in the case of Knox College, which marks an advance. The total amount contributed for the Schemes of the church is \$793 dollars less than last year. The average contribution per communicant towards the Church is a little under \$2 per annum. The total contribution for purposes amounts to \$234,908, an average of \$13.22 for each member.

Queen's has been quick to recognize the worth of a brother from over the sea, and have bestowed the degree of D. D. on the Rev. Armstrong Black of St. Andrews, Toronto. Mr. Black preached the baccalaureate sermon at Queen's last Sabbath, curiously enough choosing the same text that a distinguished graduate of Queen's chose some three years ago.

Special services are being held in East Church this week, conducted by the pastor, Rev. B. Atkinson, assisted by the Rev. W. Meikle, who has been working in British Columbia recently. Mr. Meikle is well known as one of our most successful evangelists.

At the Presbytery of Toronto on Tuesday, the Presbytery received and agreed to transmit an overture to Synod of the bounds, asking that, if desired by any Presbytery, the printed Minutes should be accepted as the permanent record of the Presbytery, and that the Clerk should not be required to transcribe them, as has been heretofore done. Should this carry in Synod it will confer on Presbyteries the privilege now enjoyed by Synods and the General Assembly.

The Rev. E. McL. Smith intimated his acceptance of the call from Knox church, Milton, and he will be early released by the Presbytery of Stratford and inducted to his new charge. The vacancy at Milton has been a very brief one and the congregation has suffered little if any from not having a minister.

Rev. Chas. T. Campbell of Maple accepted the

call from Lakefield, in the Presbytery of Peterborough, and will be released from his present charge about the middle of the month.

A spirited discussion arose in the Presbytery in connection with the report of the Sabbath School committee. It was stated that our Presbytery Sabbath Schools are not so progressive as they ought to be, and that we are actually losing ground. Various reasons were assigned for this unpleasant condition of affairs and the Presbytery will look carefully into the matter.

Preparations for the Synod are well advanced. It will meet this year in College St. Church. The pastor of that church is the Moderator of Synod, and will preach the opening sermon on Monday evening. The conference topics have been carefully chosen and should prove helpful to all members who will take part.

The Rev. Joseph Watt, of Laskey and West King tendered his resignation at the last meeting of Presbytery. It will be considered at the regular meeting in June next.

OTTAWA.

Readers of THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN are already familiar with the terrible calamity that last week overtook the Capital and the sister city of Hull. The flames swept three miles of closely built territory, rendered 4,000 families homeless, and destroyed property to the value of \$20,000,000. It was, in the ground covered, and in the number of people affected, the largest fire that ever took place in Canada. From all quarters relief contributions are rapidly coming in; and it is expected that these contributions will aggregate a million dollars before the lists are closed. Two Presbyterian churches were destroyed; Erskine and the French Presbyterian church on Wellington street.

Rev. Mr. Springer, will be inducted on the 11th inst. at Taylorville.

Rev. J. A. Wheeler, of Montreal, was appointed to the charge of Portland congregation.

Rev. Mr. McLaren, late of Carp, has been appointed to the charge of Plantagenet for the summer months.

Rev. W. Patterson, of Buckingham, and Rev. R. Gamble, of Wakefield, have been appointed commissioners to the General Assembly.

Mr. McLeod, of Montreal Presbyterian College, has been called to Billing's Bridge; and Mr. Ferguson, of the same college, is called to Fitzroy Harbor.

Zion Church, Hull, was happily outside the fire zone, and escaped, although many of the members have lost heavily. The basement of the church is being used as a centre from which relief supplies are distributed, the pastor, Rev. H. Scott, taking an active part in the good work.

As THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN goes to press, the annual meeting of the W. F. M. S. Society is being held in Knox church, Ottawa. There is a good attendance of members. The Treasurer's report showed an expenditure of \$36,744.91, with \$5,406.03 additional for the Indian Famine Fund. The estimates for the coming year are \$57,478, and the advance in contributions over last year \$818.17. Full report will be found in next week's issue.

In the Glebe Church Rev. J. W. H. Milne made appropriate reference to the fire. Face to face with the awful calamity which has taken place in our city, we may be perplexed, he said, but we do not consequently lose faith in God's wisdom simply because we only know in part. The aim of God is the development of man. Whatever tends to a higher manhood is not really loss. There may be great expenditure in order to obtain ultimate gain. The loss of property is not truly loss if it adds something to character.

The congregation of Erskine Church, which was destroyed by the fire, worshipped last Sabbath in the Concession Street Sunday School hall, which has been generously placed at their disposal, till other

arrangements can be made, by the Bank Street Church. The was a large attendance. A solo, "Consider the Lilies," was beautifully sung by Mrs. Thomas McJanet, and made a profound impression. Dr. Campbell did not preach a sermon, but spoke on the lessons of the fire. He said the calamity ought to call attention to the importance of setting our affections on things that could not be taken away, and that as the relief of the sufferers was bringing out the best traits in the characters of those who had escaped, it should teach us that there is more good in most people than we give them credit for. In the evening Dr. Campbell and Rev. Dr. Moore of Bank Street, exchanged.

Erskine Church, a handsome building, fell a victim to the flames. Nothing remains but a heap of bricks and mortar. The loss will be heavy. There was an insurance of \$7,500, but when debts are paid not over \$2,800 will be left towards the erection of a new edifice. It is expected that another and more central site will be chosen. The congregation faces the new conditions imposed by this great calamity with courage and enthusiasm, and with gratifying prospects of success. It should be added that the neighborhood of the church was swept by the flames; and many of the members and adherents lost their all. The pastor, Rev. Dr. Campbell, is also a heavy loser, his house and library having been destroyed, and the insurance will not cover the books alone.

WESTERN ONTARIO.

Rev. Jas. Sieveright, B. A., was presented with a purse by the people of Stokes Bay on his departure for Algoma.

Rev. Mr. McConnell, after a long illness, was able to resume his duties in the Lefroy Church here on Sunday last.

St. James congregation, London, have decided to increase the salary of their pastor, Rev. J. A. McGillivray from \$1,400 to \$1,900.

Rev. F. H. Barron, graduate of Knox College, preached in the Bradford Church last Sabbath, Rev. J. A. McLean, of New Brunswick, will preach next Sabbath.

Rev. A. H. Drumm, lately pastor of Port Elgin church, has purchased the Thamesville Herald, and in doing so goes back to his first love. Mr. Drumm was formerly pastor of the Avonton church.

The Rev. Geo. Arnold, B. A., preached at the preparatory service in the Orillia church on Friday evening, and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed on Sunday morning last.

Rev. Alex. Gilray of the College Street Church, Toronto, is attending the Ecumenical Council in New York. On Sunday morning his pulpit was occupied by Dr. Warden, and in the evening Mr. R. J. Wilson, a Knox College student, preached very acceptably.

NOTES FROM CARLETON PLACE.

Both congregations at Carleton Place are in a prosperous condition. While St. Andrews has a beautiful modern church edifice, in the principal street, Zion, on the whole, is probably fully as well situated, in as much as the church building, older fashioned though it be, is quite commodious and comfortable and the manse is up to date in every respect, adjoins the church, and its bright, sunny aspect leaves nothing to be desired. St. Andrews has also a good manse, but at some distance from the church.

St. Andrews has a membership of 335. Addition during the year 31, and no debt to report. The total contributions for missionary and benevolent purposes amounted to \$1,316.73; Sabbath collections aggregated \$1,821.68. The spiritual affairs of the congregation are in charge of a strong session, made up as follows: Rev. G. A. Woodside, M.A., Moderator, Wm. Baird, clerk, and Messrs. James Gillies, P. Struthers, Geo. Tait, John F. Cram, A. G. Campbell, Jos. Vuill, Robt. McLennan, R. Latimer, jun., R. J. Robertson and John Menzies. A