

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

Saturday was a day of universal mourning. One would have thought that some dearly loved citizen had passed away, so general and so genuine was the sorrow. In all the churches a brief memorial service was held, and in some of them the minister was assisted by some of his brethren who regularly attend his ministrations. At the last meeting of the Toronto Presbytery each congregation was requested to meet at the hour announced by the Mayor of the City, for some form of the service, and other details were left entirely to the Session.

In one church the service was somewhat elaborate. In St. Andrew's the members of the University and other College staffs, who regularly attend services there, were requested to come in their robes, and were given a seat in the front of the auditorium. Upon the platform with the minister were President Leuden, Professors McCurdy and Murison, Dr. Warden, J. A. MacDonald, and Judges MacLennan and Macdougall. All these were in their official robes.

The service was a most impressive one. Before the ministers entered a piper came and pacing slowly back and forth before the pulpit played "The Land of the Leal, and Lochabar no more." As the mournful strains filled the church many Scotchmen, bowed their heads, and more than one eye moistened. The service had been printed for the convenience of the worshippers, and was simple and appropriate. The address of the minister was a eulogy of the home life and home virtues of the late Queen, whom all loved and for whom on that day there was genuine mourning.

The musical part of the service was good. Mrs. Parker sang "I know that my Redeemer liveth," and at the close of the service the Dead March was played, while the audience stood, reverently waiting.

Another feature of the past week in Toronto has been the annual conference of the graduates of Knox College. The numbers in attendance from beyond the city has been disappointingly small, but the interest continued unabated till the closing paper. Some of the papers aroused keen discussion, of others there was little but comment upon the presentation of the subject. The paper by Prof. MacFadyen on Early Hebrew Historians, placed the position of the advanced School very clearly before the audience, and from comments made at the conclusion of the paper many would not care to be ranked as disciples of that school.

The Alumni Association held two very interesting meetings and at the second of the two, considered the programme for the next Conference. An important change was decided upon in the date of the Conference. It was felt that if the meetings were held in the first instead of the second term, many of the students, who now feel the pressure of examinations imminent, and so did not appear at the conferences, would make it a point to be present. Their presence is most desirable, and the programme might easily be arranged so that it would be helpful to them as well as to the graduates. Then, too, it was stated that the time fixed upon would be more convenient to many of the ministers in charges. So it was decided to hold the next Conference in the closing month of the present year, beginning on the second day of December. The annual meeting of the Alumni Association will be held on the Tuesday evening of that week.

In the arrangement of the programme an effort was made to originate a course of study that may be carried on year after year. Two courses were outlined, and in each there will be three papers next year. One in the New Testament, the other in Old Testament study. The Committee is hard at work perfecting the draft programme, and will issue it at an early date. It will be more academic than former programmes, but will still contain much that will be of interest to the layman and to the hard-working minister. It will also furnish a splendid incentive to many a minister who is sorely tempted to become a plodder, preparing for the daily round within his own little circle, to look out into the great world of thought and research and to take something more than a passing interest in it.

The social element was not so prominent this year, though it was not lost sight of altogether. So quietly was all arrangement carried on for the little supper prepared for the Alumni, that some of them did not know of it till a day after it was over. This might be remedied. Every Alumnus

should meet for a social hour, and in the freedom of tea-table talk draw closer and feel the bond of brotherhood to be more real. Let this also be announced as one of the features of the December meeting.

Western Ontario.

The church at Erin is now lighted by electricity.

Rev. A. G. Stewart, Belmore, has been elected moderator of Maitland Presbytery.

Rev. W. T. Hall has accepted the call from Arthur and Gordonville and declined the one from Pickering and Brougham.

Rev. S. M. Whaley, St. Helens, has been appointed inter minister of Belgrave and Calvin church, E. Wawanosh session.

At the last meeting of Maitland Presbytery a resolution of sympathy with Rev. John MacNabb, clerk of Presbytery, on his continued ill-health was passed.

At the annual meeting of Knox church, Goderich, the receipts for the year amounted to \$4,589. For the schemes of the church the contributions amounted to \$318.

Mr. Whaley reported to Maitland Presbytery that seven Y. P. Societies contributed \$151 last year to support a missionary in the North West and will have \$100 this year.

Maitland Presbytery has recommended to the ministers and sessions to co-operate with their respective local clergymen with a view to have the Bible used in the Public Schools, as far as the present school law will allow.

At the annual tea meeting of the Preston congregation the pastor, Rev. J. R. Johnston, was made the recipient of a valuable fur-lined over coat along with a kindly worded address which voiced the love and respect of his people.

The annual meeting of St. John's church, Hamilton, Rev. John Young, presiding, the reports were satisfactory. The receipts were \$4,556.46, and the church debt had been reduced by \$590. Session report indicated a total membership of 496.

St. Paul's church, Hamilton, raised \$15,098 last year, at the annual meeting a bonus of \$200 was voted the pastor, Rev. N. McPherson, and his stipend is to be \$2,700 from the 1st of January. In all departments of the church's work the reports were most encouraging.

Rev. Mr. Larkin, Seaford, conducted the anniversary services at Kippure. The local report says: "There is nothing sensational about his preaching, but his sermons are eminently practical, plain and instructive, while they are delivered in such a way as to create thought and leave an impression."

Rev. Peter Scott, Cromarty, in resigning his charge after a pastorate of 30 years, applies to be placed on the Aged and Infirm ministers fund. He has well earned respite from toil, and his numerous friends will wish that he may be long spared to enjoy the freedom and ease which retirement from active work will permit.

At the annual Missionary meeting of Chalmers' church, Guelph, President R. L. Torrance in the chair—the total contribution for missionary purposes for the year 1900 amounted to \$1,388.88. This includes the contribution of the W. F. M. S. A very pleasant meeting was held, and the results were considered most encouraging.

The annual report of Duff's church, Walton, for 1900, gives the following particulars: Number of families, 42; No. of members 110; total receipts for ordinary fund, \$144.75; building fund receipts, \$581.05; Ladies Aid, \$353.13; Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, \$51.90; Sabbath school, \$21.02; missionary and church schemes, \$58.80.

St. Andrew's, Sarnia, Rev. Dr. Thompson, pastor, reports a membership of 409, and the total amount raised for all purposes including the Century Fund, to be \$8,365.28. When the many calls for subscriptions which have been made outside the congregation during the past year are considered such an amount as the above is a sure evidence of the strength of St. Andrew's.

The Seaford church, under the pastorate of Rev. Mr. Larkin, is making satisfactory progress. The very substantial sum of \$3,989.21 was contributed by the congregation last year for the various church purposes. This is exclusive of the subscriptions for the Century Fund, which amounts to \$1,110 for the Century Fund. Of the amount raised for church purposes, over \$7,000 were contributed for missionary and kindred objects.

Knox Church, Guelph, after having been renovated and beautified, has been re-opened by Rev. A. Logan Geggie, of Toronto.

The proposition to erect a new Sabbath school building in connection with St. Andrew's church, London, has been abandoned for the present. Plans have been prepared for such a building, and so soon as \$10,000 are subscribed the work will probably be proceeded with.

The annual statement of the Richmond Hill Church was the most satisfactory presented for years past. Considerable additions have been made during the year to both the congregation and the Sabbath school, and a collection of \$200 is already on hand on behalf of the Century Fund.

Mr. John Maclean has been presented with a beautiful couch and an eight day clock and Mrs. Mclean with an extension table, by the Presbyterians of Chesellhurst, as a slight recognition of Mr. Maclean's valuable services as leader of the choir. Mr. Mclean, in fitting terms, briefly replied to the accompanying address, read by Miss Mary Morrison, teacher.

Rev. Dr. Fraser made feeling reference to the death of Queen Victoria, at Sabbath morning's service in Knox church, Hamilton. He preached from the text, St. Matthew xxvi. 13. "Where-soever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial for her." Mary, he said, because of her faith and love secured the commendation of the Lord. In a measure the good life of the Queen may be compared with that of Mary.

Knox church, London, reports a good year, finances being \$1,268 better than last year while \$3,000 was contributed to the Century Fund. The membership is now 270. The total receipts amounted to \$5,460.64, being a balance on hand of \$62.60 after paying all liabilities. The treasurer of the congregation for eight years, Mr. John Macpherson, was presented with a hand some wood cabinet containing a valuable and beautiful of sterling silver cutlery in recognition of his valuable services.

Most encouraging reports were submitted to the annual meeting of St. James' church, London. The minister's salary was increased by \$200. Mr. MacGillivray thanked the meeting heartily for this indication of their appreciation of his services. He had, however, made up his mind not to accept any increase unless the financial affairs of the church warranted it, and would prefer that the matter stood for the present. An adjourned meeting will be held to take up the items of business unavoidably left over.

The First Presbyterian Church, London, is in its 60th year, but young and vigorous in all Christian activities. The reports presented at the last annual meeting were the best in the history of the congregation. A sum exceeding \$14,000 has been raised. The membership is now 286. One hundred dollars were added to Rev. W. J. Clarke's salary; a proposition which was practically negated by the pastor declining to accept the increase of salary. Mr. L. Gibson has been elected Clerk of Session. A loyal resolution, moved by Mr. John Cameron, was unanimously passed, and was ordered to be sent to the Governor General for transmission to the King.

Montreal.

Mr. J. Burt, Sutherland, Montreal, whose lectures are always well received, has been speaking at Calumet, Cushing, Rawdon, Kildare and Farnham, Que.

Taylor's Church, Montreal, (Rev. W. D. Reid, B. D., pastor) has had a good year. The membership is now 500; and the total receipts aggregated \$9,122.16. The pastor's salary was advanced to \$1,800; but Mr. Reid said he could not accept but half of the advance until the church was out of debt. All the reports presented indicated progress.

St. Giles' Church, Montreal, (Rev. J. R. Dobson, pastor.) Reports presented showed that much energetic work was carried on during the year. The session's report spoke of some of the difficulties encountered; one of the chief was the location of the church, which is situated far north of the majority of its members. In many respects the past year was the best since the founding of the church. At the conclusion of the business meeting the pastor was asked to retire to the vestry, and on his return Mr. Bury announced that the congregation had voted an increase of one hundred dollars per annum for his salary.