

Ministers and Churches

OUR TORONTO LETTER

It would be safe to hazard the statement that any group of Toronto ministers seen together in the week preceding Christmas were discussing the Jenanyan matter. The farcical ending of the "investigation" was evident from the reports in the daily papers, which, by the way, were exceptionally fair. It is now generally conceded that the so-called enquiry was a blunder. Some believed this from the first, others became convinced of it when a well-known legal gentleman announced at the beginning of the enquiry, "I appear for Mr. Jenanyan." The presence of the "limb of the law" in his professional capacity, and the prospect of a libel suit made any but the most general statements in reference to Mr. Jenanyan impossible.

The most regrettable part of the affair was the very evident denominational cleavage in the meetings. Why this should be so was a mystery which only one skilled in the wickedness of heart-lore could hope to solve. It may have been self-interest on one side, or on both sides, but, if so, it was fatally shortsighted. The open contempt with which the conduct of the affair is discussed outside ministerial circles should make the minister exceeding chary of being party to any further "enquiry" by self-constituted tribunals.

But an unpleasant sensation is short-lived in this season of universal goodwill. The succeeding Christmas season was an exceptionally busy one. All classes joined good-naturedly in an attempt to reach the tempting counter. We stood for a quarter of an hour watching the money literally streaming into the coffers of a downtown establishment, where bank bills were carried off in huge boxes. A cynical friend came up to us and with a smile said, "My minister was preaching last Sabbath that we make an effort to reach the amount we gave last year to missions." He started unpleasant reflections, and we left him.

Dr. Barclay paid a visit to Toronto recently, and lectured in St. James' Square on Thursday evening, and conducted communion services in St. Andrew's on the following Sabbath. There was a peculiar air of sanctity in the observance of the communion at St. Andrew's. There was no sermon; somehow it would seem out of place to introduce a formal discourse. We met to worship, to remember the Lord, and to commune with Him. Every part of the service was an aid to fellowship, and the reverent soul received an uplift that enabled it to view life from a less morbid standpoint.

The Kirk-session and Managers of St. Andrew's have acted promptly upon the receipt of Mr. Connell's disappointing cablegram. Already they have taken measures looking to an early settlement, and may soon speak of the future prospective minister. They have not yet spoken, the gossips to the contrary.

Erskine has spoken, and it is said, with good expectation of a favorable response. It will be a heavy blow should they meet with disappointment, and if there be a possible declination in store for them, further proceedings should be promptly stopped. They do not anticipate a refusal of their call however.

Already preparation is being made for the approaching Post-graduate Conference of the Alumni of Knox College. The Committee in charge of the programme has wisely invited members of other denominations and also laymen to take part in the Conference. This will give variety and an additional interest to the proceedings. It is rumored that the Alumni Association will be asked to decide upon the advisability of continuing the support of a representative in the Foreign Mission field. The graduates who have left College halls during the last decade have not adopted the idea of a representative with any degree of heartiness, and the original list has become depleted by death and removal and from other causes. The question of further support is a grave question, and the debate upon it will be one of unusual interest. The Alumni should not go back upon their record. It is said there are more than 400 of the graduates of Knox college settled in Canada. With such a constituency

it should be an easy matter to support one of their number in Honan. The man who now represents them is in every way worthy.

But Knox College herself is sadly in need of friends. We use the word 'friends' advisedly. She has supporters, she has men who direct her affairs, but she has few friends, and the circle seems to grow smaller. It is worth an effort to determine the cause, and when this has been searched out it should be removed. To conduct this search and to remove the hindering cause will be no child's play. It will be earnest work for strong men, men in the prime of manhood, who, not for the sake of sentiment only, but in the interests of a thoroughly equipped training school for preachers of the Word, are willing to make sacrifice and endure present reproach. But we are convinced that no change will result in the present unsatisfactory condition while "Knox College" is the rallying cry. The outlook must become broader than that which includes merely local distinctions. There must be a supreme effort for a thoroughly equipped Theological hall with well-endowed chairs in study, and a staff of instructors whose business it shall be to inspire and direct the independent study of those who enter that Hall. Such an institution would be worthy of our Presbyterian Church in Canada. Knox College would naturally be chosen as its home, but, while the loyalty of Knox Alumni may be an element in the successful struggle to reach it, we must look for a broader platform, than local esprit de corps. M.

WINNIPEG AND WEST.

The Rev. R. G. MacBeth, of Augustine Church, has been spending the holiday season at Oakville, Ontario, where Mrs. MacBeth is staying for the winter.

Rev. Professor Bryce, D.D., recently conducted anniversary services in Grassmere Presbyterian church; and when there met with a number of people who were present at the first religious services held in the village, twenty-four years ago, which he also conducted. On both sides the meeting was a pleasant one.

A very pretty wedding took place on December 21st in the Point Douglas Presbyterian church. The contracting parties were the Rev. Hugh Robt. Grant, Presbyterian minister of Pincher Creek, Alberta, and a recent graduate of Manitoba College, and Miss Mabel Langill, of Winnipeg. The ceremony was performed by Rev. D. Munro.

At the annual meeting of the Moose Jaw congregation the following were elected managers: Hugh Ferguson, A. M. Fenwick, W. C. Goudie, M. J. MacLeod and Thos. Miller. Messrs C. A. Gass and Ben. Fletcher were appointed auditors for 1899. Among other matters brought before the meeting was the resignation of the pastor, Rev. J. C. Cameron. After considerable discussion the resignation was regretfully accepted.

The Morning Telegram of the 19th inst. gives an interesting account of the first establishment of Knox Church, the mother Presbyterian Church of the city, on the foundation laid for it at Fort Garry by the early labors of the Rev. John Black, the apostle of the Red River. The site was obtained from the Hudson Bay Company for a small Presbyterian Church, and upon this site the first building was erected in 1869, being completed by the voluntary labors of the officers and men of the volunteer forces which came out in that year, and in 1871 Rev. (Dr.) George Bryce arrived and began his labors. In 1874 Rev. James Robertson (now Superintendent of Missions) was secured as the first regular pastor, and he filled the pulpit for seven years, during which period the congregation increased so as to make the erection of a new building necessary, which was accomplished in 1879. In 1882, Rev. D. M. Gordon (now Prof. Gordon, D.D., of Halifax), came from Ottawa, and during his ministry the present structure was commenced and completed at a cost of \$60,000. On Mr. Gordon's leaving for Halifax, the present pastor, Rev. Dr. Frederick B. Duval, accepted the charge, and has since labored with eminent success; to him belongs the honor of organizing and

managing the first Christian Endeavor Society ever formed in Manitoba. Preaching from St. Matt. x. 38, 39, on Sunday last, or the call which the Saviour makes to all to take up his cross and follow Him, Dr. Duval observed that in order to reunite society and establish peace, Jesus must needs command our allegiance before all fathers or chiefs, and that men stop and say "Is the object worth the expense?" "Ask the scholar, said the preacher, "whether the knowledge is worth the study, whether the realization is worth the toll that attained to it. Ask the patient now rejoicing in the increase of life, whether that life is worth the pain of the surgeon's blade. Ask a nation happy in its dignity and domain, whether it is worth the battles that saved it. Ask the human family whether its present heritage of light, liberty, protection, peace and prosperity are worth the sufferings that secured them. Then ask was the world's redemption worth the cross and all the martyrdom it symbolizes. Here you approach the reality of the trials are it once the test and the means of cultivating worth. "He that taketh not his cross and followeth after Me is not worthy of Me." The true worth never puts the question of cost. It asks "Is it true? Is it right? Is it good? Moral weaklings have no high ideals; no deep love of truth and right, no enthusiasm for the glory that is to follow the reconstruction of the world into the kingdom of righteousness. But men need to hunger and thirst after righteousness before they can be filled with its worth. All true Christians must have the stuff of a spirit that is ready to sacrifice life for a higher life. We are constantly sacrificing one kind of life for another. We put away infant life for that of the child, the child's for that of the youth's; the youth's for the man's. We must put away a prodigal life for the virtuous. We must put off "the old man" as Paul says—the corruptible human, to take on the "new," the renewed divine.

LONDON.

Rev. W. J. Clark, of the First Presbyterian Church, was surprised on Christmas Eve by receiving a handsome purse, which contained \$30 in gold—the gift of the ladies of the congregation—to be employed in purchasing books for his library. Later on in the evening, an elegant and serviceable library chair, upholstered in leather was left at his residence. This was the gift of the young men and women of the Society for Bible Study, conducted by Mr. Clark. At the Christmas morning service in this church (which was prettily decorated) Mr. Clark thanked the donors in very grateful and thankful words.

The services in Knox Church, South London, were in keeping with the joyous festival of Christmas, and were largely attended. The reading desk, platform and choir gallery were amply decorated with holly and ivy. Rev. J. G. Stuart, the pastor, conducted the services both morning and evening, and his sermons were founded on the birth of Christ and the redemption of the world. The musical programme was specially adapted for the occasion.

At St. Andrew's Church yesterday the services were of a joyous Christmas character. All the hymns were of an appropriate nature, and sung by the congregation with a spirit worthy of the day.

OTTAWA AND VICINITY.

At the annual meeting of the W.F.M.S. of Bethany Presbyterian Church, the election of officers resulted as follows: president, Mrs. R. Sparks; vice-president, Mrs. J. A. Macfarlane; Dougall and Mrs. (Rev.) Robt. Eadie; secretary, Miss Reid; treasurer, Miss McRae; committee, Mrs. Robert Scannell, Mrs. Cummings, Mrs. J. Nevill, Mrs. J. M. Fuller, Mrs. Geo. Hay delivered an interesting address on "The History of Women's Work for Women."

At the annual meeting of the W.F.M. Society of Knox Church, the attendance was large. Mrs. Alexander presided. The annual reports of committees showed the society to be in a good financial condition. During the year 14 new active members have been added and three life members. The officers for the ensuing year are: president, Mrs. Alexander; 1st vice-president, Mrs. McLaren; 2nd vice-president, Mrs. J. Robertson; secretary, Mrs. Jamieson.

Individual communion cups were used for the first time in New Edinburgh Presbyterian church at the last communion service. The innovation is a popular one. Mr. J. A. Macfarlane preached farewell sermons and will leave this week to lecture in connection with the Bible Institute he is promoting.