

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

The ministers are following their flock to some cool spot. Their place is being taken by those who are impervious to heat, and who do not mind if the seats are empty. This may be far from the real state of the case, but the stranger is not supposed to mind if the day is not and the audience inattentive, and the seats very much in evidence. They do, all the same, and deserve a little extra courtesy at the hands of the people who remain, rather than the scant courtesy they often get.

Dr. Milligan, on a recent Sabbath, preached on National Ideals. He is usually outspoken, and was refreshingly so at the morning service. Some things he said were not flattering to our national pride, and yet he is not blind and we would do well to lay to heart some of the hardest of the hard things we were made to hear.

A rumor has gained currency that Dr. Milligan has been called to the Barony Kirk, Glasgow. Next to St. Giles, Edinburgh, this is the leading congregation of the established church in Scotland. Dr. Marshall Lang preached his farewell sermon there only a few weeks ago. Dr. Norman McLeod preceded him as its minister. We are glad that a Canadian minister has been named, most favorably, for the position held by these distinguished men, but that is as far as it has gone as yet. Dr. Milligan has not yet been approached, and knows no more of it all than the man on the street who has heard the rumor. Were he to come, and were Dr. Milligan to accept it, he would fill the pulpit honorably, and maintain the high standard set by these great men. But we are not sure that he would go to the Barony Kirk. Were he to do so, it would be only because he was convinced that he was called to go there by a higher authority than that involved in the call of man.

The minister of St. Andrew's church has sailed for Scotland, and is about to step upon his native shores as we go to press. The minister of Bloor Street church is also upon the ocean, and will spend some six weeks in Scotland. Dr. Milligan sailed this week for his annual visit to his native land, and will be absent about two months. The Rev. John Neil has not yet returned from the Maritime Provinces, where he will spend some weeks after the close of the assembly. Rev. Alex. McGillivray, of Bonar church, has gone for a five weeks trip through Manitoba and British Columbia.

Among those who have gone out of the city are the battalion of the Boys' Brigade, which goes into camp at Cobourg; the boys of the Young Men's Christian Association, who have gone into camp at Rosebank; and private camping parties without number. The hot spell was a boom to those furnishing camping supplies, but the return to incipient winter will check the ardor of many of them.

An important meeting of the Senate and Board of Knox college was held on Tuesday afternoon to decide upon the appointment of an additional professor. The new professor will occupy the chair of Apologetics, which has been held by Professor Ballantyne, who will now confine himself to the Church History Chair.

The college residence has been closed this summer, and several of those who usually came into it during the summer months, have been disappointed in finding that they could not enter.

The important charges that are vacant in the city are almost necessarily at a standstill at present. There are few of the members in the city, and these would scarcely care to make any choice in the absence of their fellow-members. It will be well into September before the churches fill again, and little will be done till that time. There are six vacancies at present in the Presbytery, and two other pastors have placed their resignation before the Presbytery. The amount of change that a single year brings is enough to make the conservative member shudder for the future of so unsettled a church.

The several vacancies of the Presbytery are taking matters quietly at present. St. James Square is not likely to do anything for a time. With two such preachers as Prof. Ballantyne and Principal Caven within call they can afford to remain at ease, and look about them. Cooke's church is making no sign, and does not seem to have any man in sight as yet. Knox church is again on the look-out, Dr. Johnston having asked his Presbytery not to go on with call. Mount Albert and Ballantyne and Markham and Zion church have not got rightly into the running yet. Queensville and Ravenshoe, and Sutton and Pe-

ferlaw ought to have called last spring, but have each had student supply this summer. They will likely call in the autumn. St. Andrew's and St. Paul's, Vaughan, have not yet decided upon a man. Fisherville and Fairbank, as indicated already, are about to call Mr. Bennett. Port Credit and Dixie are prepared to call Mr. Maxwell if he will accept their invitation.

The congregations of Fairbank and Fisherville have decided to call Rev. J. W. C. Bennett, and will present their call at the September meeting. Rev. Norman McKay has done excellent work there, and has got both congregations into good shape. Mr. Bennett is the son of the former minister of Almonte.

Few of our Toronto pulpits are filled with the regular ministers these days. The pews are woefully empty too, and the stranger who takes the pastor's place for the day must find his inspiration in an occasional face rising from the wilderness of red plush seats. Some find inspiration, some don't. On the whole when the pastor contents himself with one of our own Canadian preachers we hear a good sermon, quite as good as the average during the winter months.

The venerable Dr. Paton, the Apostle of the New Hebrides, has again visited Toronto, and his address is as full of inspiration as ever. He spoke in Westminster Church in the morning, Cowan Avenue in the afternoon, and in Cooke's Church in the evening. He has engagements for every evening but Saturday of this week, and speaks elsewhere next Sabbath. One marvels at the vigor of a man who has surely earned his right to spend the remainder of his days in resting from labor.

Maritime Provinces.

Rev. Dr. Bruce has tendered his resignation of Tabusintac, N.B.

Rev. R. MacKay was inducted at Sherbrooke, N.S., on the 17th inst.

James Church, New Glasgow, has adopted the "individual" communion cups.

Rev. M. Buchanan was ordained as minister of Louisbourg, C.B., on the 17th inst.

Rev. A. Robertson of St. John's, N.F., is going on a three month's visit to Scotland.

An auxiliary of the W.F.M.S. has been formed in St. Andrew's Church, Chatham, N.B.

Rev. Geo. Robertson, of Hampton, P.E.I., preached to the Orangemen last Sabbath.

Rev. Laughlin Beaton will be inducted into the charge of Cape North as soon as practicable.

Rev. John McLeod of Vankleek Hill, Ont., is spending a month at his native place, Belfast, P.E.I.

The collection for Home Missions at St. Paul's Church, Fredericton, on a recent Sabbath, was \$82.26.

The new congregation at Whitney Pier, Sydney, has adopted the name of "St. James' Church."

A church hall is in the course of erection at Belle Isle, N.F., through the energetic efforts of Rev. J. A. Greenless.

St. Andrew's Church, Halifax, has been re-carpeted and re-seated. It was re-opened recently by Dr. Lyle, of Hamilton.

Rev. M. A. McKenzie, who has been laboring at Middle River, C.B., for the past three years, was inducted as pastor on July 3rd.

Rev. Dr. Macrae, lately principal of Morrin College, has taken up his residence in St. John, much to the satisfaction of his old friends.

On the eve of her departure for St. John, Miss Ina McMillan was presented by the Y.P.S.C.E. of Zion Church, Charlottetown, with a beautiful piece of silver.

The Presbytery of St. John has deposed Rev. J. S. Mullin for disobedience to the Presbytery's suspension. He now ministers to a schismatic congregation in his former parish.

The Summerside P.E.I. congregation has adopted individual communion cups. If we can't keep out hypocrites, let us at least "fence the tables" against those dreadful microbes.

Dr. Morton, of Trinidad, was tendered a reception by the men of the Presbyterian churches in Truro, on the 25th ult. Only men were present, and the commercial interests of the two countries were discussed.

Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Sproule, of Pictou Landing, N.S., celebrated the 65th anniversary of their wedding on the 7th inst. Of the guests present at their wedding only one is now living. Their ages are 88 and 86 respectively.

The volume of Assembly Minutes is now ready and a copy will, without delay, be mailed to every minister in charge. Copies for members of sessions, etc., will as usual, be forwarded by express addressed to the clerks of the several presbyteries.

Ottawa and Vicinity.

Rev. Dr. Jordan, of Queen's, will be the preacher in St. Andrew's next Sabbath at both services.

Rev. J. W. Milne, B.A., of the Glebe church, has returned from a brief outing in Western Ontario. He will occupy his own pulpit next Sabbath.

Rev. J. A. McFarlane, M.A., who with his family are summering at Campbell's Bay, Que., took the services at St. Andrew's church last Sabbath for the pastor.

Rev. N. A. MacLeod, B.D., and family, of New Edinburgh, have been spending a few days with old friends on the St. Lawrence, at Wales, and neighborhood. Many were delighted to hear his familiar voice in St. Mark's again.

The minister of Knox church is seeking a change, and the pulpit is being well supplied in Mr. Ramsay's absence. Next Sabbath Rev. D. R. Drummond, B.D., St. Thomas; for the following two weeks Rev. Andrew S. Ross, M.A., Merivale; and Rev. John McNichol, B.A., Aylmer, for 19th August.

Rev. Dr. Armstrong has not yet taken his holidays. Oversight of the Ladies' College absorbs some extra time just now, but the promising position of this increasingly popular educational institution abundantly justifies the labor spent on it. A little later on the minister of St. Paul's will probably seek a change from the pressing demands of church and college work.

The complaint has been made that too few of the elders in attendance at General Assembly are named on the various committees. It is possible the elders themselves are to blame for this state of affairs. At any rate, Mr. John R. Reid, who was a commissioner to the Halifax Assembly, can not complain that he was overlooked. He was placed on four or five important committees, and was asked to assist at the Assembly communion service.

Western Ontario.

The Presbytery of Stratford has decided to make Granton a separate charge from Lucan and Fraser.

Knox church, Woodstock, was struck by lightning on Sunday, knocking shingles from the roof and splintering the woodwork.

The call of Knox church, Toronto, to the Rev. Dr. Johnston, of London, has been set aside by London Presbytery at the request of Dr. Johnston.

The ceremony of laying the corner stone of the new Presbyterian Church, Tiverton, was a pleasant as well as a very successful event. Many leading people from neighboring places were present. The corner stone was laid by Mr. Henry Cargill with a silver trowel, presented to him by Mrs. McLennan, wife of the pastor of the congregation. A number of addresses followed; thereafter a collection was taken up, amounting to \$300. This was augmented by a further sum of \$200, the proceeds of a banquet in the evening. It is expected that about \$8,000 additional will be required to complete the edifice, which is to be modern in every respect.

Rev. John Pringle, the energetic and able Presbyterian missionary to the Atlin gold field in the Yukon, had an exceedingly busy day yesterday, says the London Advertiser, of the 16th inst. In the morning at 9.45 he addressed St. Andrew's church Sabbath school; at 11 a. m. he officiated at Knox church, South London; at 2.30 p. m. he visited Ilderton, and in the evening returned to the city and occupied the pulpit of the First Presbyterian church. He told in simple language the story of his two years' work in the mining camps of British Columbia, and his quiet and interesting recital of incidents in connection therewith was thoroughly appreciated by the large congregations which greeted him at each place. His unaffected style, his earnestness and his heroic efforts to spread the gospel in that far-off country, in the face of untold hardships, stamped him as an ideal missionary, whose success in his chosen line of duty cannot fail in producing the best results. He will be heartily welcome whenever he can make it convenient to revisit London.

It is rumored that Sir George White, the defender of Ladysmith, will succeed Lord Seymour as commander of the forces in Canada.

At the recent meeting of Hamilton Presbytery the claim of Mrs. Webber against the Waterford congregation, which has been up for discussions at the last two General Assemblies, was referred to a committee consisting of Revs. Drs. Laing and Fletcher, A. I. Mackenzie and Geo. Rutherford.