

Ministers and Churches.

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

Dr. Milligan has chosen "The Book of Job" for his Sabbath evening series this winter. It is an old problem, this one of human suffering and its moral cause and effect. A young man makes a brilliant failure, as a rule, when he undertakes to interpret this earliest Biblical treatment of the problem. But the mature man, especially the man whose mind has been well disciplined will find in this earliest of the Biblical books a rare storehouse out of which food in abundance may be brought for the people to whom he is permitted to speak. We shall expect to find an ever-increasing audience in Old St. Andrews on Sabbath evenings.

This is evidently a year of surpluses. Queen St. East held its annual meeting on the 10th inst. and announces a surplus of \$10.40, not large, but satisfactory. The roll of membership remains nearly the same, the additions being 34, but the drain by removal and death being very heavy. The church is financially sound, having assets of \$20,000 and mortgage liabilities of \$4,300. The Sabbath School has 323 on its roll, and reports a balance on hand of \$90.88. All other departments are in good shape and the year is said to be the most satisfactory in the history of the congregation.

Cooke's Church has the largest membership of any single congregation in Canada. 178 were added during the year, 70 removed, and the total membership now is 1477. The average yearly contribution per member is a little over \$5, amounting to \$7600 in all. The balance on hand this year is \$72. An effort is being made to pay off a floating debt of \$9000, and all has been subscribed except \$839. The mortgage liability is \$39,000. A unique feature of the annual report was the department of the Chinese Class, with a membership of 62.

Bloor St congregation reports a surplus of \$250 this year. The mortgage indebtedness has been reduced by \$1500 in 1899, but still stands at the rather high figure of \$43,000. This congregation is aiming at \$25,000 for the Century Fund, and will certainly not fall below this mark. A striking feature of the report is a contribution of \$300 from the minister to the revenue of the Church. The congregation increased the minister's stipend by \$500 in January 1899, and he promptly handed back the amount. Beyond a doubt the congregation will recognize the generous act by an increase of at least that amount in this year's stipend.

Morningside, too, with its handful of members, has cleared off its entire mortgage indebtedness during the year, and comes out with a balance of "four cents." Few congregations run upon so close a margin, but then Morningside is almost in a class by itself. We do not think another Church in, or about Toronto, is entirely free of debt.

The Presbyterian Minister's Association resumed its meetings on Monday morning last. Unfortunately, the Rev. Geo. R. Fasken, of St. Paul, who was to present a paper upon "The limitations of legitimate liberty," had contracted a severe cold, and was unable to speak. A deputation from a Committee of the Anglican Church Synod, presented a proposition looking to the affiliation of the Voluntary and the Public School System in Canada. The matter will be more fully discussed at the next regular meeting.

Domestic Science is the euphonious term under which some are proposing to discuss the training of servant girls and prospective wives and mothers, in matters of house-keeping. An enthusiastic devotee of this new science proposes even to establish a College in Toronto, in which maidens shall be properly trained. Diplomas are to be granted, but the degree of D.S. is pre-empted. Long ago the subject embraced in the curriculum of the proposed College came under the term of "home training," but the home-maker of to-day has no time, it would seem, to train her daughters. Indeed in their prospects the promoters of the College of Domestic Science hint very broadly that the present day mother is her-

self sadly in need of training. It is significant that most of those taking part in this discussion are men. Has the worn turned, or is this another instance of rank oppression?

Central Presbyterian Church reports a deficit of \$146 but accounts for it by an increased expenditure and a former deficit. In reality the receipts are \$347 greater than for the last year. The special feature of this congregation is its splendid annual contribution to missions. Honors are equally divided between Central and St. John's in this respect. Dr. McTavish has been obliged to take a brief rest, and is now at Clifton Springs. He has 641 members under his care in the Central.

Erskine reports gains and losses. It has gained immensely in securing Rev. James Murray as pastor, and reports also that its former organist, Mr. Hewitt, a minister's right-hand man, has returned. Two prominent workers have been transferred to other fields—Mr. Jno. A. Paterson for many years the Sabbath School Superintendent, and Mr. Thos. Yellowlees, who has had charge of the William St. Mission, and who has recently been appointed Associate-Secretary of the Ontario Sabbath School Association. Here there is an absence of either debit or credit balance, but the finances of the congregation are most encouraging. Mr. Murray has 603 members to care for and 1273 persons under pastoral oversight.

WESTERN ONTARIO.

The resignation of Rev. J. G. Shearer has been accepted by the Hamilton Presbytery.

On Jan. 3rd Rev. W. R. MacIntosh was inducted into the pastorate of Knox Church, Elora.

Rev. Dr. Wardrop has returned to Guelph after spending several months in Ottawa and Montreal.

Rev. R. E. Knowles, of Knox Church, Galt, lectured at Preston Jan. 15, on "The Sunny South".

Rev. A. J. McGillivray, of London, preached special sermons in the Ridgeway Presbyterian Church, last Sunday.

Knox Church, Galt, held its annual meeting on the evening of Jan. 13. The reports in all departments were most satisfactory.

On Friday, January 19, Rev. Dr. Grant will lecture on "South Africa, the Arden, and the Boer," in the Presbyterian lecture room, Orillia.

Before Rev. W. R. MacIntosh left Allandale for his charge at Elora, his congregation presented him with an address and a paper containing \$61.

A call to Rev. P. F. Sinclair, of Toronto, from the congregations of Bridgeburg and Fort Erie was sustained at the last meeting of Hamilton Presbytery.

Rev. J. H. McVicar, of Fergus, is to preach at the First Presbyterian Church, Eramosa, next Sunday, and the following week special meetings will be held every night.

At the last meeting of Hamilton Presbytery a call from the congregation of Strabane and Killbuck to Rev. P. J. McLaren of Bellwood, was sustained and ordered to be forwarded.

The pulpit of Guthrie Church, Harrison, will next Sabbath be occupied by Rev. Neil McKinnon, of Glenallan. Rev. T. D. Cullough will preach anniversary sermons in Glenallan.

On Jan. 15 a patriotic concert was given in Knox Church, Guelph, under the auspices of the young people. The basement was decorated with flags and the whole programme was of a patriotic nature.

The Christian Endeavor Union of Stratford held its quarterly rally in St. Andrew's Church Jan. 15. The speaker of the evening was Miss Jessie Duncan, who gave an address on Missions in India.

Rev. J. A. Clarke, of the Cowan-street Presbyterian Church Toronto, preached in the Presbyterian Church, Orillia, on Sunday. Rev. Dr. Grant was preaching anniversary sermons in Mr. Clarke's church.

Rev. S. H. Eastman, of Meaford, conducted anniversary services in Cookstown Presbyterian Church recently. The free-will offering amounted to \$14. The congregation has recently purchased a new pipe organ.

Knox, McNab St. and Wentworth Churches, Hamilton, all held their annual meetings on Jan. 17th. The reports presented showed that all were in a satisfactory condition. McNab St. aims at raising \$6,000 for the Century Fund.

Special services were held last Sabbath evening at the King Street Presbyterian Church, London, in memory of the late Mrs. Wilson, wife of the pastor, Rev. Thos. Wilson. Rev. R. McIntyre, an old friend of the family, occupied the pulpit.

Rev. W. Beattie, of Palmerston, President of Knox College Home Missionary Society, occupied the pulpit of Guthrie Church, Harrison, last Sunday evening, and gave an interesting account of his work at the mining camps in British Columbia, and also presented the claims of the Society on the Church for support.

The ordination and induction of the new elders of Knox Church, Galt, took place last Sunday morning. Messrs. John Gillespie, Andrew Elliott, Donald McLehlan, Jno. McEwan, Jno. Sloan, Geo. McCallum, Dr. Moyer, Dr. Cameron and Jno. Lees being installed into the sacred office. Rev. R. E. Knowles acted as moderator.

The annual meeting of the Presbyterian Church, Eden Mills, was held on Jan. 15. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Treasurer, Wm. Argo; Secretary, G. M. Anderson; Auditor, T. Scott; Collectors, J. Hawkins, F. Auld; Ushers, Cranston Scott, J. Ramsay; Organist, Miss A. Ingle; Leader of Song, G. M. Anderson.

EASTERN ONTARIO.

On Jan. 21 Rev. D. M. Ramsay, Knox Church, Ottawa, will preach a special sermon to children.

On Jan. 7 the pulpit of St. John's Church, Almonte, was occupied by Mr. J. A. James, a student of Knox College.

The anniversary services in connection with the Ashton Presbyterian Church were held last Sunday. Rev. A. E. Mitchell, of Almonte, preached.

The pulpit of Cooke's Church, Kingston, was filled last Sabbath by Mr. M. A. Mackinnon, a student of Queen's University.

The ladies of St. John's Church, Brockville, are preparing for the celebration of Burns anniversary on Jan. 25. A very interesting programme is being prepared.

A meeting of St. Andrew's congregation, Lancaster, was held on Jan. 16 in the Second Concession Church for the purpose of considering a call to a clergyman.

Rev. Robert Laird, of the First Presbyterian Church, Brockville, preached in the Baptist Church last Sabbath morning, while Rev. D. Strachan, of St. John's Church, preached in Wall Street Methodist Church.

At the communion held last Sabbath in Stewarton Presbyterian Church, Ottawa, twelve new members were received into the Church. At the evening service Rev. Joseph Potts, of the Upper Canada Tract society, gave an address on the work of the society's missionaries among lumbermen and sailors.

The fifth anniversary of the induction of Rev. J. McKelloch into the pastoral charge of Morewood congregation was held at the manse on Dec. 4th last. The whole affair came as quite a surprise to the pastor who knew nothing of it, till the arrival of his members at the manse freighted with good cheers. A pleasant social evening was spent and a sumptuous supper enjoyed after which an address appreciative of his work was presented to Mr. McKelloch.

At the annual meeting held in Morewood Church on Jan. 10th the reports showed the congregational affairs to be in a most flourishing condition. That of the treasurer is particularly worthy of note, there being a substantial balance to the credit of the congregation. The givings to schemes were also larger than in former years. Great encouragement is felt on all sides and much credit is to be given the able administration of Rev. J. McKelloch the pastor.

The annual meeting of The Union Cornwall Auxiliary of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was held in St. John's church on Friday, Jan. 12. There was quite an increase in the contributions, notwithstanding the falling off of members. The amount for the year was \$291.98. The following officers were elected for 1900: Pres., Mrs. Hastie; 1st vice., Mrs. W. B. MacLennan; 2nd vice., Mrs. Bennie; treas., Mrs. Aleck McKrackin; sec., Mrs. D. B. MacLennan.

The annual congregational meeting of the Avonmore Presbyterian Church was held on Jan. 10. The reports show that the church work is in a very satisfactory condition. The following are the officers for the ensuing year: Board of management, D. Coventry, Ira Shaver, Wm. Alguire, Thos. Henry, Donald McKinnon, W. J. McCart and John Grant; treasurer, W. A. Campbell; secretary, Duncan McDermid; financial secretary, Silas E. Shaver; auditors, J. H. Wert and D. Campbell; ushers, Ira Shaver and John McIntyre; superintendent of Sunday School, J. A. Wert; assistant superintendent, W. J. McCart.