

Ministers and Churches.

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

Stebbins, the well known singer, hymn writer, and evangelist, was the guest of the Rev. Wm. Patterson of Cooke's Church, on Sabbath last, and sang at both services of that congregation. No more got into the church than usual, but they got there earlier, and more tried to get in. Long before seven o'clock the great auditorium was full to the door. Mr. Stebbins sings the gospel as well as Mr. Patterson preaches it, and the crowds that came to hear both men, or either of them, are an indication of the heart-hunger there is for the old gospel, told in simple words.

St. Andrew's Society turned out in force to hear the annual sermon last Sabbath evening. Rev. Dr. Milligan was the preacher, and the members and others filled Old St. Andrew's Church to overflowing, and they heard a good sermon, direct and forcible. The text chosen was Luke 9: 37-41. Dr. Milligan was particularly effective in his treatment of the general subject of charity, not in its narrow and false sense of giving to the poor, but in its broader sense of helpfulness to all whom it is given us to help. It is refreshing to be taken out of the ordinary rut in discussing the question of charity. The word is becoming hateful, as hateful to those who give as it has long been to those who receive. Dr. Milligan, and others will do good service if they can lift this grand word into its rightful place again.

It was the intention of the Parkdale congregation to have the settlement of their new minister and the opening of their new Sabbath-School room coincident. But the church courts were more speedy than the contractors, and the new building is not yet quite completed, though it has been used for two Sabbaths. It is one of the best schoolrooms in the city. Besides an ample floor space, an excellent gallery runs round three sides of the building, and gallery and main floor together will seat 1,700 persons. Pillars rise from basement to ceiling at the outer edge of this gallery, furnishing a means to close off the various classes during the teaching hour. Below an ample basement provides room for tables, and as this is well lighted and ventilated, the social teas will be held here. A large kitchen indicates that the ladies of the congregation mean to make use of this auxiliary in the work. The board room, the ladies' parlor and the minister's study are each models of their kind, the ladies' parlor being an exceptionally bright, cheery room. Mr. Guggie has excellent material in all this for carrying on work, and he is likely to make good use of it.

Special services are being held in several of the churches in the city. Last week there were three days of such services in the Central Church, at which neighboring ministers assisted. This week a four days' service will be held in Erskine Church, and others are being quietly arranged. The purpose of these meetings seem to be the deepening of the spiritual life of the believers, especially of those who have been most active in Christian work. They are but preparatory to other aggressive work, into which, it is expected, they shall be led in the near future.

In some of the churches special offerings are being taken for the assistance of the poor. As a rule there is a generous response to the appeal for money and clothing. With the approach of the Christmas time the desire to make the day happy for some who have been unfortunate stimulates generosity, and provides ample means for a liberal distribution. It is questionable whether this liberality is not often abused. We heard of one hustler, who entered a saloon to refresh himself, after a visit to one of the benevolent Societies, and meeting a cronie there, he lifted the cover of his basket, and showed a generously proportioned turkey, with the remark, "and this is my fourth this year!" There is need for some check upon too careless giving, lest self respect be destroyed.

Knox College announces the annual "At Home" for the 14th of the month, just before the Christmas holidays. These annual functions are eagerly anticipated by the friends of the College, and furnish an admirable opportunity to the outside public to judge of the spirit that pervades the institution. We trust that the occasion may be most successful this year, and that it may in this way give the lie to the report, very generally circulated, that there is no College spirit in Knox this year. Let the students turn in as one man, and show those who will come to see if this be true, that Knox College runs deep, if the surface be quiet.

Last Sabbath evening the brief course of Sabbath lectures on Judas Iscariot, that the Rev. L. H. Jordan has been delivering to the young men of St. James' Square, came to a close. One would hope that these lectures may appear in more permanent form. They have been in Mr. Jordan's best vein, thoughtful, scholarly, and most suggestive. In every step

of the course followed there was evidence of the most careful examination on the part of the one who was conducting us in our study, and the impression left upon the mind has been most salutary. We have not been led to abhor Judas as an abnormal monster, created for the purpose of becoming his Lord's betrayer. We have, instead, been led to see in ourselves, a possible Judas, and have shuddered as we caught a glimpse of the awful possibility for that evil that lay within us.

There has been no attempt to shirk the difficulties attending the study of this man. They have been frankly stated, and, for most of the difficulties, a satisfactory answer has been suggested. At times one shrank from the bold positions taken, at times one felt that the basis for the opinion presented was too entirely intellectual, and yet one could not but accept it as the most rational of the explanations suggested.

"Was Judas lost?" Mr. Jordan wisely answered, "I do not know." In spite of the word, "that he might go unto his own place," Mr. Jordan answered, "I do not know." Surely that is right. Surely it is not for us to pronounce judgment. We have our opinion. It was quite evident that the lecturer also had his own opinion, but it was but an opinion, and he refrained from giving it more than its rightful place. But he told us, instead, of that Saviour who was ready to receive even the traitor. And we came away, not with the image of the self-degraded traitor before us, but thinking of that marvellous love which even his treachery could not quench.

Rev. Dr. Milligan gave a lecture in South Side Presbyterian Church on Nov. 23 on the origin of the trouble in South Africa.

Rev. Louis H. Jordan, B.D., is to give a lecture before the Woman's Art Association on "Art in Japan" on Nov. 30.

The anniversary services at Queen Street East Presbyterian Church were held last Sabbath. Rev. Prof. Ballantyne preached in the morning and Rev. Robert Atkinson in the evening.

St. John's Presbyterian congregation celebrated their twelfth anniversary last Sunday, and set apart the day for a contribution towards the Century Fund. \$175 was collected at the morning service. Rev. Dr. Bruce preached at 11 a.m., and Rev. J. A. Macdonald at 7 p.m.

WESTERN ONTARIO.

Rev. J. P. McQuarrie, of Nelson, has accepted a call to South Tilbury.

Rev. N. M. Bethune, of Aylmer, preached in Norwich, on Nov. 26.

The Annual meeting of the Barrie W.F.M.S. was held on Nov. 15 and 16.

The Ayr Presbyterians have extended a call to Rev. Thos. Nixon of Smith's Falls.

Rev. Jas. Buchanan, North Pelham, has accepted a call to the Presbyterian Church of Dundalk.

On Dec. 8 Rev. F. Smith, of Bradford, will exchange with Rev. James Kollins, of Elmvale.

The Hon. Rev. Dr. Johnson of Jamaica occupied the pulpit of Knox Church, Galt, last Sabbath.

Rev. J. Skene, of Hillsdale, occupied the pulpit of Central Church, Mitchell Square, on Nov. 19.

On Sunday morning Rev. A. Grant, of Knox Church, St. Mary's, preached to the Sons of Scotland.

Rev. Mr. McGillivray, of Newmarket, and Rev. F. Smith of Bradford, exchanged pulpits on Nov. 19.

A unanimous call has been extended by the Presbyterians of Hespeler to Rev. R. Pogue, of Stayner.

The people of the First Presbyterian Church, London, intend to give \$8,000 to the Century Fund.

Rev. Neil McPherson, of St. Paul's Church, Hamilton, preached in the Presbyterian Church at Sarnia Nov. 19.

At the last meeting of Maitland Presbytery, held at Wingham, the resignation of Rev. D. Forrest, of Walton, was accepted.

Knox Church, Guelph, is contemplating putting in a new pipe organ. The young people are to have charge of the undertaking.

Rev. Dr. Johnston, of Jamaica, lectured in St. John's Church, Hamilton, on Nov. 20, on "The Transvaal and its People."

Last Sunday evening Rev. Dr. Warden gave a

strong address on the Century Fund to the people of St. Paul's Church, Hamilton.

The congregations of White Church and Langside have extended a call to Rev. John Burnett, of Keady. The call has been sustained.

Rev. Robert Johnston of St. Andrew's Church, London, preached in the First Methodist Church of that city last Sunday evening.

On Nov. 21 Mr. Jas. L. Hughes, Toronto, gave a most interesting lecture, entitled, "The Smith Children," in Knox Church, Galt.

On Nov. 27 Rev. Alex. McMillan, of Toronto, lectured on "Hero Martyrs of the Scottish Reformation," in Knox Church, Hamilton.

The annual sermon of the St. Andrew's Society, Guelph, was preached last Sunday evening in Knox Church by Rev. R. W. Ross, M.A.

On Nov. 26 the pulpit of Balfour Street Church was occupied in the morning by Rev. Dr. Nichol, and in the evening by Rev. W. A. J. Martin.

Rev. Alexander Mackay, D.D., of Toronto, conducted services last Sunday in St. Andrew's and St. Paul's churches, Vaughan, the pastor being absent.

Rev. A. J. Jensen, of Durham, gave a lecture on "A Trip to Holland and the Hollanders" in the Presbyterian Church, Ryckman's Corners, on Nov. 16.

Mr. Daniels, of Knox College, Toronto, delivered an address on "Mission Work in Modern Persia" in the Presbyterian Church, Princeton, last Sabbath.

The thank offering meeting of the Victoria Mission Band of First Presbyterian church, London, was held last Friday afternoon. The offering was \$14.

Rev. A. Mahaffy, of Milton, conducted the services at Erskine Church, Hamilton, on Nov. 19, as Rev. J. G. Shearer was preaching anniversary sermons in Milton.

A unique entertainment was given on Nov. 27 by the young men of Central Church, Galt. It was called a "Missionary entertainment by men," and the ladies were in the audience only.

At a meeting of the London Presbyterians held in St. Andrew's Church, it was decided that all the Presbyterians of the city should give as one church to the Century Fund. They aim at giving \$35,000.

On Nov. 28 a "National Tea" was given by the ladies of Knox Church, Hamilton. Tables were set, representing Canada, England, Holland, and Ireland, and a very enjoyable programme was given after the guests had partaken of tea.

Rev. J. S. Scott, the new pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Brantford, made his first appearance before a Brantford audience (outside of his own congregation) on the evening of Nov. 20, when he delivered a lecture in Zion Church on "The Land of our Lord."

The Rev. S. O. and Mrs. Nixon, of Cheltenham, were taken by complete surprise on Nov. 21, when about one hundred friends and Sabbath school children took possession of the manse, the occasion being the presentation of an address and two beautiful presents by the Sabbath school to Mrs. Nixon as an expression of their appreciation of her kindness and labor in training them for their annual S. S. entertainment. When several hours had been spent pleasantly and profitably in speeches, recitations, music and games, all returned home feeling happier because they had been the means of making others happier.

WINNIPEG AND THE WEST.

Professor Kilpatrick, of Manitoba College, preached in Westminster Church, Winnipeg, Nov. 19.

On Nov. 19 Rev. Dr. Campbell preached in Augustine Church, Winnipeg, at the morning service, and in the evening at St. Andrew's.

Rev. M. C. Rumball, of Morden, conducted services in Knox Church, Winnipeg, on Nov. 19. Rev. Dr. DuVal having gone to Morden to take charge of anniversary services there.

Rev. S. C. Murray, of Port Arthur, gave a lecture illustrated by lime light views in Knox Church, Portage La Prairie, on November 17. On the following Sunday Mr. Murray occupied the pulpit at the morning service.

At the last regular meeting of the Winnipeg Presbytery a call was extended from the Presbyterian congregation at Emerson to Rev. D. H. Jacobs, who has been in charge of that congregation for some time. Mr. Jacobs accepted the call and will be inducted Dec. 14.