

Ministers and Churches.

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

Easter means more to many of our Presbyterian congregations than it did some years ago. At least, if one is to judge from outward indication, this is true. Special services are prepared, in which the choir comes out resplendent, special sermons are delivered in which there is often the evidence of an effort to meet the occasion, and special decorations are provided for pulpit and platform and choir loft.

All this is very embarrassing to the minister at times. He may be a vigorous declaimer, and then there is imminent danger of something getting broken during the service. He may be small of stature and it is difficult to find him among the wilderness piled around him. But he may be an impatient man, and if so his patience will be sorely tried while he waits for the close of the anthem and other musical appendages that are considered a necessary part of an Easter service.

St. Andrew's always observes the communion on Easter Sabbath. The preparatory service is held on Good Friday and thus there is a very proper observance of the two days. If there is to be any special service upon the day that specially commemorates the rising from the dead of the Lord Jesus Christ, it seems eminently fitting that the communion should be that special service. There is no pandering to Ritualism in the custom of St. Andrew's, but a desire to fittingly mark the day that is, by common consent fixed upon as presenting the greatest of all the miracles.

There will be many of those to whom he has ministered, who will come to him for sympathy and counsel. He told us that there were still 120 of those whose names were on the roll twenty years ago that were there still. And there were almost 2000 who had been added during his ministry. With such a man as Dr. Parsons these will not readily part. Though he may not be their minister in one sense, in the higher sense he certainly will be and they will claim his care.

As one listened to the strong full voice, and followed the quick, virile thought, one could not help asking, "Why should this man lay aside the active pastorate?" But he told us later why he had taken the step. The peculiar need of the congregation made demands that he felt himself unable to meet, and he stepped aside that a man in the prime of his strength might be chosen. Meantime he remains with the congregation, not in the active pastorate, but ready to do what in him lies to promote the best interests of the cause in that portion of the city.

There was a touch of sadness in the services in Knox Church, for at the services last Sabbath Dr. Parsons laid aside the active pastorate, which he has held for the last twenty years. Many came from all quarters of the city to hear his last message as minister of Knox Church. And they were well repaid. Dr. Parsons chose for his text Hebrews xiii: 20, 21, and for half an hour held the closest attention of the people as he unfolded the riches of that wonderful passage.

Meantime the future of Knox congregation is uncertain. It has surely become evident that there is a field for the energy of many workers to expand itself upon in the section of the city where the church is now situated. That there is another congregation closely attached to Knox church was made very evident on Sabbath morning last. And should the new church be centrally situated these will undoubtedly come in again, and unite in making the new Knox a counterpart of the old in the position it shall hold in the Presbyterianism of the city. But provision should be made for the carrying on of the work in the most efficient form, near the present site of Knox. In this view we believe all will acquiesce.

Special services are being carried on this week in Association Hall by Dr. Harry Gratton Guinness.

Dr. Guinness' name is not so familiar here as it has become in other parts where his work has been carried forward with much success. His visit here will leave a deep impression, if one may judge from the opening meetings. His appeal is for a strong spiritual life, a life that draws its strength from conscious dependence upon God, and from conscious desire to know his will and to do it. Naturally his appeal is quite as much, if not more, to the professing Christian as it is to the one who has not yet come to know Christ.

Rev. Mr. McClements will come back from New Jersey to preach the anniversary sermon in Chalmers Presbyterian Church next Sunday morning and evening. Rev. Dr. Milligan will preach in the afternoon.

About twenty Ontario delegates leave to-day for New York to attend the Ecumenical Council meeting. The council will be in session about ten days, and will deal with matters of interest to Presbyterians all over the world.

EASTERN ONTARIO.

Rev. Dr. Cambell will present the claims of the Century Fund to Belleville Presbyterians on Sunday next.

Rev. R. J. Craig preached a thoughtful Eastern sermon in Chalmers church, Kingston, on Sunday morning.

Rev. E. W. McKay of Madoc and Rev. T. J. Thompson of John St. Church Belleville exchanged pulpits on a recent Sunday.

Rev. W. B. Findlay, of Claremont, preached in the Brooklyn church last Sunday afternoon. His sermon was very much appreciated.

Lanark and Renfrew is the only Presbytery church in connection with the Presbyterian Church in Canada which has a manse for every pastor within its bounds.

The Rev. Dr. J. K. Smith has returned to his home in Toronto after having supplied old St. Andrew's congregation in the Town hall, Lanark with much acceptance during the past five weeks.

Owing to illness Rev. Alexander Laird was unable to occupy the pulpit in Cooke's church, Kingston on Sunday last. Prof. Glover preached in the morning and Rev. Prof. Jordan in the evening.

Mr. F. A. Robinson, secretary of the Carleton Place, Y.M.C.A., preached in St. John's Church, Almonte, last Sunday morning and Rev. J. R. Conn, M. A., of Blakeney, occupied the pulpit at night.

At the recent closing exercises of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, the degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on the Rev. W. A. McKenzie, B.D., of New York, formerly pastor of the First Presbyterian church, Brockville.

In one day lately a few people belonging to Calvin Presbyterian church, Pembroke, paid off the whole debt on their church, amounting to \$1,100. Three members gave a check for \$1,000 each. The church is valued at \$25,000, and the manse \$5,000, and both are free from debt. It has been a "growing time" with Dr. Eayne and his congregation.

The death was recently announced of Mrs. McDonald, of Gananoque, widow of the late Hon. John McDonald, at the age of 93 years. In the course of his remarks at the funeral Rev. Henry Gracey stated that Mrs. McDonald was one of those who first organized a Presbyterian congregation in Gananoque, 65 years ago; and that in all that time she had been an active, sympathetic helpful member. Only two others—Mrs. Thos. Dempster and Mrs. John Haig—are now left of the original congregation.

A man may be an eternal failure, although his footsteps glitter with gold and his words sparkle with knowledge. That is the most successful in the Divine kingdom who sets in motion the greatest amount of spiritual power for the glory of God, whatever may be the opinions on rewards of fallen mortals.—John Reid.

WESTERN ONTARIO.

Rev. Prof. Ballantyne of Knox College preached in the Avondale Church, Tilsonburg, last Sunday.

Rev. S. G. Livingstone of Sarnia preached at both services Sunday in the King Street Church, London.

Sunday last was the 6th anniversary of Rev. Dr. Johnson's pastorate of St. Andrew's Church, London.

Rev. A. MacWilliams of Wentworth Church, Hamilton, filled the pulpit in Erskine Church, Toronto, on Sunday.

The Ladies Aid of the Mt. Pleasant church gave a parlor social at the residence of Mr. Passmore, Mt. Pleasant Road, on Good Friday night.

The Ancaster Presbyterian congregation are trying to raise \$300 towards the Century Fund. T. A. Walker and W. A. Thomson are to make the canvass.

At the Missionary Conference in Knox Church Guelph recently, Dr. Mackay, Dr. Wilkie (Indore) and Mr. McVicar, Fergus, were the principal speakers.

Rev. A. E. Duncan of Cannington occupied the pulpit of the Woodville Church on Sunday morning last and preached a powerful discourse both eloquent and convincing.

Mr. Hugh J. Leitch, Father of Rev. M. L. Leitch pastor of Knox church Stratford, has died at the age of 90 years. Deceased died at the home of his grandson, Rev. H. D. Leitch, Glengarry, on Saturday night. He had a paralytic stroke.

On Monday evening Wentworth Presbyterian people, Hamilton, gave their anniversary social, that has come to be an institution of the church. The former pastor, Rev. James Murray was present to assist Rev. Mr. MacWilliams and his people.

Rev. Dr. Campbell, moderator of the General Assembly, spoke in the interests of the Twentieth Century Thanksgiving Fund, in St. Andrew's church, Brantford, last Sunday evening. Dr. Campbell said he was meeting with excellent success in the city.

The Rev. E. Wallace Waits, D. Sc., delivered the annual sermon to the Independent Order of Foresters Sunday evening in Owen Sound, there being a full turn-out of the brethren, as well as a large congregation. The subject was on "Considering,"—Psalm viii and 3—"When I Consider."

WINNIPEG AND WEST.

The Turin congregation are building a new church at a cost of \$4,000.

Rev. Dr. Patrick preached in Knox church Winnipeg on Sunday last.

Rev. W. J. Herbison, B. A. of Minndosa, preached in Augustine church Winnipeg last Sunday.

The congregation at Pierson, Manitoba, have decided to build this spring, and are calling for tenders.

Rev. William Patrick, D. D., of Dundee, Scotland, was formally inducted as Principal of Manitoba college in Knox church on Thursday night last week. The chair was taken by the Rev. Jos. Hogg moderator of the Winnipeg presbytery who opened the services with devotional exercises. A brief but very applicable and appropriate sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Duval, from the text: "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." At the close of the sermon, Rev. Jos. Hogg proceeded with the induction sermon by giving a resume of the events which had led to the choice of Rev. Dr. Patrick as Principal of the college, after