

# Ministers and Churches.

## Our Toronto Letter.

At the last meeting of the Toronto Presbyterian Minister's Association there was a vigorous discussion upon the most effectual method of reaching the non-church-going classes. The paper for the day, by the Rev. J. McP. Scott, dealt with the class from which the non-attenders are most largely drawn,—the artisan class. The number of this class that are withdrawing from the Church is increasing, and the problem is how to stop this withdrawal.

In the discussion that followed those who took part shewed that they were fully alive to the fact that many were not connected with the Church, and that the church was not reaching an increasing number of the citizens. There was not so keen a discussion of the cause of this decline as one would have wished. Rather it was taken for granted that the Church was largely to blame, and means to recover the lost ground were freely discussed. The means suggested were various, but complementary; and if the plans outlined are carried out, there should be a much closer interest taken in the church work within the next year.

With one of the proposed means to reach those who have begun to withdraw themselves,—the utilization of women in evangelistic work, we are heartily in sympathy. In the Methodist Church and in the Anglican Church they make use of the Deaconess, and splendid results have followed. There are many consecrated women in our own Church who would gladly enter upon this work if it were recognized. Much of the work that ought to be done among the artisan class could be well done by the women. They could keep the home more closely in touch with the religious movements of the time than it is at present. They could not reach the men, but they could relieve the minister from much to which he must now give attention, and permit him to plan for the benefit of the men, and ultimately to reach them.

It is proposed to divide the City into districts, and to assign one district to each congregation. It is not proposed to make that congregation financially responsible for the work that shall be carried on there, for that would mean an additional burden upon some that are already overburdened. We imagine that the proposal to raise a special fund for this work, and to place the mission work of the City under one committee, which shall administer this fund as it may be needed at different points, will eventually meet with favor. It has not yet been considered with sufficient attention to details, to warrant any finding upon it, but will come up in the course of the discussion. For this matter will not be dismissed till something has been settled, and a plan of action outlined and initiated.

The Thursday noon meetings that have been begun in Knox Church by Mr. Winchester, the pastor, have not been so well attended as it was hoped they would be. They will grow in interest, however, and it will come to be a regular thing for the hurrying business man to turn in and rest awhile, and get free from the burden of the day's routine. Few know how refreshing that is. The man who must live in the rush of the world's commerce, who must keep an alert brain lest some one gain a point, who must stoop to measures to checkmate his rivals that his whole soul loathes, rejoices to be able to get away from it all, even for half an hour and to get up into a purer atmosphere. Is it not possible to take another step toward becoming what Knox Church might become for the men downtown. Might not the Church building be open every evening for men to use as a reading room and place for meeting friends. If the Church were more inclined to make such provision there would be less of the cry that she cares nothing for the man in whose interests she must make some sacrifice. Some congregation must be the pioneer in this work, and if the historic Knox Church were to shew the way, there would soon be others to follow. The result would be seen, not at once, but in time, in the increasing interest taken by those who are fast losing touch with the spiritual life.

As we bid farewell to the Old Year, says the Presbyterian Witness, let us resolve to part with all in our lives that tends to deface the fair image of God in which we were created—all that comes between us and God—between us and good men who are witnesses for God in their country and their age.

## THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN

### Eastern Ontario.

Rev. George Weir has been elected moderator of Glengarry Presbytery.

The resignation of Mr. Boyce Innis of Bobcaygeon and Dunsford has been accepted.

Rev. Mr. Coburn, of Lunenburg, gave an interesting address at Avonmore in aid of the W. F. M. S.

Rev. Mr. Daniels, a missionary from Persia, has been lecturing in St. Andrew's church, Arnprior.

Rev. N. A. McDonald, of Eldon has been appointed moderator of Lindsay Presbytery for ensuing six months.

The Arnprior Watchman says: The Presbyterian is a first-class family paper, and at one dollar a year should find a place in every Presbyterian home.

The Rev. A. F. Webster, lately of Oro, has accepted the call to Cambray and Oakwood, and his induction took place on the 31st ult., with every indication of a happy settlement.

Principal Grant's first public appearance on the platform since his illness has been announced. He gives an address in Convocation Hall, on January 6th, on "Thanksgiving and Retrospect."

Rev. Mr. MacLean, of St. Johns church, Almonte, has been disabled by a severe attack of neuralgia. Mr. MacLean ministers to an attached people, who miss him greatly from the pulpit when thus incapacitated from work.

At a meeting of the Young People's society of the Merivale Church recently, the pastor, Rev. A. S. Ross, was presented with a coonskin overcoat. The address was read by Mr. John Nelson and the presentation made by Mr. W. Falls, jr. Mr. Ross made a suitable response.

Rev. A. Givan reported to Glengarry Presbytery regarding the willingness of Aultsville to be united to Colquhoun as soon as this can be arranged by Brockville Presbytery; and Revs. D. Coburn, L. Beaton and G. Weir were instructed to visit Cryslar and learn if they are willing to unite with Casselman.

At the Christmas tree in connection with St. Andrew's Presbyterian church, Almonte, Rev. R. J. and Mrs. Hutcheon, received amongst other presents a purse of gold, amounting to ninety dollars. The people of St. Andrew's have nothing but the kindest feelings towards their former pastor, who so recently declared himself outside the Presbyterian church.

At a successful entertainment in the church, Moore Creek, Prof. D. S. Connery, an elocutionist of considerable ability, gave a number of readings. Mrs. Beaton, wife of the pastor, was presented by the Ladies Aid Society, with a beautiful china tea-set; and Mr. F. J. McRae, St. Elmo, with a \$20 gold piece for efficient services in connection with the choir.

At the recent social at Lake Dore, Mr. G. A. Lucas, B. A., Principal of the Eganville Public School, operated a gramophone, and also presented a number of magic lantern views. The choir rendered several selections, contributing its share to what was a most interesting and pleasing programme. Rev. Mr. Rattray most acceptably discharged the duties of chairman. The proceeds were devoted to the seating fund of the church.

The White Lake Sabbath school held their usual entertainment on Christmas eve. The nature of the entertainment proved a very attractive feature, and long before the hour for commencing arrived the church was crowded to the doors. It was called "Santa Claus Cabin." The principal feature of the entertainment being "The treat of Santa Claus" in which twenty-seven characters took part. Another very attractive item was entitled "The Indian Hunter-esses." The proceeds amounted to \$46.00.

At the meeting of Lindsay Presbytery on 17th ult., a large deputation appeared in the interests of the Woodville congregation, re the resignation of Rev. J. M. D. Duncan who had been offered the position of Associate Editor of the Presbyterian S. S. publications. The Woodville people feel keenly the loss to them of the services of their energetic and gifted young minister for whom they have always had a deep and true regard. But a conviction of the importance of the position and Mr. Duncan's peculiar fitness for it, prevailed, and the resignation was accepted. Mr. Duncan will assume the duties of his new position early in Jan. 1902. His departure deprives the Presbytery of the services of a very efficient clerk, to which position Mr. D. W. Best, of Beaverton has been appointed.

At the meeting of Glengarry Presbytery on the 17th ult., Rev. J. U. Tanner was appointed convener of the committee on French work within the bounds. Rev. J. Matheson was put in place of Mr. Hastie as convener to see to the holding of special services this winter in Sumnerstown, Cornwall and Osnaburck. Permission was granted to Rev. G. Weir and Rev. J. S. Burnet to moderate in calls when the congregations of Knox, Cornwall, and Finch are ready.

At a meeting of the Lanark and Renfrew Presbytery held in Smith's Falls on Monday of last week, a letter was read by Rev. Mr. Hutcheon, of Almonte, resigning his charge and also as a minister of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Hutcheon says he cannot honestly preach under the Westminster confession of faith as his opinion in that respect had changed. He states that he is not withdrawing from the ranks of the ministers of that church without deep sorrow and pain being born and reared in a Presbyterian home, trained in a Presbyterian church and educated in a Presbyterian college and fully ninety per cent of his friends are Presbyterians. "The Presbyterian Church, as a body of Christian people, have my highest respect and affection for their learning, their moral worth and their missionary zeal. I owe the Presbyterian Church a debt I can never hope to repay for the moral impulse and the intellectual training I have received from her people and teachers," says Mr. Hutcheon. No objection was raised to his resignation taking immediate effect, and the Presbytery appointed Rev. Dr. Crombie to preach the pulpit vacant, which he did in due form last Sabbath.

### Ottawa.

Rev. Robert Heribson spent his Christmas in Kingston.

Rev. John McNeil, M. A., has been visiting friends in Aylmer, Que.

Rev. Dr. Armstrong and family spent Christmas with friends in Montreal.

Rev. Dr. Moore was in Toronto the early part of this week, attending an emergency meeting of the F. M. Committee, of which he is Convener.

The theme of Rev. Norman Macleod's discourses at the Mackay church on Sunday morning was The Death of Christ, and after the sermon the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed at the morning service at the Glebe church on Sunday. There was a large attendance. In the evening Rev. J. W. H. Milne continued his series of sermons on Things Which Cannot Be Shaken.

Rev. Dr. Armstrong in St. Paul's church, Sunday, spoke of the belief in the divinity of Christ as something that gave a largeness of view to Christians; and that with faith in that Doctrine some of the grandest characters had lived and died. The communion service was suitable to the season, and exceedingly helpful to all who were present.

The joyous spirit of Christmastide was manifested in a marked degree in the service on Sunday morning in St. Andrew's Church. The attendance was large, and the appropriate thoughts by the pastor and bright music by the choir had an exhilarating influence on the worshippers. A liberal collection was received in aid of home and foreign missions.

### Northern Ontario.

Thursday last the officers of the Owen Sound Presbytery of the Society met at the home of Rev. R. Rodgers, and presented Mrs. Rodgers with a Life Membership Certificate of that society. Mrs. MacLennan, President, read an address expressive of the appreciation of the members of the Presbytery for Mrs. Rodgers as a member since its organization thirteen years ago. She was the first President, and twice Honorary President, and had always been a most faithful, consistent member and officer. Mrs. Caton, Secretary of Supplies, presented the certificate, which Mr. Caton had handsomely framed. Mrs. Rodgers was taken by surprise, and responded in her usual happy manner, thanking the ladies for this expression of their appreciation.

The new St. Andrew's church at Manitou, Manitoba, was opened last Sunday by Principal Patrick, of Manitoba College.