

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

A ripple in Presbyterian circles was caused by the action of the Presbytery in calling a special meeting last week, to take counsel with respect to the most appropriate action in view of the death of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria. There was no precedent, and some think that the precedent created by the Toronto Presbytery is not a good one. However that may be they were earnest and loyal men who met on Thursday afternoon of last week, and the resolution passed, will commend itself to every loyal Presbyterian in every part of Canada.

The little cloud that threatened a storm about precedence in the matter of a civic memorial was avoided by the tactful proposal of one of the Controllers. It will be very much more fitting that a service be held within each church on the day of the state funeral, and at the hour corresponding to that set for the interment in Britain. No one church would have held the people, who will, one and all, wish to pay this mark of respect to a beloved Queen and to a good woman, whose life has been a living epistle to all her subjects.

There is a splendid tribute in this simultaneous service. No one can explain the eagerness of the people to participate in it by saying that "The Queen is dead." It is not the dead Queen for whom they mourn, but they sorrow because a Christian woman, who because of her high station lived in the sight of all, and whose life was such that all loved her, has passed away. It is a tribute to the power of Christian womanhood. Her influence in the homes of her people has been more powerful than it has been, even in the courts of other sovereigns.

The city is draped in mourning. In some instances one could wish there was less display and more taste, but one should not be captious. The finest tribute is the quiet that is perceptible in the downtown business quarters. Even the strident voice of business is softened for the time, and men walk quietly along the streets whom we used to see rushing with eager face from office to mart. Perhaps the draped public and other buildings have an effect in this direction, but we fancy it is rather due to the subdued spirit that pervades the closest business men.

The graduates of Knox College are in evidence this week. It is the week of the annual Conference, and on Tuesday evening the annual meeting of the Alumni was held. In the early part of the evening many of the members met for a social hour at a quiet dinner within the Knox dining room. Old memories came back as they gathered about the tables. Some had pleasant memories of that room, some thought of it with bitterness, but these were very few indeed. Knox men are reticent, and decline to wear their hearts on their sleeves, but beneath a somewhat grim and faultfinding exterior, they bear a love for Knox, and quickly resent the disparaging remark made concerning her by another. They hold the monopoly of criticism, and guard it most carefully. Some of them use it pretty freely, it is true, but only a few renegades use it for her hurt.

Would it not be a wise thing for each Presbytery to call for returns of the full indebtedness of each congregation within its bounds, both the mortgage indebtedness and the floating debt that may stand against the congregation? It would be information of very considerable value. With this return might be given another, showing the estimated value of the church property held by each congregation. As each deed is made out, or is supposed to be made out in the name of the church, the return would seem to be not only desirable but necessary. Of course, no such information should be made public property. The seal of the Presbytery should be placed upon it, and were congregations assured of this there would be little difficulty in securing all such information.

We have been led to make these remarks by some of the reports presented at the annual meeting. In all but one or two instances these have been glowing with good cheer. The revenue seems more than sufficient for the needs of the congregational wants. But it seems also to have melted away in some unaccountable manner. The ordinary expenditure, over and above minister's stipend is very disproportionate. Where is the great item of expenditure. Some say frankly that it was for interest on mortgage, others are not so frank, and we can only surmise that much of the money contributed for religious purposes finds its way into the coffers of the money-lenders. Ought the Church not know her financial position more accurately?

Eastern Ontario.

Rev. D. D. Millar has declined the call from White Lake and Burnstown.

Knox Church, Perth, has secured the services of Mr. Cecil Forsyth, as organist and choir leader.

The Ladies' Aid Society of Zion Church, Lanark, have presented the congregation with a service of Individual Communion Cups.

Rev. James Binnie, of McDonald's Corners, conducted the services at Middleville, on the 20th instant, Rev. W. S. Smith taking his place at McDonald's Corners.

Rev. John Hay, Renfrew, has been appointed Convener of Augmentation Committee for Lanark and Renfrew in room of Rev. A. E. Mitchell, who is removing to Ottawa.

At the annual meeting of St. Paul's church, Smith's Falls, it was announced that the congregation had wiped out the debt on the church and had given \$1,722 to the century fund.

Rev. Dr. McWilliams, of the American Presbyterian Church, Montreal, preached anniversary sermons in St. Andrew's church, Carleton Place, on Sunday last, Mr. Woodside taking the Montreal pulpit.

The annual tea-meeting in connection with the Clayton church, will be held on Thursday, Jan. 31. Addresses will be delivered by Rev. R. J. Hutcheon, of Almonte, Rev. Robt. Young, of Pakenham, and other neighboring clergymen.

At a meeting of the Lanark and Renfrew Presbytery held on the 17th instant, the call from Erskine church, Ottawa, to Rev. E. A. Mitchell, was considered and translation granted. Mr. Mitchell will enter upon his new pastorate in February.

At the Annual meeting of St. Andrew's church, Lanark, the Rev. D. M. Buchanan was presented with a purse containing \$70.00, accompanied with an address expressing the high appreciation of the congregation for his earnest and faithful services as their pastor.

The Lanark and Renfrew Presbytery have nominated Rev. Dr. Warden, of Toronto, as successor to Principal Pollok, of Halifax, in the moderatorship of the General Assembly, and Rev. Dr. Herridge, of Ottawa, to succeed Rev. A. H. Scott, of Perth, in the moderatorship of the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa.

Rev. J. A. Sinclair, M. A., has received the appointment of Principal of the Industrial School at Regina, rendered vacant by the death of Rev. Mr. McLeod. The position is an important one, and one that Mr. Sinclair will fill with perfect satisfaction to all concerned. He expects to leave for his new post about the middle of March.

Annual Meeting—St. Andrew's, Lanark, pastor Rev. D. M. Buchanan. The reports showed progress during the year. The treasurer reported a balance of \$121.00 on hand after all obligations were met. The missionary and benevolent contributions were \$91.00 higher than the previous year. The W. F. M. S. contributed \$65.00 to missions, an increase over last year of \$15.00. There were 29 joined the church during the year.

At the meeting of Lanark and Renfrew Presbytery Mr. G. D. Campbell, was reappointed to Chalk River and Mr. Blakely to Alice; a student is to be secured for Calabogie for the summer, and the Student Missionary Society are to be asked to take charge of Killaloe for the summer. It was resolved to ask grants for the various missions from the Home Mission committee as follows: Chalk River \$300 per annum, Alice \$300, Stafford \$25, Calabogie \$182, Bathurst \$200, Killaloe \$6 per Sabbath for the winter months.

Northern Ontario.

Rev. W. D. McPhail, preached at Jarratt's Corners the last two Sundays.

The Orillia church will have an opportunity to celebrate its jubilee this year, the Rev. Dr. Gray having been inducted on the 21st of May, 1851.

At the Annual meeting of the Orillia Sunday School an address was read by Rev. Dr. Grant to Mr. H. Cooke, who has been most successful as Superintendent during the last twenty-one years.

The anniversary services of the Penetanguishene Church were held recently, Rev. Dr. Grant, of Orillia, occupying the pulpit. On the following evening addresses were given by Dr. Grant and Rev. J. J. Elliott, of Midland.

The Annual meeting of St. Andrew's Church, Sault Ste. Marie, was held on the 14th inst., the pastor, Rev. W. A. Duncan, M. A., B. D., presiding. The session reported an increase of 102 members during the year, of which sixty were received on the first Sabbath of the new century. The Sabbath School has an average attendance of about 120, and a surplus of \$147. The Mission Sabbath school has 110 on the roll, and a surplus of \$12.13; the Ladies' Aid Society has a surplus of \$189.60; the Y. P. S. C. E. a surplus of \$21.82; the Missionary Society raised last year \$140. The Board of Managers reported a surplus of \$303, their total receipts being something over \$200. Messrs. R. G. Campbell, W. B. Laidlaw and George A. Hunter were elected to the Board of Managers for the ensuing three years in the place of those retiring this year. It was decided to add \$200 to the pastor's stipend, and to raise \$7,000.00 forthwith towards the erection of a new church, Messrs. McKay, Bapty, Flockhart and Montford being appointed to canvas the congregation for this object. The hitherto commodious building has become utterly inadequate for the large congregation, so that before the first year of the new century has run much more than half its course, it is hoped that a new church, will be erected which will be a credit to the town and to the religious denomination whose name it bears.

The Annual meeting of the Parry Sound congregation was presided over by Cap. D. MacFarlane. All the reports presented indicated progress. Mr. S. Childerhouse, reporting from the Session, said the attendance at worship and at prayer meeting had been very good. Fifteen had been added to the Communion roll this year, making the membership 133, double what it was when the pastor took charge four years ago. The receipts, including a small balance from the previous year, amounted to \$987.89, with disbursements to practically the same amount. The Sunday School receipts were \$175.74; Ladies' Aid Society, \$304.13; Y. P. S. C. E., \$133.03; and in each case after paying all legitimate claims, there was a balance remaining to the credit of each department. Mr. Childerhouse specially commended the work of the Young People's Society. Much good has been done by it, and all who attended had been greatly benefited. In financial matters they were very successful, having raised \$75. for the building fund. Mr. E. Pirie read the report of the Building Committee. The receipts, including a sum of \$210. advanced by the treasurer, were \$4,374.63; the expenditure \$4,311.05; leaving a balance on hand of \$62.70. Building operations, owing to the severity of the weather, had been suspended. Mr. John McClelland was specially thanked for kind assistance rendered the Committee. In moving a vote of thanks to the Sunday School Teachers, Mr. Childerhouse said, "It is not the organization which makes the most money that is the most important to the Church. No one can over-estimate the value of Sunday School training. I wish to call your attention to the work of the teachers. We have been commending the organizations which have been raising money to build the church and we should commend more highly those who labor to lay an everlasting foundation for the Church of God". The members of the Board of Managers are Messrs. John McClelland, R. W. George and ——— Holliday. The Parry Sound Congregation is in good hands. Members and adherents are active in every department of Church work; and doubtless they will go on and prosper in the fine new church edifice which will soon be completed.

Quebec.

The people of Georgetown, English River and Howick were favored lately with a visit from Dr. Percy C. Leslie, lately returned from Honan, China.

The late Robert Orr, of English River, has left \$500 to the church there in which he worshipped for so long; \$500 to the schemes of the church; \$300 to the schools at Point-aux-Trembles and \$100 to the St. Andrew's Home.

The Annual meeting of the Georgetown and English River W. M. S. was held on the 15th inst. The Treasurer reported about \$275 as the contributions for the year. The officers were re-elected:—President, Miss MacKeracher; Vice-pres., Mrs. Wm. Ogilvie and Mrs. Jas. McKell; Rec.-Sec., Mrs. Williams; Cor.-Sec., Mrs. D. G. MacKeracher; Treasurer, Mrs. Shanks.