

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

REV. JAS. M. BOYD, M.A., B.D., Beauharnois, was agreeably surprised on Christmas morning by receiving from his congregation the sum of \$65 as a Christmas gift. Such gifts do not come amiss.

THE Rev. David J. Ross, M.A., Presbyterian minister, Newboro', was lately the recipient of a New Year's gift of the sum of \$26 from the ladies of the Newboro' congregation, accompanied with a short note expressing their respect for himself, their appreciation of his services and wishing him and family a Happy New Year.

ON Christmas day the ladies of the Port Perry and Prince Albert congregation presented their pastor's wife, Mrs. Crozier, with a very nice Christmas gift, being a sum of money amounting to \$50. This, apart from its intrinsic value is very much appreciated as an evidence of the congregation's kindly feelings toward their pastor and his wife.

THE East Gloucester congregation held its annual soiree on the 18th December. The church was packed full of kind friends, who enjoyed the good things provided by the ladies, and the excellent addresses, readings, recitations and music of the evening. Over \$70 were cleared which will fully pay the balance due on the driving sheds recently erected at the church.

THE annual entertainment of the Wallacetown Presbyterian Sabbath school was held in the church on Tuesday evening, December 26th. The pastor of the congregation, the Rev. D. Stewart presided. Excellent addresses were delivered by Rev. Messrs. Urquhart and Fallis, Drs. Cascaden, Ling and Ruthven, and Mr. D. McLaws, of St. Thomas. In every respect the entertainment was a grand success.

ON the evening of Wednesday, December 27th, a very successful tea meeting and entertainment were held in the Presbyterian church at Thornhill, in connection with the opening of a new Sabbath school room. After tea had been served the chair was taken by the pastor, Rev. J. Campbell. Excellent addresses were delivered by Rev. Messrs. Cameron, of Toronto, and Thorn, of Newtonbrook. Miss Thorn, of Newtonbrook and Miss Flora Coulter, of Richmond Hill sang several pieces charmingly, as did also the choir of the church. The proceeds amounted to \$81.

A TEA meeting was held in the Presbyterian church, Mattawa, on the evening of December 27th. Every available seat was occupied. Mr. Colin Rankin presided. The music, under the direction of Mr. Warren, was highly appreciated. Recitations were well rendered by several gentlemen and by Miss McEwen. Appropriate addresses were delivered by the Rev. Mr. Huntington, C. M. minister, and by Rev. D. L. Mackechnie, present minister of the church, and Mr. P. F. Langill former missionary and now student of Queen's College. Proceeds, in aid of the manse building fund, amounted to \$61.

A VERY pleasant entertainment in connection with the Sunday School of the Presbyterian Church, Brucefield, was held on Dec. 22nd, Mr. Graham occupying the chair. A grand musical treat was given by Misses Jamieson, Landsborough, Watson, Mrs. Thompson and class, Messrs. Jamieson and McCuller. The pastor, Rev. T. G. Thompson, delivered a lecture on "Hollywood Palace," which was listened to with intense interest. A vote decided to divide the mission contributions of \$18.00 equally among the Home, French and Foreign Missions, and to give the collection of the evening, \$12.56, to the Sunday school library.

AN exchange states that recently a large representation of the Beverley congregation took possession of the manse. The object of the gathering was explained by Mr. Robert McQueen, who, in a very kind address, presented the pastor, the Rev. David Carruthers with the sum of \$114 to purchase a horse. He then addressed Mrs. Carruthers and, in the name of the ladies, presented her with the sum of \$40 to procure suitable robes for the winter. Such gifts are expressive of the esteem in which Mr. and Mrs. Carruthers are held, and are valuable not merely from a pecuniary point of view, but as indicating the sympathy and love existing between pastor and people.

A VERY enjoyable tea meeting was held on Christmas evening, in connection with the Moorfield Presbyterian church. Appropriate and interesting addresses were delivered by Rev. Messrs. Davidson, Alma; Sifton, Beechy, Harriston; Messrs. R. Hay, Robinson

and Merrifield. "The Burial of Moses" was read with grand effect by Mr. Thomas Patterson. The Lamont family, with Miss Lamont as organist, furnished choice and appropriate musical selections, rendered in a pleasing and effective manner, which greatly added to the interest of the evening's proceedings. Mrs. Robinson also rendered a choice musical selection. Rev. Mr. Edmison occupied the chair.

AN interesting Christmas entertainment consisting of music, recitations, and a Christmas tree, etc., was held in St. Andrew's church, Buxton, on Friday 22nd December. A large and valuable assortment of gifts was hung on the tree, and the programme of the evening, which included an excellent Santa Claus, was of a very pleasing character. Amongst the gifts distributed was a purse of about \$60 which was presented to the worthy pastor, the Rev. John Cairns. Owing to the unfavourable state of the weather the attendance was not so large as had been anticipated. Nevertheless the proceeds from admission fees netted about \$25, which is to be devoted towards the replastering and general renovation of the church.

ROCHESTERVILLE Presbyterian Sabbath school held its annual festival at the close of the year. The attendance of children and parents was the best yet had on such an occasion. After partaking of refreshment provided by the teachers and parents, a pleasant hour was spent in hearing of the prosperity of the school, from Mr. James Campbell the superintendent, in listening to a brief address from the pastor of the congregation, the Rev. Joseph White, from the words, "Come unto Me," and also in hearing recitations and music by the children of the Sabbath school. Mrs. J. J. Little presided at the organ, and greatly aided the little folks in their singing. Divesting a Christmas tree of its cards and candies was a great treat to the children. A pleasant and profitable meeting was brought to a close by the pastor dismissing the meeting by prayer and the benediction.

THE residence of the Rev. J. R. McLeod, Kingsbury, P. Q., has been the scene of two surprise parties within one month. On the 12th ult. it was visited by the friends of Kingsbury and vicinity, and on the 27th the Brampton Gore and Melbourne Ridge portion of his congregation invaded his residence. On both occasions these well-wishers of their minister's comfort, brought varied and valuable gifts by which the garner was filled to overflowing, the cellar supplied with many of the daily necessities and the pantry with a profusion of things more delicate if less necessary. Mrs. McLeod was made the recipient of a sum of money and other useful articles. That is not the first time that Mr. and Mrs. McLeod have received tokens of the esteem in which they are held in the community. On the above named occasions Episcopalians, Methodists add Presbyterians vied with each other in their good work.

THE lecture hall of St. Mark's Church, Montreal, was very well filled on the evening of the 21st ult. by members of the congregation and their friends, on the occasion of a church social. Rev. John Nichols occupied the chair, and among those present were Rev. Messrs. Black and McCaul. Letters of regret at non-attendance were read from Rev. Messrs. J. A. Fleck, Warden, and other gentlemen. A choice musical programme was gone through by the church choir, under the efficient leadership of Mr. Barrie, while songs were also given by the Misses White, Reid, and Holiday, and Mr. Barrie. During the interlude in the programme, the pastor of the church, Rev. John Nichols, was presented with a handsome silk gown, and an address beautifully illuminated, expressive of the congregation's personal regard and admiration of their pastor. The reverend gentleman made a very appropriate and feeling reply, and after some gentlemen present addressed the assembly, refreshments were served and a social hour enjoyed. It was stated during the meeting that twenty-two new communicants had been received into the church since September, and that St. Mark's in every respect is in a most prosperous condition. The meeting dispersed, having spent one of the pleasantest evenings in the annals of the church.

A SHORT time ago, at Rupert, in the Township of Masham, adjoining Wakefield, in the Province of Quebec, and a station of the congregation of Wakefield and Masham, a handsome new church was opened. The opening services were conducted by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Bayne, Rev. William Moore, D.D., of Ottawa, and Rev. Joseph White, of Rochester,ville,

former pastor of the congregation. The church was crowded at both services. On the following Monday evening a soiree was held. The church was again crowded, friends having come from Ottawa, Aylmer, Chelsea, and Aylwin, to be present. The pastor occupied the chair. The meeting was addressed by Rev. Messrs. Follock and O'Hara, of the Methodist Church; Dr. Moore, White, and Shearer, of Aylwin. The Misses Bayne, sisters of the pastor, assisted by their brothers, enlivened the proceedings of the evening by discoursing sweet music. The Misses Crawford, of Ottawa, also favoured the audience with an appropriate and well rendered piece of music. The church is a frame, veneered with brick, and will hold over 300 when filled. It has cost \$2,600, and stands on a site donated to the congregation by Mr. James Nesbitt. The building committee are to be commended for their energy and zeal in pushing forward the work, and the congregation for its readiness in contributing the necessary funds to complete the building. At the beginning of the Monday evening meeting \$300 were required to wipe out the entire indebtedness of the building committee; at the close of the meeting it was all provided for and the church virtually entered free of debt. The congregation of Wakefield and Masham now occupy the happy and enviable position of holding a very fine church property, consisting of two handsome brick buildings and a manse, free of debt. Now the people will enjoy the privilege of turning their energies to the advancement of the cause of Christ in our own and other lands in a measure far greater than ever before. Having been so abundantly blessed and prospered themselves, they cannot but desire similar blessings, both temporal and spiritual for others.

PRESBYTERY OF OTTAWA.—This Presbytery met on the 4th inst. to hear the report of the Convener of the Committee on French Evangelization and to grant leave of absence to the Rev. W. D. Armstrong, M.A., of Daly street church, Ottawa, to proceed to Britain, in the interests of French evangelization work. In connection with granting the leave of absence asked, Dr. Moore moved, seconded by Messrs. White and Farries, and it was agreed, "That in view of the engagement entered into by the Rev. W. D. Armstrong, M.A., with the Board of French Evangelization, and his early departure for Britain, the Presbytery of which he has been an esteemed member for nine years, cordially commend him to the Christian sympathy and confidence of the friends of our Mission in Great Britain and Ireland; and pray that his mission may be to the great advantage of the French evangelization work, in the increased interest and liberality of its supporters, and assure him of our good wishes for his own comfort and success in the work to which he has been appointed."—JOSEPH WHITE, *Pres. Clerk*.

PRESBYTERY OF STRATFORD.—This court met on the 2nd inst. Twelve ministers and seven elders present, and seven ministers absent. Rev. J. W. Bell having previously tendered the resignation of his pastoral charge, the congregation, under citation, appeared by commissioners and submitted extract minutes of the congregation signifying the deepest regret at Mr. Bell's resignation, attesting Mr. Bell's great faithfulness in all ministerial duty, the high esteem of the congregation for him, and their desire to retain him, but at the same time their inability to offer greater inducements than heretofore. Mr. Bell insisting upon his resignation, it was decided that the Presbytery with much regret accept Mr. Bell's resignation, express for him its sympathy and esteem, and the hope and prayer that he may be speedily guided by a wise and gracious Providence into a new sphere of usefulness and comfort. An amendment was lost proposing to refuse meanwhile the resignation and send a deputation. Mr. Fotheringham was appointed to declare the vacancy on the 21st, and Mr. Kay was appointed Moderator *ad interim*. Messrs. A. Stewart and J. McClung were appointed a Sabbath school Committee, and Messrs. Boyd and Kay a Committee on the State of Religion; replies to questions on both subjects to be forwarded to Messrs. Stewart and Boyd respectively during the present month. Rev. E. W. Panton, of Bradford, was inducted into the pastoral charge of St. Andrew's, Stratford, Mr. Fotheringham presiding, Mr. A. Henderson preaching, Mr. Kay addressing the minister, and Mr. McPherson the people. In the evening there was welcome given to Mr. Panton in the form of a public social. Both meetings were of a very interesting and profitable kind. A