

Eastern Ontario.

The united congregations of White Lake and Burnstoun are calling Rev. D. D. Millar to be their pastor.

Rev. D. D. Millar, at present taking a post-graduate course in Montreal, has occupied the pulpit of Knox church, Vankleek Hill, for two Sabbaths. His discourses were "earnest and full of thought," producing "a very favorable impression on the congregation."

Rev. Dr. Campbell, ex-moderator of the Perth General Assembly, conducted the communion services in St. Andrew's on Sunday night, assisted by the pastor, Rev. A. H. Scott. The reverend doctor delivered an impressive and thoughtful discourse, taking for his text Act 27-23.

On Sabbath 6th inst, Rev. Dr. Crombie, the octogenarian clerk of the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew, occupied the pulpit of St. John's, Almonte, preached an excellent sermon and notified the congregation of the call from Erskine church, Ottawa, to their minister, Rev. A. E. Mitchell.

Rev. D. Mackenzie has entered on the 15th year of a fruitful ministry in St. Columba church, Kirk Hill. On New Year's eve, after service, his daughter, Miss Louisa Catherine Mackenzie, was presented with an address and a purse of money, as a token of appreciation of services rendered as organist of the church.

At the annual meeting of the W. F. M. S., of Knox church, Lancaster, held at the residence of Mrs. H. MacLean, there was a large attendance, when the following officers were elected: Hon. Pres., Mrs. D. Sangster; president, Mrs. Rev. A. Graham; vice-pres., Mrs. A. MacArthur; sec., Mrs. W. Henderson, sr.; treas., Mrs. W. Henderson, jr.

On the evening of the first Sabbath of the new century the congregations of St. Andrew's and St. John's gathered at a union communion service, which was held in St. John's church. There was a large attendance, the church being well-filled. The devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. Mr. Mitchell, after which Rev. Mr. Hutcheon preached an able and appropriate sermon on "The Joy of the Christian." The communion was dispensed by Rev. Messrs Crombie, Mitchell and Hutcheon, aided by four elders from each of the two congregations. The service closed with a beautiful post-communion address by Rev. Dr. Crombie.

The union sacramental services of St. John's and First church, Brockville, on the morning of the 6th inst., was a most interesting and solemn occasion, one that will long linger in the memory of all those privileged to take part. There were nearly five hundred communicants, and these, with the large number of adherents of both congregations present, completely filled the large auditorium of the First church. Rev. Robert Laird and Rev. D. Strachan, ministers of the churches, dispensed the sacrament, assisted by the elders of the two congregations. Rev. D. Strachan, of Guelph, addressed the communicants before the communion, and Rev. R. Laird, of Kingston, after.

Maritime Provinces

St. John Presbyterian church, St. John, enters upon the new century much encouraged. On New Year's eve one of the members sent to the treasurer a cheque for \$200 in order to make up the deficit for the year and enable the church to enter the twentieth century free of any floating debt. This is in addition to other liberal donations from the same gentleman and members of his family. The congregation has subscribed in round numbers \$1,600 to the Century Fund, of which \$1,150.10 has been paid, and the balance will doubtless be fully made up as there are two payments yet to be made. The pastor, Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, was the recipient of many valuable tokens of esteem at Christmas time, showing the cordial and affectionate relations existing between minister and people.

Winnipeg and West.

Winnipeg Presbytery unanimously nominates Dr. Warden for moderatorship of next General Assembly.

Rev. A. S. Grant, M. A., B.D., formerly minister of St. Andrew's church, Almonte, has been called (to succeed Rev. J. J. Wright) by the congregation of Dawson City, in the Yukon district. The salary offered is \$3,600.

Rev. R. M. Dickey, who was pioneer Presbyterian missionary to the Yukon, has accepted a

call to Selkirk, and he will at once take charge of the congregation there. Mr. Dickey, after spending some time in Great Britain and Ireland, returned to Manitoba a few weeks ago.

At Winnipeg Presbytery, a scheme of evangelistic services in all the Presbyterian churches of the city was presented by Rev. Dr. Kilpatrick. Besides all the city pastors, a large number of outside ministers have consented to give their services. It was decided that a three-weeks' series should begin on Jan. 20.

The farewell reception tendered the Rev. A. B. Winchester, by the congregation of St. Andrew's church, Vancouver, on his way from Victoria to Toronto, was an unqualified success in every way and largely attended. Among the ministers present were Revs. J. A. Logan, of Eburne, W. B. Cummings, Nanaimo, R. G. MacBeth, E. D. McLaren and Rev. Mr. Wilson. Mr. McLaren in the course of his remarks referred to the high esteem in which Mr. Winchester was held throughout the Province. He also spoke of his splendid work among the Chinese. Speeches were also made by the other ministers present. Mr. Winchester was warmly received. He acknowledged the kindly reference of the brethren. He regretted his departure, but pointed out that the work among the Chinese had become so large that it demanded the services of a man with a very much fuller acquaintance with their language than he possessed. This had been his chief reason for having resigned, which he had done before receiving the call from Knox church.

Western Ontario.

A handsome new organ is being put up in Knox church, Guelph.

Next meeting of London Presbytery will be held in First church, London.

In London Presbytery the report on church life and work was deferred till the March meeting.

Mr. J. M. Nicol, licentiate, who accepted the call to Wallaceburg, was inducted on the 15th inst.

Hamilton Presbytery has been asked to establish a mission at Fenwick, and appointed a committee to consider the matter.

The contributions of Young People's Societies in London Presbytery will be given to work in Atlin district under Rev. J. Pringle.

In regard to enlargement of powers of synod, London Presbytery reaffirmed its decision of last year against such action; and laid over remit on "Aids to Social Worship."

Hamilton Presbytery sustained the call from Dunville and Chippewa to Rev. W. B. Findlay, Clarendon; and also the call from Nelson to Mr. McNamara, of Knox College.

Rev. Mr. Meikle's revival services in Knox church, Galt, are being largely attended, and it is believed much good will result from the evangelist's earnest presentation of the truth.

London Presbytery decided that reports on church life and work, young people's societies and Sabbath schools be taken up at the March meeting, immediately after the appointment of commissioners to the General Assembly.

Hamilton Presbytery resolved (1) to disapprove of a synodical field secretary for Sabbath schools; (2) and of paying him from the S. S. contributions on Children's Day; (3) disapprove of visitation of schools in Presbytery; (4) of the Home Study Department. The remit enlarging the powers of synod was approved.

Preaching from the text "Go thou also into the vineyard," as found in Matthew 20, 3, Rev. M. L. Leitch delivered a most practical sermon at Knox church. He referred to the past history of the church, showing that it is now over fifty years since the congregation was organized and twenty-five since the present church was built. The congregation was in good circumstances financially, but he regretted that owing to its size he was unable to see all the members at their homes once a year. He felt that there was a grave responsibility in this and that one day the church would have to answer for it. Some members of Knox were not attending church regularly and something should be done to overcome this. There were now 490 families in the congregation, with only ten elders, a number which he deemed altogether insufficient to aid in the oversight and visiting. Mr. Leitch expressed the hope that with the new year and the new century the people of Knox would realize the circumstances and see that these many families were all reached and brought to church regularly.

On a recent afternoon Mrs. (Rev.) A. MacWilliams, who has presided over the Ladies Aid Society of Wentworth church, Hamilton, was presented by Mrs. Robinson, on behalf of the society, with a kindly worded address and a beautiful polished and hand carved lady's secretary. The society is in a healthy condition and renders great service to the church management.

Church Choirs.

To secure congregational singing you do not need to dispense with the choir. They should simply be taught that they are no longer to sing for the congregation, nor to the congregation, but with the congregation; that they are simply to lead and inspire the congregation in this part of the service in God's house. As the pastor leads in the prayers and other portions of the worship of the congregation, so the choir are to lead the congregation in the worship of sacred song. Where pastor, choir and people unite in accepting this idea of worship, the singing can be made one of the most helpful means of attracting, impressing and holding large audiences. Mr. Moody, whom we just quoted, wrote in the *New York Independent*:

"I think one of the greatest attractions, which would make our church service less formal and more easy to enjoy, is good singing by a choir who sing in a known tongue,—sing so that people can understand what they say. A friend of mine had a very fine church choir, and a large congregation Sunday mornings, but on Sunday nights the pews were about all empty. He preached a while to empty pews, and finally became disgusted, and calling a meeting of the church officers, and said to them: 'Now, if I can't do more good than I have been doing for the past six months, and you won't let me do as I want to, then I shall have to resign; for I believe that the church is not in as good condition as it ought to be.' They said to him: 'Why, we never knew this church to be in such a prosperous condition as it is now; people walked four or five miles to church every Sunday morning to hear you preach.' 'Now,' said he, 'I only have a chance to preach thirty or forty sermons a year to the bulk of you, because you go away in the summer, and I don't get a chance at you. I want you to come out Sunday evenings, so I can preach to you. And I want the elders of the church to act as ushers (and some of them were millionaires), to welcome the people to church, and seat them. I want the church to let some of the young men in the congregation to go out on the street with hand bills and invite the people to church. I want the choir to come back on the platform with me. They may sing ever so beautifully, and yet their efforts will be vain. A choir can but make a very slight impression on the back of the heads of the audience. The people of that church thought a good deal of him, and they let him have his way, and he tried that six years ago; and now his church cannot hold all the people, and they come to his church from far and near. The other churches in the place tried the same plan he did; and now the churches are crowded to overflowing. And I will venture to say some men would be a great help to the church if they would organize a large choir,—a choir who will speak their words plain so that people can understand what they are saying. They will draw the crowds to the church, and sinners will take a part in the singing, and feel they are at home; and a great deal more good will be accomplished than if you let just the quartette choir sing in some unknown tongue." Is there not a valuable hint here for many of our Canadian congregations.