

Ministers and Churches.

THE Komoka Presbyterian Church is very creditably holding its own in the face of the discouragements arising from the removal of many families to other parts. Their annual report shows a balance on the right side when all demands are paid. There is no debt on the church. They will contribute over \$40 to missions.

THE Presbyterians of St. George are not slow to appreciate the sterling worth and ability of their popular pastor, the Rev. W. S. McTavish. A very large gathering took possession of the manse on the return of the rev. gentleman and his bride from their wedding tour, and gave them a most hearty welcome home, accompanied by an address full of gratitude, satisfaction and good wishes, finishing up with a purse of over \$70 in gold.

A VERY interesting and successful social was held last week in connection with the First Presbyterian Church, Brantford. In the course of the evening a handsome gold watch with engraved inscription, together with an address expressing appreciation of his services was presented to the pastor, Rev. Dr. Beattie, who made a feeling and an appropriate acknowledgment. The meeting was enlivened with music by Miss and Messrs. Fox and others.

THE anniversary services of St. Andrew's Church, Blyth, were held on Sabbath, 10th January, when able and appropriate sermons were preached by Rev. R. J. Laidlaw, of Hamilton. The annual social gathering was held on the following Monday evening, when Mr. Laidlaw delighted the large audience assembled by his lecture on "Our Successors." Short and appropriate addresses were also given by the neighbouring brethren. The amount realized was over \$200.

IN newspapers of the current month announcement has been made of the death of the Rev. Mr. Baxter, of Truro, N. S. By this occurrence the Rev. Thomas Lowry, a retired minister, now resident in Toronto, is placed at the top of the roll of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Mr. Lowry is in the seventy-sixth year of his age and the fifty-third of his ministry. He is in the enjoyment of excellent health for his years, and able to do good service, being the secretary of the Foreign Mission Board.

LAST week, under the auspices of the Erskine Church Y. P. A., a most enjoyable sacred concert was held. The fine cantata of "Ruth" was beautifully rendered by Misses Patterson, Ryan, Lawson, Mr. Edwards and a well trained chorus of sixty voices, under the able leadership of Mr. Bailey, organist of Erskine Church. Between the first and second parts of the programme the Rev. John Smith made a few graceful and appropriate remarks. The proceeds are devoted to the William Street Mission.

THE annual meeting of Hyde Park congregation has been held. The report shows some good work done during the year. The last instalment of church and manse debt has been paid, besides certain improvements undertaken. Altogether over \$800 have been contributed for all purposes. About \$50 will be given to missions. Among other things we are pleased to notice they are to provide a great portion of their minister's wood this winter. The treasurer, Mr. D. Barclay, was re-elected, and Mr. Thos. Skippon, senior, added to the board of managers.

THE annual meeting of Knox Church, Woodstock, was held on last Wednesday. The Treasurer's report showed the receipts for the past year to be \$3,348.96. The congregation has spent \$635.22 in the improvement of the manse. There are no liabilities on either the church or the manse, the only debt of the congregation being \$390. The following were elected trustees:—James Hay, senior; D. H. Hunter, F. Paulin, Jonathan Martin, D. R. Stewart and Alexander Bayne; Auditors: George White and J. T. Bain. John Douglas was re-elected secretary-treasurer. A committee was appointed to consider the question of enlarging and improving the church.

THE Elizabeth Street Mission was formally opened on Thursday evening last, under the auspices of the Central Presbyterian Church. The hall itself is large and commodious, and was on this occasion completely filled. Quite a large number of children were present, a free tea having been provided for them, and the success of the occasion augurs well for the future of the Mission. Addresses were given by the Rev. Messrs. McLeod and Burns, and Messrs. Yellowlees, McIntosh, Harvey, Goforth and Anderson. Knox College Glee Club supplied the music. The field is a very promising one, and in addition to the religious instruction to be given, a savings bank in connection with the mission will be opened shortly.

THE annual missionary meeting of Knox Church, Woodstock, was held on Monday evening, January 18. There was a large attendance. The pastor, Rev. W. T. McMullen, opened the meeting and presided. The Rev. James Robertson, Superintendent of Missions in the North-West, gave a most comprehensive and able address. Mr. George White read the report of the Ladies' Missionary Association, showing, including collection, \$361 on hand. The Sabbath school reported \$101; Bible class, \$28; Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, \$95; a cheque sent in through the pastor, \$60; and at the close of the meeting a cheque was given Rev. James Robertson for \$500 for the Church and Manse Building Fund for the North-West. Total, \$1,145. The contribution to Augmentation is yet to be taken up.

A ST. JOHN, N. B., contemporary states that a quiet yet interesting event was celebrated at the residence of T. A. Rankine, Germain Street, there being present none but immediate relatives of the high contracting parties. The principals in the interesting ceremony were Rev. Dr. Smith, late pastor of St. Andrew's Church, and Miss Zillah Rankine, daughter of T. A. Rankine. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Mr. Stewart, of Carleton. The bride was attended by Miss Minnie Rankine, and the groom by Rev. T. F. Fotheringham. The happy couple took their departure for Wausau, Wisconsin, Dr. Smith's new field of labour. A

large number of the congregation of St. Andrew's Church and other friends assembled at the depot to bid Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Smith farewell. The many friends of Dr. and Mrs. Smith in this city wished them a safe journey and a prosperous and happy future.

PRESBYTERY OF WHITBY.—The Presbytery of Whitby met in Bowmanville on the 19th of January. All the ministers of the Presbytery were present, and many of the elders. Rev. A. McClelland, of Ashburn, was appointed Moderator for the year. Rev. J. K. Smith, of Galt, was nominated as Moderator of next General Assembly, and Rev. James Pringle, of Brampton, was nominated as Moderator of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston at its next meeting. The Committee on Augmentation reported that they had taken such measures as they trusted would result in the allotted amount being raised by the Presbytery. "The Order of Business" was revised and ordered to be printed for the guidance of the members. The Presbytery disposed of three of the remits. First, the unification of the Foreign Mission work. This was adopted without any change. Secondly, the appointment of an additional professor in Knox College. In view of all the facts affecting the case, the Presbytery declines to nominate a professor; but, recognizing the urgent need of additional teaching in the college, recommends for the present the institution of additional lectureships. Thirdly, the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. This remit was adopted with the omission of section four, and a slight addition made to section three. The Presbytery was disappointed that there was no separate column for the Woman's Foreign Mission contributions in the blank statistics, and agree that all such sums be placed in the column for Foreign Missions, with a note; also having, at a previous meeting, adopted the recommendation of the General Assembly with regard to closing the financial year of the congregations with the civil year, the Presbytery would adhere to this arrangement, and accordingly recommend that all the reports close with the 31st of December, appending a note stating the time covered by the report. The next meeting to be held in Oshawa on the third Tuesday of April, at half-past ten o'clock. — A. A. DRUMMOND, Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF HURON.—This Presbytery held a regular meeting in Clinton, on the 19th January. Rev. D. Forrest was appointed Moderator for the ensuing six months. The Remit of Assembly on printing was considered and, with some modifications, was approved of. A long discussion took place on the remit on the supply of vacancies, which was laid over till next meeting. Leave was granted to the congregation of Exeter to mortgage their church and manse property for a sum not exceeding \$2,300 to meet demands on the Manse Building Fund. On the reports of aid-receiving congregations being considered, it was agreed to ask that the grants now given be continued. Mr. Pritchard stated that the Assembly's Home Mission Committee deducted \$25 from the sum expected for Grand Bend, because of a misunderstanding of the intention of Presbytery. The following are the grants asked for, viz., \$250 for Grand Bend; \$50 for Exeter; \$350 for Hayfield and Bethany; \$70 for Bayfield Road and Berne; and \$2 per Sabbath for Goderich Gaelic station. Reports on missionary meetings were given in and approved of. It was agreed to hold a conference on the State of Religion at next regular meeting—subject, "Difficulties and Encouragements in the Lord's Work amongst Us." Mr. McCoy, on behalf of the committee appointed to consider the appointment of a new professor in Knox College, gave a report setting forth as follows: "In view of the fact that the present time is regarded as inopportune for the appointment of an additional professor, and also of the fact that before long a re-arrangement of the work of the various chairs will be necessary, we recommend, first, that the present lectureship in Homiletics, etc., be continued, but limited to Homiletics and Pastoral Theology, the course to extend over two sessions of three months each; secondly, that two additional lectureships be established, one to embrace the subject of Church History and the other to embrace the subjects of Biblical Theology and Biblical History; thirdly, that the College Senate appoint each of the lecturers on these subjects for two sessions of three months each; fourthly, that the additional appropriation from the Common Fund for the new professorship be applied in support of the three lectureships above specified." The report was received and the recommendations adopted. Messrs. Pritchard, McCoy and Stewart called the attention of the court to the Augmentation Fund, the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund and the Manitoba College Fund respectively. On motion of Mr. Ramsay, duly seconded, Mr. McDonald, of Seaford, was nominated as the next Moderator of the Assembly. Mr. J. R. Miller read a report on Sabbath schools, embodying a number of recommendations, which was laid over till next meeting for fuller consideration. Mr. Miller then resigned the Convener'ship of the Presbytery's Committee on Sabbath schools, as he is about to take up his residence in Toronto. His resignation was accepted. A committee, consisting of Messrs. McDonald and Danby, was appointed to draft a deliverance respecting his resignation, etc. Mr. McCoy was authorized to moderate in a call at Brucefield Union Church. The following deliverance regarding Mr. Miller's resignation, etc., was adopted on the report of the committee appointed to consider the matter, viz., "The Presbytery having learned that Mr. J. R. Miller, elder of Knox Church, Goderich, and Inspector of Public Schools, was about to leave and make Toronto his home in the future, would express their regret at losing him. Mr. Miller was regular in his attendance in Church courts and always ready to take his part in the work of the Presbytery. The Presbytery would also put on record their appreciation of the services rendered by him to the young, both in connection with his own Sabbath school and Bible class in Goderich, and with Sabbath school work generally throughout the Presbytery. Although of strong convictions, yet affable and kind, upon the whole his intercourse with the members of the Presbytery was friendly and agreeable. He leaves with the best wishes and prayers of the Presbytery and they express the hope that he and his family may prosper in their new home,

that the cause of Christ there may profit by our loss, and that he may be long spared to use his gifts and graces for the honour and glory of our Divine Redeemer." On the following day, Wednesday, a successful Sabbath school convention was held.—A. McLEAN, Pres. Clerk.

MONTREAL NOTES.

Two of last year's graduates of the Presbyterian College, Montreal—Messrs. R. Stewart, B.A., and W. K. Shearer, B.A.,—have just been ordained and inducted by the Presbytery of Ottawa, the former to the charge of North Gower and Wellington, and the latter to Fitzroy Harbour and Torbolton. About one-half of the ministers in the Ottawa Presbytery are graduates of the Montreal College, and nearly a third of the pastors in the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa were educated in this theological seminary.

On Monday last the tenth annual meeting of the Presbyterian Sabbath School Association was held in Knox Church and was largely attended; Mr. James Croil, the president, in the chair. The annual report was read by Lieut.-Colonel Finzer, the secretary. There are seventeen Sabbath schools connected with our Church in the city, with 355 teachers and 3,172 scholars. The average attendance for the year was 2,108, and the contributions for missions, \$2,817, an average of upwards of two and a half cents per scholar per Sabbath. Were this average reached throughout the whole Church, upwards of \$100,000 would be brought into the treasury of the several Schemes every year instead of about \$20,000 as reported to the General Assembly by the sum raised by the Sabbath schools last year. The adoption of the report was moved by Rev. R. Campbell and seconded by the Rev. Principal MacVicar. Rev. W. R. Cruickshank delivered an address on the influence of teachers' meetings, and Rev. G. C. Heine on the best method to interest the young in missionary work. In tendering his resignation of the position of president, on account of his contemplated absence from the city for a lengthened period, Mr. Croil feelingly referred to the kindness shown him during his six years' occupancy of the position. On motion of Principal MacVicar, seconded by Mr. Walter Paul, the cordial thanks of the Association were tendered Mr. Croil. Mr. J. Murray Smith, manager of the Bank of Toronto, was elected president for the ensuing year; Messrs. W. Paul and J. Larmouth, vice-presidents; Mr. J. T. McCall, corresponding secretary and Lieut.-Colonel Fraser, recording secretary and treasurer.

At the annual meeting of the Montreal Auxiliary Bible Society in Erskine Church, on Tuesday evening, a very telling and powerful address was delivered by the Rev. Principal MacVicar on reasons for the circulation of God's Word. The address appears in full in the *Montreal Gazette* and will well repay careful perusal.

THE Rev. Dr. McNish, of Cornwall, is at present delivering his annual course of lectures on the Gaelic language and literature to the students of the Presbyterian College here.

IN the David Morrice Hall, on Thursday evening, the annual meeting of the Celtic Society was held. The membership of the society is now 155. The Hon. D. A. McDonald was elected hon. president; the Rev. Dr. McNish, president; Rev. D. B. Blair, of Nova Scotia, and Mr. J. K. Ward, of Montreal, vice-presidents; Mr. M. McLennan, recording secretary; Mr. Wm. Greig, corresponding secretary, and Rev. W. I. Dey, M.A., treasurer.

A COMPARISON of the acknowledgments in the February Record with those of February of 1885 shows that the receipts are this year very much less than last year at the same period. For Home Missions only \$7,300 are acknowledged as against \$15,000 last year; for Foreign Missions \$5,400 as against \$8,700, and for Augmentation of Stipends \$1,751 as against \$3,585. Only between three and four months remain till the close of the ecclesiastical year, and scarcely a sever part of the amount required to carry on the Church's work for the year has been received. The outlook for Augmentation especially is far from encouraging. It is hoped that in every Presbytery and congregation vigorous efforts are being made on behalf of this and the other Schemes.

THE Home Mission Committee of the Montreal Presbytery has issued a circular to the congregations of the bounds indicating the sum each should aim at raising for Augmentation of Stipends, so as to secure the \$5,500 asked from the Presbytery by the Assembly's Committee. It is only by a hearty effort all along the line that the amount can be obtained.

THE committee appointed by the Presbytery to arrange for the celebration of the centenary of Presbyterianism in Montreal have decided upon a public meeting, to be held in Knox Church, on Friday, 12th of March, to which all the Presbyterian congregations—including the American and St. Andrew's, are to be invited. The history of Presbyterianism in the city during the century is to be divided into three periods of thirty-three years each, and an address given on each period by gentlemen well qualified to do so. The arrangements are not yet completed, but a programme of more than ordinary interest is being provided. Besides the meeting under the auspices of the Presbytery, the office-bearers and congregation of St. Gabriel Church are to celebrate the centenary by a series of meetings, extending from Sabbath, 7th, to Sabbath, 14th March, arrangements for which are now being made.

A MOST enjoyable social was given by the office-bearers to the congregation of St. Mark's Church, on Wednesday evening, when the lecture hall was filled to overflowing. There were no addresses, and the evening was happily spent in social converse, with occasional pieces of vocal and instrumental music. Refreshments were served during the evening and at the close the pastor—Rev. J. Nichols—in the name of the congregation presented a Bible and purse of money to Mr. Thomas Davidson, an old member of the congregation, who is removing to St. Catherine's.

THE annual report of St. Paul's Church, Rev. James Barclay, M.A., pastor, has just been published. In addition to the matter of former years it contains a calendar for