

Church News

[All communications to this column ought to be sent to the Editor immediately after the occurrences to which they refer have taken place.]

MONTREAL NOTES.

The closing exercises of the schools at Pointe-aux-Trembles were held on Monday the 25th April, and lasted from two till five o'clock in the afternoon. About a hundred visitors were down from Montreal, including Dr. MacVicar, Dr. Scrimger, Mr. Mowatt, Mr. Fleck, Mr. George, Mr. Duolos, Dr. Coussirat, Mr. Rondeau, Mr. Reid, Mr. Cruickshank and Dr. Amaron. The pupils were examined by the teachers and by the friends present, and acquitted themselves well. There have been 156 pupils in the school during the session of whom at least ten propose to continue their studies with a view to entering into mission work. Twenty nine of the pupils made a public profession of their faith during the session. During the afternoon the examination was interspersed with singing recitations and short addresses by the visitors. The most striking feature of all was perhaps the valedictory address by Albert Rondeau, one of the senior pupils, given in English. This so aptly reveals the life and spirit of the school that a desire was expressed for its publication. The visitors one and all expressed themselves as being delighted with what they had seen and heard.

A public meeting of ladies was held in St. Paul's church lecture room on Monday morning, April 25th at eleven o'clock to hear an address from Lady Aberdeen in favor of the Victorian Order of Nurses. She appealed especially on behalf of the work being taken up in the Klondike, where four nurses had already been sent. She explained at length the nature of the work they would be expected to do and the instructions they had received so as to remove any misapprehensions. At the close an expression of opinion unanimously recommended the Order to the support of the public. Dr. Barclay presided at the meeting.

An interesting memorial service was held in St. John's French church on Sunday evening, April 24th, in honor of the late Rev. Joseph Vessot, of Joliette, one of the earliest missionaries employed in Lower Canada among the French. Addresses were given by Mr. Duolos, Mr. Bourgoin, Dr. Amaron, Mr. Morin and Dr. Coussirat. The appreciation of Mr. Vessot's labors naturally made it largely a history of evangelical work done in the Province, and brought out the strong contrast between the condition of things fifty years ago and now. The service was rendered still more impressive by several appropriate selections well rendered by the choir of the church.

The Rev. I. S. McWilliams, of the American church, has returned from his trip to Egypt. He has been much benefitted by the rest and resumes his work in excellent health.

The many friends of Prof. Ross are greatly pleased at the honor of the doctorate which has been conferred upon him by Queen's College, his alma mater. He will wear it most worthily and we trust he may be long spared to enjoy it.

The Wesleyan College has been celebrating its 25th anniversary by a series of special conferences on theological and other subjects by its graduates and others. On Thursday evening, April 28th, Dr. Scrimger read a paper on "Christian Experience and its Relation to Theology." There was a good attendance of students, graduates and Methodist ministers in the city as well as of the general public.

MANITOBA NOTES.

The Presbyterians of Swan Lake have presented themselves with a new organ for their pretty little church.

Rev. J. A. Fargon, Dominion City, has persuaded the ladies of his congregation to take up the Junior Christian Endeavor work.

There is a well-defined rumor in circulation that the little girl discovered by Mr. and Mrs. Turton, of Moose Mountain, on a Dakota Indian Reserve, is not after all their child, but a native-born Indian girl. This

news will come as a shock to the family's many friends, but the investigations which have been going on recently appear to confirm the information.

Charles Horrell, druggist, of Neepawa, has been convicted on two charges of violating the liquor law, and fined \$400. Neepawa is a local option town.

Rev. G. C. Little was married quietly in Winnipeg to Miss A. Robertson, of Guelph, Ontario, on Tuesday, April 30th. Mr. Little, late of Roland, has been successfully coping with the difficulties of Pierson, and now takes a helmsheet to assist.

Rev. J. J. L. Gourlay, of Dauphin, Manitoba, has accepted the call given to him by the congregation of Thornhill, and the Presbytery of Rock Lake meets at Thornhill on Thursday, the 12th inst., at 4 p.m., to induct him into the pastorate.

The College Missionary Society of Manitoba College, held its first meeting a short time ago, President McAfee in the chair. Reports were received from the fields occupied by the society. Three stations were operated during the winter, and good work has been done. Mr. Miller was stationed in B.C., Mr. Akitt, north of Neepawa, and Rosenfeldt was supplied from the College. The Theological Society met on Thursday, April 29th, when a paper was read from Rev. R. M. Dickey, Missionary to the Klondike. Mr. Dickey described some aspects of his work.

Rev. Dr. DuVal preached Sunday, April 24th, in Knox church, Winnipeg, on "The Nature of the State and the Principle that Must Guide the Law-Makers," maintaining the stand he had taken in a sermon a few Sundays ago. On the question of Sunday amusements, the speaker claimed that as Sunday came fifty two times a year, it had a tendency to systematize such enjoyment and therefore did great harm to all who participated, the recreation feature being lost sight of. He entered into the Sunday amusements of the Catholic countries of Mexico and Spain, which were, he said, principally bull-fighting and cock-fighting. Too much license, he continued, must not be allowed in the observance of Sunday; and he closed with an earnest appeal to the legislators and the citizens generally to maintain the Anglo Saxon Sabbath.

The Manitoba Sunday fight is getting warm. Rev. C. B. Pitblado, Westminster church, Winnipeg has been preaching on the subject of legislation concerning the Sabbath. Last Sabbath he spoke on sports on that day. His text is, l. viii. xiii. This is the Reverend gentleman's position: "Prohibition ought to be protective, never coercive. Sunday legislation should secure the opportunity of a rest day for all, but should not be coercive in the methods of observance. It should deal with what is public, public sports, public entertainments, not with what is essentially private. Lawn tennis, cricket, lacrosse, foot-ball and such like sports, are either private or public, according to the way in which they are played. They are private when played in a man's own yard; they are public when they become matches played on public grounds, for trophies or money considerations, and he favored protecting the public against such invasion of the Sunday rest. He would send a minister or moralist to exhort with the man who played in his own yard; but he would send the constable after the men who played in a public way. The day of rest must be protected against the encroachment of pleasure-seeking, and from the noise of the public revelry, and the bustle of public business."

The Sabbath question was the theme of a discourse in St. Stephen's church, Winnipeg Sunday by Rev. Principal King. He stated the grounds on which the permanent obligation of a seventh day of rest is maintained. He spoke of the need of man's physical nature, which does not become less as the world grows older; also of the need of his spiritual nature, which continues under the gospel as under the law. The place of the Sabbath in the ten commandments, and the Saviour's words in reference to it were also urged. The Reverend doctor proceeded to discuss the subject of legislation to protect the day, how far it should go, and on what grounds it should proceed. He came to the conclusion that the ground was not simply the general good of the community as

learned by the light of nature, but, along with this, the law of God bearing thereon. He believed that the well being of the state is bound up with the presence in it of an earnest, healthful, vigorous religious life, and he was fully assured that the allowance of excursions and the practice of games and sports on the Christian Sabbath would lower the tone and impair the force of religious life all over. He believed that the strict observance of the Sabbath would only make our secular occupations and amusements a source of greater pleasure to us in the days when they are appropriate.

TORONTO PRESBYTERY.

The Presbytery of Toronto held its regular meeting at East Toronto, in order to deal more practically with the resignation of Mr. J. R. Johnston, the minister of that congregation. When the Presbytery assembled a letter from Mr. Johnston was read intimating that he had concluded that in the interests of the congregation he would ask that his resignation be accepted. Amid many expressions of regret from members of Presbytery, who one and all expressed the greatest confidence in Mr. Johnston, and regret at the unfortunate chain of circumstances that have led him to take this course, the resignation was accepted and Mr. J. McL. Scott was appointed Moderator of the vacant charge.

In view of the meeting of the General Assembly, which begins on the 7th of June, it was agreed to hold the next regular meeting of the Presbytery on Thursday, the 2nd day of June, in the usual place, and to set apart the evening of that day for a special sederunt for the Licenture of students. The Moderator will preside at this meeting, and will formally license the candidates and deliver an address. Addresses will also be delivered by the Rev. Principal Caven upon "The Office of the Christian Ministry," and by Dr. Milligan upon "The Functions of the Ministry." The meeting promises to be a most interesting one, as there are seven candidates for licensure among them the most brilliant students of the year.

The congregation of Fern Ave. presented a most harmonious call addressed to the Rev. S. G. Graeb, minister at Port Dalhousie, which was sustained and transmitted to the Presbytery of Hamilton. It is expected that Mr. Graeb will accept the call. The resignation of the Rev. R. J. Sturgeon, of Queensville and Ravenshoe, was accepted and the Rev. A. L. Macfadyen was appointed Moderator of the vacant charge. After very long and earnest deliberation it was agreed to lay upon the table the Overture dealing with the supply of vacant charges, but the matter will come up in another form at the next meeting of the Presbytery, and will in all probability yet reach the Assembly. It was also agreed to consider the Remit upon the Committee on Estimates at a later meeting of the Presbytery. The Draft Constitution for the formation of Missionary Associations in Congregations was submitted, and will be finally determined at the next regular meeting of Presbytery.—R. C. Tibb, Clerk.

SYNOD OF TORONTO AND KINGSTON.

The following is the programme of the Conference to be held in the Presbyterian Church, Cobourg, on May 9th and 10th:

MONDAY EVENING.—Rev. Dr. Milligan, presiding. 7.30—Devotional Exercises; 8—Address—"The Spiritual Life of the Church," Rev. John Neil, B.A.; 8.30—Address—"The Spiritual Life of the Church as manifested by the Sabbath School and Young People's Societies," Rev. Wm. Patterson; 9—Discussion—Rev. H. Gracey, Leading.

TUESDAY MORNING. Rev. J. A. Grant, Presiding. 9.00—Prayer Meeting—Subject, "Occupy till I come"; 9.45—Conference on "The Power of the Pulpit; Is it losing or gaining?" Introduced by Rev. M. McCallivray, M.A.; 10.45—Conference on "The Influence of the Home in the Work of the Church." Introduced by Rev. T. J. Thompson, M.A.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON.—Mr. J. R. McNeillie, presiding. 2.30—Devotional Exercises; 2.45—"Our Home Missions, including the Klondike," Rev. Dr. Robertson; 3.15—"The Augmentation Fund," Rev. S. Houston, M.A.; 3.45—"Our Foreign Missions," Rev. Norman Russell, B.A.; Returned Missionary; 4.30—Discussion.