

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.

An impressive service was held Sunday evening Sept. 26th in Erskine Church, the occasion being the designation of Dr. Leslie to the mission field. The church was crowded with an interested congregation, and on the platform were the pastor, the Rev. A. J. Mowat, who presided, the Rev. Dr. Warden, the Rev. Dr. MacVicar, the Rev. Murdock Mackenzie the Rev. E. Scott and Dr. Leslie. After the reading of passages of Scripture by the Rev. Mr. Scott, Mr. Mowat briefly related the events which led to the sending of Dr. Leslie as a medical missionary to China. The Rev. Murdock Mackenzie, in a lengthy speech, gave some particulars of the life of the Chinese, and outlined the duties of a missionary.

The Rev. Dr. Warden then performed the designation ceremony, presenting the missionary with the customary copy of the Bible, saying that the only weapon that he was permitted to use was the "Sword of the Spirit." Dr. Leslie received the book standing, and listened to Dr. Warden's address in the same attitude, after which he addressed the congregation, saying that he had achieved his cherished hopes, and rejoiced that he was enabled to carry out his desire and give his life to the foreign mission work. The service was brought to a close by the singing of "God be with you till we meet again." The Christian Endeavor Society of Erskine Church gave a farewell social on Monday Sept. 27th in order to allow as many as possible to see Dr. Leslie before his departure.

Mr. Joseph Tessier of Grenville has sent to the cure of his parish his formal abjuration of Roman Catholicism and connected himself with the French Presbyterian church in the same place, at present under the care of the Rev. L. K. Giroula. He has for some time back been attending its services. Being one of the best known members of the community his change has caused some commotion in the district.

The eighth anniversary of the opening of the new St. Andrew's Church Sherbrooke was observed on Sunday Sept. 26th. Able and eloquent sermons were preached both morning and evening by the Rev. Prof. Ross of Montreal to very large congregations, especially in the evening, when the service in the Methodist church was withdrawn. The collections for the day amount to about seven hundred dollars, which will be applied on the reduction of the church debt. Miss Hollishead of Montreal assisted in the musical part of the service and sang some fine solos. St. Andrew's Church was opened eight years ago and cost about twenty thousand dollars. About a thousand dollars in improvements have been added since.

The anniversary services of St. John's church, Almonte, were held on Sunday, Sept. 26th, and were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Scrimger who preached morning and evening and addressed the Sabbath school in the afternoon. In the evening St. Andrew's church gave up its service so that all their people might attend. The church was consequently crowded. The interest in the service was increased by the introduction of the new Book of Praise.

St. Paul's church, Montreal has introduced the Book of Praise, but in order that they may be able to chant the metrical version of the Psalms as formerly the Session has asked the members to retain the psalter in their pews. This may cause a little confusion to strangers in the search for what is announced, but it will prevent an interesting feature of the service from being dropped.

Dr. Mackay, of Crescent St. church, resumed for the tenth year on Saturday, Sept. 25th, the class for Sabbath school teachers. This class is much appreciated and hitherto has been largely attended by teachers of all denominations.

GENERAL.

Rev. D. Munro and Mrs. Munro, of the Point Douglas Presbyterian church, were honored by an anniversary social given by

the congregation, commemorative of their coming among them. A most enjoyable time was spent together.

The Rev. D. R. Marsh, of Black Heath, preached at Knox church Hamilton on Sabbath last in exchange with Rev. Dr. Fraser who preached at Black Heath.

Rev. M. P. Talling, the retiring pastor of St. James Presbyterian church, London, was presented with an address and a beautiful "Standard Dictionary," handsomely bound in embossed colored morocco.

St. Andrew's church, Markham, and Zion church, Cedar Grove, have unanimously decided to extend a call to the Rev. Robt. Martin of Toronto. Mr. Martin graduated in theology at Knox College last spring.

On Children's day at St. James' Square Presbyterian church, Toronto, the pastor, Rev. Louis H. Jordan, preached to them at the morning service. The little ones turned out in large numbers, and occupied seats on the ground floor of the church. The hymns were especially selected for the service, and the little ones sang them earnestly. One pleasing feature was a responsive Bible lesson.

The Mission Band of St. James' Presbyterian church, London, entertained the Ladies' A. and W. F. M. S. in the lecture hall of the church. After refreshments had been served Mrs. Talling was invited to the platform, and Mrs. H. Omond, President of the Mission Band, on behalf of the societies named, read an address to Mrs. Talling, accompanied by a handsome volume of the Presbyterian Book of Praise. Mrs. Talling replied in suitable terms.

The Rev. J. A. Morrison, B.A., of the East Presbyterian church, Toronto, after a very suitable discourse on the office and duties of the eldership, ordained Messrs. McArthur, Logie, Ross, Ewing and Brinsmead as elders. The Rev. Robert C. Moffat, D.D., Secretary of the Tract Society, who was present took part in the services. In the afternoon, Dr. Moffat gave a very earnest address to the very large Bible Class of this church "On Business for God."

Maitland, N.S., Presbyterian church has a unique and ancient history. Almost 100 years ago the first Presbyterian ordination in the Maritime Provinces was held there. During these 100 years there have been five pastors laboring in the congregation, all of whom but one was ordained there. The Rev. S. J. McArthur, formerly of B. de Que, P. E. I., who was inducted on the evening of Sept. 23rd, is the sixth pastor. The church was well filled. Revs. M. G. Henry, T. Stewart, A. B. Dickie, J. Dugan and E. J. Retto conducted the services. St. David's church enters upon a new era in its history. For the first time during the past twenty years will their beautiful manse opposite the church be occupied by their pastor.

On Monday evening Sept. 27th the members of Chalmers' church, Uxbridge, gathered at the church, to show in a tangible way their regret at the loss sustained through the departure of the Rev. W. G. Hanna and his wife and family to their new home in Mount Forest. Mr. W. Hamilton presented an illuminated address on behalf of the congregation. At the close of the address Mr. James Watt presented Mr. and Mrs. Hanna with a silver tea service, and in the tenderest of sentences expressed his deep personal regret at the loss the congregation sustained. He knew the people among whom Mr. Hanna was about to commence his labors, and could assure that gentleman that he would find them of the most congenial and warm hearted kind. Mr. Hanna's was a touching reply, thanking the congregation for their many kindnesses to himself and Mrs. Hanna.

A good, as well as a prominent man has been taken away, by the death of Mr. William Scott, "Mountjoy," Martintown, Glengarry. Deceased was an elder in St. Andrew's church, Martintown, for many years, and was held in the highest esteem in the community. Seven clergymen took part in the funeral services, viz: Rev. Mr. Langill, Martintown; Rev. J. S. Barnet, the late pastor at Martintown; Revs. Watson and Strour, of Williamstown; Rev. A. Graham, of Lancaster; Rev. Mr. Matheson, of Martintown, and Rev. D. D. McEllan, of Apple Hill. The four sons of the deceased were the pallbearers, viz: Rev.

A. H. Scott, M.A., of St. Andrew's Church, Perth; Mr. Wm. J. Scott an elder in the Presbyterian Church, Lancaster; Mr. D. J. Scott, a theological student in the Presbyterian College, Montreal, and Mr. R. G. Scott. The deceased leaves a widow, four sons and two daughters. Two daughters were missionaries to China, one of whom returned four years ago and died at the old home on the King's road; the other died in China a year later.

PRESBYTERY OF PETERBORO.

This Presbytery met in Port Hope on Sept. 21st. There were eleven ministers and three elders present.

Mr. Sutherland was appointed moderator for six months.

The treasurer of the Presbytery found reported regarding the congregations in arrears to the fund. He was instructed to write to these congregations and to pay no monies to any pastor or elder whose congregation is in arrears.

The Presbytery appointed Dec. 5th as the Missionary Sabbath for this year and renewed instructions to all pastors to take the opportunity, by themselves or others, to bring the claims of the more important Schemes before the people on that day.

The next meeting of Presbytery was appointed to be held in St. Paul's Church, Peterboro on Dec. 14th, at 9 o'clock. A report from the committee on Young People's Societies is asked for at that meeting.

Very encouraging reports from Home Mission fields and augmented congregations were given by delegates who had visited them and grants were recommended very much on the scale of last year.

The reconsideration of the reconstruction of the Dansford field was deferred until the next meeting.

A report was received regarding the history and condition of the Warsaw and Dummer Trust Fund and steps taken to put it on a better basis.

The clerk was instructed to certify to their several colleges the students resident within the bounds whose exercises had been approved.

It was reported that the congregations of Baltimore and Coldsprings had been declared vacant on the previous Sabbath, and these congregations were granted leave to moderate in a call when prepared for the step.

On the recommendation of the delegate who had visited the Harvey field, it was agreed to ask the congregations which have not yet contributed to the removal of the debt on the Lakehurst Church to make their contributions as soon as possible and to forward them, as others have done, to the clerk of Presbytery. Owing to the good work done in this field by Mr. McKnight it was unanimously agreed to ask the Home Mission Committee to reappoint him for the winter months.

Dr. Smith and Mr. Hay were appointed a committee to draw up a minute expressive of the high esteem in which Mr. Gilchrist, late pastor of Baltimore and Coldsprings, is held by every member of the Presbytery, and a suitably worded minute was accordingly prepared.

The clerk was instructed to write to the Hamilton Presbytery in order to ascertain their views as to the steps to be taken in the matter of the conference appointed by the General Assembly in the case of Mr. R. McKnight. Wm. BENSITT, Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF VICTORIA.

This presbytery held its usual September meeting in St. Andrew's Church, Nanaimo, on Wednesday 1st September, with a fair attendance of members. Mr. Wm. B. Cumming, of Nanaimo, was appointed Moderator for the ensuing year.

Among the items of business of more general interest, the following may be noted: A committee was appointed to supervise the studies of Mr. W. Swanton, missionary to the Indians, in terms of the General Assembly's deliverance in his case. Power was granted to the committee of supply—Mr. Tait, convener—for the pulpit of St. George's Union, to make all necessary arrangements during the vacancy in the matter of remuneration, etc. The clerk was instructed to call the attention of ministerial members who have been absent