

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

The latest event of interest among Presbyterians in this city, and which will also possess no little interest to very many beyond it, was the celebration last Friday evening, under the auspices of the Presbytery of Toronto, of the ministerial jubilee of Rev. Dr. McLaren of Knox College. It was desired to hold it in the College as the most fitting place, but this being found impossible, the office bearers of Bloor street Presbyterian church, to the session of which Dr. McLaren belongs, gladly opened their doors for such an occasion, and the ladies provided a social reception from six to eight. At eight a good sized audience gathered in the auditorium, and the more public part of the ceremony began, the Rev. Wylie Clarke, Moderator of the Presbytery, presiding. There may have been a fitness in it, but I must say it looked a little odd, to see presiding at such an occasion, one who looked so youthful in appearance that the reverend doctor looked old enough with his whitened locks to be his grandfather. But this is the young men's era. The reception was well attended, especially by ministerial brethren of Toronto and their wives, and brief and pleasant informal congratulatory speeches were made after the tea had been done full justice to. The chief part of the ceremonies consisted, after brief devotional exercises, of the reading to Dr. McLaren, of several very complimentary addresses, all suitably bound and presented to him. The first was from his co-Presbyters and was read by Rev. R. C. Tibb, Clerk of Presbytery. Then followed an address on behalf of the Presbytery and Foreign Mission Committee of which Dr. McLaren was for many years Convener, by Rev. Dr. Milligan. The next was from the alumni of Knox College, of which the doctor is himself an alumnus, and was read by Rev. J. McD. Duncan. Another was from the Board and Senate of the College and was read by Rev. Prof. Ballantyne. One was also handed to the doctor, but not read, from the congregation of Amherstburg which was his first charge. His Honor, the Lieutenant Governor was also present, and as Chairman of the Board of Knox College, made a happy address, referring in suitable terms to the valuable services as Professor of Systematic Theology which Dr. McLaren has rendered the College and the Church in the number of students, between five hundred and six hundred, who during his thirty years professorial labors had passed through his hands. Mr. John L. Baikie, a fellow office bearer, and one who had been long and closely associated with the guest of the evening in the work of Bloor street church, spoke for the congregation and in its name made a presentation of a handsome case of silverware, in doing which he coupled the name of Mrs. McLaren with that of her husband. After all this, Dr. McLaren replied at some length, specifying his pastorates in Amherstburg, Boston in the United States, Belleville, Ontario, and Ottawa, and giving a number of interesting reminiscences of his early College days and friends, and next of his long period of service as a professor. It was interesting to see amongst those present such venerated fathers in the Church, and old friends of him in whose honour the gathering was held, as Revs. Dr. Gregg and Wardrop, both now well over the fourscore, and George Hay, Esq., from Ottawa to represent Knox church. The whole occasion was a most happy and interesting one in honor of one whose whole career in the Church and whose valuable services rendered were well worthy of all the honour so spontaneously and heartily paid him. The absence was felt of the Principal of Knox College, who, unfortunately, was laid up with an attack of gripe, and who, we understand, has been forbidden by his medical adviser on that account to attend the General Assembly meeting in Vancouver.

For one week, the last was very much emphasized by Presbyterian jubilees. The preliminary service in the observance of that of St. James Square congregation was held last Sunday, and consisted of a reunion Communion service at which not only the present congregation, notwithstanding many absentees on account of the holiday on Monday, was well represented, but many old members also appeared and took part in this sacred commemorative observance, whose faces once familiar had grown unfamiliar by the silent lapse of years. Rev. Principal Caven, as having been long associated with the congrega-

tion, thirty-seven years, and having been well acquainted with all its pastors, took the chief part of the service in a historical and memorial pre-Communion address. Nothing could possibly be better, or in every way more happy and appropriate than his sketch of the early struggles of the few faithful men and women who at first formed the congregation, or his characterization of its successive pastors, Revs. Dr. Taylor, King, Kellogg, and old Dr. Burns, as voluntary supply for a time, all now gone to their rest, and the tribute he paid to the true and loyal elders and other office bearers who stood by the various pastors of the congregation, and had by their labors and liberality given the congregation the honoured place it had always held and still holds in the Presbyterian Church. Those whose acquaintance with the congregation and knowledge of its pastors extended over all those years, could not but be greatly encouraged by Dr. Caven's wise, timely and Christian words, and all connected with it now, be stimulated to fresh endeavor to be worthy successors of those who had gone before. Attention was specially called by the pastor to the expected presence next Sabbath of Rev. Dr. Gibson, of London, England, to preach the jubilee sermons and members were advised to be early in their places as a very large attendance was expected at both morning and evening services. In the evening Rev. Mr. Gandier preached an inspiring sermon specially designed for the young, and well calculated to awaken a sense of responsibility for the future in view of all that has been done for us, and that we have inherited from the past. It might be added that there was a large accession to the membership of nearly thirty by profession of faith and by certificate together from other churches. Altogether it was an high day, and one much to be remembered. On the evening of the same day Rev. A. B. Winchester of Knox church took the somewhat unusual course of preaching a sermon intended specially for young women. Young men have enjoyed too much a kind of monopoly of special sermons, and surely young women need and are equally entitled to some special Christian attention of that kind.

The committee of the Woman's Home Mission Society whose formation was referred to in a previous letter, met last week and adopted a constitution and also appointed office bearers. We need only name the chief. Hon. President, Mrs. W. Mortimer Clark; President, Mrs. S. S. Smellie, with five Vice-Presidents; Recording Secretary, Miss Inglis; First Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. E. Lang; Treasurer, Miss Helen Macdonald. It was arranged that there should be three committees—hospital work, publication of home mission literature, and organization. The existing Atlin Nurse Committee was formally appointed a committee on hospital work. Mrs. M. Curdy, Mrs. Mitchell and Miss Mickle were appointed a publication committee, with power to add to their numbers. The Committee on Organization is composed of Mrs. Frizzell, Mrs. Warden, Mrs. James Kent, Mrs. Gillies and Mrs. Thom, authority being given to them to add to their numbers. The Secretary was instructed to communicate with the following ladies in other localities, asking them to serve on this committee: Lady Taylor, Hamilton; Mrs. K. Maclean, Guelph; Mrs. D. M. Gordon, Halifax; Miss Dickson, Peterboro; Mrs. Colin H. Campbell, Winnipeg; Mrs. Dr. Lafferty, Winnipeg. The committee decided to call a public meeting of ladies, to be held in Knox church lecture-room on Tuesday, 9th June, at 5 p.m., to receive and dispose of their recommendations.

A very well attended and very much in earnest temperance convention was held last week, to take some action to stir up the Government to carry out, more speedily than it appears likely to do, the legislation it promised, and called for by the large vote cast in the referendum to do away with the bar, treating, drinking in club rooms and in other ways. Very general and apparently a very justifiable feeling of disappointment was expressed at the delay of the government to enact legislative measures upon what appeared to the members of the Convention rather flimsy excuses not to call them pretexts. The most important action of the Convention was the vote reaffirming the resolution adopted at the Convention of Jan. 16th: "That in view of the recent expression by the electors of the Province of Ontario in favor of the liquor act, 1902, we deem it advisable to request that effect be given to the said vote by the abolition of the public bar, the treating system and drinking in

clubs and the imposition of such other restrictions on the liquor traffic as shall most effectually curtail its operation and remedy its evils." Another motion was also passed heartily and unanimously, calling upon the government to at once appoint a commission in the interests of good citizenship, to investigate the numerous and gross frauds practiced through the ballot boxes in the referendum vote of December 4th last.

The near completion of the University Convocation Hall Fund, the unveiling of a striking and admirable statue, set up in the Queen's park, in memory of Governor Simcoe, the citizen's banquet to Lord Minto, and the general and loyal observance of Victoria Day, have all made the past week a somewhat memorable one.

Ottawa.

Rev. A. E. Mitchell will preach to the Orangemen in Erskine church on July 12th at 4 p.m.

At Erskine church, the pulpit was occupied by Rev. James A. Macfarlane, M.A., of the Bible Institute. The pastor, Rev. A. E. Mitchell being in Prescott assisting at anniversary services there.

A large congregation assembled on Friday evening in St. Andrew's church at the pre-Communion service when Rev. Dr. Munro Gibson, of London, England, delivered a powerful and impressive sermon. The speaker was introduced by Rev. Dr. Herridge, who spoke of him as the leader of evangelism in Great Britain. Dr. Gibson is one of the most eminent divines in the Presbyterian church, and is not only a preacher but a writer of equal prominence and ability. His appearance in the pulpit is such as conveys to his hearers a feeling of admiration, and impresses them with his force of character and broadmindedness. Physically he is a man of generous proportions, with strong features, which add greatly to his attractive personality, and effective deliverance.

Prof. Ballantyne of Knox College, Toronto, predecessor of Rev. D. M. Ramsay in the pastorate of Knox church, preached in that church on Sabbath. At both services he was greeted by large congregations. It is needless to say that he preached able and impressive services. He took for his text 1st Thessalonians 5: 20-22, illustrating five points of the Christian life—1, the pressure and power of the Holy Spirit in the heart and life; 2, appreciation of the teachings of the life-giving word; 3, bringing the teachings and doings of everyday life to the test of the Word of God; 4, steadfast maintenance of the truth of the gospel and Christian morality; and 5, surrendering or abandoning everything calculated to bring dishonor upon the name of God or reproach upon the cause of Christ. The Christian life is a strenuous life—an active warfare against sin and an earnest striving for holiness, wise and reasonable discrimination in regard to things bearing upon the everyday ranges of life, and a blessed hungering and thirsting after righteousness. Such a life can only be successfully pursued by acceptance of the teachings of the Word of Life, illumined by the purifying and sanctifying power of the Heavenly Paraclete, commissioned by our Divine Redeemer to take of the things that are Christ's and show them unto those who accept the gift of salvation.

Eastern Ontario.

The Rev. J. R. Conn preached his farewell sermon in Clayton last Sabbath.

The Presbytery of Kingston last week fixed the date of the induction of Rev. Jas. R. Conn at Napanee for Tuesday evening, June 2nd, at 8 o'clock. Rev. Mr. MacLaren, of Picton, preached; Rev. Dr. Jordan, Queen's University, addressed the minister and presided, and Rev. A. H. Drumm, Belleville, addressed the people.

On Thursday, 4th June, Rev. Mr. Fotheringham was ordained at Sandhurst, Rev. R. Laird presided and ordained; Mr. McLeod preached; Mr. Cumberland addressed the people and Mr. Boyd, the minister.

At the funeral service of the late John MacLaren held in First church, Brockville, last Thursday, Rev. Robt. Laird was assisted by Rev. David MacLaren, Alexandria, Rev. Prof. MacLaren, of Knox College, Toronto, and Rev. D. Strachan. It was one of the largest ever seen in Brockville, all classes of citizens wishing to pay their last tribute.