

WESTERN ONTARIO.

The Rev. G. H. Smith, D.D., of St. Catharines, and the Rev. D. G. McPhail of Cayuga exchanged pulpits on Sunday last.

On a recent Sunday Rev. J. J. Paterson, of St. Andrew's, Sarnia, exchanged pulpits with Rev. E. C. Carrie, of Burn's Church.

Rev. Thomas H. Mitchell, of new St. James, London, exchanged last Sunday with Rev. Walter Nichol, of St. Marys.

Rev. A. E. Mitchell, minister of Knox Church, Hamilton, has been presented with a handsome silk pulpit gown.

The fourteenth anniversary of the opening of Knox Church, Acton, and the sixty-fourth of the organization of the congregation was held last Sunday, when Rev. Albert E. Mitchell, B.A., of Knox Church, Hamilton, preached morning and evening.

The Rev. Robert Pettigrew, M.A., of Glenmorris, on completing a 25 years' ministry, was presented with a beautifully illuminated address, handsomely bound in album form, and containing the signatures of members of the congregation. It also voiced the loving respect of the flock for their esteemed pastor.

The year 1908 marked a very important stage in the history of the Barrie Presbyterian church, as the closing of the year found the congregation free from debt. Rev. Dr. McLeod has been the pastor of this congregation for twenty-four years, and the influence of his long, able and faithful ministry will be felt in the church and community for many years to come.

Knox Church, Woodstock, (Rev. R. B. Cochran, pastor), is in a prosperous condition. The membership is 547, an addition, after making all deductions, of 27 during the year. Receipts \$6,752.21; payments, \$6,710.37, leaving a balance of \$42.44 in the treasury. The mortgage debt of the church was reduced by \$1,500. Mr. Malcolm Douglas, was re-elected secretary-treasurer, a position he has usefully filled for several years.

The pastor, Rev. Barber, presided at the annual meeting of Knox Church, Embury. At the beginning of the year the envelope system for contributions was adopted, and was found satisfactory. Perhaps as a result the contributions for congregational and mission purposes are much in advance of former years. The total receipts were \$3,855.05, and of this amount \$1,033.68 was devoted to missionary purposes.

Chalmer's Church, Woodstock, (Rev. Dr. Dickie, pastor), contributed more largely than before to the congregational purposes and for sending the gospel to others. The present membership is 456, there having been 33 additions and 29 withdrawals. The number of families in the congregation was 180. The total contributions for all purposes amounted to \$4,921.61. A committee to look after the erection of a new church building was appointed viz:—Messrs. James W. Innes, Wm. Matheson of the Governor's road west, John Weir, Hugh McDonald, Wm. Amos, Pierce Irving, R. W. McPherson, James Forbes, George A. Mason and Allan Virtue.

The reports of Central Church, Galt, (Rev. Dr. Dickson, pastor), presented at the recent annual meeting, were all of a most satisfactory nature, and those in attendance could not but be impressed with the prosperity and stability of this old and influential congregation. The present membership is 826, a net gain of 28 during the year. The following officers were re-elected: Trustees—Messrs. Robert Cranston, Thos. Telfer and Thos. Hunter; Managers—Hon. James Young, (chairman), A. J. Colvin, F. L. Hamilton, D. Smith; treasurer—Mr. Alfred Taylor; secretary—Mr. A. J. Colvin. It was decided by the congregation to adopt a system of collection for all church purposes by envelopes.

WINNIPEG AND WEST.

Rev. J. W. McMillan, of St. Andrew's, has been elected moderator of Winnipeg Presbytery.

Winnipeg Presbytery has granted leave to Dufferin Avenue congregation to remove farther north.

Knox church increased the salary of Rev. Solandt, assistant minister by \$300, thus demonstrating in a very practical way its satisfaction with his services.

Knox church has now a membership of 808, an addition of 80 new names last year. The total receipts amounted to \$20,001.71, of which \$5,778.01 went to various mission and benevolent schemes.

The managers' report expressed gratification at the election of Dr. Duval to the moderatorship of the General Assembly. The following officers were chosen: H. S. Paterson, secretary, re-elected; E. H. Blissett, treasurer, re-elected; H. H. Sanderson, financial secretary, re-elected. Retiring managers, Thos. Ross, D. B. McRae and John McKechnie were again elected, and Wm. Russell was also chosen.

MONTREAL AND QUEBEC.

At Montreal West, Rev. A. S. Ross, B.A., has been preaching on "Bad Bargains."

General regret is expressed at the resignation of the Rev. J. Lyall George as pastor of Calvin church. During his residence of twelve years in Montreal Mr. George has taken a deep and active interest in all matters concerning moral betterment of the district in which he labored and the city as a whole. His retirement from so arduous a field is brought about by ill-health. The pulpit will be declared vacant on first Sabbath of March. Rev. W. R. Cruikshank, whose address is the Y.M.C.A. building, has been appointed interim moderator, and to him applications for a hearing should be made.

Rev. A. T. Love, B.D., of St. Andrew's church, Quebec, has been lecturing on the Immortality of Burns, with Hon. Justice McCorkill as chairman. The lecturer rapidly sketched the career of Scotland's native poet, dwelling upon his wonderful sympathy, which was undoubtedly the source of his great popularity. Burns was the champion of democracy, and love and sympathy pervade his feelings more than any other poet. Scotsmen were proud to regard him as their fellow-countrymen, his fame has now become the common property of the whole world. While there were greater poets than Burns, such as Shakespeare and Milton, yet as a songster he soared above them all. His intense realism and passionate love of nature also made him popular, and although he had his full share of the faults and frailties of human nature, his name inspires greater enthusiasm year after year, and his empire has become world-wide. Mr. Love's exposition of the virtues and career of the great Scottish bard was brilliant, and when he sat down a hearty vote of thanks was tendered him for his splendid effort.

The average attendance at the Orillia Sunday School last year was 426. Mr. H. Cooke was re-elected superintendent. \$150 was voted to the missions of the church. Mrs. Fred Stanley Smith was presented with a handsome cut-glass bowl and centre piece, in recognition of her services as teacher for some years past. Mr. Cooke in a complimentary speech expressed the regret of the teachers at the severance of the relationship of one whose name had been associated with the school for so many years, her father, the late Thomas Dallas, having been the first superintendent at its organization, retaining that position for over thirty years, until his death in 1880.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, QUEBEC.

Correspondence Montreal Witness.

There has just been published a pamphlet which contains a historical sketch of this old church, and as the congregation is preparing to celebrate next year the one hundredth anniversary of the erection of its present building, the following facts will no doubt be of interest:

St. Andrew's church, Quebec, is one of the oldest in Canada, services according to the Presbyterian form of faith having been held in Quebec uninterruptedly since 1759, the year of the Conquest. These services were first held in the Jesuits' Barracks, and were conducted by the brave captain of the Fraser Highlanders, the Rev. Robert McPherson, which regiment had highly distinguished itself both at the siege of Louisbourg and at the battle on the Plains of Abraham. Soon after the surrender of the city a Presbyterian congregation was organized and on its membership roll appear such names as Thompson, Blackburn, McLean, McPherson, Paterson, Matheson, Macdonald, Munro, etc., all members of the Church of Scotland. It is interesting to note that the first regular pastor of this congregation was the Rev. George Henry, a military chaplain, who is said to have been present at the taking of Quebec. He began his duties in 1765.

Of still greater interest is the fact that for some time after the Conquest this congregation held its services in the chapel of the Ursuline Convent. Afterwards an apartment was fitted up as a chapel in the Jesuits' College, and there from 1807 to 1810 the congregation worshipped in a room in the Court House.

Letters patent, however, had been issued by King George III., in answer to a request, granting a lot of ground on St. Ann street as a site for the erection of a church. This was in 1802. In 1810, on Nov. 30, St. Andrew's Day, the present building was opened for worship, and appropriately named St. Andrew's church. This building, which presents a quaint antique appearance, has remained almost unchanged externally ever since, except that the steeple was taken down some thirty years ago. This was done to give accommodation for the organ.

Handsome memorial windows and fine tablets have been erected, and the old church, with its skylight windows in the roof, is viewed with no little interest by strangers and tourists.

Since the opening of the church for divine service, in 1810, the congregation has had but four pastors: The Rev. A. Sparks, D.D., 1810-1819; the Rev. James Harkness, D.D., 1830-1835; the Rev. John Cook, D.D., 1836-1864, and the Rev. Andrew T. Love, B.A., 1864, the present pastor.

The elders at present are: Messrs. J. H. Clint, A. J. Elliott, John Straug, James Reid, Robert Stewart and John Jack. The board of management is composed of the following gentlemen: Messrs. Adam J. Elliott, John Breakey, M. Lampron, J. H. Thomson, A. Robertson, Colonel Turnbull, George Mitchell, G. B. Ramsey, A. W. Hay and R. H. O'Regan. St. Andrew's church has also a beautiful kirk hall and a comfortable manse.

A new pipe organ is being installed in St. Andrew's Church, Sarnia, at a cost of \$4,700. The Karn Co., of Woodstock, are the builders. As the space occupied by the old organ would not suffice for the new one, considerable alterations had to be made in the church for its reception. The "opening day" has been fixed for Sunday, the 28th inst., when the Rev. Dr. Hossack, of Toronto, will occupy the pulpit. The old organ after being thoroughly overhauled, which will put it in first class condition, is to be placed in Geneva Church, Cheshley.