

## Ministers and Churches.

THE lectures in Manitoba College closed for the first part of the session on Friday week. The examinations were then held. The principal of the institution, Dr. King, is spending the holidays at Clifton Springs, in New York State.

THE members and adherents of the Presbyterian Church, Hemmingford, Que., lately presented their pastor, the Rev. William Robertson, with a fine young horse as a token of their esteem, and to aid him in his pastoral work in the parish.

THE Rev. Mr. Mackie, in giving a missionary talk at Gananoque, pointed out that more money was contributed by the people on mission stations in the Kingston Presbytery, than was, on an average, given by self-sustaining congregations.

THE entertainment recently given by the young ladies of the Presbyterian Church, Lyn, seemed to be well enjoyed by the large audience present. Besides local talent, parties from Brockville, Mallorytown, Carleton Place and Fairfield assisted in making the evening pass pleasantly. The proceeds amounted to about \$35.

THE Rev. A. Bell, of St. Andrew's Church, Peterboro', was lately the recipient of a neatly and kindly worded address, expressive of the value of his ministrations, and the high esteem in which he is personally held by his congregation. The address was read by Mrs. Carnegie. Mrs. Nichol then presented to Mr. Bell a handsome pulpit robe. In fitting terms, Mr. Bell gratefully acknowledged the address, with its accompanying gift, and the company thereafter spent an enjoyable and profitable evening.

THERE was a good turn-out at the festival in St. Andrew's Church, Stratford, on Tuesday evening week. Tea was served in the basement from six to eight o'clock p.m., and after that good addresses were delivered by the Rev. Messrs. Gordon Smith, Turnbull, St. Marys; Kay, Milverton; Cunningham, Central Methodist Church, and Mr. Pantou, of Knox College, who gave an interesting address on the missionary work of the college. Between the addresses the choir sang some pleasing selections. The solos of Mrs. A. C. Mowat and Miss Knight were much admired. Rev. Mr. Macpherson then closed the meeting with the benediction.

THE Rev. P. McF. MacLeod, of Central Presbyterian Church, Toronto, delivered a very able lecture on "That Young Man," under the auspices of the Presbyterian Ladies' Aid, in McCrossin's Hall, Pentanguishene, on Monday evening, the 6th ult. A large and highly appreciative audience listened to Mr. MacLeod for an hour and ten minutes with undivided attention, and heartily thanked him at the close. The Presbyterian Church choir discoursed sweet music during the evening, and added much to the entertainment. Since Mr. MacLeod's visit to Penetanguishene last fall, he has, in many substantial ways, aided the Presbyterians in their endeavours to build a church.

THE annual meeting of the Ashburn Busy Bee Mission Band. Receipts from mite-boxes, \$17.17. Membership thirty-four. Thus, under the auspices of the Woman's Missionary Society, it also has had a very successful year. The annual meeting of the Woman's Branch of the Foreign Missionary Society in connection with the Presbyterian Church took place last Wednesday at the manse, there being a good attendance. The following officers were elected:—Mrs. McClelland, president; Mrs. John Heron, vice-president; Mrs. James Davidson, secretary; Miss Lizzie Gardiner, treasurer. There were four new members received. The past year has been very successful financially. The receipts are \$70.25. This is a good deal above the average from a membership of twenty-three.

On the evening of Tuesday, the 21st ult., a surprise party of the South Church took possession of the manse of the Presbyterian Church of West Nisouri. On the Wednesday following, the pastor, the Rev. J. W. Penman, and his family were to leave for the east, where they proposed spending the Christmas holidays. The rev. gentleman having resigned his charge, the object of the "surprise" was to express their respect for him as a man and as a minister, and their affection for his amiable lady. During the evening, which was filled up with tea, speech, music and song, Miss Mary Ann Stewart presented to Mr. Penman an appreciative address, full of kindly feeling, regret and wishes; while Mr. David Wilkie presented a purse containing a nice sum of money. Both were presented in the name of the many friends of the congregation. The rev. gentleman very feelingly replied. He spoke of the pleasure his work had brought him, and the many friends made during his pastorate among them. He assured them that his many friends of Nisouri would always be kindly remembered by him, and have a warm place in his heart.

THE Chelsea Presbyterian Church Sabbath school gave a successful Christmas entertainment. The church was crowded, taxing the ingenuity of the ushers, who were compelled to devise all sort of means to find seating accommodation. The programme was filled by the Sabbath school scholars in a very creditable manner, indeed reflecting great credit upon the efforts of the teachers, particularly upon those of Miss Slothers, the organist of the school. The distribution of presents from the Christmas tree was the item of interest to the scholars. The liberality of the parents and friends of the school was such as furnished an abundance of good things. A most pleasant feature in the evening's entertainment was the presentation made to Mr. Dempster, the pastor, of a purse containing the sum of \$50. The Chelsea Presbyterian congregation are to be congratulated upon the high state of efficiency to which their Sabbath school has attained. The number on the roll is at present seventy scholars, with a staff of ten teachers and officers. The affairs of the congregation are in a very satisfactory condition. Quite a number of additions have been recently made to the Church membership.

THE Presbyterian congregation of Grafton held a very successful soiree on the evening of Monday, 27th December. The Rev. Messrs Drummond, of Newcastle, Malcolm, of Underwood, Centre Bruce, McCrea, of Cobourg, delivered instructive and eloquent addresses to a large and appreciative audience. Music, both vocal and instrumental, and recitations imparted variety to the evening's entertainment. The Christmas greetings of the Grafton congregation to their pastor, the Rev. W. A. McKenzie, were manifested in a practical form indeed. He was presented with a beautiful and costly cutter, set of harness and pair of robes as a token of appreciation and warm sympathy. Rev. Mr. McCrea, of Cobourg, made the presentation on behalf of the Grafton congregation and Mr. McKenzie responded briefly, thanking the generous donors for their munificent gifts. Afterward suitable presents were distributed to the Sabbath school children from the Christmas tree. Presents were also given to the efficient superintendent of the Sabbath school, Mr. W. E. Johnstone and the teachers. The proceeds of the soiree are to be expended for the benefit of the Sabbath school.

THE Knox Church, Stratford, anniversary services were conducted on Sabbath week, by Rev. Dr. Thompson, of Sarnia, who preached excellent sermons, both morning and evening, to unusually large congregations. Except in point of attendance, the tea meeting on Monday evening went off successfully. The tea was taken in the basement, and the rest of the programme was all that could be desired. Sensible and stirring addresses were delivered by Rev. Mr. McEwen, Stratford, Rev. Dr. Thompson, Sarnia, and Rev. Mr. Macdonnell, B.D., Toronto. Mr. Macdonnell's address was fraught with good advice to young men, and he closed with some pertinent remarks on mission work, alluding more especially to the labours of Knox College students in this direction. Messrs. Hamilton and Paion, students of the college, addressed the meeting by invitation, telling what was being done by the students during their holidays in Home Mission work. They solicited the aid of any in the audience who felt disposed to give pecuniary help in forwarding such work. Mr. Cunningham, of the Central Methodist Church, occupied a seat on the platform. The choir were highly complimented on their rendition of the music prepared for the occasion.

ON Sabbath, 19th ult., a fine new church, in every way suitable to the requirements of the place, was opened at Strangfield, Tilbury West. The opening sermons were preached by the Rev. J. Allister Murray, of St. Andrew's Church, London. The Rev. J. B. Scott, of Leamington, interim Moderator of the vacant charge with which this new church is connected, was present, and conducted the devotional exercises at the evening service, assisted therein by the Rev. J. Murray, late of Douglastown, New Brunswick. The congregations assembled on the occasion were very large, especially in the evening. The services were felt to be impressive, appropriate and edifying. Our Presbyterian friends at Strangfield deserve great credit for their persistency and liberality in the construction of this beautiful church, which, henceforth, must form the key of their position, and the centre of their increasing interests in this fertile district of the rich county of Essex. On Monday afternoon, following the opening, Rev. Mr. Scott held a meeting of the congregation, and completed in due form its organization in connection with Tilbury West and Comber. On Monday evening, a very successful social meeting was held, with fine music, eloquent speeches and satisfactory financial results.

THE new Presbyterian Church in the township of Torbolton (Rev. W. K. Shearer, pastor) was opened on Sabbath, December 19. Ground was broken on the 22nd of April, and the congregation is to be congratulated on the successful issue of their efforts. The building is a handsome stone one, and will accommodate comfortably about 225. The total cost is \$3,033, of which, on the day of opening \$1,827 were provided for. The Rev. G. M. Clark, of New Edinburgh, preached morning and evening to the largest audiences ever gathered in Torbolton. The services were appropriate and highly appreciated by the people. On Monday evening, a very successful social was held. The church was crowded. An excellent tea was provided by the ladies of the congregation, after which, addresses were delivered by the Rev. Messrs. Austin, Stewart, McLaren, Roberts and Clerk. Rev. Mr. McLaren and choir kindly furnished almost all the music, and were heartily applauded by the audience. One very important feature of the evening's proceedings was the subscription—before the meeting closed—of nearly \$900 toward paying off the debt. The proceeds of the opening services amounted to about \$200, and the remainder of the debt has almost all been provided for. The thanks of pastor and people are due Mr. Clark for his aid in clearing off the debt.

THE re-opening of the Presbyterian Church, Emsdale, was held on Sabbath last, 19th ult. The services were conducted by Rev. A. Findlay, Barrie and Rev. J. Leishman, Angus. Morning services were conducted by Rev. A. Findlay, who preached a very eloquent sermon to an appreciative audience from Luke's Gospel, ii. 14. At the evening service Rev. J. Leishman preached to a large and attentive audience from 1 Peter i. 18. The services were characterized by deep solemnity and thanksgiving to God for His goodness in blessing the work in which they had been engaged to a successful issue. On the Tuesday following a very successful tea meeting was held in the church, which was filled by an enthusiastic and appreciative audience. After a plentiful repast, provided by the good ladies of the congregation, Rev. A. Findlay was called to the chair, who, by his genial warm-heartedness, kept the large gathering in good humour to the close. Addresses were delivered by the chairman and others present. Mr. Jackson, of Magnetawan, was a whole choir in himself, and cheered the company by several pieces of music on the organ, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. Dean, proprietor of the shingle factory here. After votes of thanks had been awarded, the meeting was closed by singing the doxology. The evening throughout proved a success, and cleared the church from debt, leaving a balance on hand.

PRESBYTERY OF BRUCE.—This Presbytery met within Knox Church, Walkerton, on December 14. A letter was read from Rev. D. Wardrop, tendering his resignation of the charge of Westminster Church, Teeswater, owing to failing health, and a committee was appointed to make arrangements for the supply of his pulpit till next meeting of Presbytery. On application, leave was granted to organize a station at Skipness, to be associated with Allenford and Elsinore, as a part of that charge. Mr. Eckford, on behalf of a committee, submitted a series of questions to be put at Presbyterial visitations. The report was adopted, and arrangements were made for visiting the congregations within the bounds. The remit on the marriage question was approved of by a vote of ten to five. Sessions were instructed to send in their answers to the questions on the State of Religion to Rev. John Ferguson before the middle of February.—J. GOURLAY, Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.—This Presbytery met on the 22nd ult. Rev. Thomas Scouler intimated his acceptance of the call to New Westminster, B. C., and his translation was agreed to by the Presbytery, on motion of Rev. D. H. Fletcher, seconded by Rev. R. J. Laidlaw, both of whom expressed their high appreciation of Mr. Scouler's personal worth, and of the work he had accomplished in Hamilton. They also expressed their sincere regret at his removal from the ranks of the Presbyterian brotherhood of the city. Rev. S. Lyle was appointed to preach in Eskine Church on the first Sabbath in January, and declare the pulpit vacant, also to act as Moderator of the Session until another pastor is secured. The next business was the union of the Presbyterian Churches at Caledonia and Ancaster East. The report of the committee appointed to attend to this matter was submitted by Rev. R. J. Laidlaw. The report stated the arrangements made for the union of Sutherland Street Church and Argyle Street Church, Caledonia, and recommended the union of these churches as one congregation forthwith. This report was unanimously adopted by the Presbytery, and Rev. D. H. Fletcher, Convener of the Committee on Union, was appointed to preach in Argyle Street Church on the second Sabbath of January, and declare the union formed, also to act as Moderator of the interim Session, composed of the two existing Sessions, and report to Presbytery at next meeting, January 20. In order to facilitate this union the Rev. Thomas Wilson had tendered his resignation of the Sutherland Street charge, his congregation agreeing to do all in their power to consider his pecuniary interests under the circumstances. The report also recommended the uniting of Knox Church, Allen Settlement, and Erskine Church, Ancaster East, as one congregation. After considerable deliberation it was agreed to unite the two churches, and Rev. R. J. Laidlaw was appointed to preach in Knox Church, Allen Settlement, on the second Sabbath of January, at two p.m., and declare the union, also to act as Moderator of the interim Session, and report at next meeting of Presbytery.

PRESBYTERY OF BRANDON.—A regular meeting of Brandon Presbytery was held in Knox Church, Minnedosa, on Tuesday and Wednesday, 14th and 15th December. The following were present: Ministers, Messrs. Duncan (Moderator), Douglas, Robertson, Todd, McTavish, Haig, Murray, Smith, Mowat, Kelly, MacKay, McKellar, Fleit and Solomon T. Leauscuie; Elders, Mr. McNab, Catechist, Mr. Patterson. An open meeting was held on the evening of Tuesday, when excellent addresses were given by Messrs. McKellar and Douglas on "Christian Life in the Home." Mr. Fleit, on being called on, drew a vivid contrast between life in the Christian's home, and that in the home of the uncivilized. Mr. Robertson gave a fine address on the influence which missions exert on the spiritual life of the Church. Rev. Wm. Hodgett, of Birtle, was elected Moderator of Presbytery for the next six months. Congregations throughout the Presbytery are to be requested to change their ecclesiastical year so as to correspond with the calendar year. Mr. Duncan was appointed to visit Birtle, and moderate in a call to a minister at such a time as shall be suitable to all parties concerned. Mr. Currie having accepted the call to Virden, arrangements were made for his induction to take place on January 5, Mr. Durand to preach, Mr. Douglas to address the minister, and Mr. Anderson the people. The call from Oak Lake in favour of Mr. Hodges was transmitted to the Clerk of Regina Presbytery, of which he is a member, and should all necessary arrangements be completed in the meantime, the deputation which is to meet at Virden on January 5 is empowered to arrange for the induction of Mr. Hodges in case he accepts the call. Mr. Fleit gave a report of work done on the reserve at Okanase. Out of twenty-eight families, eighteen now profess Christianity. The attendance at Sabbath services is between fifty and sixty. He expressed deep gratitude to the farmers of the Portage Plains and merchants of Portage la Prairie for the substantial encouragement received from them in thirty-seven bags of flour and four kegs of syrup to relieve the destitute Indians under care of this Presbytery. Solomon reported having visited the Sioux bands at Oak Lake, Oak River and Brandon. At Oak Lake he found fourteen families, two of which are Christian. At Oak River out of seven families one is Christian. At Brandon no Christian Indians were found in the fourteen families camping there, though they were willing to listen to the good news which he brought of a Saviour. On his own reserve at Fort Ellice, out of twenty-five families sixteen are Christian, with a membership of thirty-three, whom he describes as "holy members." "By their fruits ye shall know them." These Christian Indians, from the little they possess, have actually contributed \$6.72 toward sending the Gospel to their "white brothers." Indians contribute to the Home Mission Fund! Mr. Todd presented the Home Mission report for the past half-year showing that some \$3,050 have been expended on mission work during the six months. A deputation was appointed to visit Virden and Oak Lake to arrange concerning arrears to recent missionaries at these places, it being the rule that no settlement take place till all arrears be arranged for. Presbytery adjourned to meet again on the second Tuesday of March, in Portage la Prairie.—A. MCD. HAIG, Pres. Clerk.