

WINNIPEG AND WEST.

Rev. Dr. Bryce, of this city, has just moderated in a call from the congregation of Dominion City and Armand, which was unanimously in favor of Rev. David Spear, B.A., who has been in charge for the past year. The stipend offered is \$900 and a manse. Messrs. H. Lawson and W. H. Hampton will represent the congregation at the next meeting of the Manitoba Presbytery.

A beautiful day, large congregations, good sermons, splendid singing, church beautifully decorated. This describes Sunday, the 18th October, the 8th anniversary of King church, Myrtle, Man. Alex. Phillips, chairman of the board of managers, and Wm. Bell, secretary, and William Martin, treasurer, all looked happy. Monday evening was dark, the roads bad, but the fowl dinner and the dainties and delicacies provided in former years attracted a large audience. After the crowd had partaken bountifully they left Kirk's Hall and went to the church, where a splendid programme was presented. Rev. F. J. Hartley, pastor, occupied the chair. Rev. M. C. Rumball, moderator of the Synod of Manitoba, took the services on Sabbath and gave an address on Monday evening. The choir from Roland Knox church rendered assistance to home talent, and the congregation starts out with bright prospects for another year.

TORONTO.

Rev. Dr. Carmichael, of King, was the preacher in the Wychwood church on Sunday last, the pastor, Rev. A. MacTaggart, preaching anniversary sermons at King.

The Presbytery of Toronto has adopted a good plan to endeavor to stop the leak between the country churches and the city charges. The clerk, Rev. R. T. Tibb, has sent out cards to the ministers in the charges outside of Toronto, calling attention to the fact that, while from time to time young men and women leave the bounds of the rural congregation and come to Toronto, it is often months before one of the city ministers gets into touch with them, and some drift away from the Church altogether. Some private postcards are sent along with this message, with spaces for the name and city address of any young people or older persons who may have recently come to the city from that particular congregation or who may in future come, and the minister is asked to keep these cards by him, and whenever anyone comes from his congregation to the city, to send one of these cards to Mr. Tibb with the desired information. He will at once notify the minister within whose bounds they are residing, asking him to look them up. Some such plan should be adopted in every city throughout the Dominion. Many young people are lost to the Church from not being looked after when leaving home. By all means "stop the leak."

Since the first of August, the City of Hull, England, which has owned and operated its street car system for nine years, has lowered the fares to one cent a ride for a distance of three miles during the period from five to nine o'clock when the work people are abroad. During the nine years the city has paid \$600,000 in profits on the original expenditure of \$2,000,000, and these profits have gone into reductions in fares, after providing for interest, sinking fund and other charges. And still we are told that in Canada our people can not successfully own and operate public utilities. We have the ability and business capacity; have we lost the business honesty?

RE-OPENING OF GORDON CHURCH, ST. ELMO.

The Presbyterian Church, St. Elmo, had very interesting and successful services on Sunday and Monday, Oct. 18 and 19, in connection with the re-opening of their church edifice. The old church, made famous by "Ralph Connor" in "The Man from Glengarry," has been beautifully renovated and made practically as good as new. The interior of the church has been improved by a new metallic ceiling, the pews grained and varnished, and the walls tinted a cream color. The services on Sunday were well attended. Very large congregations filled the church morning and evening, and listened to strong practical sermons by the Rev. W. D. Reid, of Taylor Church, Montreal. The preacher made a great impression on those present, and delighted them with his presentations of the truths of the gospel. On Monday night refreshments were served a liberal and bountiful manner in the old log church, and afterwards a most excellent entertainment was held in the renovated Gordon Church. Mr. F. B. McRae, leader of praise in Gordon Church, sang several selections, and was rewarded by encores. The Rev. A. Lee, the pastor, presided, and gave an address welcoming the friends who had come to rejoice with the congregation in the re-opening of their church. The Rev. Messrs. McKay, Conners, and Dalv of Maxville; H. S. Lee, of Apple Hill; and L. Beaton, of Moose Creek, made bright congratulatory speeches expressing their pleasure at the improvement which had been made in the church, and good wishes of themselves and their people for the future success of the pastor and congregation of St. Elmo. The weather was exceedingly favorable for the re-opening services, Sunday being warm like a day in June, and for this the congregation are thankful to the giver of all good. Altogether the re-opening services were a great success, and an augury of good things for the future of the old historic church.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

There is a sad falling off this year in the number of visitors to Burns' cottage in Alloway. Even the American rush has dropped off greatly.

An Orangeman of great prominence in Australia, the Rev. Dr. W. M. Dill, recently made a visit to Belfast after nearly 25 years absence.

The wickedest city on earth is London. For sensual sin, and for selfishness and individualism, no city can compete with the metropolis, says W. K. G., in Young Men.

Something of a crisis is approaching in Aberdeen, owing to the gloomy outlook for the winter in the ship-building trade, in which close on 3,000 men are employed.

In the old Kirkyard of Largs is to be found an interesting place of sepulchre, called the Skelmorlie Aisle. The legend runs that it was erected in 1630 by Sir Robert Montgomery as an act of expiation for a cruel and blood-thirsty acts in early life.

At Kantao, Northern Corea, a battle has been fought between Chinese and Japanese troops in which several were killed or wounded. The Chinese soldiers started the fight by firing upon a police station occupied by Japanese troops who were sent to guard the Korean residents. Serious complications are feared.

Mr. W. A. Cadbury, of the well-known chocolate-making firm, has accepted an invitation of the Portuguese Government to visit the Sao Thome cocoa plantations, and investigate the charges of slavery made against the cocoa planters of Portuguese East Africa.

SEMI-JUBILEE OF A CANADIAN MINISTER.

We make no apology for giving the following details of a celebration in Old London in which two former Canadian ministers—Dr. Thornton and Dr. Munro Gibson—took part, the first as principal, the second as assistant.

Camden road congregation, London, began on Sunday the celebration of the jubilee of its founding, and the semi-jubilee of the Rev. Dr. Thornton as its minister. The services during the day were most successful. In the morning, the Rev. Dr. Munro Gibson was the preacher. At the close of his sermon he made an interesting reference to the occasion. He had known Dr. Thornton (he said) for close on fifty years. They were members of the same church in Toronto, and students at the same college, and began their respective ministries in the same city (Montreal). Then eventually they settled in the same district in London, and they had been each holding the fort in that district for twenty-five years. He had introduced Dr. Thornton to his London charge in September, 1883, and there he was today, taking part in his semi-jubilee—an experience this which was surely very rare, if not quite unique. He spoke warmly of Dr. Thornton's character, and work, and also paid a loving tribute to the memory of his father (Rev. Dr. Thornton), a grand old man, and a pioneer of Presbyterianism in the Dominion.

The afternoon service for children was conducted by Dr. Thornton's son, the Rev. R. Hill Thornton, M.A., of Harrow, who had himself been a scholar in the Sunday school at Camden road. With his graphic pictures, and animated style of address, he held the attention of the large gathering of young people throughout. At the close all the scholars and teachers, past and present, were presented with a souvenir from Dr. Thornton of the semi-jubilee service. In the evening, Dr. Thornton himself preached to a congregation which densely packed every part of the church, taking for his text "Ye are our glory and joy" (1 Thess. ii. 20). The central thought of the discourse, which made a deep impression on the audience, was that the glory and joy of a Christian minister consists of souls won for God, and built up in holiness and usefulness. After the benediction, Dr. and Mrs. Thornton passed into the Lecture Hall, where they received the congratulations of many old members and visitors, some of whom had come from the North of England and from Scotland to be present at the jubilee services.

On the following Monday evening, at a large public meeting, Rev. Dr. Thornton was made the recipient of a valuable cabinet, an armchair and a reading stand, the cabinet bearing a silver plate suitably inscribed. At the same time the ladies of the congregation presented Mrs. Thornton with a watch bracelet and two entree dishes. In acknowledging the gifts Dr. Thornton said that during the twenty-five years of his ministry 1,700 members had been received into church fellowship, 900 of them by profession of faith. In spite of heavy losses through removals from the district, the church membership was more than double what it was twenty-five years ago; and as he looked back upon the past with gratitude, so he faced the future with hope.

Another minister who was present and took part on this interesting occasion was Rev. Dr. Matthews, for several years minister of Chalmers' church, Quebec, and now secretary of The Association of Churches professing the Presbyterian polity and faith.