

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

What a vast amount of moral and purely religious instruction of the people does the record of one Sunday's work in any large city show. It is a record also of a large amount of intellectual work; it is the means to a large extent of sustaining, the moral and religious life of the community, and every Sunday gives this life a fresh uplift and impulse. Leaving out of notice altogether the ordinary supply of the scores of pulpits of the various religious bodies in this city, the following very partial record of the work of one Sunday, the 16th inst., as it is given in but one of our dailies, will abundantly illustrate and confirm the statement made above. There might be brought to its confirmation also what we for the present pass by, all the religious instruction given in Sunday schools, Bible classes, in prisons, hospital visitation, and an indefinite number of other forms of religious activity which the return of the Sabbath calls into exercise, and gives time and scope for.

Briefly then, and to begin with, we hail on the Sunday mentioned, two distinguished clergymen visiting the city to conduct anniversary services. Rev. Dr. Herridge from Ottawa preached at the Sherbourne Street Methodist Church. At the evening service, many were unable to find admittance and had to be turned away, so great was the anxiety to hear the well-known pastor of St. Andrew's, Ottawa. His text in the evening was from the book of Revelation: "There was war in heaven." Space forbids any attempt to characterize the sermon more than to say that, it was listened to with earnest attention from beginning to end, although we thought it was hardly Dr. Herridge at his best. In this church the Methodists have a surplised choir, the first among them in the city so far as we know. The whole musical service was very elaborate, too much so, we venture to think for profit.

Rev. Dr. Barclay of Montreal preached at anniversary services in Bloor Street Presbyterian church. There also at both services the church was crowded, and at the evening one many had to be turned away. His texts were, in the morning, "What think ye of Christ?" and in the evening, "For now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face." Both are described as "powerful sermons."

On the evening of the same day, in the Walmer Street Baptist church, as in several others in the city, the ordinary services were dispensed with, and a platform meeting held in the interest of temperance and of the referendum. Rev. Dr. Caven was the principal speaker. "The measure though not perfect, promises," he said, "to do much good. It sweeps away the bar-room, and is the greatest step in reform ever proposed by our province." He made an earnest and powerful appeal to the electors present to vote yea on Dec. 4th. Mr. John A. Paterson, K. C., who is doing good service in this cause and that of Sabbath observance, also spoke. In Berkley Street Methodist church a similar meeting was held and was addressed by Mr. G. F. Marter, Prof. Goodspeed of McMaster University, Revs. C. W. King of Parliament Street Baptist church and Wm. McKinley of South Side Presbyterian church and others. At Mussey Hall, in the afternoon there was a large meeting under the auspices of the Canadian Temperance League. It was addressed by Mr. O. W. Stewart, a member of the Illinois State Legislature, recently elected on the Prohibition ticket. It is interesting to note in this connection the change which has come over the spirit and opinion of many as to the character of the proposed Liquor Act. By many who at first denounced it in no measured terms, it is now as heartily commended as far in advance of anything ever before proposed in Ontario, and voters are earnestly urged to support it. In doing so, we are caring not only for the present good of the country, but taking a long step to guard it against that fatal hold upon it, which we see the drink customs, the drink traffic and those connected with it have got in Britain, for instance, and in the United States.

Canadian Home Mission work in our West and in Japan were the subjects brought before a large meeting in the Metropolitan Methodist church on the evening of that day. It was an interesting feature of the meeting that the chief speaker was Rev. Y. Hiraizumi, a native of

Japan, and President of the Methodist Conference in that country. The Methodist church is at present making a special effort on behalf of its mission work in the West. From this congregation \$3,500 are asked for this work, and it will be got, it is believed, without difficulty. On Monday evening a grand Methodist rally was held in the same church as part of a movement to raise \$50,000, as an emergency fund to carry on this work. Unfavorable weather interfered with the attendance, but many of the most prominent and best known Methodists of the city were present. The Hon. Clifford Sifton was the chief speaker. His high standing, perfect acquaintance with the country, and interest in its welfare gave his words great weight. His address was admirable, calm, hopeful, practical and forcible, and its arguments and presentation of facts were throughout applicable to our church as well as to the Methodist. At the meeting \$11,800 were subscribed for the object for which it was held.

But to go back to the Sabbath, Rev. Dr. Milligan's church was again crowded to hear his treatment of the second account of Genesis of the Creation. The first and second chapters of Genesis he contended were in no way contradictory; the first dealt with the divine side of the creation, and the second with the human, the interest of the first is theological, that of the second anthropological.

"The Church and the Labor Problem" was the subject of the address to a meeting held under the auspices of the "Single Tax Association" by the Hon. Ernest Howard Crosby of New York. He made the striking statement that, although, owing to the wonderful discoveries of modern days, one labourer could now produce as much as thirteen could 150 years ago, the benefit of which should in part at least go to the working man, yet the chasm between the rich and the poor had rapidly widened, until in the United States one per cent of the population owns more property than the other ninety-nine. Whether we agree with the opinions of Single Taxers or not, however widely indeed we may differ from them, it is well and wise for us to know, and take heed to what they think and say. "The Church," this speaker said "has too long busied itself with the inculcation of the selfish work of individual salvation in a future world, when its main business should have been to regenerate this world. To-day, for the most part, it represents the rich and well-to-do and their class interests, and instead of justice it preaches an ineffectual kind of charity."

In the Unitarian church, its pastor, Rev. J. T. Sunderland, M. A. is giving a series of sermons on "Religion in the Light of the Twentieth Century." "The world," he said, "is no more likely to get tired of religion than of art, music, knowledge, joy, or any other need of the human soul; but the religion of the Twentieth Century must be tremendously in earnest about truth, righteousness, and human service, it must subordinate sectarian differences, and must consecrate its united energies as Jesus Christ consecrated His life to the task of building up the Kingdom of Heaven on this earth. All true, every word of it, and I think we can see that the church has taken some steps already in this direction, but it needs to take a good many more and the sooner it takes them, and takes them wisely the better."

Two more cases of anniversary services being held we omitted to notice above. Those of College Street Church, Rev. Alex. Gilray's, who has a good record there of work done long, patiently and successfully. Rev. R. E. Knowles of Galt was the preacher. Queen Street East, Rev. Wm. Frizzell Ph. B. pastor, was the other. This church began in 1877 under Rev. J. M. Cameron with a membership of fifteen and met in a hall. Its present pastor was inducted twenty years ago, when it had thirty-five members; now it has nearly three hundred. The preacher in the morning was its first pastor, and in the evening its second one, Rev. Dr. Abraham.

This is a very partial and incomplete record of the Sabbath's work in Toronto, much more would record in all respects complete abundantly sustain the remark made at the beginning of this letter. What would become of the people, and what would the state of society become without our Sabbath, and the call and opportunity which it gives for all this religious and beneficent work?

Most vigorous efforts are being made in this

city at least to make sure of the verdict being on the right side on Dec 4th. Hon. Geo. W. Ross will himself preside at a temperance rally to be held in Association Hall on Tuesday 25th, and another will be held in Massey Hall on Sunday the 30th. The Seventh Annual Theological Conference has just been held in connection with Victoria University at which many important and timely subjects have been discussed. Speaking of Higher Criticism, Prof. Reynor says, "that when the smoke has cleared away, religion will be left purer and stronger than ever."

Men come and men go; here as everywhere, the news of the death of Rev. Hugh Price Hughes, and the dying condition of Rev. Dr. Parker of the City Temple, London, England have been received with most deep and universal regret.

Toronto, Nov. 22nd, 1902.

Ottawa.

The Ladies of St. Paul's church are happy over the result of the sale of staple and fancy goods held by them on Thursday and Friday of last week. The sale netted about \$350.00.

The Bank Street Sunday School anniversary services will be held next Sunday, when Rev. R. W. Dickie, of Orangeville, will be the preacher. Mr. Dickie takes much interest in work for the young, and is a preacher of more than average ability.

The ministers of Ottawa last Sunday very generally dealt with the Referendum, and urged their people to vote for the Act of 1902, to be submitted to the popular vote on Dec. 4th. In the Eastern Methodist church, Mr. Farrell, Secretary of the Y.M.C.A., and Rev. A. E. Mitchell, of Erskine church, were the speakers. Mr. Mitchell, in a stirring address, gave three reasons why the bar should be abolished. First, it is an economic loss to the country; second, a social blight, and third, a moral curse.

In Erskine church a large meeting presided over by Mr. T. Bowman, was addressed by Mrs. Asa Gordon, ex-Ald. C. B. Taggart and Rev. Ira Smith, of McPhail church. The people of Canada, Mrs. Gordon said, now drink at the rate of five gallons of liquor per head each year and 3,000 drunkards were buried annually in this country. Over 2,000,000 men of the last generation had filled drunkards' graves. Mrs. Gordon spoke forcibly on the present issue and exhorted all to do their utmost in favor of prohibitory legislation.

Rev. Dr. Herridge, in St. Andrew's church on Sunday night, in an eloquent sermon on the referendum, stated that he would vote for the Ontario liquor act of 1902. It is the bar room, the rev. gentleman stated, upon which this attack is being made, and this is a useless institution even where it is not positively ruinous. He showed what a menace to the good of the people the bar was and stated that he held it an act of patriotism to use all fair methods to have it abolished; and appealed to the young men to learn self-control, which, he said, can only be done by seeking the aid of Jesus Christ.

Western Ontario.

Rev. Robert McIntyre preached two excellent sermons in the Presbyterian church, Melbourne, on Sabbath last.

Mr. Passmore, late of Goderich, has commenced his duties as organist of Knox church, Mitchell.

Rev. J. R. Cockburn, of Grand Valley, and Rev. J. M. Aull, of Knox church, Palmerston, exchanged pulpits last Sunday.

Rev. Neil Leckie will preach the sermon for St. Andrew's Society in Central Church, Hamilton, next Sunday evening.

Rev. W. G. Wallace, of Bloor Street, Toronto, preached the annual sermon for the St. Andrew's Society in Knox church, Guelph, last Sunday evening.

The Rev. T. D. McCullough, pastor of Guthrie church, has given up housekeeping. He and his little daughter, Margaret, will for the present reside with Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lavery.

At the last meeting of Guelph Presbytery Mr. Mackenzie, returned Missionary from Honan, gave an address on the principles, the duty, the opportunities and the encouragements of Foreign Mission work, after which a resolution was adopted, expressing appreciation of the address, and the desire that Mr. McKenzie may be long spared to labor successfully in the Foreign Field.