

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

THE Rev. John A. McAlmon, late of Dresden, has accepted a call from Burns' Church congregation, 12th line of Moore.

ON Saturday, the 2nd inst., the Presbyterians of the Fort Erie mission field had an excursion and picnic which proved eminently successful, financially and otherwise.

REV. MR. MOODIE, who has been officiating in St. Andrew's Church, Sarnia, for the last three Sabbaths, left for home on Tuesday last. Rev. R. N. Grant, of Ingersoll, will conduct the services until Mr. Thompson's return. So says the "Observer."

THE Winnipeg "Free Press" of the 1st instant says, "Rev. Mr. Ross, who is to take charge of the Presbyterian Mission at Prince Albert Settlement, arrived Wednesday en route to his new field of labour. The rev. gentleman, who visited this country last summer, has been doing good work for the Province, having lectured on this country in several places in Ontario."

THE elders and managers of the respective churches of the Rev. A. McColl and the Rev. William Walker, Chatham, are going to submit terms of union for the above congregations. The elders and managers have had several meetings and are heartily in favour of consolidating the two churches. Retaining both pastors and possibly selling one of the properties. A vote will be taken in a few Sabbaths, perhaps about the middle or latter part of the month.

THE new church erected by the Presbyterian congregation of Boyne settlement, Manitoba, was formally opened on Sabbath, the 6th of June. Rev. W. R. Ross (the pastor) preached in the morning and Rev. James Douglas in the afternoon. The attendance was good at both services. On the following Monday a soiree was held at the church. The chair was occupied by Mr. Donald Campbell, who delivered an address on "The Progress of Christianity." Addresses were also given by Rev. Mr. Douglas, Mr. Holiday, teacher, and the pastor. Including the Sabbath collections and the proceeds of the soiree, the amount realized was \$52.55.

THE Sabbath school and Bible class in connection with the Presbyterian congregation of Glenmorris enjoyed a very pleasant picnic on Friday, the 1st inst. There was a large gathering of the children and young people, with a fair sprinkling of persons of mature years. The amusements consisted of swinging, boating, croquet, quoits, jumping, etc., in which the young people engaged so heartily that when five o'clock came they were well prepared to attack the excellent supper spread on the green. The pastor, Rev. Mr. Scrimgeour, was present, and the smiles and pleasant looks directed towards him plainly indicated that he is very highly esteemed.

FROM last annual report of St. John's Church, Almonte, it appears that the affairs of the congregation are on a fair footing and that progress is being made in every department. Efforts are being put forth to get rid of the church and manse debt entirely, and these have been so far successful that the managers fully expect to be able to announce at next annual meeting that they have on hand funds sufficient to wipe off all liabilities. The total amount contributed for all purposes was over \$2,500, whereof the following sums were devoted to the various schemes of the Church: Home Mission Fund, \$73.90; French Evangelization Scheme, \$21.39; Foreign Mission Fund \$20; Colleges, \$20; Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, \$20; Commissioners' expenses to General Assembly, \$18; Presbytery and Synod rates, \$9.50.

ON Tuesday the 29th ult., the Presbytery of Saugeen held a Sabbath school convention in Knox Church, Mount Forest. Rev. J. Campbell, B.A., Harriston, presided. Addresses were delivered, and papers read by the following persons: Rev. J. McClung, Balaklava, on "The Study of the Shorter Catechism;" Rev. D. W. Cameron, Palmerston, on "The relation of the Sabbath school to the Family and the Church;" Rev. J. Baikie, Harriston, addressed the children on "Loving and Serving God now;" Rev. J. McMillan, Mount Forrest, on "The preparation of the Lesson;" Rev. D. Fraser, M.A., of the same place, on "The personal preparation of the Teacher for his work;" Mr. Wm. Kerr, Harriston, on "How to retain the Elder Scholars;" Mr. James Scott, Mount Forest, taught a Model Bible Class.

The above subjects elicited an animated discussion, in which Rev. Mr. McMullen, Woodstock, who was present, participated. Reports were given in by the Superintendents and others present from a number of the Sabbath schools under the care of the Presbytery. The queries of the question drawer were answered by Mr. Wm. Kerr, Harriston, and Rev. J. Morrison, Proton. It was agreed, that the next meeting of the Convention be held in Harriston. The ministers of other denominations who were present, were asked to take part in the meeting.

PRESBYTERY OF PARIS.—At the last meeting of this Presbytery held in Tilsonburg, Rev. J. Anderson of River street Church, Paris, was elected Moderator for the ensuing year. Knox Church, Embro, was transferred from the London Presbytery to that of Paris. Mr. W. N. Chambers was received as a licentiate of the Church and Rev. R. Chambers, late of Whitby, was recognized as an ordained minister within the bounds without charge. Anent supplemented congregations Messrs. Anderson and Lowry, ministers, and Mr. D. Maxwell, elder, were appointed to visit Mt. Pleasant and Burford and report at next meeting of Presbytery, which will be held in River street Church, Paris, on the second Tuesday of September, on which occasion a Presbyterial visitation of River street congregation will be held, and on the following evening a visitation of the sister congregation in Dumfries street Church.

WEST CHURCH, TORONTO.

LAYING THE CORNER STONE OF THE NEW BUILDING.

The corner-stone of the new West Church, Toronto, was laid on Tuesday afternoon. Rev. A. Gilray gave out the 100th Psalm which was sung. The 132nd Psalm was read by the Rev. J. M. Cameron, and prayer was offered by the Rev. John Smith. A scroll was then read by Mr. John Harvie, chairman of building committee, containing a short history of the congregation. It was organized on the 14th August 1860 by Rev. Dr. Reid, Hon. J. McMurrich and Mr. John L. Baikie. In November 1861 a church 40 by 60 was erected and opened for public worship. The congregation was greatly aided by many friends in the city, and especially by the Hon. John McMurrich who did much to ensure the success of the cause.

In Nov. 1862 Samuel Marshall and James R. Gibson were ordained the first elders of the congregation. The congregation was supplied by students until 12th September, 1865, when Rev. James Baikie was ordained their first pastor. His ministry was very successful but short; he died Dec. 1866.

The church continued vacant until 6th Nov. 1867, when Rev. Robert Wallace, previously of Ingersoll and Drummondville, was inducted as pastor. The church was considerably enlarged in 1870. There is now a flourishing congregation, with twelve elders, and for some time the church has been too small; and last spring the congregation resolved to erect a new and more suitable building. A white brick church capable of seating 900, with draw seats for 200 more, has been begun on the corner of Denison avenue and Woolseley streets together with a Sabbath school room to seat over 400, with other accommodations such as kitchen, etc., and all in the most modern style—circular pews, floor ascending from the pulpit—Messrs. Gordon and Helliwell, architects. After reading the scroll containing the names of the members of Session, managers and building committee, etc., it and other documents, the "CANADA PRESBYTERIAN," the "Presbyterian Year Book," "Record," "Globe," "Mail" and "Telegram" were deposited in the corner-stone. A silver trowel was then presented to the pastor by Mr. Samuel Marshall the oldest elder, and on the trowel was inscribed: "Presented to the Rev. Robert Wallace pastor of the West Presbyterian congregation, by the Building Committee, on the occasion of laying the corner-stone of the new church, Denison avenue and Woolseley street, Toronto, 12th August 1879." Mr. Wallace then proceeded to lay the corner-stone according to the usual form, and offered a short prayer. After which the company adjourned to the old church, when addresses were given by the pastor and Revs. Drs. Reid and Gregg, and Revs. George Cochrane, J. S. Stone, D. J. Macdonnell, etc.

We give the address of the pastor in full.

In addition to the statements in the scroll just read I would add a few items. At the time of my induction on the 6th

November 1867, there were eighty-five members on the roll; since that there have been received 841 members—536 by certificate and 305 by profession—926; deducting the members on the roll at the present time, namely 350, shows that 576 have ceased to be connected either by death or removal from the bounds. Baptisms during the twelve years, 447; deaths of young and old, 241. It will thus be seen that the community with which we have to do is a very fluctuating one, and we may hope that many who have left us for other sections of the city, or other parts of the country, have been benefited while connected with West Church and that they still cherish kindly remembrances of that connection. There is no department in which the pastor has had more encouragement than in visiting the sick and dying. He has reason to believe that his ministrations have been blessed to many, in leading them to trust wholly in Christ and rejoice in the prospect of admission to His presence, and many of God's people have been cheered and comforted by the gracious character of their Redeemer and His precious promises presented to their minds. The Sabbath school has grown and prospered through the devoted labours of a noble band of workers. We have been greatly indebted to the Hon. John McMurrich who for eighteen years acted as superintendent of our Sabbath school. And since his retirement his son Wm. B. McMurrich, barrister, has carried on the work with great ability and success. He has been ably assisted by over twenty faithful teachers, some of whom have shown great zeal and devoted much time and labour to this important work of the Church. For some time the lecture room has been too small for the large attendance, so that about fifty had to meet in the church. Three times within the last five years has West Church hired off, in Collège street, Brockton and Parkdale churches. Yet West Church has remained full, so that we have had no whole pew to let, except when a family removed and left a vacant seat.

We have thus for several years suffered from the great disadvantage of having no vacant pews, which in a growing community should never be the case. We have therefore been driven by necessity to the erection of a new and much more commodious church. It could not be expected that all our people should be always present, especially when many of them are railway employees, some of whom are almost always absent on the roads.

Yet during the last four years of general depression, we have great reason to be thankful that notwithstanding many removals, the attendance has kept up steadily, and even increased. We are therefore encouraged by the past experience to hope, that by the blessing of God resting upon our efforts as a congregation, still brighter days are in store for us when we obtain a larger and more suitable place of worship. We learn from the Divine Word that the worship of the heart is that which God chiefly desires, and that no service apart from that, is acceptable to Him. Doubtless such service may be offered in the plainest church edifice, in a private house or even in the open air. At the same time it is in accordance both with reason and Scripture that when circumstances are favourable we should set apart places dedicated to the service of God corresponding to the place in which we reside and the circumstances of the people. The same God who declares that he can only accept spiritual worship, also rebuked Israel by the prophets for dwelling in ceiled houses while they allowed His Temple to remain unfinished. And he put special honour upon David for resolving to build that most magnificent edifice ever erected on earth, Solomon's Temple; and when it was completed He filled it with the outward symbols of His glory. I conceive then that it is in accordance with His will that we should erect beautiful and commodious edifices for the proper worship of our God. The Church of God is represented as the pillar and ground of the truth, and while by the Church in that case is meant the glorious spiritual Temple of which Christ is both the foundation and the chief corner-stone, yet every church edifice with its congregation of worshippers may be said to be a pillar in that Temple.

On the pillars of the ancient Egyptian Temples were inscribed the names of the gods to whose service they were devoted; so we solemnly devote this sacred edifice to the service of Jehovah Jesus, and inscribe on it His thrice blessed name. I trust that it will always be employed only in His service and for His glory; and that all the services conducted in it will be in accordance with His will and acceptable in His sight. And I earnestly pray that His eyes may be upon the church we are now erecting for His name from the beginning of the year to the end of it, and that by the aid of His Holy Spirit, the services conducted in it may be the means of leading many to give their hearts to Jesus and of edifying God's people and building them up in faith, holiness and comfort.

It is said by some that the pulpit has lost its power, and that it must give place to education, books and newspapers, as the future guides of society. While we admit that all these may, and will be used by Divine Providence as hand-maids to the gospel, we hold that the living preacher with the magnetic influence of the living voice and personal contact, will hold the first place as a moral lever for elevating human society and guiding the minds of men on the great concerns of eternal interest. Science that will not bow to the Great Ruler of the universe may, like the uncircumcised Philistine, lift up its haughty brow, and bid defiance to the armies of the living God, but the Christian Church will go on her way, slaying giant after giant as she has done in the past, and doing her heaven-appointed work of saving souls and bringing glory to her Divine Head. The blood of Jesus will never lose its power to cleanse the soul; the Gospel of Jesus will never cease to convert and bless.

"Till all the ransomed Church of God
Be saved to sin no more."

The conflict still rages between the servants of the old serpent and the followers of the Lamb; but we have no cause to fear, for we are certain of victory, and that gives courage in the day of battle. This is truly a church-building era. Fifty years ago we had only one small Presbyterian Church in Toronto, now we have a dozen, and most of these large and beautiful churches erected within the last five