

The Rev. Dr. Hamilton, of Motherwell, Ont., occupied the pulpit of Knox Church, Portage la Prairie, Man., on the 9th and 16th inst., both morning and evening. Thirteen years ago with Dr. Robertson, he visited the mission stations of Manitoba and the Northwest and was the first Presbyterian minister that had ever preached in several of the now rising towns in the Territories. He is the father of the Presbytery of Stratford, having been inducted into his present charge nearly forty years ago. He has been spending a brief holiday with his son, the Rev. A. Hamilton, minister of Stonewall, Manitoba. During the short time he has been in the town he met many old friends who were glad to have the pleasure of seeing him and again hearing him preach. He sees wonderful progress in this country since he last visited it.

The Rev. Alex. Mackay, D.D., was sent as a missionary student for the summer of 1858 to the township of Bruce, which was then principally settled with Highlanders. He had to preach in Gaelic as well as English every Sabbath, and often on week days. Early in 1860 he was settled as pastor of the southern part of that large township, viz., Tiverton and Glamis, with adjoining stations. In Tiverton he preached first in English and then immediately in Gaelic. In the evening he conducted services at Underwood. Every alternate Sabbath he preached in Glamis in both languages, and in the evening at Pinkerton. His pastoral field there would be about twenty-five miles diagonally. About two years after his settlement, the present church at Tiverton was built, which for sometime after its erection was considered the largest and best church in the county of Bruce. It was paid for as soon as it was finished. No mortgage was taken on the church property and not a cent of interest was ever paid for money to build it. In those early days there was not a single manse within the bounds of the county of Bruce; ministers had to build their own manses or do without them. Salaries were small. There was no Augmentation Fund. Pastors had to be contented with the stipends paid by the congregations, which were seldom over \$400 in cash, but the ministers in that Highland district were contented and happy, laboring faithfully and diligently in their various congregations. Towards the end of the sixties Dr. Mackay was translated to a congregation in Illinois, U.S. His late congregation was immediately divided into two distinct charges. Rev. John Anderson was unanimously called to Tiverton and Underwood. He continued in the pastoral charge of Tiverton for twenty-five years. A few years after his induction, Underwood was separated from Tiverton. The late Rev. Wm. Ferguson was called to Glamis and remained pastor of that church for ten years, till he was translated to Kirkhill, which is the largest church in the Glengarry Presbytery. As the years were passing away, manses were erected at Tiverton, Underwood, Glamis, with glebes attached, also a manse at Pinkerton. A succession of able and excellent pastors have been occupying these manses for many years. This summer, the congregation at Glamis are building a large and handsome brick church. Truly the Lord has done great things for this part of His vineyard, whereof the people of God have reason to be glad. Ps. cxvii. 3.

OBITUARY.

REV. C. M. MACKERACHER.

The Rev. C. M. Mackeracher, minister for twenty-nine years of the congregation of English River and Howick, in the Presbytery of Montreal, departed this life on the evening of August 5th, at his home at Howick, in the seventieth year of his age. His illness was short. He was one of the delegates to the General Assembly this summer, and during its session preached for the Rev. Jos. Locke with his customary vigor. Returning home, he resumed his pulpit ministrations at Howick, the church at English River being closed while it underwent extensive repairs. On July 26th he preached with more than ordinary impressiveness to a crowded church. On Wednesday of that week, the last day he was to be out of his bed, he visited ten families in his congregation and held worship in each house. He had made arrangements for special services to be held in connection with the re-opening of the English River Church on the second Sabbath of August. The church was re-opened instead with the funeral on August 7th. A service was conducted at the house by the Rev. Geo. Whillans, of Georgetown, and the Rev. D. W. Morison, of Ormstown. The service at the church was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Amaron, Moderator of the Presbytery of Montreal, assisted by the Rev. Messrs. MacDongall, Drummond, and McCusker. Dr. Amaron took as his text the words of Jonathan to David, "To-morrow is the new moon; and thou shalt be missed, for thy seat will be empty," and spoke in eloquent and feeling terms of the high character, the Christian fortitude, and the gentleness of the deceased, to whom the younger members of the Presbytery had been accustomed to look up as to a father. The remains were carried to the grave by the elders of the church, and were followed by the three sons, those members of the Presbytery who were present and almost the whole countryside, irrespective of race and religion, for the deceased was one whom all who knew him regarded with reverence and affection. He was not one of the doctors of divinity, and his voice was seldom heard in the courts of the Church; but he was, nevertheless, a man of scholarship and culture, a man devoted to his God and the people whom He had given him, a man who set duty before everything else, and pre-eminently a man of peace.

He had many trials in his life and ministry, yet the text of the last sermon he preached was, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light." The Rev. Charles McPherson Mackeracher was born in Aberfeldy, Perthshire, Scotland, in 1827; was a graduate of Edinburgh University, taking theology at Free Church College, Edinburgh, and a post-graduate theological course at Princeton Seminary. He was ordained in 1861; his first charge was Bradford, Ont., and he settled at English River and Howick, in 1867, and continued there through the remainder of his life. He leaves a widow, three sons and a daughter.

MR. DAVID McBEATH.

Mr. David McBeath, one of the early settlers of this country, died at Innerkip, Aug. 5th. Deceased was born in Orlig, Calthness-shire Scotland, in 1817, and came to Canada—settling in Scarboro—in 1841. He removed to the county of Oxford in 1857. He received a good religious training in the old country, which, together with a deeply pious nature, led him to take a great interest in Church work. He was an elder for about three years in Knox Church, Scarboro, and for thirty-five years in Innerkip. He took a special interest in the Sunday School and every thing pertaining to the young. He acted as secretary of the Branch Bible Society for thirty-six years. He will be much missed. After a long life of usefulness he rests from his labors, his works do follow him.

PRESBYTERY MEETINGS.

GLENGARRY: This Presbytery met at Alexandria on 14th July. Rev. A. K. McLennan, was elected Moderator for the next six months. It was agreed that the statistical report in the Blue Book of 1896 should be discussed in Lancaster on 8th September, it being made the first order of the afternoon. A very encouraging report was given with regard to the French mission in Cornwall, under the care of Rev. J. E. Charles. The communion roll of this mission has twenty four names upon it now, and upwards of forty adherents and children, a wonderful showing within the space of two years. Dr. Alguire has donated a central lot on which to erect a French church, and over \$1,500 has already been subscribed for the building. It was agreed that the resignation of Rev. J. S. Burnet, accepted on 27th May, take effect on 1st September. A committee, with Dr. Macnish as convener, was requested to present a

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minute regarding Mr. Burnet's retirement, to Presbytery at its next meeting. Rev. A. Givan was appointed Moderator pro tem. of St. Andrew's, Martintown, and to declare the pulpit vacant on the first Sabbath of September. The following Standing Committees were appointed for 1896-7. 1. Church Life and Work, J. Matheson, convener; 2. Home Missions and Augmentation, A. Givan, convener; 3. Statistics, T. A. Mitchell, convener; 4. Sabbath Schools, A. K. McLennan, convener; 5. Systematic Beneficence, D. MacLaren, convener; 6. French Evangelization, James Hastie, convener; 7. Young People's Societies, J. Cormack, convener; 8. Conferences, the Moderator and clerk. A brief report was given by Rev. J. Cormack regarding Y.P.S.C.E. in Glengarry. Eleven societies exist with 336 active and 292 associate members. These raised \$482 last year, of which \$216 was given to missions. It was agreed to form a Presbyterial Y.P.S.C.E. Union. The next regular meeting will be held at Lancaster on Tuesday, 8th September next.—DAVID MACLAREN, Clerk.

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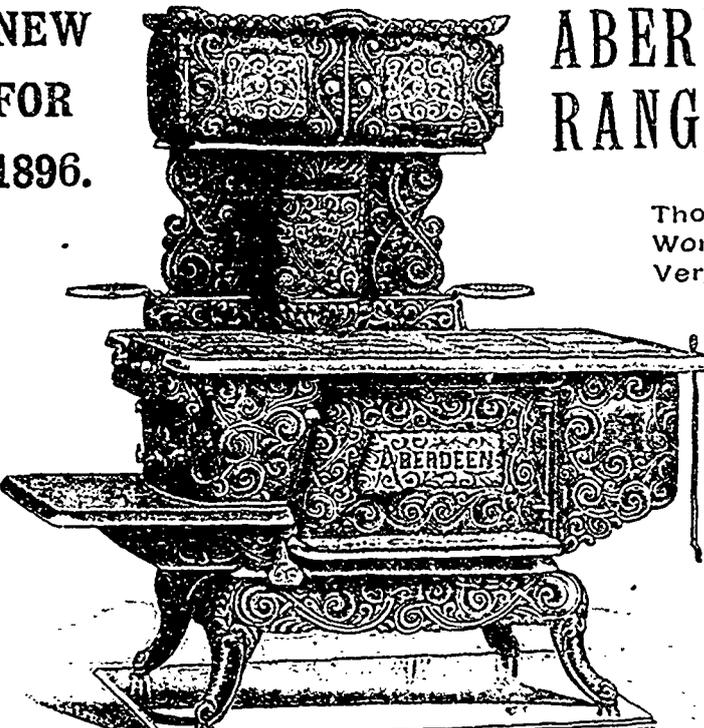
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