

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

The weather is a rather commonplace subject, it must be admitted, and yet it cannot be ignored. Whether you will or not, it commands attention. Did you ever know anything to be found so universally in every part of the globe as weather, or so uncompromisingly democratic, treating all alike, prince and peasant, ignorant or learned? I wish to bear my testimony to the very excellent way in which March, now gone forever, usually so boisterous and obstreperous, has conducted himself throughout his whole course in this city. On Friday and early on Saturday he treated us to beautiful, mild rain, and already the grass is beginning to show quite green, while early flowers are showing above ground and are full of promise of early blossoms. The Easter floral display in flower-shop windows and in some of the stores is most beautiful, and however hurried you may be, tempts you to stop, gaze and admire. If March has treated you as well in Ottawa you may be thankful and happy.

Sunday 23rd was a delightful day and tempted many out to stroll in some of Toronto's beautiful walks. But that temptation did not prevent upwards of three thousand people finding their way to Massey Hall, to attend the Canadian Temperance League meeting. Rev. D. C. Hossack, the speaker for the day, urged sinking all party differences and standing together for prohibitionists only in the Legislature, and for prohibition when voting day comes, even at the cost of personal loss, the estrangement of friends, and injury to one's own political prospects.

The Executive of the Dominion Alliance met on Tuesday 25th, as did also the Ontario section of the standing committee on Temperance and Moral Reform of the General Conference of the Methodist church, to consider the Temperance situation and take steps for action in the immediate future. The former of the two has issued a circular, calling all prohibitionists to rally to carry their cause to victory. The prohibition legislation proposed, the most effective kind of prohibitory law, the most thorough-going legislation of the kind in existence. So far well. But the referendum, while it accepts it, having no choice, its conditions are emphatically protested against. Conventions and conferences are advised to be held in every part of the province, and every effort made to elect, as far as possible, only prohibitionists as members for the next local Legislature. The committee of the Methodist church took action of almost precisely the same kind, especially urging all members of the Methodist church to do their full duty in the circumstances, and so secure the largest possible vote in favour of the present bill.

The glaring and outrageously offensive bill-posters which have so long been disfiguring the walls in the city, have at last attracted the attention of the authorities at the Capital, and orders have reached the Customs Department here, which, if faithfully carried out will make a clean sweep of the whole abominable exhibition. The only pity is that it had not been done long ago. Now it will require constant vigilance to prevent the reappearance of the nuisance.

At the last fortnightly meeting of the General Ministerial Association, the report of the special committee to investigate the subject of gambling, so common in the city in many connections, intimated having sent copies of their report to the Minister of Justice and the Mayor, and that the Board of Control had recommended to the city council the adoption of the course suggested by the Association. With reference to amusements, the Rev. J. F. Ockley, President, spoke in the strongest terms in condemnation of the exhibitions given at one of the local theatres, as being "immoral, indecent and a disgrace to the city." "The Outlook of Christian Union" was the subject for discussion. It was introduced in a paper read by Rev. F. C. C. Heathcote, rector, of St. Clement's Anglican church. The prospect of any immediate change for the better was not, he thought, very hopeful. A remedy suggested was that of Christians working together, but narrow-mindedness and prejudice were formidable obstacles in the way of union. The prayer-book in the English church, was thought by some, to be the great difficulty to union with it, and by others, the doctrine of apostolic succession. Closing the discussion, Mr. Heathcote said "it was apparent that he and some of the members were poles apart in their views on the question of the difficulties to be overcome, and they seemed likely to be wide

apart in the future." Yet he believed that much might be accomplished by the interchange of ideas among the leading men of the churches.

The question of working men and the Church is just now one very often to the front. A discussion on the subject took place at a meeting of the Unitarian Club last week. Representatives of the Trades and Labor Council were present. The whole question is a most difficult one, as well as most important, but it appears very evident that some working men at least, have a very false idea of what is the province and special work of the Church, and that until their views are changed their alienation from the Church must continue.

Short mid-day services have been held during Lent in St. James' Cathedral at which Rev. Canon Welch has given a series of brief addresses on "Different Aspects of the Cross," "This," he said, "was nothing less than a turning of the will in another direction. It does not express anything, although it may imply something in connection with feeling. It is a change of the whole being, and of the way of looking at things. It affects our thoughts, our words, our actions, so that in all things Christ is all, is supreme, is lord and master." The services have been well attended and teaching like that must be attended only with good.

The Sabbath School Association of Ontario is one of the older institutions of the province. The semi-annual meeting was held lately and presided over by Rev. W. Frizzell, chairman. There was a good attendance of delegates. The report of Mr. T. Yellowlees, the Secretary, stated that forty-two conventions had been held, Sunday schools number 5,287, in them are 5,183 teachers and officers, and 423,000 scholars. It is pleasing to know that the treasurer's statement, which has not always been encouraging, was at this meeting satisfactory, showing a favourable balance of \$75.21.

The Rev. John Gillespie, one of our ministers, who, for some years past, has been living in retirement in the city, passed away lately from an attack of pneumonia. He was educated in Queen's College, Belfast, and was a classmate of the late Rev. Dr. Hall, of New York. He was for thirty-three years minister of our Church at Mansewood, and owing to failing health resigned so long back as 1883. His remains were taken to be laid beside those of his wife in the quiet churchyard at Mansewood.

Knox church of this city, has been bereaved by the death, which took place suddenly at Asheville, N. C., of Mr. John Burns, one of the oldest residents of Toronto, and long well known as a member of the old firm of Thomson and Burns, china merchants. The remains were brought here for interment.

The city will, it is expected, in a few months be honored with having a statue erected to the memory of Scotland's immortal bard. A statue of Burns, said to be a very good one, has been cast for the Burns Literary Society. The funds to meet the expense are coming in liberally, and when finished, it will be erected in the North-east corner of Allan Park, better known as the Horticultural Gardens. The situation is a capital one, and it will be seen every day by the hundreds who pass up and down the Belt Line.

Eastern Ontario.

Rev. J. K. Henry has been preaching for Rev. Alfred Gandier.

Rev. D. G. McPhail has resigned his charge at Picton, Ont., to enter the Mission field in the vicinity of the Crow's Nest Pass, British Columbia.

The Rev. D. MacLaren, M. A., of Alexandria, recently closed a series of special evangelistic services in "MacLaren Hall," in which he was ably assisted by Rev. J. Cornick and H. D. Leitch.

Mr. J. B. Mullen, who has had charge of the Mission at Deacon for the past six months, has returned to his home in Toronto. He will be missed in his late field of labour, having made many friends.

Mr. J. A. Wilson, B. A., a recent graduate of Knox College is likely to be invited to assist Dr. Torrance, in St. Paul's church, Peterboro. The growth of the congregation and the wide area covered by the membership renders it necessary the Pastor should have an assistant.

The re-opening services of the renovated church at Lefroy were a gratifying success. Mr. Irving, of Toronto, preached morning and evening and Mr. McKee in the afternoon. Mr. Irving at the evening service gave an account of his experience as a missionary in China.

Rev. W. D. Turner, B. A., son of Mr. James Turner, of Appleton, has been inducted into the pastorate of Mono Mills and Adajala, in the Orangeville Presbytery. The congregation is a large one, the salary being \$800 a year and a free manse, and five weeks of an annual holiday.

An interesting event in the Moose Creek church on the 26th March, was the marriage of Isabella, eldest daughter of Mr. John Dey, merchant, of that place, to Mr. Hibbert H. Kennedy, of Ottawa. The bride and bridesmaid looked charming. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Lacklan Beaton.

Rev. Robert Laird, M. A., of the First Presbyterian church, Brockville, in response to a wish expressed that he would as soon as convenient, follow up his lecture on Martin Luther with another on "Religious Life in Germany at the Present Day." Our readers will remember that this was the theme for two very able papers sometime ago in the DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN by Rev. Louis H. Jordan, B. D., who recently spent a couple of years in Germany.

The annual report of the Alexandria congregation, just published, shows that with 74 families and 97 communicants the total revenue was \$3,238.00, a very creditable result of the year's financial operations. A correspondent writes: "During this past year we have built a hall, which is named 'MacLaren Hall.' In this building our prayer and literary meetings are being held, and this week we are opening a fine library and reading room in it to be open 3 or 4 nights of the week."

Western Ontario.

Rev. Dr. McCrae, of Westminster, was the preacher at Appin last Sunday morning.

Mr. McAlpine, who has been supplying Knox Church, Hamilton, for some time has accepted a call to Knox church, Owen Sound.

The seventh anniversary of Dr. Johnston's pastorate at St. Andrew's Church, London, was observed last Sunday. Dr. Johnston preaching at both of the services.

The last of the winter Sunday evening discourses to young people in Chalmers church, Guelph, was delivered by Rev. J. G. Shearer, secretary of the Lord's Day Alliance.

The congregations of Bratford, West Gwillimbury and St. John's now form one charge under the pastorate of Rev. Dr. Smith, who is to receive \$830 a year along with a free manse.

Rev. Mr. Ferguson, late of British Columbia, preached at Avonbank on Sabbath last in a very acceptable manner. He spoke at the C. E. meeting in the evening on Dr. McKay of Formosa.

Rev. S. H. Gray, who has for several years been assistant pastor of Knox church, Dundas, has been invited to take the position of permanent pastor. If the call is approved of his salary has been fixed at \$1,400 per year, with a free manse.

Bond Head, Monkman's and Cookstown congregations, constituting one charge, will soon be without a minister, Rev. J. T. Hall, their pastor for several years, having received a call to Rockwood and Eden Mills, near Guelph, and which he has accepted.

The local correspondent of the Stratford Beacon writes: Rev. A. B. Baird, professor in a Manitoba college, while east in the interests of his college, spent Sunday in Matherwell. We were favored in that he occupied the pulpit here. The Scriptural statement, "That a man is not without honor save in his own country," finds in Matherwell the exception, for the village is justly proud of her distinguished son and always appreciates the privilege of hearing him from the sacred desk.

Rev. A. L. Geggie, of Toronto, has been lecturing in Knox church, Stratford, on "Wit and Humor." In a brief notice of the lecture the Beacon says: "The various phases of wit and humor were illustrated by appropriate incidents and the characteristics of the American, Irishman, Englishman and Scotchman were similarly portrayed. Mr. Geggie is a thorough Scotchman and his lecture abounded in that quaint humor and intense love of his native land which characterize his race. He is a gifted speaker and is able to hold the undivided attention of his hearers."

A great gathering took place in the church at Fingal, on Tuesday evening, the 18th inst., when the congregation and friends met to say farewell to the retiring pastor, the venerable Dr.