

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

Knox Church has again obtained a minister, and the historic pulpit is once more filled. The Rev. A. B. Winchester was formally inducted there on Tuesday evening of last week, and on Thursday evening received a most cordial welcome from the members of his congregation. At the induction service, while every part was good, the charge of the aged Dr. Carmichael to the young minister, and the sermon of the Rev. Alfred Gandier, stand out as marked features of the service.

The schoolroom was well filled on Thursday evening, and among those who gathered were many who had been members of Knox in the past, but who now give their strength to other congregations. There is a warm spot for the old church in the hearts of every one who has at one time been on the roll of Knox Church. Many of them are too far removed to attend the services there, but they will rejoice to know that again the pulpit is filled by a man whose strength lies in his spirituality.

There is much for the minister of Knox Church to do. The congregation must adapt itself to the needs of the district in which it worships. Many of them are not of that district, and one would not suppose that they could take up the kind of work it demands. In that supposition one may be agreeably disappointed. From the tone of the remarks last Thursday evening it was evident the Knox minister to stand by her minister in just this kind of work, and she can offer him ability that is second to none in the whole city.

One of the members, who is well qualified to speak for the congregation, said on the night of the reception, "What the future of Knox Church may be it would be idle to predict; and then he indicated with sufficient clearness that there would not be a disposition to probe the future too much, but rather a desire to do the present duty, and await developments for the future.

The annual reports are being presented, and they are most encouraging. In only one has there been a note of despondency. That one has done good work, but the burden is greater than it can carry. The Presbytery has come to the help of another of the congregations, and there is an expectation that it will weather the gale. For this other it is difficult to say what the outcome may be. But all other treasurers wear smiling faces, and not a few recommend that their minister shall be substantially remembered when the balance is disposed of by the congregation.

The question of the assistant pastor has become a practical one in Toronto. St. Andrew's has decided to engage one for Dr. Black, and Central has also decided to secure an assistant of some kind for Dr. McTavish. At least two other congregations have sufficient work to keep two men hard at work, but they will not likely take action for this year. Parkdale congregation showed its appreciation of a good minister by asking him to accept an increase of salary, and Westminster did the same. The words of kindly appreciation with which this was done in each case counted more than the additional salary.

Knox College graduates are packing their grips for the annual conference. The programme is a good one this year. There might be improvement still, and no doubt the next committee will take advantage of any helpful criticisms offered their predecessors. It would be well if one distinctive feature dominated the entire programme for one year at least. During the conference week—from Monday 28 to Saturday, Feb. 2, there will be two important meetings. The Senate of Knox College will meet on Monday afternoon, and will meet from time to time if necessary during the Conference. In addition to the usual business there will be the discussion of a motion to regulate the presentation of the names of those upon whom the degree of D.D. shall be conferred. Tuesday evening the Alumni meeting will be held, when business of importance will be brought forward. As arrangements for special rates have been made with both railroads, so that by taking a single fare ticket and a Standard Certificate, reduced rates may be obtained on all lines, it is expected that there will be a good attendance at this meeting.

Dr. Milligan met with an unpleasant accident last week, which confined him to his house for some days. He slipped on Yonge Street and fell heavily. It is gratifying to know that this

doctor is not seriously hurt, but he was obliged to cancel some special engagements that had been made because of the severe shaking-up he received. He is again able to be about.

The annual Convention of the Presbyterian Young People's Union will be held in Chalmers Church, Toronto, during the first week in April. The programme has been prepared with much care, and the committee in charge look forward to a good attendance and a profitable time. The speakers for the evening session are the Rev. Alfred Gandier and the Rev. Dr. Robert Johnston.

Ottawa and Vicinity.

The Methodists and Presbyterians of Hintonburg will join forces to continue the revival services after Dr. Chapman leaves. Rev. Mr. McAmmond and Rev. Mr. Eadie have decided to co-operate in union services.

The report of the Kirk Session of Stewarton church was submitted by Mr. J. B. Halket, Session clerk, and showed that at the present time there are 267 members, an increase of 9 over last year. Affectionate allusion was made by the Session and other societies to the loss sustained by the congregation in the deaths of Mrs. Catherine Stewart of Appin Place and Mrs. John Carruthers. Reference was also made to Mr. David McLaren's liberal donation of 1,000, as his contribution to the Century Fund, being in addition to what he has otherwise given to the Interest and Sinking Fund. This enabled the managers to reduce the debt on the church by \$1,850. For general co-regional purposes the receipts were sufficient to meet the expenditure with a small balance over.

At the Erskine church annual meeting Mr. George Rochester read the report of the trustees which announced the cheering intelligence that the Concession property had been paid for. The balance in hand was \$3,200 of this amount \$100 was voted to the Sunday school, and \$25 to the Ladies' Aid. The average attendance at the Sunday school during the year was 140; the attendance last Sabbath 202. The following were appointed members of the board of management: Messrs. D. Lockyer, Wm. Fraser, Ed. Bonsall, John Leyden and F. McKnight. The board is made up of these five and Messrs. Thos. Stewart, Wm. Anderson, C. R. Johnston, E. F. Drake, J. C. Dagleish, J. Baxter and A. Andrews. The last was elected treasurer of the board; and Mr. Ed. McGillivray treasurer of the mission fund. With the minister of their choice soon to take the oversight of the spiritual affairs of the congregation, Erskine church should move on to a very prosperous future.

Rev. Dr. Chapman has closed the series of meetings he has been holding in Ottawa. He found it impossible to accede to the request, so generally made, that he should remain for another week. The meetings on Monday were very largely attended, the evening one especially so, hundreds being unable to get into the church, nor yet into the overflow meeting. This service was conducted by the Rev. Jas. A. MacFarlane, Rev. E. Eadie and Mr. Smythe led the singing, Dr. Chapman preaching a powerful sermon on the subject "A sin for which there is no forgiveness." In replying to an address from the Ministerial Association Dr. Chapman said that in all his evangelistic work he had never before seen a city where the Spirit of God seemed to be present to such an extent as it was in Ottawa. He never made an announcement of his departure with so much regret as this time. He hoped that he might again have the privilege of visiting Ottawa. An effort is being made to secure the services of Rev. Mr. Meikle for next week.

The important event of last week in this city was the visit and addresses of Rev. Dr. Chapman, of Philadelphia. He spoke with much power twice a day, up till Friday—to large afternoon gatherings, and at night to crowded congregations. Dr. Chapman's evangelistic methods are natural and direct, and the result of his week of earnest gospel work has been the ingathering of many souls. On Thursday Mr. Wm. F. Hall, a wealthy business man of New York, visited the city and addressed a large meeting. Mr. Hall has been impressed with the great need of a widespread revival of genuine religion. A national movement to this effect has made great progress in the large cities of the United States, and the desire is to make it international. Mr. Hall then told of the New York gathering and the object of the gospel campaign. He said the world has experienced periods of religious apathy, followed by periods of spiritual revival. The last part of the departed century

seemed to be a period of apathy, but he believed the new century would be introduced with a gracious revival. He found a remarkable spirit of prayer and expectation everywhere manifest. There was also generally evident a desire to get in touch with others who are of a like mind, and to unite prayer and effort to hasten the coming of the kingdom in power. With these indications the time had come for the inauguration of a movement with the Holy Ghost as leader. Mr. Hall's effective appeal was followed by a demand for immediate action, when the following were appointed a committee to nominate an executive of twenty persons which will direct the gospel campaign in the Ottawa district: Messrs. Rev. A. A. Cameron, Rev. M. H. Scott, Rev. Wm. McIntosh, Rev. Dr. Rose, Rev. J. A. MacFarlane and Mr. R. J. Farrell.

Eastern Ontario.

Rev. Dr. W. P. MacKay, Toronto, conducted Anniversary services at Millbrook last Sabbath. The Mission Funds reported at the Annual Meeting of Zion church, Carleton Place, was the largest in the history of the congregation—\$7,876.69.

Every department of Church work in St. Andrew's, Arnprior, indicate a prosperous year, and all the reports presented to the annual meeting were most encouraging.

The financial report read at the annual meeting of Old St. Andrew's, Lanark, showed quite a handsome balance on hand. The congregation is waiting the action of the Presbytery in their matter.

In the absence of Rev. Mr. Hastie, the pulpit of Knox Church, Cornwall, was occupied last Sunday morning by Rev. Mr. Tennant. In the evening the services were conducted by Dr. Alguire and Mr. Hill Campbell.

Anniversary services in Ashton church were conducted by Rev. C. H. Cooke, M. A., Smith's Falls. The annual service on Monday evening was a distinct success. The speeches and music were good and greatly appreciated.

All the reports presented to the annual meeting of St. John's, Almonte, showed marked progress, there being a balance on the right side in every case. Feeling reference was made to the faithful work done by Rev. Mr. Mitchell as pastor, and the cordial relations that always existed and still exist between him and the congregation.

St. Andrew's Church, Appleton, is practically out of debt. The out-look for the congregation, as revealed in the reports presented to the annual meeting, is most encouraging. The devoted pastor, Rev. G. T. Bayne, who was laid up for so many weeks in the early part of last year, is to be congratulated in this happy state of affairs.

The annual meeting of St. John's Almonte W.F.M. Society, was held, when the following officers were elected: Honorary president, Mrs. A. M. Greig; hon. vice-pres. Mrs. Jas. Robertson; president, Mrs. H. McEwen; vice-presidents, Mrs. D. Dick, Mrs. A. E. Mitchell and Mrs. Jas. Robb; corresponding secretary, Mrs. F. W. Robertson; recording secretary, Mrs. Geo. Williams; treasurer, Miss Thom.

Carleton Place has two prosperous congregations. Last year Zion church raised for all purposes about \$4,300. Of this amount \$1,876.69 was given to missions, \$1,955 was devoted to the ordinary expenditure, and \$300.00 to the pipe organ account. St. Andrew's church puts in a \$2,000 pipe organ, and gave \$1,818.49 to missions, besides providing for all the ordinary running expenses of their congregation. The year was closed with a balance of over \$40 in the treasury.

Everything connected with St. Paul's, Middleville, is in a healthy and progressive state. All financial obligations have been met, with a good balance on the right side to begin the new year with. The W. F. M. Auxiliary of this congregation elected the following officers: President, Miss Mary Rodger; 1st vice-president, Mrs. (Rev.) W. S. Smith; and vice-president, Mrs. George Creighton; secretary, Miss Fannie L. Smith; treasurer, Miss Mary E. Guthrie. The society raised \$28.55 for mission purposes, besides sending a bale of goods to the Indians of the North-west.

At the annual meeting of St. Andrew's, Perth, after the devotional exercises by the pastor, Rev. A. H. Scott, the chair was taken by Mr. Samuel Wilson. The report from the board of management was exceptionally satisfactory and showed that the sum of \$1,661 had been contributed towards the pastor's stipend, more than in