

Church News.

The Rev. J. B. Stewart, of Castleton, Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew, has been called by the congregation of Litchfield in the same presbytery.

At a meeting in St. John's church, Brockville, recently, Hon. W. J. Christie, on behalf of the congregation, presented the pastor, Rev. Dr. Jardine, with a cheque for \$100, as a mark of the esteem in which he is held and their appreciation of his services.

We have received from Mr. W. N. Houser, the faithful and energetic President of the Brant County S. S. Association, a most interesting programme of the seventeenth annual convention to be held in the Methodist church, Mount Vernon, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 16th and 17th February. The convention promises to be an occasion of much interest and profit.

Says a correspondent:—"The Presbyterians of St. George are not slow to appreciate the sterling worth and ability of their popular pastor, Rev. W. S. McTavish. A very large gathering took possession of the manse on the return of the rev. gentleman and his bride from their wedding tour, and gave them a most hearty welcome home, accompanied by an address full of gratitude, satisfaction and good wishes, finishing up with a purse of over \$70 in gold."

The anniversary services of St. Andrew's church, Blyth, were held on Sabbath, January 10th, when able and appropriate sermons were preached by the Rev. R. J. Laidlaw, of Hamilton. The annual social gathering was held on the following Monday evening, when Mr. Laidlaw delighted the large audience by his lecture on "Our Successors." Short and appropriate addresses were also made by the neighboring brethren. The sum realized was over \$200.

The Whitty Presbytery W. F. M. S. held its annual meeting in Bowmanville on the 19th January. The report of the year's work showed that \$940 had been raised by the branches. A very successful meeting was held in the evening. Mrs. Harvie, of Toronto, addressed the meetings, both afternoon and evening, with great persuasiveness. Mr. McClelland, moderator of presbytery, delivered an excellent address at the evening meeting; and the members of the society returned to their homes resolved to labour more assiduously for their sisters in the foreign field.

The annual congregational meeting of Geneva church, Chesley, was held on the 21st Jan., the pastor, Rev. J. Ferguson, M.A., B.D., in the chair. The Sabbath School showed a large increase in the average attendance as compared with the previous year. The additions to the membership of the church were 51, removals 21, making the present membership of the church 283. Families represented in the additions, 19; in the removals, 8; net gain of families, 11. The contributions to the Schemes of the Church exhibit an increase as compared with former years.

FROM a recent announcement we learn that the Board of Managers of Ottawa Ladies' College, being anxious to afford an opportunity to those ladies who may wish to enter upon a critical study of some of the masterpieces of English literature, has decided to open the class in English Language and Literature to all who desire to attend. This class meets every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 to 10 a.m., and the special subjects of study during the next two terms will be Longfellow's "Evangeline" and Shakespeare's "Julius Cæsar." Around these, as central figures, will be grouped the literature of their respective eras, and full details will be given of all philological, historical, and other questions which will arise in the critical examination of these authors.

The annual missionary meeting of Knox church, Woodstock, was held on the evening of January 22nd, and was largely attended. Addresses of a high order were delivered by the Rev. Messrs. Baillie, of Woodlands, Robertson, of Waddington, and Principal Grant, of Kingston. The learned principal was in his happiest mood, and his eloquent address on Home Missions will long be remembered by the large congregation who were privileged to hear it. The Augmentation Scheme was ably represented by Mr. John C. Munro, an elder of the Colquhoun congregation, whose thoughtful and telling address was listened to with much interest, and produced such an impression in its favour, that the entire amount required by the presbytery's committee towards this scheme, from Knox church, was put upon the collection plates at the close of the meeting.

The annual missionary meeting of Knox church, Woodstock, was held on Monday evening, January 18th, the pastor, Rev. W. T. McMillen, presiding. The attendance was large. A most comprehensive and able address was given by Rev. Jas. Robertson, superintendent of missions in the North-West, and a touching appeal made in behalf of the work. Mr. George White read the report of the Ladies' Missionary Association, showing amount on hand, with collection at meeting, and a cheque for \$60 through the pastor, making in all \$421; Sabbath School, \$101; Bible class, \$28; Women's Foreign Missionary Society, \$95. Besides these amounts, a cheque for \$500, towards the church and manse building fund for the North-West, was handed to Rev. Mr. Robertson at the close of the meeting. Total, \$1,145. The contribution to the Augmentation Fund is yet to be taken up.

The Presbytery of Paris inducted Mr. R. G. Sinclair on January 19th, at Mount Pleasant, into the pastoral charge of Mount Pleasant and Barford. The attendance was large. The induction sermon was preached by Mr. Boyle, Dr. Beattie presided, Mr. McMullen gave the charge to the pastor, and Mr. Wylie addressed the people. A hearty welcome was given to Mr. Sinclair by the people; and in the evening a crowded social meeting was held, at which addresses were given by Dr. Beattie, who presided, and Messrs. Wylie, McMullen, Alexander, the former pastor, and others. Mr. Sinclair in appropriate terms responded to the cordial welcome given him. The services in the afternoon were solemnly impressive, and the meeting in the evening all that could be desired. The manner in which the occasion was observed can scarcely fail to leave a lasting and happy impression in the community.

DR. LYMAN ABBOTT'S lecture brought out one of the largest audiences that have ever been seen at a lecture in Owen Sound. The subject of it was "Threatening Dangers to the Core of Society." Rev. A. H. Scott occupied the chair and introduced the lecturer, who spoke on the home as the foundation of society, and sketched some of the dangers that threatened it, both from without and within, in the state of modern society. At the close a vote of thanks was moved by the mayor, seconded by D. Creighton, and unanimously tendered to the lecturer. "We feel," says an exchange, "that the public of Owen Sound owe Rev. Mr. Scott thanks for bringing Dr. Abbott here, and giving them an opportunity of listening to such a high-class lecture. A few each lecturer as this would do much to elevate the taste of our citizens and let them see that more genuine and higher enjoyment can be gained from this class of entertainments than from minstrel shows and such like performances."

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—"The annual meeting of the Iroquois congregation was held on January 18th. The reports showed a satisfactory year's work. The church has been renovated and re-seated, and a valuable organ purchased, all of which have been paid for. The congregation is free of debt, with a balance on hand in every department. This congregation has been vacant since its separation from Morrisburg in October last, but the people, with commendable energy, have maintained the cause, and are now taking steps to become an independent charge. In this they will no doubt succeed, and Iroquois will then be one of the most desirable charges in Eastern Ontario. The village is growing steadily, and will ere long become an important town. It is beautifully

situated on the St. Lawrence, 100 miles west of Montreal. The G. T. R. runs through the town. A well equipped high school and common school are in operation here, and for a minister desiring educational and other facilities for his family, no better location could be desired."

The congregation of James' church, New Glasgow, N. S., of which Rev. E. A. McCurdy is pastor, have had a prosperous year financially. They have built an excellent hall for the accommodation of the Sabbath School, prayer-meeting and Bible class. They have also made extensive improvements in their church, at a cost for both purposes of \$3,925, of which \$2,000 have been realized during the year. The congregation has resolved to clear off the balance by the payment of \$500 per annum. A pleasing feature in their prosperity is, their ordinary contributions for congregational purposes and for the Schemes of the Church have not been injuriously affected by their special effort. The regular morning and evening collections for the past year amounted to \$1,640, as against \$1,533 for the previous year, or an increase of \$107. The contributions for the five principal Schemes of the Church have been \$615.19, about the same as those for the preceding year. Under these circumstances the congregation enters upon the hundredth year of its existence with much encouragement and with cheering prospects.

We clip the following from the London Advertiser:—"The annual meeting of the members of St. James' church congregation was held last night, Rev. D. McGillivray, pastor, in the chair. The Rev. G. Rowitt was appointed secretary of the meeting. It having been decided to make the church year end on the 31st December, this meeting was held three months earlier than usual, and the reports presented were therefore only for nine months. The manager's report showed the church to be in a highly flourishing condition, and it was duly received and adopted. The treasurer's report placed the receipts for the past nine months at \$1,371.73, which is equal to more than \$4,000 per year. Of this amount \$393.43 was raised by the Ladies' Aid Society, and \$115.60 by the Sunday School. Both these latter bodies were shown to be most flourishing. The session report showed the number of families belonging to the congregation to be 90, and the number of communicants 152, being an increase of 50 for the year. The number of pupils on the Sabbath School roll was stated to be 135, teachers 10, and officers 3. Considering the fact that the opening of Knox church, London South, affected St. James' congregation considerably, this report was considered highly satisfactory. The following gentlemen were elected to the Board of Managers for 1886: Messrs. G. Rowitt, James Mitchell, S. Edgatt and Charteris. These gentlemen take the place of Messrs. Jones, Rowitt, McRae and McKechnie, the retiring members. The old managers who still remain upon the board are Messrs. J. Irwin, R. Ferguson, H. Omand, W. Webster and R. Munroe. Messrs. A. K. Melrose and G. Rattray were re-elected auditors. Before the close of the meeting Mr. A. K. Melrose took occasion to move a hearty vote of thanks to Rev. D. McGillivray for the energy and diligence he had displayed in church work during the year. He congratulated the congregation upon the satisfactory reports presented. They were the best reports he had seen in the church for fifteen years. He said this was owing altogether to the energy, faithfulness and ability of their esteemed pastor, and that to him were now due the thanks of the congregation. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting closed with the benediction." This is a most gratifying report, and shows what can be done in the face of great difficulties by a courageous congregation led by a faithful minister.

The annual meeting of the East Presbytery church, Toronto, Rev. J. M. Cameron, pastor, was held on the 27th Jan.; Mr. McGregor in the chair. The session report showed that 150 new members had become connected with the church during the past year. Five members had been removed by death and 47 had received certificates. The present total membership is 536. The managers' report showed that the total receipts were \$3,120, and the expenditure \$3,091.02, which with a balance from last year, leaves a balance this year of \$383.39. From certain sources of revenue the receipts were over \$700 short of last year, but this sum was more than made up by the increased liberality of the congregation. The weekly offerings show an increase of over \$300 above those of last year. The following gentlemen were elected the Board of Management: Messrs. John Dixon, Wm. Davie, Chas. Culross, Andrew Coulter and John McGregor. The consideration of the reports of Sunday School work, on mission work, and that of the Association of Christian Workers was postponed till a meeting to be held next Wednesday night. Towards the conclusion of the meeting a member of the congregation put the question if there was anything in the doctrine of Presbyterianism which was antagonistic to music in the church. He had only been a Presbyterian for three years and was not as well acquainted with the doctrine as some of the older members present. As no one seemed inclined to answer, Rev. Mr. Cameron filled the breach and briefly answered. He said that such a thing as instrumental music was not known in the Church for 666 years after the birth of Christ. And it was a notable fact that that year was alluded to in a very peculiar way in Revelation. When the Church was reformed Knox and his followers tore the organ out of the church. The Church courts in this country showed that their attitude in regard to the matter was to allow each congregation to please itself, always holding, however, that no mere small majority should rule in the matter against the wishes of a large minority. The member said he was satisfied with the answer. A motion was made by another member that an organ be introduced in the church, but an amendment that the matter be not considered was carried.

The annual meeting of the congregation of Knox church, Toronto, took place on January 27th, the pastor, Rev. H. M. Parsons, in the chair. The report of the trustees was as follows: The receipts from ground rents for the current year are \$1,259.80. The trustees desire to express their high appreciation of the action of the late Mr. Isaac Grayson in bequeathing to Knox church the sum of \$5,000 to be applied to the reduction of the mortgage debt on the church. \$2,000 of this legacy has already been received, \$1,000 of which has been applied on the mortgage, and the balance will be paid as soon as the holders of the mortgage will receive the same. This payment reduces the mortgage debt to \$10,000. The total contributions for the year were as follows: Contributions for the year, \$9,384.80; ground rents, \$1,259.80; church schemes, \$5,169.67; Knox church Sabbath School, \$278.18; Ladies' Aid Society, \$346.15; Mr. W. Mortimer Clark's Bible class, \$20.15; Poor Fund, \$68.57; Ladies' Bereavement Society, \$88.25; Willing Workers, \$160; contributions by members to Knox College Endowment, 1885, \$1,866; Topp Auxiliary, \$230; Donald McKay, special to Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, \$3,000; Young People's Association, \$233.36; total, \$21,884.95. The treasurer's statement showed that the receipts for the year amounted to \$13,348.70 and the expenditure to \$15,281.87, leaving a deficit due the treasurer of \$1,933.17. Mr. W. B. McMurrich read the report of the Kirk session. It showed that at the close of the year 865 names were on the membership roll, an increase of 54 over the previous year; 119 had been removed by death, while 173 had been added. The deacons' report stated that \$684 had been expended on the Poor Fund. The deficit for the year was partly accounted for by special expenditure on repairs to the church and the deficit carried forward from 1884. The report of the Sabbath School Committee stated that the average attendance at the school had been 255, and the largest attendance 306. There were 398 pupils on the roll, and 35 classes, 17 for boys and 18 for girls. The progress of the intermediate class was very satisfactory. At the pastor's Bible class the average attendance had been 186. The report of the Deacons' Street Mission Sabbath School stated that the average attendance had been 175, an increase of 20 over the preceding year. The work was progressing very satisfactorily. The Young People's Association's report stated that the total

membership was 243. 48 names having been added to the roll since the previous report. On motion of Mr. Wm. Thomson, seconded by Mr. George Smith, the thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. D. McKay for his handsome gift of \$2,000 to the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.

The annual meeting of the congregation of the Central Presbyterian church, Toronto, was held on Monday evening, January 20th, Rev. P. McF. McLeod, pastor, presiding. The chairman made a few remarks expressing pleasure at the prosperity of the church and the gratifying character of the reports to be submitted. He gave the following statement of the income of the church for the past six years—1880, \$4,714; 1881, \$6,768; 1882, \$5,942; 1883, \$5,442; 1884, \$9,975; 1885, over \$10,000. Besides this the congregation had contributed liberally in other ways. The amount contributed to the Endowment Fund of Knox College was \$50, and subscriptions had been given to Rev. Dr. Kleg for Manitoba College, and to Rev. James Robertson for the North-West church and parsonage fund, and the support of the William Street mission hall cost \$524. The amount given for missions would be over \$2,000. The mission carried on by the church on Elizabeth Street would, he announced, be supported by subscriptions instead of being a charge upon the congregational funds, as heretofore. Of the \$400 required \$287 had already been subscribed. The report of the session showed that at the beginning of 1885 the membership of the church was 419, and during the year 86 new members were added to the roll. During the year 54 were removed from the roll, 30 of these having left the city. The membership at the present time was 451. The baptisms of infants numbered eighteen. Mr. Gourlay, treasurer of the session, presented his report showing a surplus of over \$12, which amount had been given to charitable objects. The report of the Board of Managers was presented and read by Mr. W. N. Miller. The following are extracts:—"At the close of the year ending the 31st December, 1885, there were 164 contributors by envelope, and at the close of the year there were 171 contributors by envelope. The total average per week from envelopes and loose contributions for the year 1884 was \$107.49. The total average per week from the same source for last year was \$106.21. At the close of the year 1884 the floating debt of the congregation was \$2,150. At the close of 1885 that debt was \$986.75, the amount having been reduced by \$1,163.25 by special contributions to the fund known as "the floating debt fund." The thanks of the managers are especially due to the ladies of the congregation connected with the Ladies' Aid Society, and to the members of the Bible classes, through whose efforts the money applied to the reduction of the floating debt for the past year have been collected. The managers have pleasure in congratulating the congregation upon the fact that the year's receipts have been sufficient to meet the expenditure. This, together with the fact that the floating debt is now under \$1,000, is most encouraging. The report of the treasurer, Mr. Petry, showed the receipts to be \$5,870.05. These reports were adopted, and a resolution passed endorsing the recommending the election of an elder to a seat at the Managers' Board. The following gentlemen were elected to fill vacancies in the Board of Managers: Messrs. Joseph Stevens (elder), W. N. Miller, A. K. Creelman, S. B. Windrum, A. Jeffrey, R. Donald, Senr., R. J. Hunter and R. G. A. Paton.

MEETING OF PRESBYTERY.

LANARK AND RENFREW.—The presbytery met at Carleton Place, November 24th, Mr. Hugh Taylor, moderator. After routine business, it was agreed to that Messrs. MacGillivray and Ross, ministers, and F. B. Allan, elder, be a commission to organize a congregation at Oliver's Ferry and Port Emsley, at such time as may be convenient. Mr. Maclean, Annapolis, reported that he had, according to appointment, preached in St. Andrew's church, Almonte, on Sabbath, the 4th October last, and had read to the congregation the deliverance of presbytery in the matter of the petition of certain members of that congregation against the ordination of elders. Dr. Campbell then gave in and read the Report of the Presbytery's Home Mission for the quarter. The report was received, and considered in detail, and adopted as a whole. It recommended: (1) That the Assembly Committee, having concurred in the appointment of Mr. McKechnie to Mattawa, for another term, Mr. McKechnie be hereby re-appointed on the expiry of his former engagement, and his name continued on the presbytery roll as ordained missionary at Mattawa. (2) That Mr. J. S. Stewart, having been allocated to the presbytery by the Assembly's Committee for the winter, and appointed by the convene to Eganville and Scotch Bush, the appointment be and is hereby confirmed. (3) That in the matter of the supply of Dalhousie and N. Sherbrooke, the convene ascertain whether the session and congregation are prepared to receive weekly supply; otherwise that they be supplied by students from Queen's College, fortnightly, the managers engaging to meet the expense; and further, that the convene arrange, if possible, for a monthly supply of ministers; and that the station of Darling be supplied monthly by students, the people engaging to meet the expenses of the supply. (4) That the scheme submitted by the convene for the supply of Litchfield, Stafford and Osceola, and Oliver's Ferry and Port Emsley, be approved, and printed as an addendum to the minutes. (5) That in reference to the station of Onslow and Eardly, a student be sent during the Christmas holidays, with a grant of \$3 per Sabbath, and that till the closing of the colleges the Missionary Association of the Presbytery College, Montreal, be asked to send fortnightly supply, the presbytery engaging to pay \$6 for every day supply is sent. Mr. McKechnie being present, he was asked to give some account of his work at Mattawa, and in the large district over which his labours extended. On motion duly made and seconded, it was agreed to record the satisfaction of the presbytery with the account of Mr. McKechnie of his labours, and their interest in the work where he is placed, their sympathy with him in his isolation; and that an application be made to the Assembly's Committee for a grant of \$50 to enable Mr. McKechnie further to explore the field, and visit the scattered families of Protestants in the region of his mission. Letters were read from the W. F. M. Society agent the annual meeting during the session of the next regular meeting of presbytery, and the appointment of two members of presbytery to address their presbyterial society. Reports of missionary meetings that had been held were given by Messrs. Mylne, Bennett, Campbell, Taylor, McKillop, Edmondson and Ross. There was submitted and read a circular agent the nomination of an additional professor for Knox College, when it was moved by Mr. Scott, and seconded by Mr. Ballantyne, that the matter be deferred till next meeting. To this it was moved in amendment, and duly seconded, that a committee be appointed to consider the matter and submit a name for nomination at next meeting. On a vote being taken, the amendment was carried, and the following committee was appointed, namely, Messrs. McLean, Edmondson and Ballantyne, ministers, and Messrs. Bell and Allan, elders. Mr. Edmondson asked, and obtained leave to withdraw. In the meantime, the motion of which he had given notice at last meeting, on the subject of Baptism by Immersion, The Augmentation Committee reported verbally, by Mr. Ballantyne, convener, indicating what they had done in the allocation of the sum among the congregations which had been laid upon the presbytery. In the matter of Protestant Education in the Province of Quebec it was agreed to appoint Mr. Gandler, convener of the presbytery's committee in the room of Mr. H. Scott, who has left the bounds, and instruct him (Mr. Gandler) to present his report on the subject at next meeting, in order to be transmitted to the Synod's Committee on Education in the Province of Quebec. Dr. Campbell gave notice that he would move at the next meeting, and before the presbytery proceeded to elect their commissioners to the General Assembly, that the presbytery renews the mode of electing their ministerial commissioners in force before the change made at the meeting in February last year.—JOHN CROMBIE, Corr.

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