

## Ministers and Churches.

### Our Toronto Letter.

The service held in Knox Church on Thursday last, in memory of the late President McKinley, was a striking tribute to the man, and to the friendly spirit existing between Canadians and the people of the United States. Though the hour of the service had only been publicly announced in the morning papers, there was an audience that filled the body of the church, and part of the gallery. Throughout there was evidence of the deepest sympathy, and the words of Principal Caven voiced the sentiments of all, in describing Mr. McKinley as a man whose chief aim in his high position had been to preserve peace, and to promote a closer union between his own and other nations.

Principal Caven spoke in terms of the highest appreciation of the kindly manner in which President McKinley and Mrs. McKinley had received the members of the Pan-Presbyterian Council on the occasion of its meeting in Washington. The courtesy of this act seems to have been characteristic of the man. He recognised with delight whatever made for the promotion of Gospel knowledge, and the freedom of men and gave to it his support. That a man who had worked his way upwards from the humblest ranks, facing and overcoming difficulty and braving disappointment, should yet preserve the sweetness of his Christian spirit, and the kindness of his nature to the last, is in itself the best testimony to the nobility of character by which he was marked.

There was a strange blending of welcome and farewell in the appearance of the city during the earlier part of the week. Everywhere the flags were at half-mast, and yet one constantly came across preparations for the welcome to be given to the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall when they visit us. Canada has already shown the heartiness of her loyalty, and it will not exhaust itself in the first outburst. From ocean to ocean there is but one sentiment, and this will find ready expression when the people see the representative of royalty and his winsome lady. We are waiting with some degree of impatience, the coming of the royal visitors, and shall give to them a right hearty welcome.

Before they reach us we shall welcome to the city again the hundreds of students who make this their home during the winter months. From mountain and plain, from coast and prairie, from home and mission field, from surveyors' camp and mining shack the young men who have chosen to pursue knowledge will come. The city will feel the impulse of so much young life, and her streets are already brighter for the strong young faces of the first comers. We do not make enough of the men who come to our city and fill our College halls. We let them come and go, we take what they can give to us, and grant to them the privilege of gathering what they can from our halls of learning, but we do not recognize the opportunity their presence gives to mould the future thought of our nation. If we did we should do more to place all our Colleges upon the best possible footing, financially and in every other way. That may come but there is small sign of it yet.

One evidence of the interest taken by the leading men of our city in our University has just been recorded. Professor Goldwin Smith and Mrs. Smith have forwarded to the Chancellor of the University the handsome donation of Ten Thousand Dollars, to be used in the support of the Library of the University. The gift is connected with the millenary of King Alfred, which has just been celebrated in England. It is to be used by the trustees of the Library Fund at their pleasure. The gift is a most opportune one, and we hope the generosity of Dr. Smith may stir others to similar acts of generosity in connection with our Provincial University.

During the past year twelve ministers have been induced within the limits of this Presbytery. There are still some vacant pulpits, so rapid is the change in the personnel of the Court. Last week the Presbytery accepted the resignation of the Rev. James McCaul, for eight years the minister of the Church of the Covenant. During his pastorate the congregation has risen from a mission station to the status of an augmented charge, and later of a self-sustaining congregation. It has also purchased a piece of ground in a better locality than the mission church was built upon, and upon this has erected a handsome schoolroom, suitable

for congregational use. But all this has burdened the congregation seriously. Bravely have the people struggled beneath it, and their pastor has worked late and early with them. But his strength has failed, and their strength is scarcely equal to the further strain. He has felt impelled to tender his resignation, and under the impulse of a new voice the congregation will take heart again. Mr. McCaul has recovered physical strength, but hesitates to continue the worry of the years that must still ensue before financial matters are easy with the congregation where he has been laboring. Yet the future of this congregation is assured. In time it will be one of the most vigorous congregations in the City.

The deputation of the Keswick brethren are in the city, and all of them preached in some of the churches last Sunday. The meetings that have been held in Hamilton, and London and Guelph and elsewhere have been most interesting and helpful. Of course their appeal is to the professing Christian, and seeks to encourage to the higher life. The meetings have been fairly well attended, and the interest has deepened daily. The views of the Keswick men are well known, and the visit of these brethren each year does much to unite the churches in one great object, and promote a stronger bond between those who, under different names, work towards the one great end.

### Western Ontario.

Rev. Principal Caven and Miss Caven have been visiting friends at Matherwell.

Rev. H. H. McPherson, M. A., of Toronto, has been preaching in Knox church, Owen Sound.

Miss Dr. Oliver, at home on furlough, has been lecturing in Knox church, Tavistock, last week.

Rev. Malcolm McLennan conducted the services in St. Andrew's church, Kippen last Sabbath.

Rev. E. H. Sawers, of Brucefield, was at Westminster last week, visiting some of his old parishioners.

Rev. R. H. Warden, D. D., of Toronto, moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly, was in Winnipeg.

In St. Paul's church, Hamilton, Rev. Neil McPherson has commenced a series of discourses on "The Bible and its Problems."

The people of Winthrop Caven church were pleased to see their pastor, Rev. P. Musgrave, back with them on Sunday after a severe illness.

Rev. R. W. Ross, of Guelph, preached anniversary sermons at Glencoe last Sabbath, where he was cordially welcomed by former parishioners.

The ladies of Knox church, Galt, are despatching several bales of clothing to the Northwest for distribution among the Doukhobors, Galicians, Indians and others.

Mr. John McFarlane, of Campbell's Bay, father of Rev. J. A. McFarlane, B. A., head of the Rideau Lake Bible Institute, died last week at the age of 79. He had been for many years an elder of the church, and was greatly esteemed for his sterling worth.

The Rev. Mr. Pogue, of the Hespeler church, took for his Sunday morning subject, "The Keswick Movement, and its Origin," which was much enjoyed by the congregation. The Rev. gentleman's evening discourse was on "Calvin, and the Reformation."

At the last meeting of Guelph Presbytery a letter was read from the agent of the Century Fund asking for \$2,000 to help make up the amount aimed at by the General Assembly; and members of Presbytery expressed their readiness to aid in making the appeal successful.

The Presbyterians of Bayfield have decided to build a new church next summer. Committees have been appointed and the work will begin at once to get material prepared and have the work vigorously pushed forward. This is a step in the right direction, as the old church is altogether too small during the summer.

Members of Guelph Presbytery at their last meeting, tendered Rev. Mr. Mullan, of St. Andrew's Church, Fergus, their hearty congratulations on his having completed 30 years of his ministry. Mr. Mullan grows no older with increasing years. May he long be spared to his people and the church.

Rev. Mr. Graham, Avanton, has been preaching at Matherwell.

The Owen Sound Advertiser says: The congregation of Knox church are at present hearing weekly a number of applicants for the pastorate, and it is difficult to say, we are informed, when the pulpit will permanently be filled. Some sixty names of ministers eligible for the charge were submitted to the session, and of these about eighteen were selected for hearing, and are now being heard in turns.

In Guelph Presbytery Rev. Mr. Pogue gave notice that at next meeting he would move 1. That this Presbytery approves of the appointment of two or more of its members to engage in evangelistic work within the bounds of the Presbytery. 2. That the period of time that these brethren be free from pastoral duties to engage in this work be not longer than three months in the year. 3. That the supply of their pulpits be left in the hands of their sessions, and that their travelling expenses and pulpit supply be met by the free will offerings of the congregation where the meetings are held.

Principal Merchant of the London Normal School, addressing the Presbyterian Council of that city, said: The Church does not bestow one-tenth of the time, money and attention that the training of the young in scripture knowledge deserves. Nearly all the monies and conveniences in connection with a modern church were expended on adults, whereas the tenfold attention of the church should be directed to the young. Mr. Merchant believed that the chief energies of the minister and his assistants should be devoted to the spiritual nurture of those who in a few years will be the men and women.

One evening last week Rev. Thomas Wilson, pastor of the King street church, London, entertained a number of the young people of the church at his home on Dundas street. About 100 assembled and spent a very pleasant evening in games and social intercourse, after which lunch was served, and the company dispersed at a seasonable hour. The young people of the church are getting ready for a good winter's work, and with such a large number possessed with such a united spirit much can be accomplished. Mr. Wilson has a strong hold upon the young people of the church, who are ready to respond willingly to any call he may make upon them for assistance.

The devotional exercises in connection with the meeting of Presbytery which met in St. Andrew's church, Sarnia, on Monday of last week were of a very fitting and impressive character. As the young people's Presbyterial Society was to hold its convention on the following day quite a number of the delegates were present from all parts of the county. Rev. G. W. Richardson, B. A., the moderator, presided and opened the services being assisted by the Rev. Mr. Currie, the clerk, and Revs. Bell and Budge. An excellent sermon, suitable for the communion service, was preached by Rev. John Eadie, of Point Edward, from the text, "My Beloved is mine and I am His." In fervent eloquence he outlined what Jesus Christ is to every believer, and what every believer is to Christ. At the close of the sermon Dr. Thompson delivered a lucid and impressive pre-communion address, after which the elements were dispensed, he being assisted in this by Messrs. Leys and Nisbet, two of the members of his session. The audience was not large but the service was very much appreciated.

### Quebec.

St. Andrews' Church, Three Rivers, Que., which has been on the augmented list of congregations since 1883, has become self-sustaining. The congregation now pays \$200 per annum more towards the minister's salary than it did at the time of the induction of the present pastor, Mr. MacLeod, who remained at work through the heat, left yesterday for the Georgian Bay for two week's change. The happy change noted in the status of the congregation has been brought about through the liberality of its members.

At a recent meeting of the Executive of the Presbyterian Foreign Mission Committee it was decided to send Rev. Dr. James Menzies back to China to labor in the mission fields there. He will enter Honan at the earliest possible date, in order to take up the work which was interrupted by the Chinese risings. The danger is not yet over, but the missionaries are eager to take up the work, and it is felt that their efforts should not be retarded.