

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

THE Rev. R. H. Hoskins, probationer, was inducted to the charge of the congregation of Inverness on the 27th November.

THE Rev. Dr. Matthews, late of New York, was inducted to the pastoral charge of Chalmers' Church, Quebec, on the 30th October.

ON Christmas Eve, the ladies of St. Andrew's Church, Lanark, presented their pastor, Mr. Wilson, with an affectionate address, and a handsome sum of money. Mr. Wilson made a suitable reply.

THE induction and ordination of Mr. J. Ferguson to the pastoral charge of Chesley congregation took place on the 30th ult. There was a good turnout of the people, not a few being present from neighbouring congregations. Mr. Eadie preached from 1 Cor. iii. 11-15; Mr. Strath addressed the minister, and Mr. Gourlay the people. Mr. Ferguson enters on his work with cheering indications of doing good.

THE members of Knox Church, Port Dover, held their annual tea meeting on Tuesday, the 23rd ult. The Rev. Wm. Craigie occupied the chair and was ably supported by several prominent gentlemen. The ladies, as usual, provided a splendid repast. The excellent music rendered by the choir, a reading by F. W. Merchant, and short and pithy addresses by Rev. James Gray and others, added greatly to the enjoyment of everyone present.

THE members of the First Presbyterian Church, Brockville, of which the Rev. George Burnfield is the esteemed pastor, are resolved to lose no time in clearing off the small amount of debt still resting on their new church. Messrs. Thos. Gilmour, J. M. Gill, Thos. Wilkinson, N. Cossitt, James Moore, have been appointed a committee to take charge of this matter, and in their hands the work will, very speedily, be brought to a successful issue.

THE Rev. D. D. McLennan, Kirkfield, was agreeably surprised, on the 24th ult., by a large number of his congregation coming with two waggon loads of provisions, of one kind and another, taking possession of the manse in the usual manner of surprise parties, and spending a very pleasant and profitable evening with the minister and family. The meeting was very much enjoyed by all present, and will doubtless add to the harmony and good feeling already existing between pastor and people.

ON the evening of the 31st December, upwards of fifty of the members and adherents of the Glenarm congregation agreeably surprised their pastor, the Rev. D. McDonald, by suddenly appearing at the manse in Cambury. After spending the evening in the manner customary on such occasions, one of the elders presented him with an address expressive of their esteem for him, while another handed him a handsome New Year's gift, consisting of a valuable fur coat, cap, and gloves, accompanied by a costly buffalo robe and a purse containing a sum of money.

THE Christmas tree planted in the Presbyterian Church, Napanee, was a most thrifty and flourishing one. It was radiant with tri-coloured candles and candies and other presents. The little folks contributed some very nice singing and enjoyed themselves to the full capacity of their innocent souls, having had no criticisms of their neighbours' bonnets and "style" to distract their attention. Mr. Ewart filled the chair, and brief addresses were made by prominent members of the church. Refreshments were also served to the adults present. The sum of \$30 was added to the library fund of the school. Besides, a subscription was taken up, which added over \$30 more.

A NUMBER of the members of the Presbyterian congregation in Kinburn proceeded to the manse of the Rev. Mr. Lochhead, at Londesborough, on Wednesday evening, 24th Dec., and presented him on behalf of the congregation, with a purse and a complimentary address. For some time Mr. Lochhead has been holding Sabbath services in Kinburn for the accommodation of the people in that section, and this presentation was made as a recognition of the services of the reverend gentleman in this respect. The address was read by Mr. Donald Sutherland, and the presentation was made by Mrs. Hugh Cameron. Mr. Lochhead replied insuitably.

ON the evening of Monday, the 22nd ult., a delightful entertainment was held in the York road school-house, about two miles from Trenton. It consisted of

songs, recitations by the scholars, and distribution of prizes and gifts from a beautifully decorated Christmas tree. A writing desk, together with an address expressive of warm attachment and of sorrow at parting was presented by the pupils to Mr. Sharpe, the teacher, who is leaving. To Rev. J. L. Stuart, B.A., of St. Andrew's Church, Trenton, and his wife, who were present, a very agreeable surprise was given. Mrs. Stuart was presented with a beautiful bouquet of everlasting flowers, and an address was read to Mr. Stuart, by Hugh McQuoid, Esq., Reeve of Murray, on behalf of himself and a number of friends. It was filled with the most kindly sentiments to the minister and his wife, and was accompanied by the gift of a handsome fur coat.—COM.

THE annual Sabbath school festival of St. Andrew's Church, Glencoe, was held in the town hall on Christmas eve. The body of the hall was crowded, and on the platform, enlarged for the occasion, the children were seated. At the back of the platform were two large trees laden with presents, and between the trees a large table covered with similar Christmas fruit for the children and others. The hall was tastefully decorated and lighted with Chinese lanterns. The first part of the entertainment consisted of appropriate readings, recitations and songs; the children nobly doing their part in the singing of several hymns, under the leadership of Mr. Gordon the precentor. The resident clergymen delivered short and suitable addresses. The Christmas trees were then unloaded, to the great delight of all present. The assemblage broke up about eleven o'clock, highly delighted with the entertainment. The proceeds are to be devoted to the purchase of books for the library.

A VERY successful anniversary tea meeting was held on the 30th ult., in the Presbyterian church of Dover, near Chatham, of which and the sister congregation known as Chalmers' Church, Rev. Angus McColl, of Chatham, was pioneer, and Rev. Donald Currie is now pastor. During 1879—the first year in which this charge has enjoyed the ministrations of a pastor—the membership was *doubled*, and these two small congregations, that in previous years found it difficult to pay an occasional preacher, contributed for church purposes, during the past year, the handsome sum of \$1,500. Both churches are now free of debt, and a commodious manse has been erected. Mr. Currie is a general favourite amongst old and young, and is labouring successfully to establish Presbyterianism and "pure religion and undefiled" in the community. So encouraged and zealous are the people that they have resolved to declare themselves independent of the Home Mission Fund, and no longer to ask for a supplementary grant. All honour to them for this. What congregation will be first in 1880 to follow their example?—COM.

THE Sunday school festival of St. Andrew's Church, Huntingdon, on Thursday evening, the 18th December, was a great success in every way. The pastor, Rev. J. B. Muir, presided, and, despite the crowded state of the church, the aisles being filled, maintained the best of order. The chairman, in an appropriate address on the nature of the Sabbath school and how it ought to be carried on, stated that that of St. Andrew's, he had reason to believe, was doing a good work, and, in attendance and other respects, was in a gratifying condition. The Rev. J. Henderson spoke eloquently on "Earnestness" as an essential quality in Christian character, and Rev. J. Watson on the vital nature of Evangelical truth. The part sustained by the children themselves in the evening's entertainment was very creditable, the singing being pleasing, and the recitations capably rendered. An unexpected item in the programme was the presentation, by the teachers of the school, to the Rev. Mr. Muir of a mantel timepiece, and to Mrs. Muir of a handkerchief holder. These were presented by Mr. H. McCracken in a neat speech, to which Mr. Muir replied in appropriate terms. Mr. Muir, in turn, presented Mr. McCracken and Miss Pringle with tokens of esteem from their respective classes, which he did in felicitous and humorous terms. After the distribution of prizes from the teachers to the more deserving of their scholars, the trees were unloaded of their fruit.

THE congregation of St. Paul's Church, Hamilton, have placed a large and handsome pipe organ in the gallery of their church, at a cost of \$2,500. The instrument was formally opened by a public recital on

Friday evening, Jan. 2, at which Mr. Edward Fisher, organist of New St. Andrew's, Toronto, and Mr. Henry Whish, of Central Church, Hamilton, were the organists, with Mr. William Addison, leader of St. Paul's Church choir, as conductor of the oral part of the exercises. It had been decided by the congregation at the time of voting to introduce an organ into the church, that the instrument should not be introduced until paid for. At the opening recital, on Friday evening, the very gratifying announcement was made that through the liberality of the congregation every dollar of the cost of the instrument had been provided, and that the organ would be used in the service of praise on the following Sabbath, Jan. 4. Accordingly, the new instrument was appropriately dedicated on Sabbath morning, the Rev. Mr. Laidlaw taking for his text on the occasion Eph. v. 19. The organ has been pronounced by all who have heard it, to be an instrument of rare excellence, remarkable for its power as well as unusual purity and sweetness of tone. We take the following from the Hamilton "Times" of Friday last: "The mention of the introduction of an elegant new organ into St. Paul's Church in this city will suggest to not a few interesting reminiscences connected with the history of this oldest Presbyterian organization in Hamilton, and as an indication of the prosperity and progressive spirit of the congregation will be gratifying intelligence to many who are now connected with other churches. As was to be expected of the congregation of St. Paul's, the organ of which they have possessed themselves is no second-rate instrument, but one which will be a credit to the whole city.

SABBATH, 28th Dec., was a red letter day for the Presbyterians of Picton, it being the occasion of the re-opening of their church which during the past summer has been almost entirely rebuilt, making it virtually a new church. The services were conducted both morning and evening by Rev. Dr. Grant, Principal of Queen's College, Kingston, who in the morning preached to a large congregation from Haggai ii. 8: "The glory of this latter house shall be greater than that of the former." In the evening the church was filled to its utmost capacity, many being unable to even gain entrance. In addition to Dr. Grant and Rev. Mr. Coulthard, Rev. Messrs. Wilson and Learoyd assisted. The latter had kindly given up his usual service to accommodate those who desired to listen to the learned Principal. The collections and subscriptions at the opening services amounted to nearly \$300. The improvements made on the church are very extensive. The building has been raised some distance from the ground so as to admit of a commodious basement below. The outside has been bricked, the roof raised, and a very neat spire erected. New and more modern windows with stained glass borders have taken the place of the old ones, and a neat stained glass window is placed over the pulpit. Internally the change is quite as great as on the outside. The galleries have been lowered and a new front of ash and walnut put on. The old fashioned pulpit has been removed, and a new one of more modern style, nicely carpeted and cushioned, takes its place. The old pews have been replaced by new ones of ash and walnut, and the galleries, instead of being supported by unsightly pillars, have neat brackets bolted to the walls. The entrance is much neater than before, and the inner walls have been tinted and blocked out in imitation of stone. The building is heated by a furnace placed in the basement, and lighted by a handsome chandelier and bracket lamps. It is in contemplation to finish off the basement shortly for Sabbath school rooms, vestry, etc. The improvements have been carried out under a building committee consisting of Messrs. Walter Ross, John Cayen and John Jamieson. Mr. Donald Andrews was the contractor. The cost, including the completion of the basement, will be about \$4,000. The Presbyterians of Picton are to be congratulated on the steps they have taken in advance, which will add very much to their comfort and prosperity.

SABBATH, the 30th of November, was a glad and important day among the Presbyterians of St. John's, Nfld. On that day their new church, whose completion they had anticipated so eagerly, was to be dedicated to the worship of Almighty God. It was a day they had anxiously longed for as one on which they might forget their former "Holy and beautiful houses, where their fathers worshipped, which had been burnt up with fire and their pleasant places which had been laid waste;" for now a far nobler structure than either