

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

Considerable consternation was felt on Wednesday morning when a reputable daily announced that Dr. Warden had decided to retire from the active duties of the ministry. With his name were coupled others who seemed to us to be good for some years of service yet. With these were names that we did not recognize among the ministry. Rev. J. K. Macdonald, was the initial wrong, and was that meant for J. A. That seemed preposterous. Then Rev. J. A. Patterson was a new name on our roll, yet they said he was a Toronto man. In the evening another reputable daily, that some facetious persons call the "Reformers Bible" repeated the statement. What could it mean!

At length it dawned upon us that the entire Committee on the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund had voted itself upon the Annuitants list of that Fund. That again was perplexing, for some of them would give up thousands in salary for tens that they would receive as annuitants! That took away from the inquiry, the barefaced iniquity of the thing. Not one of the old ministers who had applied had been recommended for an annuity, but these men had with the utmost alacrity recommended themselves!

In another daily, that sometimes makes mistakes, we found the correct statement. The reporter had blundered and the scalper who followed him had suffered for his blunder. The Committee had modestly done its work as usual, and had refrained from rewarding themselves by voting a retiring allowance that would not pay the taxes of some of them. The list of ministers who applied for retiring annuities was given in full. It is a large list, and the church will need to deal liberally if these men are to be cared for as they deserve. They have given of their best, they have opened all their energy in service. The Master spares them to us for a time, and He asks us to see that His servants are cared for as their high calling merits.

The settlement at Weston last Thursday evening was one of the happiest, in some respects, that we remember to have witnessed. The night was not favorable, and kept many who were lukewarm, and some who would have liked to be there, away. It was too much even for the man appointed to preach the induction sermon, who just before the hour of service, sent a telegram, naively remarking, "Started, but on account of the rain, turned back." Fortunately there was one at hand who was willing, though at a moment's notice, to step into the vacant place. His sermon, for though he would not dignify it by that title, it was worthy of it, gave a high spiritual note to the entire evening, and this was maintained throughout. The address to the minister was full of spiritual power, and so too was that to the congregation.

A pleasant half hour was spent afterwards in social intercourse over a cup of tea. At the close two of the young men of the congregation, in a very informal and hearty manner, asked the Rev. S. Carruthers, who has acted as interim Moderator during the vacancy, to accept of the warmest thanks of the congregation for his good services, and also to accept a substantial cheque in some recognition of their appreciation. The whole thing was done so spontaneously and heartily that one could not but envy the man who works with such helpers.

The Rev. R. M. Hamilton is already well known for his work's sake. He did good work in Toronto Presbytery before. He did better work in First Church, Brantford. He will do better still, for he is older and wiser, in the Weston congregation. With a minister who will be able to give his time entirely to that one charge, at a time when the village is growing we anticipate a prosperous and happy ministry from the settlement last Thursday.

The other charges are filling rapidly. Queensville will call Mr. M. MacArthur, a licentiate, next Tuesday, and Sutton will call Mr. A. K. McKerrall, another of the licentiates of this year. That leaves Deer Park, Port Credit, and St. Mark's Toronto, still vacant. Mr. E. L. Pidgon was settled at Markham last week, and Mr. Esler will be settled in the Cooke's Church charge next Tuesday evening.

It is announced that the Rev. D. C. Hossack has decided to re-enter law, and will practice in Toronto. He has joined the law firm of Dods, Macdonnell and Grant. The announcement will be received with considerable regret, for Mr. Hossack was one of our best preachers, and in recent years has taken a place among the leading preachers of the time.

The following applications for superannuation have been recommended for the General Assembly by the Committee of the Fund of the Western Section of the Presbyterian Church in Canada: W. D. Ballantyne, Robert Leask and Robert Hume, Toronto; John McNeil, John Milloy, and J. J. A. Proudfoot, D. D., London; Jos. White and E. MacAuley, Ottawa; Robert Laird, Kingston; D. Patterson, D. D., Montreal; K. McLennan, Quebec; D. M. Jamieson, Sarnia; David Forest, Maitland; Norman McPhee, Glenarry; Robert Moody, Barrie, and Peter Scott, Stratford.

Western Ontario.

The Rev. Dr. Dickson of Galt, conducted anniversary services at Chesterfield on Sunday.

Rev. Mr. McKinnon, of Glenallan, preached in the Moorefield church last Sunday morning.

Rev. W. J. Booth has been inducted into the pastorate of St. Andrew's Church, Blenheim and Oxford.

Rev. R. E. Knowles is announced to conduct the Old Fellows Decoration services at Galt on 23rd June.

Rev. A. M. Hamilton, of Winterbourne, and Rev. Mr. Blair, of Nassagaweya, exchanged pulpits on Sabbath last.

The preparatory services at Knox Church, London, on Tuesday night were conducted by Rev. Dr. McCrae, of Westminster.

Rev. A. L. Budge, B. A., preached anniversary sermons on Sunday in St. John's Church, Enniskillen, while Rev. Mr. McPherson took Mr. Budge's work at Maudsamin and Vyner.

In the absence of Rev. A. W. McIntosh, the pulpit of Mimosa church was filled on Sunday last by Mr. Sinclair, of Whitby, a Knox student, who preached most acceptably here and in Belwood.

The Presbyterian Church's restored school-room was opened on Sunday. Rev. R. J. M. Glassford, of Guelph, preached stirring sermons. Special social meeting was held on Monday evening.

Rev. James Edmison preached two eloquent sermons in the Smithville Church, on Sabbath two weeks ago, to large congregations; Rev. A. F. Webster, Weston, occupied the same pulpit last Sabbath.

In the Central church, Galt, last Sunday evening, the Rev. Dr. Dickson defined worldly pleasures in a very realistic and striking manner. "Pleasures," said he, "are gratifications for the moment and remorse for an eternity."

Rev. R. Pogue, Hespeler, taught a Bible class in connection with the Y. M. C. A. during the winter months, and the members of the class recently presented him with eight well bound volumes in recognition of his services.

On a recent Sunday evening Mr. Cranston, who graduated from Knox College, preached an excellent sermon at Marden; and Rev. D. Strachan, of Guelph, took the pre communion services, giving a most helpful address.

The quarterly communion was observed in Knox Church, Hamilton, last Sabbath at the morning and evening services, when eighteen new names were added to the roll. After making deductions for deaths and removals to date, the membership is 1,006.

At the pre communion services in Chalmers church, Guelph, the Rev. Mr. Campbell, of Stayner, preached two able and acceptable sermons. At the evening service the following recently elected elders who had accepted office were ordained and inducted: Messrs. D. D. Christie, Peter Dunbar, John Davidson, George Fyfe, and George Holmwood. The Rev. Mr. Glassford read the usual questions and offered up the ordination prayer, after which Dr. Wardrope gave the elders elect an earnest and appropriate address.

Rev. D. Currie, of Keady, has been visiting friends in Owen Sound.

John Alexander Dowie has now announced himself to be Elijah. Soon we may expect to hear that he courts have pronounced him to be insane. But meanwhile the Chicago authorities are giving the blatant impostor a hot time.

British Columbia grew the world's record apple last year. It was 16 inches in circumference and weighed 1 lb. 3 oz.

Eastern Ontario.

The Rev. Dr. Grant, of Orillia, sails for the old country on the 8th of June.

Rev. A. Logan, of Chelsea, P. Q., and family have been visiting Mr. Rott. Hall, L'Orignal.

The Ladies Aid of the Avonmore Church are having an ice cream counter on Tuesday and Saturday of each week throughout the summer.

The Rev. D. Coburn, of Lunenburg, was the guest of the Rev. J. U. Tanner on Monday attending the induction of the Rev. K. MacDonald in Williamstown in the afternoon.

Rev. D. N. Coburn of Lunenburg was the guest of Rev. John Tanner, of Lunenburg, Tuesday of last week. The reverend gentleman is a brother of Mr. Fred Coburn, the well known artist.

Many Orillians, says the Packet, will be glad to know that the Rev. C. H. Cooke, of Smith's Falls, will occupy the Presbyterian pulpit for two Sundays during the Rev. Dr. Grant's absence in the old country.

On Tuesday night the Kingston Presbytery licensed four young men. Mr. Byrnes, B. A., B. D., goes to the mission field of Poltimore, Ottawa Presbytery; Mr. Brebner, from Knox College, Toronto, as supply to St. Andrew's church, Belleville; Mr. Geo. W. Thom, Presbyterian College, Montreal, to be ordained and inducted on June 4 to St. Andrew's church, Tyndinaga; Mr. Guy, B. A., B. D., to the mission of Bath, ordained at Hay Bay June 6.

The Almonte Gazette of last week says: Rev. Mr. McLean, of Aberdeen, Scotland, occupied the pulpit of St. John's church last Sunday. Rev. E. B. Horne, of Brantford, will preach in the same church next Sabbath. In St. Andrew's church, in the absence of Rev. Mr. Hutchison, Rev. W. McDonald, who recently finished his theological course in Queen's, preached morning and evening. The general verdict was that Mr. McDonald will make his mark as a preacher.

Quebec.

A tablet has been placed in Knox Church, Howick, bearing the following inscription.

In memory of

REV. CHARLES M. MACKERACHER

Born in

ABERFELDY, SCOTLAND,

Feb. 2nd 1827.

Ordained over Wt. Gwilliambury and Bradford Aug. 22nd 1861. Inducted into the charge of English River and Howick, May 21st 1867, where he labored with great acceptance until his death, Aug. 31st 1896. On the base is the text of his last sermon preached only a week and a half before his death. "My yoke is easy and my burden is light."—Matt. XI: 30.

Dr. Jean Dow is one of the returned missionaries from Honan, China, addressed meetings last week at Howick, Russellton, Beech Ridge, Huntingdon, Athelstane and Rockburn. Dr. Dow is one of the missionaries of the W. M. S. of the Province of Quebec—the auxiliaries were more interested in her on that account. In her piety and zeal she was all they could desire, and they will follow her when she returns to China with greater interest than before.

Rev. Robert Atkinson, of St. Giles Church, Toronto, is spending his vacation at River John N. S.

The Fairview congregation, Vancouver, extends a unanimous call to Rev. R. A. King, a graduate of Manitoba College.

The Georgetown people are going to enlarge and repair their church this summer. The contract price, without the seating, amounts to \$4,500.

Rev. Peter Iverach, a missionary in the Dymont Mine District, Western Alberta, and brother of Prof. Iverach of Aberdeen University, has been drowned.

The United congregation of Shawville, Stark's Corners and Portage du Fort, Que., held a meeting at Stark's Corners last Monday evening for our pose of calling a minister.

A very enjoyable and successful concert under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid of the Presbyterian church was held in the Aylmer town hall Wednesday evening of last week. An excellent programme was rendered, and the proceeds were in aid of the organ fund.