

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

ON Monday, the 17th inst., the Rev. Mr. Campbell, of Renfrew, and his wife, were visited by a large surprise party at the manse. A set of china, accompanied with a kindly address, was presented to Mrs. Campbell, and a set of silver-mounted harness to her husband. The gifts were duly acknowledged, and everything went off pleasantly.

THE Rev. Mr. McNaughton, of Aylwin, has been presented by a few friends at Pickinnock (which is an out-station of Mr. McNaughton's charge) with a set of furs valued at \$35. What makes the present more acceptable is that the contributors were mostly Episcopalians and Roman Catholics, there being only one Presbyterian family in the neighbourhood.

THE third anniversary of the dedication of Knox Church, Harriston, was held on Sabbath and Monday, the 16th and 17th inst. Dr. Cochrane of Brantford, conducted the services. He preached in the morning to a full church, while in the evening the crush for seats was such as never before experienced in this town. Long before the usual hour the seats were filled, and at the time of commencing standing room was at a premium. The Doctor preached a most eloquent sermon from 2 Tim. iv. 7. The social on Monday evening was also a grand success, the large church being again filled to hear the Doctor's lecture on "Scotland's Hero Martyrs." The proceeds amounted to the handsome sum of \$253.

AT the close of the annual missionary meeting held in connection with the Presbyterian Church at Wyebridge on Thursday evening, January 6th, 1881, the Rev. Robert Scott, who is about to leave his present field of labour for another charge in the Presbytery of Stratford, was presented by Miss Maggie McRae and Mr. J. W. Garvin, on behalf of the Presbyterian congregation of this village and surrounding country, with a very kind address expressing great regret at his expected removal, accompanied with a valuable raccoon fur over-coat, and Mrs. Scott with a handsome set of silver teaspoons. Mr. Scott made a suitable reply, and other speeches followed expressive of the great sorrow felt by all at his removal.

THE annual missionary meeting of the Central Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, was held on the 12th inst., Rev. S. Lyle, presiding. The reports shewed the amount collected by the congregation and Sabbath school, during the year, to be \$1,747, being \$163 in advance of 1879. After deducting expenses for "Records," etc., the sum of \$1,634 was apportioned as follows: Home Missions, \$600; Foreign Missions, \$350; French Evangelization, \$290; Knox and Queen's Colleges, \$232; Knox College Bursary, \$60; Knox College Students Missionary Society, \$15; Manitoba College, \$40; Aged and Infirm Ministers, \$47. The committee for the current year is composed exclusively of ladies, instead of gentlemen, as heretofore, and it is hoped the change will be highly beneficial.

THE anniversary of the thirteenth year of the pastorate of Rev. Wm. Meikle in the Oakville Church, was held on Sabbath, 16th January. Dr. Caven, of Knox College, preached both morning and evening to full houses, giving most impressive and instructive discourses that will long be remembered by those who were privileged to hear him. The annual meeting was held two evenings after, and as this is the first year that the envelope system has been tried in that church, all were greatly pleased to find it had worked most successfully. \$1,450.10 had been raised for the congregational and missionary schemes of the church, all debts paid except some \$80 of the manse, which is all subscribed for. The manse has been newly repaired and painted, and all things are working most harmoniously.

THE Sabbath school festival of St. Andrew's Church, Three Rivers, was held on the 23rd December. The lecture room was filled to overflowing by the Sabbath school children, their parents and friends, from the three Protestant congregations of the city. After singing by the choir and school, a few remarks by the Rev. Mr. Ryan, of the Methodist Church, the pastor and superintendent, the Rev. C. E. Amaron addressed the children in appropriate terms. The rich Christmas tree prepared by the teachers was laden with beautiful presents, which were distributed to well-behaved and deserving children. The prizes

were also awarded to the best pupils. The teachers did not forget Mr. Amaron, but presented him with a very handsome carpet. A kind old lady also presented him, for the third time, with a well-filled purse. The Sabbath school is in a flourishing condition.

THE annual financial statement of St. Joseph street Presbyterian Church, Montreal, for 1880 is a very gratifying one. The total income was \$2,554.88, and the total expenditure \$2,538, leaving a balance of \$16.88 to next account in favour of the congregation, instead of as at the beginning of the year one of \$30.32 on the other side. The report of the committee of management shews the total number of sittings at present allocated 338, an increase of thirty; and the number of contributors 132, an increase of seventeen; also increase of subscriptions and collections, \$155. The session reports an increase of twenty-two members to the church; forty six were added and twenty-four removed during the year. The missionary society's report shewed the total amount collected during the year for the various schemes of the Church to be \$248.07, an increase over the previous three years.

ON Tuesday, the 18th inst., the Rev. Dr. Mackay visited Uxbridge, and addressed a meeting in the Ontario Hall. The interest excited was unprecedented. Persons came from places from twelve to fourteen miles distant, and long before the hour of meeting the hall was so crowded that the doors had to be closed, and probably not less than 300 had to be turned away. Not less than 800 were in the hall, though some put the number as high as 1,000. For two hours the Dr. held the audience in rapt attention. A local paper says about the Dr.'s address: "No address has ever produced a more profound impression in that hall. It cannot fail to arouse the dormant energies of professed Christians, and do much to stimulate missionary zeal. The collection amounted to about \$75. A lady who had come without her purse placed a valuable gold ring on the plate. A similar occurrence took place at the Dr.'s meeting in Kincardine. Doubtless the collection would have been much larger had it been possible for the collectors to get properly through the audience, so firmly was it packed. Very much was undoubtedly lost in this way. However, it will bear fruit for many days to come. One of the most striking features about the matter was the perfect order and rapt attention of the gathering throughout the evening, notwithstanding the great discomfort. The Presbyterians here are enthusiastic over their missionary, and they have good cause to be."

THE annual congregational and missionary meetings of the St. James' Square Presbyterian Church have this year been peculiarly satisfactory and encouraging. The ordinary church revenue was \$5,093.44, an increase of \$63.74 over that of the preceding one, while the expenditure was \$5,001.48, a decrease on that of 1879 of \$82.84. The balance on hand on the 1st of January, 1881, was \$584.81. This statement would be eminently satisfactory in any case, but it is specially so when it is borne in mind that the exertions of the congregation in connection with the payment for the church building have been during the year very considerable. The total cost of the new church and grounds up to date has been \$54,665.90. The total debt upon it now is \$28,000, so that nearly one-half has been liquidated in three years. The amount paid on building account during the year was \$6,750.95, and on church furnishing, \$904.73. It would not have been thought surprising if in these circumstances the missionary contributions had not come up to previous amounts, the more so as some very large subscriptions and special donations were no longer available. Instead, however, of this being the case, these contributions for this year exceed those of any previous year in the history of the congregation, amounting as they do to the very handsome sum of \$2,129.18, as against \$1,955.84 last year. This gives an increase of \$173.34. Of this amount \$381 were contributed specially for Foreign Missions and \$76 to Home. Deducting these and other special expenses, \$1,620.18 remained to be allocated among the schemes of the Church, and the following apportionment was made at the annual missionary meeting on Tuesday evening last, viz.: \$856.18 for Home Missions; \$180 for Foreign; \$390 for Colleges; \$60 for University Scholarship Fund; \$25 for Manitoba College, and \$109 for French Evangelization. Various other contributions from Sabbath school, Hopeful Gleaners,

etc., brought up the whole contributions for extra-congregational purposes to \$2,687.48. This gives in total for Home Missions, \$1,032.18; for Foreign, \$730; for Colleges, \$475; for French Evangelization, \$159. The total for all purposes, congregational, missionary and benevolent is \$14,436.60. After the report had been read, interesting and instructive addresses were delivered by Mr. T. W. Taylor, and Rev. Drs. Mackay and Castle, and Messrs. P. McF. McLeod and W. S. Rainsford.

A PRESBYTERIAL Conference on Sabbath schools was held at Guelph on Tuesday and Wednesday, 18th and 19th inst. The following resolutions were, before the Conference closed, unanimously adopted: 1. That the thanks of the Conference are due, and are hereby given to Mr. Smith for the sermon preached last evening at the opening of its proceedings. 2. That this Conference is fully convinced there is a "place" for the Sabbath school in connection with the instructions imparted in the family and those given from the pulpit in the ordinary ministrations of the Word—not supplanting the family, but supplementing it—and that its purpose is to teach the Word wisely and skilfully to the young so as to qualify them to profit better under the preaching of the Word, and for the struggle against sin to which they shall be called in the world, and for making an intelligent profession of the faith, and thus becoming enrolled among those who have publicly put on the Lord Jesus. 3. That the Conference while recognizing the value of "Normal Classes" where practicable, being fully persuaded that there are many excellent and successful Sabbath school teachers who have never enjoyed the training of such classes, and that the great requisites for teaching are intimate acquaintance with that Word which is the grand text book of all religious instruction and a rich baptism of the Holy Ghost, to be enjoyed through earnest and fervent prayer, a burning love to Christ and desire for the salvation of those for whom He has shed His blood, at the same time deeming it not only proper but necessary that they should avail themselves of the helps that have been provided, while using them only as helps, in the exercise of their own powers of thinking, and of prayer for wisdom from above. 4. The Conference is convinced that in the Sabbath school a place should be given to the distinctive principles of our Church both as regards doctrine and form of government, and that every opportunity should be embraced which is presented by the course of lessons studied and the use of the Shorter Catechism for instilling a knowledge of these principles into the minds and hearts of the children who are receiving Sabbath school instruction; that the Conference is satisfied from the reports that have been received that the teaching of these principles has not been omitted, and would express their judgment that even greater prominence should be given them, also that the authorized version of the Psalms and Paraphrases is in almost universal use, there being only three schools, in which they are not employed, and the Conference would recommend that in the service of the Sabbath school due regard be given to the authorized Psalmody of the Church.

PRESBYTERY OF GUELPH.—This Presbytery met on Tuesday, the 18th inst., according to appointment, in the First Presbyterian Church, Guelph. The Committee to arrange for holding a conference on the State of Religion presented their report, containing topics for discussion, and the names of persons to introduce. The report was received and adopted, and the conference fixed to take place at next meeting, immediately after the business provided for by the standing orders of the court. Mr. Smith's motion, of which he had given notice at last meeting, was submitted and considered, and decided against by a majority of votes. The committee on the superintendence of Mr. Henry Knox gave in their report, with an account of Mr. Knox's work during the last two months, giving an expression of satisfaction with him, and a virtual recommendation that he be recognized as a catechist. A member of the Presbytery having stated that he was warranted in promising sixty-five dollars towards the payment of Mr. Knox for three months, it was agreed to correspond with the Clerk of the Presbytery of Barrie, and inquire if there was a field in those bounds for Mr. Knox's labours, and to state that if there was such his expenses would be defrayed from funds placed in the hands of the general agent of the Church. Permission was granted to the congregation of Knox Church, Elora, to make some amend-