

The concert given on Thursday last in Association Hall, Toronto, under the auspices of the choir of Westminster church, was, as it deserved to be, a great success. The singing of the choir itself was such as to reflect great credit on the leader, Mr. A. M. Gotrie. The hearty plaudits and encores showed how the audience appreciated the choir's efforts. But the choir had a reputation to maintain for its concerts, and although it contained such excellent talent in its own ranks, the services of Mrs. (Maggie Barr) Fenwick, soprano; Miss Minnie H. Bauld (Mrs. A. Moir Dow), mezzo-soprano; Miss Madge Murray, contralto; Mrs. Dreschler Adamson, violinist; and Mr. Edgar J. Ebbels, elocutionist, were enlisted for the present occasion. All of these artists are so well known to, and so appreciated by, Toronto lovers of high-class performers that it is only necessary to say that they fully maintained their previous high reputation.

Presbytery of Toronto.

REV. D. B. MACDONALD, of St. Andrew's, Scarborough, was elected Moderator of Toronto Presbytery last week. The first business of importance taken up was the consideration of questions relating to the distribution of the Augmentation Fund. The matter was disposed of by the adoption of a resolution moved by Rev. G. M. Milligan, directing a committee composed of Revs. D. J. Macdonnell, A. Gilray, J. A. Turnbull, Mr. John Atkin and the Moderator to meet the ministers of the city receiving aid from the Augmentation Fund, and report the result to the Presbytery on the evening of March 27. Rev. Mr. Mar. declined the call of the East church. After thinking the matter over he said that he had come to the conclusion not to accept. He, however, desired to tell the people of the East church that they had a man in the congregation who might better be out of it. He (Mr. Martin) had, since the call was announced, received a letter from a person who signed himself "a friend," but who, instead, was a miserable sneak. If he had been the kind of a man the writer of the letter took him to be, such a communication would have been almost enough to induce him to accept the call in order that the Lord might use him to cause that man to leave the congregation. The congregation was granted leave to secure its own supply, irrespective of the Presbytery committee, for the next three months. At the afternoon session a resolution by Rev. J. W. H. Miln, of Esquimaux, was adopted, providing that at the induction, on March 20, of Rev. Louis Perrine, who has been transferred from Pickering to Georgetown, Rev. J. C. Tibb, of Streetsville, shall preach; Rev. R. Haddow shall address the people, and Rev. W. G. Wallace shall address the minister. The Moderator to preside. The appointment of delegates to the General Assembly was then undertaken, with the following result: Ministers (by rotation)—Revs. Banfield P. Nicol, A. Gilray, G. M. Milligan, Amos R. P. Mackay, W. G. Frizzell, Fraser, Bell and Thynne. By election—Revs. Dr. Cayen, D. J. Macdonnell, Dr. Reid, J. A. Grant and Dr. MacLaren. Elders (elected)—R. S. Gourlay, J. K. Macdonald, W. B. McMurrich, William Carlyle, Hamilton Cassels, Hon. G. W. Ross, Mortimer Clark, A. B. Davidson. Rev. W. G. Wallace presented the report upon systematic beneficence. Two recommendations were made, the first, that ministers continue to press upon their people the importance and scripturalness of voluntary, systematic and proportional giving for the Lord's work, and the second that the sessions be urged to use diligence to see that all congregations are kept informed as to the missionary, benevolent and educational work of the Church. The report was adopted. The Presbytery ratified the call extended to Rev. H. L. Jordan by the congregation of St. James' Square Presbyterian church. In accepting, Mr. Jordan said that he had not felt it easy to reach a decision, because there had been considerations which had led him to feel that he ought not to accept. He was free from the pastoral tie,

because he had deliberately separated himself from the field of work in which he had been very happy, for the members of St. James' Square would bear him out in saying that, inviting as the new field of operations was, the work in Erakine congregation, Montreal, was not less inviting. If he had separated himself deliberately from one field, why should he now deliberately enter into the same work in another? Another reason that led him to feel that it was, perhaps, not right for him to come to Toronto, was that the considerations which had led him to separate himself from that work in Montreal still remained as strong as ever, being his belief that the work which he could do best, he could do in another sphere than in the pulpit. Another deterrent reason was that during the last four years he had been busily engaged as a student, and, while he had acquired knowledge of many things with the desire of qualifying himself for a future field of work, that knowledge would not be largely valuable in the pulpit. There were, however, grave considerations which led him to look in an opposite direction. In the first place there was no chair of theology which he was competent to occupy vacant, at present in Canada at least. On the other hand there was a vacant pulpit which had invited him to come to it, and it did seem to him that the pathway of his present duty was clear to him. Another reason was that the call which had been offered him was one altogether unsought by himself. A third consideration was the character of the call, and the very kindly words in which it was supported before the Presbytery. The call had been offered on the most distinct understanding that if in the future a sphere of work of the kind he had himself chosen should open itself to him, the congregation would not place any insuperable barrier in the way of his accepting it. It was decided that the induction should take place on the evening of Tuesday, March 27, that Rev. James McColl should preach and that Rev. Dr. Cayen should address the minister and Rev. Dr. Parsons the congregation.

The Toronto Young People's Presbyterian Union.

So few seem to have any definite idea as to what the above association is, that it has been thought well by the society to place before the Presbyterians through the columns of our church papers the short sketch of its origin and work, as given by one of the members at a recent meeting.

The Union was organized in 1888. The idea was received from an article in the PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW giving an account of such a Union lately formed in Philadelphia. This article came under the notice of one of the Toronto societies then in a weak condition. It was working along the old lines, and realized that beyond entertainment it was doing little for its own members, and nothing for anyone else. It was at a loss to know what steps to take to better its condition, and thought that from such a union the desired help would come. Accordingly the matter was placed before the other Associations and thoroughly considered with the result that the Toronto Young People's Presbyterian Union was organized, its object being to bring into closer contact the young people of the various Presbyterian churches of the city, that the strong might help the weak, that they might consult together as to their work and gain new methods and ideas from the experience of others, and also avoid the tendency to overlap, so often caused through ignorance of the work of others.

Mr. R. S. Gourlay was chosen as first president and during his term of office several devotional and business meetings were held, and the young people of the churches taking part were drawn into closer touch with one another in the work they were endeavouring to accomplish.

Mr. R. N. Donald succeeded Mr. Gourlay as president, and held the position for two years. The work in those years was much the same as in the first, with the addition of two new departments. A magazine was started, which was issued quarterly for one

year, when it was found unadvisable to continue it, as the societies did not give it the support expected in the way of contributory articles. Financially, however, the magazine was a success, which was a cause for congratulation to its promoters, even if they found themselves unable to continue it. There was also an earnest effort made to bring the churches into touch with the strangers, especially students and young people coming to the city for employment. To this end a circular was sent to each Presbyterian minister in the Dominion, explaining the object of the union, and supplying them with cards, so that when a young man or woman from any congregation left to come to Toronto, his pastor could send to the Union secretary a card giving the young man's name and address in the city. The secretary would then see that such a person was called upon, and an effort made to interest them in one of the Presbyterian churches. This, we are sorry to say, did not meet with a very hearty response, but a few pastors availed themselves of the opportunity thus given to place the church workers here in touch with their young people when they remove to Toronto. Mr. G. H. Smith was third President. He too holding office for two years. The Society of Christian Endeavor had been steadily growing, and replacing in many churches the Young People's Association. It had its own Union, and while the Presbyterian union included all young peoples societies, it was felt when the Endeavor was doing good work, and in many ways the work aimed at by the Union, that the time had come for the Young People's Presbyterian Union to disband. A meeting was called for that purpose, but after fully considering the subject from all sides it was decided to wait for a time and hold another meeting before giving up. This meeting, supposed to be the last, was held in Westminster church, and was one of the largest and most enthusiastic ever held. After considerable discussion it was decided not to disband, but to make some changes in the working of the Union, bringing into it more of the missionary element, seeking to interest the young peoples' societies in the mission work of the Church as a whole. Since then the tendency has been forward, and those who have the interests of the Union at heart see many things to encourage them. Rev. W. A. J. Martin, president for the past year, has been untiring in his efforts, as were all the other presidents. Missions have been more earnestly studied in many of our societies, and all are becoming more alive to the need of pressing forward to success the plan adopted to retain in the church the many young people, strangers in our city, who, when they leave home, so soon drift away from all church connection and influence. This work can be done in a measure without the aid of the ministers outside the city, but it can be done in greater measure and with more assured success, if the pastors outside will unite in this matter with the workers in the city. The opportunity for young people to drift away would be greatly lessened if a friendly hand were extended when they reach the city, and before other influences have had time to draw them away.

The secretary for the coming year is Miss Anna Flaws, 44 Wilcox street, and she will be glad to see that any stranger whose name is sent her will receive the hand of fellowship from the young people of the church they wish to attend.

Our motto is "All things for Christ," and the objects of the Union are these: to cultivate in young Presbyterians a spirit of loyalty to the Church to which they belong, a feeling of interest and sympathy in the work of their Presbyterian churches; a more extended knowledge of and interest in the mission work of the Church, both Home and Foreign, and to greet those who come to us as strangers, and make them feel as friends.

This is what we aim to do, and we trust that many during the coming year of our work, may be led to join us, giving to us the benefit of their help and encouragement, that the year may be the most fruitful the Union has seen.