

Church News.

THERE were 60 new members admitted to the communion at Tatamagouche recently—59 by profession, 1 by certificate.

THE Rev. W. T. Carnog, of Oxford Mills, who has received permission from the Brockville Presbytery to retire, will take up his abode at Lutherville.

THE people of the Vale, Picton, N.S., by two vigorous efforts have raised over \$2000, and cleared the massive debt. The ladies have had four beautiful chandeliers with duplex burners placed in the church.

TWENTY ONE persons were added to the membership of St. John's congregation, Windsor, N.S., on Sabbath, April 4th, all by profession of faith, making thirty-nine in all since Mr. Nelson's advent last July. The pastor and his people are much cheered and encouraged by evident tokens of the Master's favour and blessing.

ON Sabbath, the 15th April, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed at Covey Hill, one of the churches under the charge of the Rev. A. Lee, Russelltown, Quebec. The day was very fine, and a large number of communicants was present, about 84 sitting down at the table of the Lord. This church is in a vigorous condition, and the progress of the Sabbath School and Bible class is very encouraging. The weekly prayer meetings are well attended, evidently the old gospel has not lost its charms at Covey Hill.

MR. A. McD. HALL, of Baltimore, Ont., a recent graduate of Knox College, passed through the city last week on his way to his mission field, Treherne, Manitoba. Mr. Hall was accompanied by three students of the U. P. Hall, Edinburgh, Messrs. Stewart, MacMillan and Wylie, who are doing mission work in Canada for six months. It will be remembered that the students of the U. P. Hall choose every year a special field for their operations, and devote all their contributions and energies to it. This year they have selected our North-West.

THE reports presented at the annual meeting of the congregation of Chalmers' church, Elora, Rev. Dr. Middlemiss, pastor, are, taken as a whole, of a very gratifying and encouraging character. The total amount raised by the congregation during the year, for all purposes, exceeds \$2,500, of which about \$1,350 was paid into the Building Fund, enabling the committee to reduce the debt from \$2,130 to \$660, besides paying interest. A proposal to adopt what is known as the envelope system in raising the ordinary income was considered; but it was thought undesirable to make any change until the debt on the church is entirely removed. The congregation, it is hoped, will be free in this respect this summer, after which, it is proposed to ascertain, fully, the views of the members in relation to the change suggested.

AT a recent meeting of the Presbyterian College, Halifax, the "Summer Session" project was considered impracticable and it was agreed to report to the Assembly accordingly. Affiliation with Dalhousie after the manner of the Theological Colleges in Montreal with McGill was approved. Finance was considered; and it was found that the deficit for the year is large—about \$3,000. Difficulty has been met in finding profitable and convenient investment for some of the board's funds. The rate of interest is becoming lower, and the returns from investments are therefore shrinking. Quite a number of congregations have neglected to make collections. The Bursary Fund is in arrears about \$250.

THE annual report of Russelltown and Covey Hill Presbyterian church, pastor Rev. A. Lee, Russelltown, Quebec, has reached us. It gives a very interesting account of a year's work. The report shows that this congregation has done good work during the past year. A Woman's Missionary Society has been organized. Sabbath School work has been vigorously pushed forward; the weekly prayer meetings have been kept up through all kinds of weather; the missionary and benevolent Schemes of the Church have been liberally supported, and the minister's stipend has been increased. To the Schemes of the Church and mission work the sum of \$195.99 was paid into the treasury of the church, being more than was given during any previous year in the history of the church. There were thirteen additions to the roll, making 180 on the roll at the close of the year. The number of families reported as supporting ordinances is 78.

THE Supplementing Committee met at Halifax on the 27th ult., and spent the whole day with the business entrusted to their charge. Matters were found to be in a most encouraging position. The receipts for the year have been upwards of \$8,500, with some twenty congregations still to be heard from. Directions were given to pay in full the amounts voted from the Surplus Fund with the expectation that the receipts for the year would cover the whole amount of the expenditure. Meantime it is expected that the amount required for this year will probably be some \$1,500 less than that asked for during the past year. The committee were gratified to learn that the congregation of Amherst has become self-sustaining, and that besides increasing the amount of support for their own pastor, has sent a very handsome contribution to the Supplementing Fund. Upon the whole the committee were very much cheered with the response which has been generally made by the Church to the recommendations of the synod. It was felt that all that was needed to make the scheme a permanent success, was the maintenance and manifestation of the same spirit which has prevailed during the past two years.

THE session of Dalhousie College, N.S., was closed on 28th ult. Convocation was held in the Academy of Music, which was filled by students and spectators. On the platform were Governors and Professors in full force. The President, Rev. Professor Forrest, D.D., presided, with Sir Adams G. Archibald, Chairman of the Board of Governors, at his right hand. President Forrest briefly referred to the encouraging circumstances in which this Convocation was held. Perfect accord with the City Council was now established. The city has the finest site in Canada for a city hall, and the college has a good site in an eligible spot and some funds to begin with. Thanks for recent progress were due to the chairman, Sir A. G. Archibald, to His Worship the Mayor, to the members of the City Council, and especially to the ever true friend of the college, Sir William Young, whose gift of \$20,000 was of vital value at this stage. The Governors will lose no time in beginning the new building. The public will be asked to contribute liberally towards that building in order that it may be a credit to the city and a blessing for ages to come. He referred in suitable terms to the death of the late venerable Dr. Ross, and to the death of a student, young Mr. Goreham. He referred also to the loss the college is about to sustain in the resignation of Dr. Schurman whose services had been valued very highly by all.—Winters.

MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERY.

OWEN SOUND.—The presbytery met on the 12th ult. The resignation of Rev. D. D. McLennan, of Lion's Head, was accepted, to take effect after the second Sabbath of May, and Messrs. Somerville and McAlpine were appointed to visit the field as soon as convenient. Dr. Fraser presented the report on the State of Religion, which was adopted, and transmitted to the convenor of the committee of synod on the subject. It was agreed that a part of each quarterly meeting be taken up in consideration of the report, the conference to begin at 8 p.m., on the evening of the first day of meeting. The Rev. D. J. Macdonnell was nominated as Moderator of Assembly. Dr. Fraser presented an overture to the General Assembly on the reception of church members, which was adopted, and Messrs. Fraser, McAlpine and Somerville appointed to support it. Mr. Somerville presented an overture to the General Assembly, asking the Assembly to require all ministers received from other Churches, and all students finishing their course in theology, to give

one year to the mission field before settlement. The overture was adopted, and Messrs. Somerville and Morrison appointed to support it. Next meeting of presbytery was held for the first Tuesday of July, at 1.30 p.m., in Division St. church, Owen Sound.—J. SOMERVILLE, Clerk.

LUNenburg AND SHELBURN.—This presbytery met on the 20th April, at Lunenburg. Resignation of Rev. Archibald Brown, of New Dublin, was accepted, to take effect on the last Sabbath of April. Rev. James Rossborough, M.A., Shelburne, tendered resignation of his charge. The usual steps were taken to cite the congregation to appear at next meeting at Lunenburg, on 12th May. Amount of grant for shell urns from Augmentation Committee was re-considered, and an increased grant asked for, as demanded by the circumstances of the case. The report on Statistics was presented by the clerk, and showed a net gain, over last year, in contributions to Schemes of the Church of over five per cent. Synod asked for \$400 for Augmentation, and presbytery have raised \$411. There has been a steady increase in contributions to schemes during last eight years, with exception of 1882-3, when there was a slight falling off, but more than made up in following year. Total amount contributed this year more than double what it was eight years ago. Presbytery expressed gratification at liberality of the people during the year, and adopted the report, with its recommendations, which are two, viz: That the presbytery ask the Assembly's committee on Statistics to recommend the Assembly (1) to make the year for reporting correspond with the calendar year; (2) to change the rate of contribution asked for Assembly Fund from six to three cents per member. The rate last year was less than three cents; six cents would have yielded last year \$6,172.20, whereas only \$3,522 were contributed. Besides that, six cents are not now needed, as the membership has greatly increased since the rate was fixed.—D. STILES FRASER, Clerk.

WHITBY.—The presbytery met at Oshawa, on the 20th ult.; there was a large attendance of ministers; many of the elders were busy at home with the spring work. A considerable part of the day was occupied with the reports on the State of Religion, Temperance, Sabbath Schools, missionary meetings and the statistics of the presbytery for 1885-6, all of which were very full and encouraging. The presbytery has enjoyed a good share of prosperity in all the departments of its work. Messrs. Abraham and McLaren, ministers, and Messrs. Renwick and Henry, elders, were appointed Commissioners to the General Assembly by rotation, and Messrs. Leslie and Cameron, ministers, and Messrs. Ormlin and Blakely, elders, by ballot. Messrs. Eastman and Beal were appointed members of the synod's committee on bills and overtures. A letter was read from Mr. Pringle, of Brantford, requesting the presbytery not to proceed with his nomination as moderator of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston, for reasons given; the presbytery, with regret, agreed to comply with Mr. Pringle's request. It was unanimously agreed, in reference to the remit on printing the minutes of the General Assembly, that no change be made. The following resolution was also unanimously adopted, viz: "That in view of the fact that the Canada Temperance Act is to come into force throughout the bounds of the presbytery on the 1st of May next, the presbytery desires to express the approval of the principle embodied in the Act, and its conviction that, if properly enforced, it will do much to lessen the evils arising from Intemperance; and would accordingly urge upon the members and adherents of its several congregations the pressing necessity of doing all in their power to secure the thorough enforcement of the Act. And, further, the presbytery recommend that the resolution be read from all its pulpits next Sabbath, and thereafter inserted in the local papers." Other business was transacted, but not of public interest, and the presbytery closed a very profitable meeting at six o'clock, and adjourned to meet in Whitby on the third Tuesday of July, at 10.30 o'clock a.m.—A. A. DRUMMOND, Clerk.

SYNOD OF TORONTO AND KINGSTON CONFERENCE.

THE religious conference which for some years has preceded the meeting of synod held its first session on Monday evening, 3rd inst., in the Central church, Galt, the members of conference present having been previously entertained by the ladies of the congregation at the tea following the Anniversary services of the previous Sabbath. There was present a large audience representing the various congregations of the town. The choir of the church, which is evidently well trained, rendered during the evening several most appropriate anthems. Rev. J. A. R. Dickson, B.D., occupied the chair.

CHURCH WORK.

Rev. Principal Grant, of Kingston, delivered an address on Church Work, of which the following is a synopsis.—1st. Church work includes every kind of work that has in it a religious spirit. The Church must not stand aloof from family, political, or social life. There is a tendency in human nature to separate religious from ordinary life, to make the Church a sect, and to exalt the special duties connected with the sect above those that humanity demands. Men have identified religion with something peculiar in dress, profession, white or tone; with shaven head or sandalled foot; with long face or deep sighs and groans. We must repudiate the distinction between sacred and secular from which all this springs, and learn that the work is sacred or secular according to the spirit in which we engage in it. The student, the politician, the artist, the farmer, the mechanic, when doing his work under love to God, is doing religious work. This is the teaching of every department of scripture. Its law is based on essential morality, and its spirit shines out in regulations suited to the times and full of consideration for all classes, especially the bereaved, the suffering and the poor. So too the burden of the prophets is a cry for civil righteousness. Only through right doing can the nation grow into a kingdom of God on earth worthy of Jehovah. So that the wisdom literature of which the book of Proverbs is the most characteristic, is occupied entirely with suggestions for daily life. On the other hand the Pharisees identified the Church and church work with Judaism, or the organization to which they belonged. The Church is the body of Christ; its work then must be a continuance of His work on earth. To know what it should be in our case we must put ourselves in His school. His word still is, "This is the work of God; that ye believe on him whom he hath sent." That is our first work, to see to it that we are living. Then we will be able to do living and not dead works, and we shall have no difficulty with regard to the proportion of our strength, time, or money that we must give to Christ. We shall find that He demands not one-tenth but all, and we shall not be satisfied with giving less. Having this spirit, we shall soon find out what kind of work we are called upon to do. We shall do our whole duty to the Church with which we are connected as well as to our family, our neighbours, our fellow workmen, and our country.

CHURCH WORK BY THE YOUNG.

Rev. H. M. Parsons, Toronto, spoke on "How to develop among our young people an interest in the Church," under the following heads.—1. Bring them to Christ. That is necessary ere anything can be done by them. 2. Set them to work. Everyone has talents to use; they may be employed in some direction. Let their gifts not be unemployed. 3. Keep them at work. Mr. Parsons gave some interesting incidents in his own experience as a pastor. 4. Exalt God's own methods in opposition to our own. 1. Abide in Christ. 2. Individual responsibility to tell the story to the individual. In a ministry of thirty years he had not received one person who had not been touched at sometime by some individual Christian worker. 3. Use all kinds of gifts given by the Spirit. The choir having sung an anthem, both themes were further discussed by Messrs. D. McKee, of Coloung; A. Wilson and R. Wallace, of Toronto; W. Hunter, of Orangeville, and J. H. Mullen, of Feigus.

ON TUESDAY MORNING the Conference was resumed, Hon. Jas. Young, M.P.P., in the chair.

PASTORAL VISITATION.

Rev. Thomas Wardrope, D.D., Guelph, gave an address on "Pastoral Visitation." He spoke of the views entertained of it by the people, and even by ministers, as not being so important as once it was. As to the work itself, he gave the example of Christ himself. This was prophetically announced by the prophet of our Lord as seeking out His sheep. He did so in the case of the woman of Samaria. He also inculcated this work. The teaching of the apostles was insisted on at length with great force. The individuality of the work was referred to: "warning every man," etc. It is a work to which we should give ourselves with all diligence and prayerfulness. As to preparation, first we should bear in mind the apostolic injunction, "Take heed to thyself," first, in regard to physical vigour and energy; second, in respect to our tempers and dispositions; third, mentally we ought to seek to sympathize with the Scripture we speak. It is not to be a panacea but a delightful work. If our profession is sincere it shall be a joy. He talked with the spirit. This is the most essential thing. We should do it with a view to the Lord's coming. Every part of our work is to be done in view of this fact. Now, how shall we set about it? He was speaking of the average congregation and the average pastor. He himself went with an elder and visited each district once a year. In respect to the regular visitation. The elder arranged the route and took part in the religious exercises in common with him. They should have a wide range of passages for such work, and they would often find the texts of their very best sermons in these passages. He visited in the country in the afternoon and the town in the evening, and thus secured the morning for study.

The subject was further discussed by Revs. H. M. Parsons, R. Wallace, W. Bennett, J. K. Smith and Principal Grant.

SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE MINISTER.

Rev. R. D. Fraser, M.A., Bowmanville, delivered an address on the "Spiritual Life of the Minister in its bearing upon his work." The minister should not take a narrow view of his work. He should seek to cope with all his work. The core of his work is to bring men into peace with God and into likeness to Jesus Christ. His work is spiritual—Christ Jesus and Him crucified. It must be seen as a commission from Christ Himself to give life and comfort. To have comfort in it we must have a strong spiritual life. The unspiritual minister is like Gehazi's cold staff on the face of the dead child; the spiritual man is like living Elijah. He agreed with the statement of Mr. Studd, the missionary to China, that the chief thing is not to learn the language, nor yet to preach in it when learned, but rather to keep in close communion with God. He believed that we needed special seasons for spiritual culture, retiring to be alone with God. Fidelity to himself and his work is the key of the minister's life.

The discussion was continued by Revs. H. M. Parsons, A. Wilson, A. Gilray and W. Hunter. The third session of the Conference met at 2.30. Rev. J. K. Smith, M.A., in the chair.

ELDERS' WORK.

Rev. P. McF. McLeod, Toronto, spoke on "The Work of the Elder." He thought that there would be great interest attaching to this subject, as last year the elder was left in a very awkward position. There was then on the minds of some a question as to whether the elder had any place at all in the New Testament. If he was recognized there at all it was under the title of "helpers." As to the position of the elder Mr. McLeod read from the Reformation authorities proofs that the elder was a New Testament officer. The view of the office entertained would either assist the elder in the performing of his functions or hinder him. We should see the dignity of the office and honour it. What is his work? It is not to undertake the work of pastors and teachers. It is not to look after the minister as some seem to think. It is not to usurp undue authority over the members of the congregation. His work may be divided into two parts. First, in the session itself as counsellor; second, in visitation. This could not be overestimated. Sometimes elders took advantage of the post-office to send their cards instead of carrying them themselves. Third, taking part in the services of the church. There is ample opportunity for the exercise of their gifts in mission work and in other ways. Often they work not as called by Christ. Why should they not? Would that not lift them up every way. What is their work in the presbytery? Should they not take a fair share of the work? They are not recognized in the same way as the minister in committees, but they ought to be. A band of elders united in Christian work is a sure guarantee of success in the work of the Church.

The discussion was continued by Revs. A. Wilson, W. Bennett, W. Frizell, W. Hunter, Rev. J. Somerville and others.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

Rev. J. R. S. Burnett, of Alliston, opened the discussion of the subject—"Individual responsibility in Christian work." We have been dealing with this subject all along the line, every speaker has touched upon it. Where men could not speak they could live the truth. They might be epistles, being used to lead men to Christ. There was the work of building them up in the knowledge of the truth to be done. The Scriptures continually employed personal pronouns, showing that every Christian man is responsible. We are not in the church as bric-a-brac set up in the parlour merely for ornament; we are for use. There is a vast field open for young women to stand up for religious life and principle in their converse with young men. In their association with young men they ought to seek to lead them into relations with Christ and His Church.

The discussion was continued by Revs. H. M. Parsons, W. Frizell, A. Wilson, J. Bryant and D. B. McCrae.

SOCIAL ELEMENT IN RELIGION.

Rev. G. M. Milligan, B.A., of Toronto, spoke on "The Social Element in Religious Work." Man is essentially a religious being. When man gets morbid he believes that the world is going to pieces, and he becomes egotistic, self-conscious. As men rise out of this they become more social. In the degree in which a man rises into true life, in that degree he rises into sociality. We have fellowship with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. Sociality is a duty devolving upon a man, and it is to be employed for God's glory. He who receives a gift is to minister it for the good of others. It is the brotherhood of man that is leading to the strikes. True, it is hope in a striking way, yet it is all to effect good. The Church is to learn a lesson yet not to despise the poor. We may learn much from every condition. In the Church we are to look for the highest form of sociality. Christ consecrated human life by turning water into wine. Sociality is working together for common ends, whatever they may be. Everything is to find its consecration in Christianity—mirth, reason, imagination, every power in man is to be consecrated—Christianity is essentially social. The spirituality of men leaves men up. We don't act fairly towards the rich in not dealing with them as we deal with the poor. The sacraments cultivate sociality. The experiences of life are sacraments, means by which God comes in upon the soul. The centurion learned the headship of Christ through His work. His soldiering, that was to him a sacrament. Like understand like, the bereaved the bereaved. On the lines of our particular lives we are to work. What we are and where we are is to be used for the cultivation of the highest and noblest in men. Whatever you have in common use it to lift men up Christward. Identify yourselves with others and this sweetens all life. Real work for men does them good, blesses them. "Am I my brother's keeper" was the language of an unsocial man.

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