

## Church News

(All communications to this column ought to be sent to the Editor immediately after the occurrences to which they refer have taken place.)

### MONTREAL NOTES.

Archbishop Langevin, the educational firebrand from St. Boniface, is now sitting from one Episcopal palace to another in the Province of Quebec, and the air is thick with rumors of coming ecclesiastical mandements for the annihilation of all opponents of Separate schools. Recent experience, however, shows that episcopal thunder strikes but little terror into the hearts of those who a few years ago would have had most reason to dread it. Some evade it by one device or another while others openly bid defiance and dare the bishops to do their worst. Their boldness is not without considerable justification. Occasionally similar independence has been shown in the past and nothing has come of it. But the indications are that at the present time they will be sustained by a very large proportion of their co-religionists. The ultimate issue of the conflict is so certain that we can afford to wait for it with considerable patience. The lessons of history are too plain to permit despair for the cause of liberty and true progress.

At the meeting of the Protestant Ministerial Association on Monday morning last, an interesting paper was read by the Rev. J. Nichols of St. Mark's church, on the Book of Ecclesiastes. He took the modern critical view as to its origin at a time considerably later than the captivity, and gave a resume of its line of thought together with an estimate of its predominant conclusions. The paper was sharply criticised in an animated discussion that followed.

A few evenings before Christmas day the quiet manse of Richmond, Que., was entered by quite a numerous and forcible band of ladies and gentlemen belonging to the congregation of Chalmers' Church, who had concocted a plan by which they could surprise their much-esteemed pastor and his wife. Their counsel was indeed well kept, for it was not until one after another trooped in, laden, not with implements of hostility, but with quiet looking and well-filled baskets, that it dawned upon Dr. and Mrs. Kellock that they were in for an old-fashioned surprise party. The event proved that, what with presents and people, the manse was filled to the very door. The presents left by the party at the manse were both numerous and substantial, consisting not only of eatables but also of articles of apparel and other niceties. The whole event went to show the esteem in which the pastor and his family are held by his generous and loving flock, and that the relation between them seems to become more and more affectionate and pleasant as time goes on.

At the monthly meeting of the Erskine church Woman's Missionary Auxiliary held on Monday afternoon, Jan. 11th, an able address was given by Mrs. Ashley Carns-Wilson on "Educational Work in the Missions of India." There was a large attendance of members who listened to the address with the greatest interest and at the close accorded the speaker a hearty vote of thanks. Mrs. Carns-Wilson is the Secretary of the local branch of the Church Missionary Society and has done much to awaken the members of her own denomination to a practical interest in Foreign Missions. She has a sister working as a missionary in Cashmere, and is in constant touch with the missionary field. It may be interesting to some to know that she is a near relative of Dr. Flinders Petrie the eminent Egyptologist.

A few days ago the Rev. Mr. Love of St. Andrew's church Quebec, was presented with a handsome purse of money by a few friends in the congregation.

The Rev. John Macgillivray of Melville church Westmount died suddenly and unexpectedly about midnight on Friday the 15th inst. He had been slightly unwell during the week but it was supposed to be nothing more than an attack of grippe. On Friday evening the annual social of the congregation was held and at it was read a bright cheerful letter from him written the

same day in explanation of his absence. After the close of the meeting one of the elders called in to see him but only to find him dying. In the mean time a serious hemorrhage of the lungs had started. Two physicians had been called in but all their efforts were unavailing to check it and he speedily bled to death. Much sympathy is felt for his young widow and child and also for the congregation which loses an earnest devoted and godly pastor.

The present year is the jubilee of the union by which was formed the United Presbyterian Church in Scotland, and many plans are being suggested for the suitable celebration of the event. The half century has been one of remarkable achievement both at home and abroad, and they have reason to be proud of their history. There are many in Canada who have received their religious training in that Church, are proud of its record and keenly rejoice in its prosperity. Our Church has also received not a few most eminent and worthy ministers from that body and it would be well that in some way our greetings should be conveyed to their Synod at its meeting this year. The voluntary principles of the United Presbyterian Church are perforce the practice in this continent and many of their problems are necessarily the same as ours. We may learn much from their experience, and it is not presumptuous to think that our experience may be of some help to them. At any rate we can wish them well.

We notice with regret that some of the prominent ministers of the Church of Scotland are discussing the advisability of diminishing the number of their Mission Schemes by dropping the Colonial and Jewish work. As to the Jewish work we are not in a position to express an opinion, but surely the Colonial work has a claim on the Scottish people which they cannot disown. It really is nothing but Home Mission work a little further afield. They are but following their own sons and daughters with the means of grace under which they have been reared, and it is unfair to throw upon the Colonial Churches the whole burden of caring for the immigrants from abroad. It is perhaps fortunate that our Dr. Robertson is on the ground when the matter is up to give the information necessary for enabling the churches to look at the matter in the true light. So far as Canada is concerned we can assure them that the aid given is spent to the very best advantage, and the rapid extension of our work in the North-West during the past twenty years shows that it is not being spent without results. We do not know of any ecclesiastical investment any where which is yielding as good a return. Instead of cutting us off, they would do well to increase their grants and plan for greater liberality.

### GENERAL

Rev. A. McVicar, pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Nelson, B. C., has sent in his resignation. The church being now self-supporting has the right of electing a pastor. Mr. McVicar goes east to complete a course preparatory to getting his B. D. degree.

Presbyterian students were entertained by the pastor and members of Westminster church, Toronto, on the night of Jan. 12th, to the number of about 600. The "at home" was held in the parlors of the church, where a good programme was given. The pastor, Rev. Mr. Neil, gave an address of welcome.

Knox Church, Ottawa, was on Jan. 15 declared free of debt, amid great congregational rejoicings. Two years ago an effort was begun to remove a mortgage of \$15,000 on the property. The obligation was fully discharged on the last day of 1896. The mortgage was exhibited to the congregation while it sang the Doxology.

When Rev. A. T. Love, Quebec, reached home on Jan. 11th, he found that a note had been left for him at the manse which contained the sum of \$221 and a sheet of paper upon which was written: "From the members of the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Quebec, as a token of appreciation and regard, January 11th,

1897." It was only about a year ago that a testimonial of a similar nature was presented to the same reverend gentleman by his congregation, and he was consequently as surprised as he was gratified with the presentation of the other day. It is, however, a well-merited token of the mutual esteem and good feeling which exists between the pastor and his flock.

When the Rev. R. J. Hutcheson, Almonte, returned from a few holidays he was surprised on entering his study to find the floor covered with a handsome Brussels carpet, an easy-chair for himself set near his coal stove, and several other chairs provided for any callers he may have. A portiere was at the study door and the windows were set off with a handsome set of curtains.

Rev. John Macgillivray, pastor of Melville Presbyterian Church, Westmount, died on January 15th after a brief illness. He was taken ill in church last Sabbath evening and had to retire from the pulpit, but his death was quite unexpected. He has been pastor for the past ten years. He was a native of Goderich and a graduate of Toronto University and Knox College.

The annual congregational meeting of the Presbyterian Church in the Scotch Settlement was held recently, and was well attended. The usual business was attended to, such as receiving reports, appointing officers, etc. It was also unanimously resolved to allow the use of the organ in the psalmody of the church, and Mrs. James Sutherland was appointed organist. This congregation is financially in the best condition and an era of prosperity is anticipated.

The members of Kew Beach Presbyterian Church Sabbath School children and teachers on Monday evening Jan. 11th celebrated their anniversary and at the same time extended to the Rev. Malcolm Bethune, who has just taken pastoral charge of the young congregation, a hearty welcome. The church was beautifully decorated. Refreshments were served at six o'clock to all present. Then Mr. W. H. Marcon, took the chair, and an excellent programme was presented by the children.

There was a good attendance on Jan 5th to witness the induction of the Rev. Paul F. Langrill of Fort Erie, to the pastoral charge of St. Andrew's church, Martintown. Flowering plants were tastefully arranged around the pulpit and a full choir gave excellent music. Rev. Mr. McCallum of Hawkesbury, preached the introductory sermon and Rev. Mr. Graham of Lancaster, conducted the examination preceding the formalities of the induction, in which ceremony Rev. Mr. McLaren of Alexandria, and Rev. D. D. McLennan of Apple Hill, took part. Rev. J. Matheson delivered a most impressive address to the newly inducted pastor, followed by Rev. Mr. Givan of Williamstown, in an earnest address to the people. After the conclusion of the church services the congregation and many friends adjourned to the church hall to discuss the bountiful repast provided by the ladies.

### ANNUAL MEETINGS.

#### ERSKINE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TORONTO.

The annual meeting of the congregation of Erskine Presbyterian Church, Toronto, was held on Jan. 11th, and the reports submitted were of a most gratifying character. After tea, provided by the Ladies' Aid Society, had been partaken of, the meeting was opened with the customary religious exercises. The chair was occupied by the pastor, Rev. W. A. Hunter, and the Secretary of the church, Mr. Alex. Munro, kept the records. The reports were submitted and taken up in order. The report of the session, which was submitted by Mr. John Young, showed that the actual membership of the church at present is 658, an increase of nine over last year. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper had been administered four times and twenty-nine children and adults had been baptized.

Inspector Wm. Stark, Chairman of the Board of Managers, presented the report of that body, which was highly satisfactory. It stated that what had promised to be a deficit of \$200 had been reduced in various ways to the nominal figure of \$45. Towards this reduction the special collection of the 10th inst. had realized \$220, and this had