

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

Considerable interest has been awakened by the announcement that Cooke's Church has decided upon a successor to the Rev. William Patterson, and that a call will be extended to the Rev. Alexander Esler, who is now pastor at West Chester, Penn. There were a considerable number who wished to call a Canadian, and had fixed their mind upon the Rev. D. C. Hossack, at present without a charge, but who is easily one of the foremost preachers in our Church. But, "a prophet is not without honor save in his own country," and the man from abroad carried the day. We were glad to note that the call was made practically unanimous. One or two held out, but then we all know that it is hard for a warm-blooded Irishman to give in beaten, and shake hands the same hour. He will do it later and do it heartily.

Mr. Esler is a comparatively young man. He is also an Irishman, a good speaker, and thoroughly evangelical. These are high commendations in that particular congregation, especially the last two. Twelve years ago he came across the ocean and completed his studies for the ministry, graduating from Lafayette College, and then taking his theological training in Princeton. West Chester has been his only charge, and he has held it for four years. During that time a new \$50,000 church has been built, and upwards of four hundred members have been added to the Roll. Cooke's Church offers him a salary of \$2,000 per annum, and an amount of good hard work that would stagger any man not thoroughly in earnest. If Mr. Esler is in earnest, and it is said that he is alive to his calling, he has in Cooke's Church the finest opportunity that Canada offers for successful service.

St. Giles is a new name among Toronto churches. To mark the happy transition from slavery to freedom East Church, Toronto, has changed its name to that of St. Giles. For many years a crushing burden of debt has blighted every effort to do good work in that congregation. It sapped the life-blood and poisoned what remained, and at last the congregation asked Presbytery to advise what should be done. The Presbytery faced a new problem, for while nominally it holds all the property for the Church within its own limits it has no means to redeem it should it, as in this case, become involved. There is no machinery permitting the Presbytery to levy a rate upon the stronger congregations to provide money for the help of the weaker. But the Presbytery of Toronto pledged itself to raise some \$6,000 for the help of this congregation and set to work to do it. An appeal was made to the other congregations, and so cordially did they respond, that at the time set the money was in hand, and the church was freed.

St. Giles stands in a locality where mission work can be most effectively done. The district is thickly populated, and the people are chiefly those who must depend upon their daily labor. They respond better than any other class to appeals for money to carry on the Lord's work, when they have money, but often they have nothing more than will meet their own necessities. Somehow this class has come to think that the Church does not care for those who compose it. Doubtless the Church is in part to blame for this impression, but not altogether. St. Giles minister is determined to carry the Gospel to them, and is admirably suited to this work. Ready of speech, of strong frame, not easily daunted, the Rev. Robt. Atkinson has a field that ought to yield large returns in the near future, and it doubtless will do so. The people are full of enthusiasm, now that they can breathe freely again. A fine spirit of brotherhood binds them and the congregations of the City together. Last Sunday they held anniversary services and entered most hopefully upon a new era of work.

The Rev. Dr. Reid, missionary to the Doukhobors and Galicians has been in Toronto during the past week, and has lectured in three of the largest churches here. He tells his story simply and well, illustrating it with many views from photographs taken by himself. One cannot help being impressed by the earnestness of Dr. Reid, and the interest taken in those strange people whom he represents will be much more intelligent than it has been heretofore. We are glad to learn that he is also receiving substantial assistance for carrying on the most important work he has undertaken. Not the least important part of this work will be that of making good Canadian citizens out of those who have come within our borders and found a home there.

The induction of the Rev. D. G. Cameron at Mount Albert has been fixed for April the 30th instant, at two o'clock in the afternoon. The induction sermon will be preached by the Rev. W. G. Back of Maple.

The Rev. Dr. Black is beginning a series of sermons on Sunday evenings at St. Andrew's, on the time of struggle in the life of David. Dr. Black's spiritual insight and fine literary taste will make these both pleasant and helpful to all who attend.

We are glad to learn that the Rev. James McCaul, pastor of the Church of the Covenant, is rapidly improving, and will soon be able to resume his work again. At one time it was feared that his illness would make further work impossible, but the marked improvement of late weeks has given hope to all. He will be warmly welcomed when he returns.

Ottawa.

Next Sunday afternoon the Ottawa members of the Independent Order of Oddfellows purpose attending Divine Service in St. Andrew's Church, when Mr. Herbison will preach.

Rev. Joseph White, who has been supplying St. John's church, Almonte, for a month, has returned to the city. It is needless to add that his services were greatly appreciated.

Rev. R. Herbison is on a visit to his predecessor in the pastorate of St. Andrew's Church—Rev. R. E. Knowles minister of Knox Church, Galt, and preached there last Sunday.—Rev. W. B. Bremner, formerly of Sonya, occupied the pulpit of St. Andrew's Church.

Referring to Rev. Mr. Herbison's sermons in Knox Church, the Galt Reformer has this to say of the young preacher from the Capital: "His appearance pleased, and he made a most favorable impression, strengthened, subsequently, by his scholarly and splendid sermons."

The general committee and the various sub-committees arranging for the approaching meeting of the General Assembly in St. Andrew's church, are hard at work, doing everything possible to make the first meeting of Assembly in the 20th Century an unqualified success, worthy the Capital of the Dominion.

Montreal and Quebec.

The Rev. G. Colborne Heine, B. A., pastor of Chalmers Church, occupied his own pulpit at both services last Sabbath after a short visit to New York.

Dr. Grenfell, of the Labrador mission, has been in Montreal where he spoke in several of the churches on the interesting work carried on by him on the lonely coast of Labrador.

Rev. Jno. McNichol, Aylmer, showed signs of exhaustion in the pulpit on Sunday, but managed to brace himself sufficiently to finish his sermon. The evening service he was obliged to abbreviate for the same reason. He has evidently been trying to do too much work, and the necessity of a rest is obvious.

The choir of Zion Church, Hull, having received permission from the managers, have decided to raise money for the purchase of an organ to cost in the neighborhood of \$350. A new organ is much needed, says the Hull Advance, and we trust the friends of the congregation will assist the choir in their worthy undertaking.

Winnipeg and West.

The Presbyterians of Minnedosa, Man., have decided to erect a substantial new church to cost in the neighborhood of \$5,000.

A private letter recently received from the Rev. G. L. Mackay, D. D., of Formosa, states that he has returned to the island from Hong-kong, where he has been for some months in the hospital. His throat is still giving him serious trouble, and he is resting with his family at a health resort on one of the rivers in Formosa.

The Presbytery of Winnipeg at a special meeting licensed Messrs. H. J. Robertson and George Mason as preachers, and ordained Mr. Robertson to the ministry. Mr. Robertson and Mr. Mason, who have recently completed their course of theological study in Knox College, Toronto, were formerly students in Manitoba college, and it was on account of their associations with this city and with the college that they wished to receive licensure here. They proceed westward within a day or two, to engage in missionary work in British Columbia.

Western Ontario.

Rev. R. Ponge, Hespeler, has been giving his people a useful discourse on temperance.

Rev. E. H. Sawyers, Brucefield, conducted service in St. Andrew's Church, Kippen, last Sabbath.

Rev. Dr. Wardrope, of Guelph, to the great delight of many friends has again been preaching at Mosboro.

Rev. R. S. G. Anderson, Wroxeter, and Rev. D. Perrie, Wingham, exchanged pulpits a week ago last Sunday.

The Rev. J. A. McKenzie, Kirkwell, who is deservedly popular with his people, has been presented with a purse of gold by the congregation.

Rev. Andrew McNab, M. A., has been called to Walton. In case of acceptance Maitland Presbytery fixed the induction for the 7th May at 2 p. m.

The Rev. R. E. Knowles, Knox Church, Galt, will spend his coming vacation, as he did the last in the old country. Mrs. Knowles will accompany him.

New St. James' Church, London, in its progress proves the wisdom of planting it in the northern part of the city. The demand for seats is so great that the officers are already considering the erection of galleries to give increased accommodation.

In the closing remarks at the communion service at the First Presbyterian church, Chatham, on Sunday morning Rev. W. E. Knowles made a touching reference to the demise of the Rev. A. McCall, D. D. Many of the congregation were moved to tears.

The wife of Rev. D. R. Drummond, pastor of Knox church, St. Thomas, was recently presented with some handsome silver candleabra by a number of the members of the church to show their appreciation of Mrs. Drummond's work in the various church organizations.

At the Glencoe Church the other evening a solemn and impressive service was performed by the pastor and session, when Dr. McLachlin was inducted and Messrs. J. L. Luckham, John Strachan and Angus McGougan were ordained and inducted into the eldership.

The young minister of St. Andrew's, Guelph, has been preaching in St. Andrew's, London, and the "Advertiser" says of him: "Mr. Eakin is one of the most able of the younger Presbyterian clergymen in Ontario, and his earnest and scholarly addresses yesterday were listened to by large congregations."

The Bible Class of the First Presbyterian church, Chatham, conducted by Mr. J. B. Rankin, are considering the advisability of appointing a secretary and a reception committee, and of in future holding their meetings in the Board room of the church instead of in the church proper, as formerly.

Miss Potter, a graduate of Queen's, sailed on Saturday from New York for San Juan, Porto Rico, to be assistant to Rev. Dr. Green, in Presbyterian Church work there. Miss Potter is a daughter of Rev. J. S. Potter, the well known missionary to the sailors on the lakes; and her brother is the efficient pastor of St. Andrew's, Peterboro.

The Acton Free Press says: It is hardly a year since Rev. H. A. McPherson was honoured with a call by St. Andrew's Church, Strathroy, the first ever extended by that church to a Canadian minister, and now comes another from the church at Collingwood, official notice of which reached him on Monday from Rev. D. D. McLeod, D. D., of Barrie, the moderator of the session.

Rev. S. Acheson, late of Kippen, has been called to Pembina, Dakota. Stipend \$1,100 and a manse. The Huron Expositor speaks in high terms of Mr. Acheson. "They will find in him," it says, "a man who is constant and unwearied in his attentions to the sick, troubled and distressed; broad and liberal in his views; well versed in Scripture, and a devout and faithful Christian and a most desirable companion."

Mr. D. H. Dobbin, choir-master of King Street Church, London, was presented with a beautiful gold watch and a happily worded address, expressive of the high esteem in which he is held by the congregation. The presentation was made by Mr. Alex. Scott, and the address, to which Mr. Dobbin replied briefly, was read by Mr. Samuel Clark. Mr. Dobbin, who is leaving the city, has endeared himself to everyone in the church, and has aided materially in its growth. The address dwelt upon these points and emphasized the congregation's appreciation of his services.