

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

There are, in every Presbytery, some members who are specially interested in evangelistic work, just as there are those whose main effort is given, perhaps unconsciously, to the building up of Christians. In some of the Presbyteries around Toronto certain of those whose sympathies run toward the gathering in of the lost, and to the proclamation of evangelical truth have quietly banded themselves together, and agreed to give a certain portion of their time to special evangelistic work during the present winter. The work has gone on very quietly, and there are not many who know of the extent of this cooperative work for the saving of souls. That it will make itself felt in the spiritual life of every community where this work is carried on, will undoubtedly be seen. That there are men who, though burdened with the work of a large and exacting congregation, find time to take part with their brethren in this extra-congregational work, says much for the spirit by which these men are animated. And yet, it was but yesterday that we heard the old fling that the ministers, to a man, were in the work for what they could get out of it!

The Ministerial Association has taken a hand in the promoting of City mission work. They are enquiring about the work of the defunct Presbyterian Union. This body, during its brief life, divided the City into districts and advised that individual congregations be made responsible for the religious work within a certain limit. The Ministerial Association is of the opinion that some useful suggestions may be obtained from a study of these old lines. If the object be to make each congregation responsible for the work within certain limits, responsible financially as well as for the work that is to be done, it is to be hoped that object will not be attained. How can it be expected that Bloor St. congregation, and St. Paul's congregation, for example, shall each become responsible for the mission work to be done within the limits at their doors. The first-named is financially able to support ten workers where the second could support one. The first-named has no mission to do within the natural boundaries of its congregation; the other has at least half of its work in what might be termed City mission work. If the financial support is to come from a central fund to which each congregation shall contribute according to its ability, and the several congregations shall be made responsible for the oversight of the work within the limit assigned, the scheme is workable, and should succeed.

On Tuesday of this week the Rev. Thos. R. Robinson, B. A., was inducted as pastor of St. Mark's congregation. The work before him is most exacting. It will demand all his energies, and will surely tax his strength. Two good women, trained for the work, could be of great service in this connection. Call them what you will,—Deaconesses, Bible-women, Visitors, or any other name, but let them be properly trained, and then let them be supported by the city congregations, and assigned to the fields where there is work for them by a central committee, to which as well as to the congregation within whose bounds they labor, they shall submit monthly reports. There are many Christian women who would gladly take up work of this kind, and who would do it well, if only the Church would engage them. Is it not time we heard the call for this kind of worker?

Almost every day the man downtown is met with an appeal to help the destitute. Now he is asked to subscribe for a consumptive Hospital, now for a Home for the aged, now for some destitute family, now for some scheme to reach the fallen through generous treatment of them, and so the endless procession comes and goes till the busy man of affairs is tempted to give orders that he is not at home to any more callers. The last appeal is for cast-off clothes. These are forwarded to a centre mission where the poor of the City and those who come into the City, resort, and get a good breakfast on Sunday morning, listen perforce to an earnest Gospel address, and carry away some of the clothing sent in during the week. Unfortunately the tendency of this treatment is to pauperize the recipient. The worthy poor will not come up to receive it, the unworthy push them aside, if they do. To give without asking anything in return is never wise. That is a sweeping assertion, but it is the unanimous opinion of those who have spent years in the study of the pauper problem. There are those in our own City who

are doing their utmost to restrain this pauperizing tendency, but their work is neutralized, to a large extent, by the injudicious kindness of men and women who are in real earnest in this work of helping the poor, but whose work is not always tempered with judgment. Help a man to get up, but do not lift his dead weight, and hold him up while you feed him.

There is an unusual quietness about the college halls at present. The old order has passed, and the new prescribes examinations before the Christmas holidays. And these examinations count in the final estimate of the year's work. The man who has an urgent call to come home about the middle of December, now writes home to say that he is busy, and that he will see them about Christmas eve. It is noticeable that the calls of this nature are less frequent than they were some years ago. The demand for them is not so great, and the production has fallen off proportionately. Perhaps it is better so. The new order is an improvement.

Eastern Ontario.

Rev. John McNichol, of Ottawa, has been preaching in Knox church, Cornwall.

The induction of Rev. Mr. Mercer at Coldwater will take place in January, should he accept.

At the communion services at Burnstown on the 8th inst, nine new members were added to the roll.

Carp Presbyterians will hold a concert in the Orange hall of that village on the evening of Dec. 27. A good programme will be provided.

A number of the young men of Rev. P. F. Langill's congregation, Martintown, have been helping him to get home his supply of wood last week.

Rev. A. Graham, B. A., was sufficiently recovered from his recent illness to take charge of his pulpit last Sunday morning. Rev. J. U. Tanner preached at the evening service.

On Thanksgiving Day services were conducted by Rev. E. J. Shaw at White Lake in the morning, and at Burnstown in the afternoon. The thank offering was for the benefit of missions and amounted to \$61.00.

The death is announced of Rev. Charles Clyde, minister of the Covenanters' church, Brodie. Deceased was the life of his congregation, always cheerful and happy and every ready to help anyone in need of his assistance. A widow and family of nine children survive.

The monthly meeting of W. F. M. S. was held at the home of the President, Mrs. J. McFarlane, Martintown, on Tuesday of last week. Although the weather was very unfavorable there was a good attendance. The Thankoffering envelopes were opened and contributions amounted to \$15.

The Woman's Foreign Missionary society of Carp church at its annual meeting elected the following officers: Mrs. H. Macdougall, president; Mrs. A. Andrews and Mrs. MacGillivray, vice-presidents; Miss E. F. Wilson, secretary; Mrs. A. Andrews, treasurer. The society raised \$34 during the year and sent a box valued at \$27 to Portage la Prairie industrial school.

A meeting of the Presbytery of Brockville was held on 10th inst. in Morrisburg. There was a small attendance of members and outside of the usual routine there was no business of any consequence for consideration. In the evening a conference was held in the church, on the schemes of the church, which was well attended. Addresses were given by Rev. Dr. Stuart, Prescott; Rev. John McDougall, Spencerville; Rev. Mr. McArthur, of Cardinal, and Rev. R. Laird, of Brockville.

The Bradford Witness says: Mr. Seby, of Toronto, who is at present conducting a singing class in the Scotch Settlement, again favored the Presbyterian congregation with his presence in the choir on Sunday evening, and singing in splendid voice, a solo entitled, "Ba' ylou." We could wish that every congregation in the land could have the services of Mr. Seby in the teaching of a class in singing and church music. He has rare gifts in that direction and knows Presbyterian music "like a book."

At the last meeting of Montreal Presbytery Rev. John McCarter, who has had charge of the mission work among the Jews, asked that the work be carried on by the Presbytery in the future. It was agreed to leave the matter in the hands of the F. M. C. to report at next meeting.

Montreal.

Rev. W. D. Turner declines the call to Rockburn and Gore.

The Home Mission fields within the bounds of the Presbytery of Montreal were reported on by Rev. Mr. Cruickshank and all are fully manned and work is being satisfactorily done.

Dr. James Barclay has been appointed medical officer of the United States marine service, with headquarters in Montreal. Dr. Barclay is a son of the Rev. Dr. Barclay, of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, and graduated with distinction at McGill and Edinburgh.

Dr. Scrimger reported to last meeting of Montreal Presbytery that the congregation of St. Mark's Church agreed to union with the Nazareth Street Mission, on the following conditions: That both properties be sold and proceeds be devoted to the erection of a new church on a new site, and that the work be carried on under the care of Crescent Street Church to contribute \$650 a year to the mission.

Rev. Donald MacVicar, B. D., has sent in his resignation of Victoria church, Montreal. He expressed the wish to be relieved on the 31st ult. His resignation was due to the impossibility of building up and maintaining a self-supporting charge in Victoriatown, owing to the removal of families from that section of the city on account of the changed conditions of the place brought about by the erection of the new abattoir, hay sheds, railway sidings, etc.

At Montreal Presbytery, Rev. F. M. Dewey, M. A., gave the report of the foreign mission committee. The Chinese work is going on satisfactorily. There is an increase of both teachers and scholars in the Chinese schools, but more volunteer teachers are needed in both Sabbath and week-day schools. One Chinaman was baptized by the Rev. Dr. McWilliams in Knox Church and received into the fellowship of the Church as a member.

At the recent meeting of Montreal Presbytery reports were read from several important committees. Mr. Heine reported that the various French Mission fields were efficiently worked by a staff of earnest missionaries and teachers. The Italian mission in the city was also in a flourishing condition and had greatly improved of late. In reporting from the Presbytery's Augmentation committee Rev. D. W. Morrison spoke of the inefficient state of this fund, and moved that "in view of the fact that the augmentation fund, which has never been adequate to meet the demands made upon it, and of late years, because of the rapid development of our church work, its insufficiency has reached a point that at once presses very severely on many augmented charges, and hinders the necessary extension of its fostering care, taking into account also the great service it has rendered to the Church and the vital relation which it bears to the continued successful prosecution of the Church's work, the presbytery earnestly commends the scheme to the special consideration of the congregations and sessions within the bounds with a view to increased liberality in its support."

The following resolution on the death of Mr. Colin McArthur was unanimously adopted by Montreal Presbytery: The presbytery desires to place on record its sense of the great loss which the Church and the whole community have sustained in the death of Mr. Colin McArthur, who was for many years a member of this court as the representative of the session of St. Paul's Church. His quiet, unostentatious interest in all wise plans for increasing the comfort of suffering humanity in the hospitals of the city, especially the Protestant Hospital for the Insane, his services and gifts as a member of the college board, his cheerful generosity in the support of weaker congregations of the city and his many benefactions where no eye but the Master's saw him have endeared his memory to many. Also the following: "The Presbytery of Montreal has learned with deep regret of the sudden and unexpected death of Mr. John Herdt, of St. John's Church, of this city, and desires to put on record the loss sustained by the cause of French evangelization in this province. Mr. Herdt was prominently identified with our French work for many years, being a member of the Board of French Evangelization, a member of the presbytery's committee on French work and a representative elder of the congregation. The presbytery hereby expresses its sympathy with the pastor and congregation of St. John's Church, as well as the members of the sorrowing family."