

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

It is again the season of annual congregational meetings, and the reports that have been presented so far are encouraging. Knox Church, Toronto, has been more than eight months without a pastor, yet though there is a decrease in church membership, and falling off in attendance there is a balance on the right side in the Treasurer's books. The contributions to missions is not so liberal as in some former years, but there have been many calls, and more or less slackness, probably in soliciting and in collecting subscriptions during the vacancy.

On Tues. evening the Rev. A. B. Winchester was inducted as minister of Knox Church. He enters upon the work after most careful and prayerful consideration of its demands, and brings to it an earnest spirit, and a loyal devotion to the master by whom he has been called to undertake this responsible task. Mr. Winchester's well-known missionary zeal will find ample scope in the district where Knox Church is situated. There are many to whom the Gospel of brotherhood in Christ Jesus is an all but unknown term. Brotherhoods there are among them, but most of these are defensive in their purpose. And we believe many of them would hail with delight the preacher who could present to them the Christ as the Elder Brother, in whom we are all one, not for protection against common foes, but for mutual edification, and for the glory of that One who stands at our head.

Cooke's Church is still searching for a pastor. An enterprising evening journal, has supplied it with an ideal pastor on several occasions, but none of the members of the congregation have become at all enthusiastic over the journal's nominee. The annual meeting of the congregation was held last week and an excellent showing was made. The large and somewhat conglomerate membership still holds together, and the finances are in excellent shape. A great work awaits the man who shall be called to undertake it here. That man must have popular gifts as a preacher, and an entire consecration of those gifts to his Lord. No mere preacher will meet the demands, he must be a preacher who knows nothing among them save Jesus Christ and him crucified.

Special meetings have been held during the past week under the auspices of the Evangelical Alliance. These have been fairly well attended but seem to appeal to but a limited number of Christian people. Might it not be advisable to make some change of programme, so that others might be reached and interested in an organization that certainly deserves a wider recognition than it receives. Would it be possible to arrange for a series of afternoon addresses by one man. Let it be a course upon some spiritual topic, then have such a man as G. Campbell Morgan for four days of the week, speaking under the auspices of the Evangelical Alliance. Many would be reached.

Central Church, Toronto, still holds a first place in its contributions to missions. Over \$4,000 has been given this year for the purpose above, and more than half of it goes to the foreign work. Members of our congregations must be allowed, if they wish, to designate their gifts. The church advises them year by year, but does not seek to interfere further. Some of the Schemes do not receive in their proportion, but on the whole the people are loyal to the wish of the Church. Certainly when the response is so liberal as in the case of the Central Church, no one would carp at the division, for were other congregations to give with equal liberality the proportion for the work abroad might be even greater than this congregation makes.

In some of the outlying congregations of the Presbytery there have been excellent meetings during the past week, and the results have been most gratifying. In some of the smaller congregations too, within the limits of the city, a quiet but very effective work has been going on. Here is one instance of good work. In one of the Sabbath Schools a little girl of a respectable but non-Christian family found the Saviour, or rather was found by Him. She went home and told her parents. They became interested, began to come to church with a purpose. At the special communion service on the first Sabbath of the year the whole family, father, mother and children were present, the father coming many miles to be present at the meetings. Such results gladden the heart of the laborer,

Ottawa and Vicinity.

Rev. M. H. Scott, M. A., Hull, occupied the pulpit of the Western Methodist church last Sabbath morning.

The call from Erskine church, in this city, to Rev. A. E. Mitchell, B. A., of St. John's Almonte, comes before the Presbytery of Renfrew and Lanark on the 17th inst.

There was a pretty general exchange of city pulpits last Sabbath. Rev. Dr. Herridge was absent in Halifax, and the pulpit of St. Andrew's was filled by Rev. J. W. H. Milne, of the Glebe.

In the absence of Rev. Dr. Armstrong, who was conducting anniversary services at Russell last Sabbath, Rev. Norman McLeod preached in St. Paul's in the morning; Rev. James Macfarlane taking the evening service.

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of St. Andrew's church, re-elected the following officers at its annual meeting: President, Miss Harmon; vice-presidents, Mrs. Herridge and Mrs. E. H. Bronson; recording secretary, Mrs. E. P. Bronson; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Wm. Hutchison; treasurer, Mrs. Levi Crannell; programme committee, Mrs. James Robertson, Mrs. Gilbert Allan and Miss Charlotte Ross, and delegates to the Presbytery, Miss Isa Gibson and Miss Edith Crannell. The treasurer's statement showed that \$190 had been sent to the treasurer in Toronto during the year, besides bales sent to the Indians in the Northwest.

At the annual meeting of St. Paul's church Rev. Dr. Armstrong presided and the trustees and temporal committees were re-elected: trustees, Dr. John Thorburn, Messrs. J. D. Anderson and Wm. Whillans; temporal committee, Dr. Thorburn, W. J. Irvine, W. R. Taylor, Wm. Whillans, John McKinley, J. McNab, R. A. McCormick, C. G. Moss, T. R. Davies, John Hodgins, James Dunnet and W. T. Esdale. The sum of \$5,253 has been raised during the year as follows: Ordinary Fund \$2,486, church debt \$1,524, Organ \$223, various schemes \$306, Ladies' Aid \$220, special for a singer \$100, Woman's Foreign Mission Society \$141, Young People's Society \$95, Sunday school \$157.

Norwithstanding the stormy evening the annual meeting of Knox was well attended. Rev. D. M. Ramsey presided. The session reported that 17 members had been added by certificate and 10 by profession of faith. Thirteen children had been baptized during the year. It was decided by the session that the Sacrament be dispensed on the first Sunday of each quarter of the calendar year. The Sunday school report showed receipts of \$298.33 which, after deducting expenditure, left a balance of \$88.33. Scholars on roll 295 with an average attendance of 200. The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society reported as having held eleven meetings during the year, of having 55 members and nine life members. The average attendance at the meetings had been 20. Clothing valued at \$79.25 had been sent to the Crowland Mission School. The total receipts for the year had been \$130 and the expenditure \$10.28. The Ladies' Aid report showed receipts to the amount of \$367.51, and an expenditure of \$167.99, leaving a balance on hand of \$199.52. The officers of the Ladies' Aid are: President, Mrs. A. H. McDougall; 1st vice-president, Mrs. McMorran; 2nd vice-president, Miss McKay; secretary, Mrs. H. S. Campbell; treasurer, Miss Lizzie Masson.

It was a large and enthusiastic meeting that assembled in Bank street church to receive the annual congregational reports. Rev. Dr. Moore, the popular and able pastor, presided. The reports presented were of an eminently satisfactory character, showing no marks of decline in this large and influential congregation. The net membership is now 547; 36 new members were received; 5 died and 50 removed, leaving a decrease of 25. The session reported that Mr. Thurlow Fraser could commence his duties as assistant at a salary of \$1000, on 1st May next. There are 451 names on S. School roll, with an average attendance of 301; membership of Bible class 75. During the year \$152 had been subscribed to the Mission Fund. This with a balance of \$566 from the previous year, gave total receipts of \$1,018.68. The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society report was presented by Mrs. Dewar. The ladies raised \$223. The Young People's Association report, presented by J. T. Blythe, showed a year of quiet, steady and useful work. The debt had been reduced from \$74,000 to \$8,650. It is proposed to spend \$14,000 this year in repairs and improvements. Mr. Wm. Hutchison presented the treasurer's report, showing \$5,124.02 raised for all purposes, with an ex-

penditure of \$4,874.30, leaving a balance of \$249.72. Mr. John Fraser was elected treasurer, J. D. McGregor and J. T. Blythe were re-appointed auditors. Mr. Wm. McGillivray was elected to fill a vacancy on the trustee board. Messrs S. Stewart, J. D. Thompson, F. O. Hutchison, D. B. Gardiner, F. C. Gilbert and John Garrow were elected to the management committee.

The reports presented at the annual meeting of the Glebe congregation revealed an encouraging state of affairs. Three years ago it was a mission charge. Now, with the exception of some assistance given by the mother church—St. Andrews—it is self-supporting. The membership is now 97. During the past year 13 new members were added by certificate, and three by profession of faith. The receipts for the year were \$1,069, as against \$909 in 1899, an increase of \$70. The expenditure was \$1,066, leaving a balance on hand of \$3. The total membership of the Sunday School is 125; average attendance 91. The officers for the ensuing year are: Superintendent, Mr. John R. Reid; sec.-treas., Mr. J. A. Dalglish; librarian, Mr. J. A. Dalglish; assistant librarian, Arthur McAdam; teacher bible class, Rev. J. W. H. Milne. The report of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society showed great progress. The total membership is 31, with a monthly average attendance of 14. Receipts were \$37, with an expenditure of \$1.25, leaving a balance of \$35.75. The officers elected for the ensuing year are: President, Mrs. J. H. W. Milne; 1st vice-pres., Miss Tully, and vice-pres., Mrs. W. H. Cone; treasurer, Miss Back; secretary, Mrs. L. V. South; leaflet secretary, Mrs. John McEwan. The Ladies' Aid reported that during the year the total receipts were \$167, with an expenditure of \$131, leaving a balance of \$36. The following managers were elected for the ensuing year: J. A. McEwan, H. F. Webb, A. T. McKinnon, Jas. Skead, A. S. Robertson, John Carnochan, J. A. Watson, A. McElroy and J. M. McAdam. The pastor, Rev. J. W. H. Milne, who presided, has reason to be greatly encouraged in his work at the threshold of a new year.

Quebec Presbytery Notes.

Sawyer, Inverness and Levis, in the Presbytery of Quebec, are vacant. It is hoped that settlement will follow shortly.

At Kingsbury special evangelistic services were held by the Rev. J. Sutherland, newly settled there. Here communion was also held on the first Sabbath of the year, quite a number uniting with the church on profession of faith. Mr. Sutherland is meeting with much favor and appreciation in this field.

As illustrative of the trend and conditions of some congregations in the Province of Quebec it may be stated that a minister, in a congregation not lacking some importance, reports that not one marriage was celebrated within his congregation during 1900; that he had not a funeral of young or old; and that but one person was baptized.

At various points in the Presbytery of Quebec special services were held on the occasion of the passing away of one century and the incoming of another—including the observance of the Lord's Supper generally on the first Sabbath of the year, and midnight services at the close and opening of the centuries, in at least two churches, Chalmers, Quebec and St. Andrew's Three Rivers. In the former Church, Rev. D. Tait, pastor, dwelt on the following themes, "Religious Progress of the Nineteenth Century;" "Forgetting the things that are behind;" "The much land yet to be possessed" (Midnight service.)

At Three Rivers, Rev. J. R. MacLeod, pastor, dwelt upon the following themes or texts, "Thou shalt remember all the ways in which the Lord thy God led thee." "Arise, let us go hence," at midnight service. "They lodged there before they passed over;" and at one of the services of the first Sabbath of the century, "The messages of the Old to the New Century."

The annual entertainment of the Middleville congregation was a great success. The pastor, Rev. W. S. Smith, generally discharged the duties of the chair; and Rev. A. E. Mitchell, Almonte, Mr. P. C. McGregor, Almonte; Lt. A. Clyde Caldwell, Lanark, Mr. Wm. Atkins, reeve, contributed to the evening's enjoyment by speeches, readings and recitations; and these were interspersed by vocal and instrumental music. The ladies sustained their excellent reputation in the quantity and variety of the refreshments provided.