

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

ON Sabbath evening, April 17th, Rev. John Campbell, B.A., of Knox Church, Harriston, announced that he had made up his mind that he had work to do in Harriston, and would not accept this, the second call, from Pembina, Dakota.

ON Tuesday week the members of the Bible class connected with Central Church, Galt, presented the Rev. J. A. R. Dickson with an address, accompanied by a purse, as a slight token of the esteem in which he is held, and of the high value the members of the class put upon his instructions.

We are very sorry to learn that the Rev. Colin Fletcher has been for the last two weeks lying ill of fever in Hamilton. He came to supply, for a Sabbath, the pulpit of his brother, the Rev. D. H. Fletcher, who is at present on a trip to the old world, and was taken ill on the Saturday before, after he had got to the manse. He is now, we are glad to say, better, but at last accounts was still confined to bed.

THE handsome edifice built by the Knox Church congregation, of St. Mary's (Rev. W. A. Wilson, M.A., pastor), and opened last October, is now entirely free of debt. Mrs. Milner Harrison generously offered to subscribe two-thirds of the whole debt if the congregation would raise the balance. The scheme was at once and heartily adopted, and in two days the whole indebtedness, amounting to \$6,000, was removed. The congregation is to be congratulated on having its beautiful church so soon out of debt.

THE annual meeting of the Merriton Presbyterian congregation was held in the church, on April 13th. There was a good attendance of the congregation. Tea and refreshments were provided in great abundance, and ample justice done to the good things temptingly spread before the company. Rev. A. Urquhart occupied the chair in a very efficient manner. Several pieces of music were rendered by the choir and others. The congregational report was submitted by Mr. A. T. Fotheringham, which shewed the congregation to be growing in number as well as in liberality and general efficiency. A very interesting part of the programme was the presentation of a beautiful illuminated address to Mr. A. T. Fotheringham, from the congregation, in appreciation of his untiring zeal in the work of building up the congregation and Sabbath school.

WE are sorry to learn that St. Andrew's Church, Quebec, was last Sabbath morning very much damaged by fire. When discovered the flames had spread to the organ, which was totally destroyed, as well as several pews, a good portion of the flooring, portions of galleries, and all the handsome frescoing of the ceiling. Four stained glass windows were broken, the remainder, including several memorial ones, being saved. The organ cost \$2,300. It was insured for \$2,000 in the Commercial Union, and there is also in the same Company an insurance of \$1,000 on the stained glass windows. The building and contents is insured for \$13,000, of which \$8,000 is in the Etna, and \$5,000 in the Quebec. The estimated loss outside of the organ is \$10,000. Most of the congregation knew nothing of the fire until arriving at the church for service in the morning. Next Sabbath Rev. Dr. Cook will hold service in Morin College hall.

THE report of Knox Church, Toronto, for the last ten months of 1886 shews that for that period \$5,677.20 were contributed for congregational purposes, leaving a balance due the treasurer of \$603.97. For other purposes the contributions were such as to bring up the whole for the ten months to \$9,012.89. For the schemes of the Church the sum of \$2,281.83 was raised during the ten months, against \$2,035.35 for the previous twelve months. Of this sum \$700 went to the Home Missions; \$550 to Foreign Missions; \$237.65 to French Evangelization; \$500 to Knox College, and the rest among the other schemes. The number on the communion roll on the 1st of January, 1887, was 525, a net increase of sixty on the year. As in most other congregations, we find by the printed list of contributors to the schemes of the Church given in this report, that not one-half of the members of Knox Church give anything to the extra-congregational work of the church, and that while some give liberally—in one or two cases as much as \$120 each, and in one \$130—the average does not exceed \$10 each of those who give, and would not amount to \$5 if all gave something.

ON the 19th inst. the induction of the Rev. Mr. McGillivray, the new pastor of St. James's Church, London, took place, when Rev. Mr. McConnell, of Delaware, preached an appropriate sermon from 1 Cor. ii. 2. Dr. Proudfoot, Moderator, put the usual questions, which were satisfactorily answered, and the Rev. Messrs. Cuthbertson, Murray, J. K. Wright, Henderson and Mungo Fraser assisted in the service. At eight o'clock in the evening the body of the church was fairly filled on the occasion of an enjoyable social. An excellent repast was provided and partaken of amid the most jovial social conversation. Rev. Mr. Cuthbertson occupied the chair, and with a few humorous and lively remarks, introduced the Rev. Messrs. Johnston, Murray and Heron, who all spoke in complimentary terms of Mr. McGillivray, and heartily congratulated the congregation on their success in obtaining his services, and also the reverend gentleman on his charge. Mr. McGillivray spoke briefly and forcibly, expressing his zeal and earnestness in the charge he had undertaken, and the audience dispersed well pleased with the evening's entertainment. The choir furnished excellent music during the evening, and a large collection was taken up.

SUSTENTATION FUND.

MR. EDITOR,—May it please you to allow me a small space in your paper to refer to a communication which I have been reading in THE PRESBYTERIAN of April the 8th, from one who signs himself "A Representative Elder." He asks whether laymen know what they are doing in allowing Presbyteries to report in favour of a sustentation scheme, and seems to think that nobody knows it but himself. I claim to have a little knowledge as well, and am just of the same mind with that one minister in the Presbytery of Barrie of whom he speaks as giving his reason—because ministers under the present system are too much at the mercy of the congregations. I think if the Elder could see with my specs he would say so too, but he says if the highest aim in getting sustentation inaugurated is to add to ministers' security and independence, then he will not be a contributor. Now, it is just that that would cause me to contribute. He speaks of it as being a selfish matter. He might as well say so of the workman or the mechanic who would desire to know what he was going to have for his work although the employer was honest enough. But I think we ought to look at it from higher authority, even from His who says that the labourer is worthy of his reward. The very worst, however, has yet to be spoken. The Elder says if they are merely or even principally preaching for money, the sooner they are starved out the better. Oh, fie! Has this been God's way of dealing towards you? Nay, it is not His way of dealing towards any, for He giveth meat even to hungry ravens when they cry to Him. But I favour sustentation because it is voluntary, and because it will contribute more largely and more evenly to the wants of ministers. There is a good deal of fault found with the present scheme because of its imperfectness; but what work did ever any person commence that was perfect? There has been a superabundance of talking and writing about it. Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do do it with all thy might, and if the thing is good, as I believe it is, it will be matured when gone about, not till then.

WM. COLTART.

Harwich, Chatham P.O.

CHURCH EXTENSION FUND.

MR. EDITOR,—One of our prominent and highly respected ministers in the eastern provinces has written me, in reference to a "Church Extension Fund." With his consent I send you the substance of his letter, that brethren in the west may give their views regarding this important proposal.

"What do you think of the propriety of setting on foot a 'mission church extension scheme,' the object of which will be to raise a fund of \$100,000 for the planting of mission churches throughout the Dominion, more especially in the Muskoka and Manitoba regions? If there were some such scheme by which people in scattered districts of a new country might receive loans of \$400, or gifts of \$200, towards the erection of Presbyterian churches, I conceive great advantages in several ways.

"1. It would greatly aid the Home Mission and the French Evangelization Committees, in their operations.

"2. In districts where settlers are few, and of a

mixed character, the possibility of getting \$400 towards building a Presbyterian church would frequently decide the future denomination of the district.

"3. The planting of one hundred missions in the Muskoka district would give our Church an enduring hold of that country.

"4. The future of Manitoba and the North-West depends largely upon what is to be done in the next ten or twenty years. If we could erect a Presbyterian church in every new district it would give us permanently the leading position in that great country.

"These, among others, are reasons for establishing such a fund as I have mentioned. It may be doubted whether it would be proper or prudent to add one more to the multiplicity of schemes already in operation, especially considering the lack of endowment for our halls and the difficulty of raising our present revenue. But I think this a matter of pressing importance and one which would commend itself to the liberality of the Church above many other schemes.

"I do not claim credit for originating this new proposal. It is the suggestion of one of the most liberal men in our Church—one who already gives nearly \$1,000 a year to the schemes of the Church. Last week we had a conversation on the matter, and I have since received a letter from him, strongly advocating the immediate starting of such a scheme, in which he says: 'To prove my sincerity I promise you one thousand dollars to the fund, and only regret that my circumstances prevent me from making the offer ten times the amount.'"

The proposal of my brother must, I am sure, commend itself to everyone interested in the extension of our Zion. Indeed, such a fund is now absolutely demanded if our work in Muskoka and the North-west is to succeed in proportion to the missionary effort that is now put forth. The settlers in these new districts are doing what they can in the way of church building, but they greatly need the aid and stimulus that such a fund would afford. There are also many destitute localities in Ontario and Quebec, and doubtless in the eastern provinces, where it would be of great use. I would only add at present that in my judgment such a fund should be raised mainly by large subscriptions, without infringing upon the regular schemes of the Church now in operation.

WM. COCHRANE.

FROM THE FREE CHURCH "RECORD" FOR APRIL.

Canada.—Dr. Cochrane, of Brantford, Ontario, Convener, Home Missions, Western Section, writing lately, says: "The calls from the North-West are clamant. We have just sent an able missionary to Prince Albert; out to overtake the territory of ninety miles, full of groups of Presbyterians, we need to send several others. Manitoba also needs five more at least. I do hope, in view of the fact that many Scottish emigrants are settling in that great lone land, your Committee will not forget us. Our Church can overtake Ontario and Quebec mission work; but, unless the British Churches give generous aid, Manitoba and the great North-West must be lost to Presbyterianism. Three-fourths of all of the emigrants are of our denomination, and everything depends upon active effort now."

Manitoba.—The following appeal has, by authority of the Committee, been issued to a good many members of the Church. It is signed by the Convener and Secretary:

"The Committee have this year been obliged to cut down their grants to the Canadian Church Home Missions from £600 (at which figure they stood last year), to £150. If they had given more they would have run the risk of getting into debt, and thus they scrupulously avoid. The collection in June last was a small one, only about £1,000, whereas £2,400 was the average quite recently. Moreover, the year was begun with a much less balance than usual, and donations and legacies have not been quite up to the mark of ordinary years.

"The claim upon us of Manitoba are felt to be stronger than ever. No less than 39,000 emigrants settled in Canada in 1886, of whom large numbers went to that lone land, as it has been called, so inviting by the fertility of its soil and the almost boundlessness of its dimensions. Three-fourths of the population in that region are Presbyterians. The Canadian Church can overtake Ontario and Quebec, but not Manitoba. The British Churches must aid her if she is to supply the means of grace to, and so retain hold of, our people there.