

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

The opening of Knox College on Wednesday last week brought back about half a hundred of the students, and they have been coming in since that day in twos and threes. By enrolment day there will be quite the usual number present. There seems to be a tendency to seek lodging outside the College building. Some room out and dine in the College, thus reversing a former custom. There should be an advantage in residence; and we believe that were it possible to have a resident professor or a resident dean, the College residence would once more become popular.

The opening lecture this year was given by Professor MacLaren, who chose as his subject "The Spirit and the Word." The part taken by the Spirit in the giving of the Word was only touched upon, the lecturer dealing altogether with the part taken by the Holy Spirit now in the interpretation and appreciation of the Word.

In his remarks at the opening of the meeting Principal Caven dealt specially with the cry that there are now too many ministers, and pointed out that the supply was not yet equal to the demand; and that, indeed, there was a most urgent call for consecrated men to take up this work. "We believe this to be true, if we understand 'consecrated' in the sense in which Dr. Caven understood it. If they are 'self-devoted,' if they have not been thrust forward by parents desirous of having a son in the ministry, or have not entered the ranks of the ministerial profession, there is need for such men. But it ought to be understood that the ministry is neither a trade or a profession, but a calling, to which response has been made by the one called into it—'Here am I, send me.'"

Some matters of importance were discussed at the meetings of the Senate and of the Board, and at the joint meeting of these two bodies. The gravity of the situation has seized upon the minds of both Board and Senate, and steps are being taken to meet it. An executive has been appointed to carefully consider matters pertaining to the staff and to temporal affairs in connection with the building; and this small body will have an interesting report to submit when next the Board and Senate are called together. In all probability the name of one to fill the proposed new chair will be reported. It is well to know that the very best that can be done is being done, and the Church may well trust the men who are directing affairs.

Already announcements are being made of the plans for winter work. Some will give special courses of sermons and lectures; some will devote special attention to the Young People's Societies; some will watch the interests of the Sabbath; some will seek to strengthen the work in all its departments. In all there is one dominant purpose—the building up of spiritual character and the winning of recruits for Christ's Kingdom. It is noticeable that there is little desire for self-glorification; the great aim is spiritual progress, and the personal agent by which this is secured is considered of little moment.

Eastern Ontario.

Rev. D. Stewart, wife and daughter, of Laquerre, P. Q., were the guests of Mr. D. Fraser, Lancaster, last week.

The Presbyterians of Kirkburn are taking steps towards church improvements. The building will undergo thorough renovation.

Rev. Mr. McCallum, of Glen Sandfield, preached in the Free Kirk pulpit last Sabbath, while Rev. J. McLean occupied the St. Columba church pulpit last Sabbath in the absence of Rev. Mr. MacKenzie.

Rev. Mr. Fairlie and family have left Lansdowne for Kingston, where they will reside. A correspondent says: "Deep regret is felt by all that his health will not permit of his continuing in the ministry. During his ten years' labors here he made many warm friends who admired and esteemed him for his upright Christian character and sympathetic manner."

On the eve of their departure for California Mr. and Mrs. James Findlay, Pembroke, were made the recipients of an appreciative address, read by Rev. Dr. Bayne, and a presentation was made by Mr. A. Thompson. Sheriff Moffatt was in the chair, and many kind words were spoken of Mr. Findlay and his partner in life, whose departure is deeply regretted, not only by Zion church, of which they were active members, but by the townspeople generally.

Ottawa.

Rev. Robert Eadie, Bethany church, Hintonburg, and Rev. Mr. Findlay, Stittsville and Bell's Corners, exchanged pulpits last Sunday.

The quarterly communion service was held in the Glebe church last Sabbath morning, the pastor officiating. There was a large attendance of members.

Rev. Mr. Potter, of the Sailors' Mission, preached in the New Edinburgh church in the morning, and in the Glebe in the evening. His always listened to with interest.

The canvassing books for the canvass of the city to be made by the Presbyterian Sunday Schools, were sent out Saturday to the Superintendents by the convener of the committee, Rev. D. M. Ramsay. On the return of the canvassing books the superintendents will call the meetings of their teachers, and the districts to be visited by each one will be assigned.

Rev. J. H. Milne, of the Glebe church, has undertaken to complete in Ottawa the canvassing that was begun by Rev. Dr. Campbell, for the Century Fund. A goodly part of the subscriptions in Ottawa will likely be devoted to wiping off the debt on the Ladies' College. This laudable object will receive the sympathetic assistance of Ottawa Presbyterians.

Rev. A. A. Cameron has been making a strong plea against the sin of profanity so prevalent on the streets of our cities. Here are a couple of pithy sentences: Did it ever occur to the profane that oaths and curses are terrible prayers? What if all these prayers and curses were to fall on the heads of those spoken of, or were to come back upon the man who utters them! After a man has sent everybody about him to hell, what mercy can he hope for?

Rev. Dr. Armstrong preached in St. Paul's church last Sunday on the subject, "How to Make Giving a Pleasure." Most people, he said, understand how getting is a pleasure, but not giving, which is to most anything but a pleasure. The secret of happy giving can only be found by those who recognize that all they have belongs to God and they are but stewards. There is stewardship in the administration of one dollar as well as in a million. Young men should begin to administer their earnings. A thoughtful interest must accompany all right giving. No one can have pleasure in giving to church, hospitals, schools, etc., unless they see the gifts administered properly.

At the adjourned congregational meeting at the Bank street church Monday night, before any resolution was proposed. Dr. Moore, who presided, said that he entered cordially into the movement to procure an assistant minister and stated that he, entirely independent of what the congregation might do, would contribute \$800 per year towards the assistant's salary. The following motion was then made by Mr. A. W. Fraser and Mr. A. W. Ault, and was carried unanimously: "The congregation at a meeting held September 24th, having decided to procure the services of an assistant minister, now further agrees to place in the estimate of 1900, the sum of \$2,800 for the salaries of the pastor and his assistant, and refers the whole matter to the session and managers to be by them carried into effect in such manner as they think best."

Northern Ontario.

The Rev. Mr. Beckett, Magnetawan, conducted the services in Knox church, Sundridge, on Sunday.

The Presbyterian choir of Manitowaning held the harvest home at White Lake, and had "a good time."

Rev. Neil Campbell, of Oro, preached on the Century Fund in the Presbyterian church, Lefroy, on Sunday evening.

Dr. J. Fraser Smith, returned missionary from India, occupied the Bradford pulpit last Sabbath and preached with much acceptance. The rev. gentleman will return next week to hold preparatory services and to dispense the Communion in Bradford and the Scotch Settlement on Sabbath, 14th inst. The Rev. F. D. Roxborough, M. A., lately returned from studying in Germany, will preach next Sabbath.

The Rev. D. Johnston, Sundridge, who some weeks ago received and accepted a call from Guthrie church, township of Moore, Presbytery of Sarnia, preached his farewell sermon in Knox church on Sunday evening. Physically not very strong, he considered it his duty to accept the call, which he had not sought, to a less laborious field. In the choir and C. E. meetings Mr. Johnston was ever ready to give a helping hand, and in every possible way was to her husband a willing and successful helper. At the farewell

meeting addresses were presented both Mr. and Mrs. Johnston, expressive of the high esteem in which they were held by the congregation.

A destructive fire occurred recently at the Presbyterian manse, Collingwood, the home of the Rev. Dr. McCrae. When the fire was discovered shortly after eleven o'clock at night, the interior of the building was ablaze from the ground floor to the roof. The contents, including the doctor's library, were totally destroyed. The building was insured for \$1,300; the contents for \$1,800. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

The Rev. Mr. Ferguson, returned missionary from China, conducted a special service Sunday forenoon in Knox church, Sundridge, to a large and deeply interested congregation. Mr. Ferguson labored for six and a half years in China, during which time he travelled 45,000 miles, and is consequently well acquainted with the customs, habits and condition of the Chinese people. Notwithstanding the many trials and persecutions he endured while prosecuting his work, his determination is to return so soon as the present troubles are settled.

The good people of St. Andrew's church, Beaverton, accorded their minister and his young bride a cordial welcome on their return from the wedding trip. The ladies of the congregation had the arrangements in hand, and right well were they carried out. Mr. B. Madill generally discharged the duties of chairman, when several congratulatory speeches were made, to which Mr. Best replied in appropriate terms. The presentation of a well filled purse to the young minister was another evidence of the thoughtfulness and good will of the people. Mr. Best has done well in going to the old Flarrah manse for his life partner; and THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN extends to him and Mrs. Best its hearty congratulations on the happy event that has given a mistress to another manse.

Quebec.

Dr. Campbell's discourses at Buckingham on Sunday resulted in several large contributions to the Century Fund.

The Rev. Placide Boudreau, late of the Presbytery of Chicago, was received as a minister of this church in Quebec Presbytery, by consent of the Assembly.

Rev. K. MacLennan, M. A., minister of Levis, tendered his resignation owing to continued and severe illness. The resignation will be dealt with by Presbytery on the 16th Oct.

The Rev. Dr. Campbell, agent for the Century Fund, was heard at length at the Presbytery in Quebec; and by his aid arrangements were made for the canvass of the whole Presbytery by the 1st Dec.

Rev. M. H. Scott, Hull, has had his left eye operated on to remove a cataract which had been slowly growing for years and latterly was proving troublesome. The result so far has been satisfactory.

Mr. O. F. MacCutcheon made application at the last meeting of Quebec Presbytery to be taken under the care of the Presbytery as a student having the ministry in view. Mr. MacCutcheon was encouraged to go forward; and was certified to the Presbyterian College, Montreal.

The parlor social at Mrs. Norman MacLean's, Aylmer, on Tuesday evening of last week, was a most agreeable affair. Vocal and instrumental music with social intercourse among pleasant people, afforded an evening of unmixt enjoyment. The presence of the pastor was greatly appreciated.

Formal intimation having been given to the Presbytery of Quebec of the sudden death by accident, or the Rev. Jno. MacLeod, Vankleek Hill, business was suspended for a time and three members, at the call of the moderator, engaged in prayer. A resolution expressive of the Presbytery's sympathy with the bereaved family was ordered to be engrossed in the minutes; also a like resolution called forth by the death of Mr. Wm. Sutherland, a member of the court, and for many years an elder of Chalmers' church, Quebec.

Quebec Presbytery, at its meeting on 24th Sept., considered the resignation of Rev. N. MacKay, Marshboro. After hearing Mr. MacKay for himself, and Mr. A. MacLean for the congregation, expressing the congregation's attachment to Mr. MacKay, their sorrow at the prospect of losing him, the Presbytery unanimously resolved to lay the resignation on the table, to suggest to Mr. MacKay a complete rest for a period of six months in the hope that his health may be restored. To this proposal the representative of the congregation cordially consented, and Mr. MacKay gave his consent.