

Church News

[All communications to this column ought to be sent to the Editor immediately after the occurrences to which they refer have taken place.]

Montreal Notes.

There is no doubt that the great event of the week so far as the religious public are concerned has been the Bazaar held in the Victoria Rink in aid of the Surgical Instrument Fund of the Montreal General Hospital. Whatever difference of opinion there may be as to the propriety of resorting to such methods for the purpose of raising money for religious and philanthropic objects there is no doubt about the enthusiasm which can be aroused in this way for any charity which appeals to the mind of the whole community. The amount aimed at is not an extravagant one, about ten thousand dollars, and it is altogether likely to be realized before the accounts are closed, and probably every one of the hundreds of ladies who have given their aid in this way will have a deeper interest in the institution for the rest of their lives because of the service they have rendered on its behalf. Happily the two features of raffling and exorbitant charges so frequently associated with bazaars seem to be entirely absent in this effort, and the small purse as well as the large one could find some pleasant way of contributing to the cause of relief for the suffering.

The week has also been markedly a variety of conventions of greater or less importance. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union held its annual meeting at Knowlton in the Eastern Townships. Encouraging reports were given in by the various Committees and earnest plans laid for future work especially in view of the plebiscite on the question of Prohibition that is likely to be taken during the coming year. On this point it was resolved (a) That each union at once start a plebiscite fund; (b) That when the proper time comes unions co-operate with other temperance organizations in arranging meetings, securing speakers, etc.; (c) That unions make a thorough canvass of the electorate; (d) That they furnish material for a plebiscite column in local papers; (e) That they secure suitable literature and distribute it; (f) That the W.C.T.U. petition the Dominion Government to use the municipal voters' list at the taking of the plebiscite; (g) That efforts be made to revive old unions and form new in view of the work connected with the plebiscite. Evidently the ladies propose to take some share in the contest whether allowed to vote or not.

The Dominion Christian Endeavor Convention in Ottawa drew many representatives from Montreal and vicinity prominent among whom was the Rev. W. D. Reid pastor of Victoria Church and President of the Quebec Provincial Union. The gathering seems to have made a good impression and to have proved helpful to those able to be present.

A smaller meeting than either of these was the Convention of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew held in the city. This organization which has an extensive membership in the United States is only beginning to make headway in this quarter, but the idea is a taking one and it is likely to make progress through the enthusiasm of its promoters. Among the most earnest of these is Mr. T. R. Clougher of Toronto who in addition to making various public addresses was active in the Committee work with good effect.

The opening of the Presbyterian College took place on Wednesday evening in the David Morrice Hall. Notwithstanding the unfavorable weather and the counter attraction of the General Hospital bazaar there was a good attendance of the friends of the College along with the students to hear Dr. Barclay's lecture on "Doctrine and Life." As no doubt a fuller account of the proceedings will be given in another column it need only be said here that the lecturer fully sustained his high reputation for eloquence and plainness of statement which left no excuse for some of the absurd and distorted reports of his address that appeared in the city dailies. Both in its

thought and tone it was all that the most ardent friend of the institution could have desired and gave most satisfactory promise of the success of the class which he is to teach this session during the Principal's absence. The theological classes this year are likely to be unusually large. Mr. Morrice, the Chairman of the Board was present among others on the platform looking exceedingly well after his recent trip to Britain.

The Congregational College opened a few days ago with sixteen students on its roll. Dr. Barbour the Principal has resigned owing to advancing years and will retire after the close of the present session.

The friends of the Sabbath will be glad to learn that a meeting of representatives from the various Protestant churches was held a few days ago to consider the advisability of forming a Lord's Day Alliance for the Province of Quebec along the same lines as that already existing in Ontario. It was decided to call a public meeting for that purpose in a few weeks, when a constitution will be presented for acceptance, and members will be invited to join under it with a view to restraining the growing disregard for the day, both in city and country, especially at the summer resorts.

General.

The Rev. Dr. Campbell of Renfrew Convener of the General Assembly's Agitation Committee has been nominated by the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew for Moderator of the next General Assembly.

At a congregational meeting held in the Presbyterian Church Cannington on Oct. 5th it was decided to extend a call to Rev. J. A. Matheson B.D. formerly of Calgary Presbytery. Mr. Matheson has at present two other calls under consideration—one from Charleston and Alton in Orangeville Presbytery and one from Delhi and Windham Centre in the Presbytery of Paris.

The Rev. Alexander Miller of Moss received a unanimous call from the congregation of Ashfield in the Presbytery of Midland.

Rev. Mr. Burns, Secty. of the new association, formed in the interest of Knox College, reports 82 ordinary members, and 7 life members.

The Association starts with good prospects of success.

Intimation is made of a bequest of \$2,500 from the late Mr. Garson, Gananoque, in aid of the Presbyterian church extension in that portion of the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew which lies between Arnprior and Lake Temiscamingue.

Rev. Wm. Bromner preached his farewell sermon in the Presbyterian church, Stittsville, on Sunday. He will be succeeded by Rev. Mr. McCauley.

Knox church, Warwick in Saratoga Presbytery has suffered heavily during the last few years through deaths and removals, among other losses being that of the late Hugh McKenzie, M. P. P., who was one of its Elders. But the congregation though weakened, has not lost courage. Extensive repairs were resolved upon, and the church was closed during the month of August while they were being carried out. It was reopened Sept. 6th the Rev. Mr. Fortune preaching at two services. Mr. Fortune's sermons were greatly appreciated by crowded audiences. On Monday evening the 7th a tea meeting was held, a delightful and profitable programme of music speeches and recitations was carried out, the pastor Rev. Wm. Graham occupying the chair. Mr. Fortune spoke of some modern tendencies in religious and social life, in a manner equally lucid, interesting and humorous. The total cost has been about \$270, of which more than two thirds has already been raised. This church in conjunction with Watford, now vacant, is a most promising charge to the fortunate man who may receive a call to it.

Ian Maclaren.

The coming of Rev. John Watson, D.D., of Liverpool, better known as Ian Maclaren, author of "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush" and other heart-searching stories, is exciting

more interest in Toronto than any other lecture event for many years. Perhaps no author since Dickens' time has given out books that so reach the inner heart of mankind as those of Ian Maclaren. Novels are not read by a certain large proportion of the people, but this very field is the one that the "Bonnie Brier Bush" has filled.



REV. JOHN WATSON (IAN MACLAREN.)

This book and its companion volumes have convinced multitudes that there is good in fiction if the fiction is good. In an interview, Manager Suckling the other day stated, that, never since he began the management of Massey Music Hall had he received so many letters from outside towns and cities enquiring prices and asking for reserved seats, as have already reached him about Ian Maclaren's lecture on Monday, October 19th. The prices will be 75 cents and \$1, with a number of admissions at 50 cents. At New York the sales were almost unprecedented (second only to Stanley's first lecture appearance). It is certain that a great crowd will greet Ian Maclaren, not only of our own citizens but people from a distance.

India—Honan Presbytery.

A regular meeting of the Honan Presbytery took place at Ch'u Wang, July 25-27; the moderator, Wm. Malcolm, in the chair. Interim reports were presented from our three stations, Ch'u Wang, Hsin Chen and Chang te fu. At Ch'u Wang, work in all branches has gone on without interruption, the work at the station has been larger than ever before. The number of patients treated being unprecedented in the history of our Mission, and quite phenomenal in a mission which is so new. Since January 1 there have been 15,528 treatments, the largest number on any one day having been 216. Preaching to both men and women, in the hospital and chapel has been carried on steadily each day, being heard with manifest signs of interest by many. The out-stations have been visited regularly. At Hsin Chen evangelistic services were carried on each evening in the new hospital compound, which were attended by large numbers of natives, until the busy harvest season kept them away, when the meetings were discontinued. The medical work grew rapidly for a time, but latterly diminished through the extortion and rascality of the first medical assistant, who has since been dismissed from our employ. The pastors toured for three months continuously. At Chang te fu the summer heat has lessened the numbers attending the chapel. Mr. Gelforth has passed safely through a serious illness. The Roman Catholics have induced some of our probationers to join them. Fourteen new probationers have been enrolled.

Measures were taken for the erection of chapels in out-stations where most needed. The treasurer reported having had the Agency charges at Tientsin reduced by \$50. A scheme for the establishment of a small school at Chang te fu, for the sons of Christian parents was discussed and transmitted for approval to the Foreign Mission Committee. The request for a lady physician for Chang te fu was renewed.