

## OTTAWA.

At the twenty-ninth annual meeting of Mackay church, Rev. P. W. Anderson presided. The membership is 254, according to the report from the session. The financial report showed total receipts for the year of \$2,761.86, leaving a surplus of \$95.3. Mr. B. Shinn resigned as treasurer, and Mr. E. B. Holt was appointed to the position. Mr. T. B. Rankin was appointed secretary of the church.

The reports presented at the annual meeting of Bethany congregation, Hintonburgh, were of a very satisfactory nature. The session roll showed 150 members; deaths, 7; marriages, 7; baptisms, 21; benevolent fund, \$16. The members are the pastor, Rev. Robert Edie, R. Scannell, W. McAdoo and Jno. Leadloor. The manager's ordinary income for the past year was \$938.24. \$750 were subscribed for the building fund, and there is a balance on hand of \$21.

Billing's Bridge Church is doing well. The contributions for all purposes during the year amounted to about \$1,400. The treasurer's report showed a substantial balance on the right side. An organ costing \$250 was installed. This amount has been subscribed and only a small balance remains to be paid in. The amount contributed for the support of the schemes of the church was larger than on any previous year. The spirit of liberality and loyalty for which the congregation is noted continues. Miss C. C. Nicol, the efficient organist, was made the recipient of an address and a valuable gift in slight appreciation of her faithful services during several years. Ingratitude

## HAMILTON.

The gross revenue of Central Church last year was \$8,328.67; current expenses, \$8,486.62; balance on hand \$142.05. Special collections will be taken to wipe off \$1,874.86 owing a local bank.

In Knox church the membership of 1,119 was increased the past year by 76. Members present promised to raise \$1,000 by the 1st of April, for reduction of debt. Total receipts, \$11,397.

St. John's Church meeting was presided over by the pastor, Rev. John Young. Total revenue \$6,729.48; balance 803. A suggestion that a building for a gymnasium, at a cost of \$3,500 or \$4,000, be erected, did not meet with favor.

Macnab Street Church, decided to give Rev. Dr. Fletcher, who has been pastor nearly thirty-three years, a retiring allowance of \$300. The meeting was harmonious, and the appreciation of his services was warmly expressed in various reports. Receipts totalled \$5,093.93, and there was a small balance. It was announced that the congregation had given Mrs. (Rev.) Fletcher \$160, as a token of appreciation.

St. Paul's Church meeting, Mr. John Knox in the chair, showed a very satisfactory state of affairs. The church raised \$12,774, gave over \$3,000 to missions and had a surplus of almost \$1,300. Membership, 719. It was announced that next summer the congregation of St. Paul's Central and Macnab Street Churches would likely hold joint services in such manner as to close each church six weeks. A very sensible move, and one that might well have been made years ago.

The church census takers, after a good many hours hard work, concluded their labors. The census showed the number of people who had some church preference at 49,512. This was taking them by families. There were 1,736 cards handed in by the canvassers as people belonging to no Church and having no Church preference. Estimating these as representing families of five persons each, it would show Hamilton's population to be 58,172, a trifle over the figures of the assessors in their last census. The principal denominations ranked as follows in membership and preference: Presbyterian, 11,735; Methodist, 11,642; Church of England, 10,988; Roman Catholic, 7,819; Baptist, 3,049. The Christian Workers came next with 857. Then there were Lutherans, 681; Congregationalists, 657; Hebrews, 593. Salvation Army, 349; Plymouth Brethren, 338. There were 74 Spiritualists. The people of all denominations over eighteen years of age attending church numbered 24,894; attending Sunday school, 4,229. Of the people under eighteen years of age 7,293 attended church, and 7,077 Sunday school.

## WESTERN ONTARIO.

Rev. Dr. J. K. Smith, formerly minister of Knox Church, is now seriously indisposed at the Imperial Hotel, Galt.

The entertainment and Christmas tree under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid of Livingston Church, realized the handsome sum of \$75.00.

The affairs of Central Church congregation were shown to be in a highly satisfactory condition by the various reports read at the annual meeting on Tuesday evening. Progress was made in all departments last year and in addition to the regular church ministrations being maintained in an efficient state, two representatives were supported in the home mission field and one in the foreign field, the latter being Rev. Mr. Mitchell, records of whose work in China are most gratifying. The session reported a membership of 763. The total receipts were \$8,731.65. The liabilities amount to only \$5,279.57, the assets being \$43,281.63. Under the vigorous and faithful pastorate of Dr. Dickson this congregation continues to do valiant work for the Master.

At the recent meeting of Guelph Presbytery a report was presented from the committee on the nomination of persons thought qualified to fill the vacant chairs in the Presbyterian College, Montreal. After deliberation it was agreed to send on the following names: W. G. Hannay, B.A., of Mount Forest, for the chair of Old Testament Literature and Exegesis; G. B. Wilson, Ph.D., of Winnipeg, for that of Apologetics and Church History; and Dr. Robert Johnston, of Montreal, for that of Practical Theology. For the vacancy caused in the professional staff of Knox College, by the lamented death of the late Principal Caven, the name of Mr. G. L. Robinson, at one time one of the professors, but now in McCormack Seminary, Chicago, was recommended.

A very pleasant "surprise" party was given at the home of Mrs. Holwell recently when a number of the congregation of Livingston church took possession of the house, and from an array of baskets furnished generous refreshments. An address to Miss Laura Holwell, organist, was then read and Miss Livingston and Miss Melrose handed her a well-filled purse; after which her pastor, Rev. Dr. Armstrong, spoke appreciative words of Miss Holwell's faithful services in church and Sabbath school, expressing the feeling of all present that where ever her lot is cast she may find pleasure in her labor of love. Dr. Armstrong was then requested to accept a purse of \$50.00 from the congregation, as a small token of the love and esteem entertained for him by the whole membership. This is not the first time during the Doctor's short stay amongst the people of Baden that they have shown their appreciation of his services. After partaking of daintily prepared refreshments all went home feeling it was good to be there.

## LITERARY NOTES.

Several subjects discussed in the January Fortnightly (Leonard Scott Publication Company, New York) are suggested directly by the war now in progress. These include: "The British and German Fleets"; "The Awakening of Russia"; and Alfred Stead's "A Question of Good Faith and National Expediency." Percival Landon has a eulogy or appreciation of the city of London, and "Etonensis" writes of Eton under Hornby. Of a general and literary interest are articles on: Recollections of Arthur Sullivan, Anton Rubinstein, Sainte-Beuve; and Mr. Swinburne's Collected Poems.

Perhaps the most interesting article in the January Contemporary (Leonard Scott Publication Company, New York) is that by Alexander Ulas on "The Policy of the Dalai-Lama," in which the Tibet question is well handled. In Physical Deterioration and the Teaching of Cookery Mrs. Mary A. Davies writes in a rational and striking way in favour of making cooking one of the chief objects of study to be taught all girls. An interesting article is that on Robert Browning and Alfred Domett; and under Foreign Affairs Dr. E. J. Dillon treats of the war in his usual skilful style.

How dark soever be the clouds, they are the dust of our Father's feet.—Joseph Parker

## MONTREAL.

St. Giles' Church is making steady progress. There are now 404 communicants on the roll, and 200 families connected with the congregation. The income last year amounted to \$3,500. The amount devoted to missionary work was twenty-five per cent. in excess of any previous year.

A prosperous year is reported in the work of Knox Church, which has now 75 members in full communion. The financial report showed that \$10,000 in all had been collected during the year. Rev. James Fleck, who has been pastor of Knox Church, twenty-eight years, addressed the meeting and declared that the work of the past year had been satisfactory in every particular. The following officers were elected: president, Mr. James Kent; treasurer, Mr. John McD. Hains; secretary, Mr. Andrew Morrison. Board of Management—Messrs. William Cairns, J. R. Binning, D. S. Benzie, H. P. Picken and J. Hugh Peattie.

At the annual meeting of Taylor church it was reported that 163 had been admitted to membership during the year, making the total 801. The receipts amounted to \$10,587, of which sum \$1,237 was devoted to missionary purposes. The reports read showed that the various organizations of the church were in a very prosperous and healthy condition, that the officials and leaders were alert and enthusiastic in their work, and that no trace of depression could be found. The pastor, Rev. W. D. Reid, congratulated the congregation on the good work being done, asked for their sympathy and prayers, and predicted a successful year's work for 1905. His announcement that the call to Baltimore would not take him away from them was received with applause.

## WINNIPEG AND WEST.

The Central Congregational Church has called Rev. J. L. Gordon, of Bond Street Church, Toronto. Salary \$5,000, and a free manse.

St. Giles' annual meeting was largely attended. The missionary contributions amounted to \$246. Besides this amount, a total of \$393 had been raised by the various church societies for missionary work. The amount received by envelope and open collection was \$1,719, and the total contributions for all purposes amounted to \$2,825.

At the annual meeting of St. Paul's Principal Patrick presided. The membership was increased during the year by 138. The church has been greatly enlarged, and a new organ placed. Rev. C. H. Stewart's salary was increased by \$300. The total receipts for the year were \$4,518.65.

In tendering his resignation as pastor of St. Giles' church, Rev. John Hogg stated that he was in his seventy-sixth year, the congregation needed a new church, and he felt unequal to the strain this task would involve. Whoever undertook the work would have to carry an unequal burden, and he thought it could be best accomplished by a younger man working with the congregation in the favor of a first love. Many regrets were expressed at the resignation of Mr. Hogg, who is greatly beloved by his congregation, and the Presbytery appointed a committee composed of Rev. Dr. Reid, Rev. Dr. Bryce, Rev. J. W. Macmillan and D. Sinclair to confer with St. Giles' congregation regarding the resignation.

## THE GOFORTH FUND.

It has been usual to keep a circular letter, about this season, reminding Alumni of Knox College who have been contributing towards the support of Mr. Goforth, that contributions are due. Instead of this reminder through the press will suffice. It is, of course, understood that the efforts of congregations who desire to have their gifts credited to their congregations whilst contributing to this fund can do so by transmitting through the congregational treasurer.

The Alumni have unabated confidence in Mr. Goforth as a missionary who does not spare himself, and whose labours have been largely blessed. The Homan mission is one of conspicuous helpfulness and Mr. Goforth has been a prominent factor in its success. For about fifteen years he has been the special missionary of his fellow graduates of Knox College, and it is hoped this mutual interest and sympathy will be maintained. R. P. MacKay.