

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

After the bustle of Christmas and the New Year the business of ordinary life is being resumed. Some of the home-comers have lingered but these are those who have not been long enough gone from us to count as strangers amongst us yet. The holiday season was essentially a season for home-gatherings, and one who passed through the streets on either day felt lonely. Only the wanderers were to be seen.

In the churches almost all the pastors held service on the first day of the new century. Of the addresses this may be said, all seemed to have a hopeful outlook. The past has been full of blessing, the future seems surcharged with light, and men step into it with bright faces. It is a hopeful sign of the realization of their visions that men are so conscious of the spiritual possibilities of the present, and are everywhere waiting for that blessing that makes success assured.

There are many evidences of this expectant spirit. Already there are results apparent from Christmas of many names waiting at one source for the fulfilment of a promise. They hold communion as they wait, they speak with each other of the thing they hold in common, and they are insensibly drawn closer. So we do not feel surprised when union meetings are announced, and are well attended.

In Broadway Tabernacle, on Friday evening last, there was such a meeting. It is a Methodist Church; the Chairman was a Presbyterian; the speaker was a Baptist, Congregationalist, Methodist, but the spirit welded them all into one. It was not only the volatile Methodist who said as passing out from the meeting, "It was good to be here," but the staid Presbyterian and his equally reserved brethren of the same creed were as loud as John Wesley's followers in their exclamations.

A deep spiritual wave is over the city, and men once immersed in business are swayed by its movements. Some have drunk deeply of its waters, and manifest in all their bearing the life-giving power of the draught they have taken. It has touched the remotest part where work has been carried on; and is penetrating where such waters have never flowed before. A remarkable feature of its movements is the quietness with which it has spread, and the sense of awe with which those have been filled who have become immersed in it. And it is still deepening, slowly and steadily. Even those who were skeptical at the first have become at least interested now.

The coming of the Rev. Alfred Gandier to the city is cause for satisfaction to more than the members of St. James Square. His work in his first and his second charge has been signally blessed. His power is not that of the orator, though Mr. Gandier is distinctly above the average as a preacher. He is a spiritual force. His naturally strong personality is always at the call of Him whom he calls Master, and thus he is used for work that tells for the upbuilding of one who knows Christ, and for the winning of those who do not. He has been warmly welcomed by his people and taken at once to the hearts of his brethren to whom he is already well known.

Next week the Rev. A. B. Winchester will be inducted as minister of Knox church, and another of the important centres of working Christians will be filled. Mr. Winchester is not so well known to us as Mr. Gandier, but what is known of his work, both in the foreign field and in the work at home, stamp him as an able and singularly earnest man. It will be a satisfaction to all to know that the historic congregation with which so many memories of early Presbyterianism in Toronto are connected, has again to have a deeply spiritual leader for the great work it has to do in the ingathering of the careless and the sinning.

At its meeting on Thursday last the Presbytery of Toronto, by a standing vote unanimously nominated the Rev. Robert H. Warden, D. D., as Moderator of the next General Assembly. In this it has followed the lead of the sister Presbytery in Montreal. Doubtless many others will find their own thought thus interpreted. Dr. Warden has come prominently before the church in connection with the Century Fund, but this has only revealed the true worth of the man who has for many years given faithful and valuable service. He will be elected, not because he is the nominee of these two strong Presbyteries, but because the members of the Church in Canada wish to show their appreciation of work jetty but well done.

Ottawa and Vicinity.

Rev. Dr. Wardrope was the preacher at both services in Erskine Presbyterian church last Sabbath.

The New Edinburgh congregation will hold its annual meeting on the 23rd inst. The members are looking forward to reports of an encouraging character.

In the New Edinburgh church the Rev. J. A. McFarlane, M. A., has been addressing meetings every evening on Bible Study. On Monday and Tuesday afternoons there were meetings for women.

Last Sabbath morning Rev. D. M. Ramsay officiated at communion service in Knox church. His sermon dealt with "Consecration." In the evening he reviewed the religious progress of the century.

Evangelistic services are being held in Dominion church Hall this week, under the auspices of the Ministerial Association of Ottawa. The meetings will be addressed by the different pastors of the city.

Rev. D. M. Ramsay preached in Knox church on Sunday evening from Hosea, 6:1-2. His sermon was a religious survey of the century just closed. The communion service in the morning was largely attended.

The annual meeting of the Bank street church will be held on the 14th. This congregation, it is reported, have agreed to call as assistant to Rev. Dr. Moore, a young student of Queen's, Mr. Thurlow Fraser.

The various auxiliaries of W. F. M. Society in Ottawa are looking forward with no ordinary interest to the approaching visit of Rev. Jonathan and Mrs. Goforth, who will deliver addresses on mission work in China and their recent escape from the mad anger of the Boxers.

The Ladies' Aid Society of the New Edinburgh church elected the following officers at its annual meeting: President, Mrs. J. Barron; vice-presidents, Mrs. J. C. Gordon and Mrs. Sharpe; treasurer, Mrs. A. M. Ginnis; recording secretary, Mrs. A. Sleeman; financial secretary, Miss E. Rankin; executive, Miss R. Ralph, Mrs. B. Slinn, and Mrs. J. C. Gordon.

There was a special thanksgiving service at St. Andrew's church on Sunday night in connection with the opening of the new century. Dr. Herridge preached from the text, "The living they shall praise thee," Isaiah 38: 19. He said it was not as pious as it was sometimes supposed to be, to be always sighing for the joys beyond the grave. The world was full of sin, but it was full also of glowing hope and glorious inspiration, and it was a blessing to be alive. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered in the morning.

Rev. N. A. MacLeod, New Edinburgh, was greatly surprised when he was presented with a purse of \$210 as a gift from the young people of the congregation. The presentation was made by Mr. J. McElroy, while Mr. W. Gerard read an address. Mr. MacLeod made a fitting reply. Mr. J. E. Askwith was chairman and the other speakers were Ald. Slinn and Messrs Gerard and J. C. Grant. One of the reasons for the presentation was that Mr. MacLeod recently refused a call to New York. The Ladies' Aid of the church served refreshments.

The Ladies' Aid Society of St. Paul's Presbyterian church elected the following officers: President, Mrs. W. D. Armstrong; vice-presidents, Mrs. James Perry, Mrs. Nicholson, Mrs. Henry Watters and Mrs. Gallagher; treasurer, Miss J. Gallagher; secretary, Miss Jessie Lindsay; convener, of the finance committee, Mrs. G. H. Thorburn; visiting, Mrs. W. D. Armstrong; and executive, the officers, conveners of committees and Mrs. James Lindsay, Mrs. John McKinley and Miss Ross. Votes of thanks were passed to Miss Matthews, who has faithfully discharged the duties of secretary for many years, and to Mrs. Watters, the retiring convener of the finance committee. Mrs. A. Lumsden and Mrs. J. B. Charleson were appointed to represent the society on the Woman's Auxiliary of the Protestant Hospital.

Appleton St. Andrew's church missionary society has selected the following officers: President, Rev. G. T. Bayne; vice-pres., Jas. Turner; sec., Bella Wilson; treas., Wm. Paul; committee, Robert Baird, Jas. Turner, Frank Paul, G. H. Neilson, Robert Fumerton, John Struthers, Miss Lizzie Speirs, Minnie Fumerton, Jennie Neilson, Annie Paul, Mrs. Robert Fumerton and Mrs. G. H. Neilson.

Eastern Ontario.

Rev. Mr. McKellar, Martintown, has been preaching in Knox church, Vankleek Hill.

The congregation of Knox church, Vankleek Hill, at a recent meeting decided to proceed with the erection of their new church as quickly as possible. It is stated that the church when completed according to the present plan will cost in the neighborhood of \$30,000.

A large congregation assembled in St. John's church, Cornwall, for the special New Year's service, when Rev. Dr. McNish preached a very appropriate sermon. The ladies of this congregation have presented their esteemed pastor, Dr. McNish, with a handsome pulpit gown.

At the annual meeting of the Lancaster Knox church Sabbath school \$133 were reported as collected during the year. In recognition of his long term of office as superintendent, Mr. H. J. Scott was presented with a writing desk and chair. At the special New Year's service Rev. G. Weir, of Avonmore, and Rev. J. W. Tanner, of St. Andrews, assisted the pastor; Rev. A. Graham.

Anniversary services in connection with St. Andrew's church, Pakenham, were held on 30th inst., when Rev. J. Hay, M. A., B. B., of Renfrew, preached both morning and evening. The rev. gentleman is a popular preacher, and, though suffering from a cold, he gave two sermons of rare power to large congregations. In response to a request by the pastor that a special effort be made to raise the sum of \$700, the collection in the morning amounted to \$604, and in the evening \$163 were added. No reference was made to the matter at either service, but the people's hearts were in the work and they gave willingly. About \$70 was taken in at the Monday night festival, which swells the contribution to something over \$1,100.

The induction of Rev. L. Beaton to the pastorate of Knox church, Roxborough, took place on Dec. 27, and promises to be a happy event for the congregation. Rev. Mr. MacLean, of Kirkhill presided. Rev. Mr. Tanner, Lanaster, preached. Rev. Mr. Gollan, Dunvegan, addressed the congregation, and Rev. Mr. McLennan, Apple Hill, addressed the minister. Among the other ministers present were Rev. H. D. Leitch, St. Elmo; Rev. G. Weir, Avonmore; Rev. J. Cormack, Maxville and Rev. Mr. Shaw, Vars. The sermon throughout was very inspiring for both pastor and congregation. In the evening of the same day a reception was tendered to the new minister, and Rev. H. D. Leitch occupied the chair. Miss Gretta Munro presided at the organ. The Knox church, Roxborough, choir rendered many selections during the evening, with M. McRae, St. Elmo, as precentor. Rev. Messrs Gollan and Weir gave short addresses which were much appreciated. Mr. and Mrs. Weir gave each a recitation that was in itself a treat. Amid all this the worthy moderator, Rev. H. D. Leitch was not forgotten. He was presented with a well filled purse and a suitable address for the very efficient manner in which he presided over this congregation since he became moderator. Mr. Beaton though a stranger to the people and neighborhood has been made feel quite at home by the warm welcome extended him.

Maritime Provinces

Of the late pastor of St. Stephens, N. B., who it is reported will "go west," our excellent contemporary, the Presbyterian Witness has the following to say:—Mr. MacKenzie is a Prince Edward Island man. His first ministerial charge was in the Presbytery of Carlisle, Scotland, where he succeeded in raising an amount sufficient to secure the endowment of the church. He was called from Carlisle to a Presbyterian congregation in London, which was started by a few of the Scotch members of Parliament. The enterprise became a striking success from the day Mr. MacKenzie took hold of it till, owing to a serious failure of health, he had to resign. Prolonged rest led to complete recovery, and Mr. MacKenzie exercised his ministry for some years in P. E. Island, whence he was called to St. Stephen. Dr. MacKenzie is a man we can ill spare. We have given many a good man to the West and Far West, and we have nothing too good for our friends in the sunset regions. But we confess to a feeling of more than usual regret that Dr. MacKenzie is leaving us. A man of extreme modesty, it takes time to "discover" him. When you have succeeded, you find a man who is well read in all the theories and philosophies, and who has firmly maintained his grip upon the Gospel which he has been commissioned to preach.