

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

Of course we went to the Exposition. Everybody goes there, and after doing their utmost to take in what is going on on three platforms at once, and keeping the effort up for three hours, come home to virtuously declaim against the iniquity of it all. We feel that way ourselves. Our eyes ached all next day because of the unusual strain, and we felt like speaking out pretty plainly. We have got over it, our eyes are better, and on a calm review we do not see so much to condemn as we thought there was. Some of the performances were silly, but their utter inanity was their only fault. The so-called cowboy performances were in this class. A genuine cowboy wouldn't drink with the class of riders that called themselves by that name at the Exposition, and that is pretty strong dissent on the part of the cowboy.

There is a considerable amount of the shrewdness of their forefathers about the men of this generation in Canada. The fares about Exposition time are low, and while it is rather early for the great committees to meet, some of them make it convenient. So we have had three important committees meeting in Toronto during the past week. Two have been Assembly committees, and a third is an interdenominational body. The last named was the Executive committee of the Ontario Lord's Day Alliance. Its meetings were held in Confederation Life Building on Friday last, the sub-committees having met the day before.

It is worth while noting the increasing importance that attaches to the work of this body. Not long ago most people believed the statement of those who were likely to be affected by the successful work of the Alliance, and thought of the members of the Alliance as a set of harmless fanatics. Somehow one or two men like Dr. Caven had got mixed up with them, but as a class they were not of much account. All that is changed. The Christian people of Ontario and of Canada are beginning to accord to the members of this Alliance the respect and the support to which they have all along been entitled. The work has made a splendid advance during the past year, and already a step has been taken that six months ago would not have been possible. A Dominion Alliance has been formed.

This Dominion Alliance is practically a federation of all the other Alliances, provincial and territorial. But it proposes to be the supreme body. It asks for the right to direct the work of the Secretary, and ought to be allowed to do so. It will of course become responsible for the maintenance of the Field Secretary, and will draw upon the Provincial Alliances for the means to do this. It will take oversight of all the work that is wider than any one of the provinces, and will at once relegate to the respective province whatever work falls within its immediate jurisdiction. The movement is a good one, and will greatly strengthen the work that is being done for the preservation of the Lord's Day.

A second Committee that held meetings here was that of the Assembly Sabbath Schools. It was a wise action taken at the last Assembly when this Committee was reduced to fifteen members. Almost all of these were present at the meeting just held, and the deliberations of the Committee received strength from the knowledge that all but two of those or at most three, who were eligible to discuss the matters presented were present, and their position was definitely known. United action is certainly necessary in this Committee, for the Sabbath School problem is one of the gravest the Church has to face.

The other Committee was that of the Assembly's Committee on Young People's Societies. There was plenty of work for Mr. Gandier and his associates to do, and they did their utmost to accomplish it. A programme of topics was agreed upon, supplementary to those issued by the Endeavor Society, and adopted by almost all Young People's Societies. But the most important part of the work of the Committee was the drafting of a Constitution for what it is proposed to call The Westminster Guild, under which it is hoped all the Societies of young people now in existence in the Presbyterian Church may be collected. This Constitution will be sent down to Presbyteries for consideration, and we shall await its appearance with considerable interest.

A little ripple of good-natured gossip has spread over the city because of the announcement that a certain Methodist Congregation has

decreed, or rather its leaders have decreed that all ladies in its choir shall dress in black. Some radicals say this is an apology for a surpliced choir, and bid us beware of the introduction of the thin end of the wedge. The church authorities are discreetly non-committal, and the authorities of the congregation say it is introduced largely because some in the choir have the means to dress richly, and this causes invidious comparison between the richly dressed member and the shabbily dressed sister with an equally good voice who sits by the side of the finely clothed one. After all our adorning is not that of the outward parts; and a uniform dress on the part of those who lead in the service of praise may be helpful. Only let it take in the millinery too.

Eastern Ontario.

Rev. Peter Sinclair of Sonya, has been visiting Toronto and Buffalo.

Rev. Thos. Glassford and wife, Sunderland, are visiting friends in British Columbia.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be administered in Cooke's Church, Pefferlaw, next Sabbath.

Rev. D. M. Martin, of Cannington, has been assisting at the opening of the new church at Sebright.

During a recent thunderstorm the Woodville church was struck by lightning, one chimney being badly shattered.

Prof. B. J. Kenyon has entered upon his duties as organist and choir leader in the first Presbyterian Church, Brockville.

At St. John's Church, Brockville, on Sabbath evening Rev. W. A. MacLean of Oak Lake, Manitoba, conducted the service.

Rev. W. McDonald, M. A., conducted pre-communion services in St. Andrew's church, Arnprior, a week ago Friday evening.

Knox Church, Vankleek Hill, has called Rev. T. G. Thompson, formerly of Locke St. Church, Hamilton. Salary \$1,200 and a manse.

Rev. Mr. Duncan, of Woodville, has resumed work after his holidays. Mrs. Duncan, friends will be glad to know, has greatly benefited by her stay in Muskoka.

The congregation of Merrickville has extended a call to Rev. A. J. McMillan, of Springfield. The decision of the Jasper congregation is now awaited before taking action.

Rev. R. J. Hutcheon, M. A., Almonte, preached anniversary sermons last Sunday week in Clayton. Rev. J. R. Conn, M. A., occupied the pulpit of St. Andrew's church at both services.

Rev. J. A. Brown, of Agincourt, conducted the services morning and evening in the Woodville church. The Express says: This was his first appearance here and we hope it won't be his last.

Rev. A. C. Wishart, of Beaverton, has been visiting the Pan-American, and holidaying at his old home at Drumhill. Last Sabbath he preached at Bellwood and Mimosa for Rev. Mr. McIntosh.

Last Sabbath morning at Stone's Corners, and at Fairfield in the afternoon, Rev. R. Laird, dispensed communion in the Presbyterian churches. In the afternoon at North Augusta, Rev. D. Strachan, of Brockville, conducted the communion service.

The Rev. J. Goforth, returned missionary from China, occupied the pulpit of St. John's Church, Cornwall, last Sunday morning, and of Knox Church in the evening. The rev. gentleman gave an account of the Boxer Rebellion and of his own escape after he had been cut down by their swords.

Rev. Mr. McLean, of Kirkhill, Glengarry, has been addressing the members of the W. F. M. S. of St. John's church, Almonte, and the congregation generally in the basement of the church. The chair was occupied by the pastor of the church, Rev. G. C. McLean. A collection was taken in aid of the funds of the society.

Last Sunday the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed in St. John's church, Almonte. The pre-communion sermon was preached on Friday night by Rev. Mr. Woodside, of Carleton Place, who delivered a very appropriate discourse. There were six additions to the communion roll—three by certificate from other churches and three by profession of faith. The pastor, Rev. G. C. McLean, was assisted in the Sunday services by his cousin Rev. Mr. McLean of Kirkhill, who preached morning and evening.

Rev. J. R. Conn, M. A., Presbyterian minister of Blakeney, becoming tired of single blessedness, has taken to himself a helpmate in the person of an estimable young lady of Carleton Place, Miss Edna Williams. Mr. and Mrs. Conn have the best wishes of a large circle of friends and acquaintances for their future happiness.

Rev. Dr. Moore, pastor of the Bank street Presbyterian church and ex-moderator of the General Assembly, dedicated the new Presbyterian church, at Lowry's near Carp, last Sabbath. There were large congregations at the services and Dr. Moore was listened to with pleasure and profit. The new church is a neat structure, brick veneered, and is a credit to the community. Rev. Donald McGillivray, of Carp, is pastor of the church which includes a large number of young people in its membership.

In accordance with a resolution passed at a recent meeting of Lanark and Renfrew Presbyteries, Rev. A. A. Scott and Messrs. N. M. Riddell and W. J. Patterson visited Lanark on 20th ult., and formerly organized the Lanark Presbyterian mission. The gentlemen named composed an interim session and met in the town hall at eleven o'clock, those desirous of withdrawing from St. Andrew's church membership. Thirty-six verbal applications were received and six in writing, including certificates of standing from others than members of St. Andrew's church. The interim session adjourned at noon to present applications to the moderator of session of St. Andrew's, and resumed in the town hall at 1.30 p.m., where the prospective congregation had assembled. After establishing a communion roll the following names were put in nomination for office of elder: Peter Duncan, John Gemmell, Daniel May and John McLean. A satisfactory conference was next held with the elders elect and notice of intention to ordain served on the congregation. The moderator then received nominations for a board of managers and the following gentlemen were duly elected: Messrs. James McLaren, W. C. Caldwell, James McFarlane and John McLean. Mr. Robert Beatty was made chairman of the board of managers. Then followed the ordination of elders. After the congregation had been addressed by the moderator, Rev. A. A. Scott, he declared it duly organized. At a subsequent meeting of the new session, Mr. John McLean was appointed representative elder to attend the next meeting of Presbytery.

Montreal.

Rev. J. Myles Crombie, M. A., has been conducting Divine Service at Lakeside and Cote des Neiges.

Rev. A. Wynne Thomas, who has been filling the pulpit at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Westmont, during the last month, took the services at St. Matthew's Church, last Sabbath.

Mr. J. C. Holden and Miss Holden are in Toronto on their way home from Buffalo, and are the guests of Rev. Dr. Gregg, Washington ave. They have driven the whole distance from Montreal to Buffalo in easy stages with two horses.

At the annual meeting of St. Matthew's Y. P. S. C. E., the reports presented indicated growth and prosperity; and the following were elected office-bearers for the ensuing year: President, A. Thompson; Vice-Pres., Miss Stalker; Rec. Sec., H. Lewis; Treasurer, C. McBride; Miss Fish is Convener of Committee on Chinese Work.

Rev. F. S. Webster, Church of England; the Rev. John Marsh, Wesleyan, and the Rev. W. D. Moffat, Presbyterian, representing the Keswick Convention for the deepening of spiritual life, will address a series of meetings in Montreal on October 6th to 11th. It is expected that a large number of Christian workers will be in attendance. The Rev. G. Osborne Troop, rector of St. Martin's church, attended the convention in Keswick, this summer, and describes it as a "wonderful experience." He is the chairman of the Montreal committee in charge of the meetings. It is expected the deputation will address meetings in Ottawa, Toronto, Guelph and possibly in other places before returning home again.

Mr. Harry Hamilton, of Mimico, who is preparing for his final examination at Toronto Conservatory, gave great satisfaction as substitute organist at Bloor Street and College Street Presbyterian Churches, Toronto, during the past two months.