

## 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.]

### British Columbia Notes.

At two o'clock, on Monday, August 3rd, there set out from the city of Nanaimo destined for Alberni three members of the Presbytery of Victoria, accompanied by Rev. Prof. McLaren and Rev. R. P. McKay of Toronto, and Miss E. M. Armstrong, teacher of the Indian Mission School at Alberni. Such a "body of divinity" in locomotion indicated some unusual ecclesiastical object in view. That object was the first meeting of Presbytery in the gold-bearing region of Vancouver Island and the visitation of the Foreign Mission stations of the West Coast. The drive of some fifty-five miles through the grandeur of British Columbian scenery of majestic forest, placid lake and lofty mountain, under climatic conditions the most genial, was heartily enjoyed by all. With a night's rest at the Half-Way House, Alberni was reached at one o'clock on Tuesday. At three the Presbytery met for business; Mr. E. G. Taylor, of Queen's College, who has been appointed to this field by the H. M. Com., was after a searching examination licensed and ordained; Mr. McKay preaching the ordination sermon, Dr. McLaren, addressing the Minister and Mr. Winchester the people, Mr. Taylor begins his ministry under the most happy auspices.

Another item of business was the acceptance of Mr. D. A. McRae's resignation of the pastoral charge of Nanaimo. This step was rendered necessary by the continued unsatisfactory state of Mrs. McRae's health. With many expressions of regret at losing a highly esteemed co-presbyter, especially under so trying circumstances, the resignation was accepted to take effect on the 16th inst. Rev. Alex Young, of Nanaimo was appointed interim moderator of sessions with power to moderate in a call when requested by the congregation.

A day was spent about the beautifully located Indian Girls' Home, that looks down upon the smoothly gliding waters of the Sumas River, a charming spot, indeed. Here Miss Johnston, assisted by Rev. Mr. McKee and Miss Armstrong, exercises matronly care over the children of two Indian tribes, of name euphonious but of orthography doubtful, at least to the writer.

Another pleasing feature of this visit to Alberni was an excursion down the great natural canal that enables the largest ocean going vessels to dock fifty miles from the sea coast. This enjoyable excursion was given by Mr. George A. Huff, M. P. P. on his steam launch, Hollybank.

During the last week of July, Mr. Winchester visited Union Mines, where he had the joy of receiving five Chinamen into the fellowship of the Church. The seed of the kingdom is bearing fruit.

Rev. Richmond Logan, who has been visiting friends in the province returned to his home in California by Monday's direct steamer.

### Montreal Notes.

The city has been favored by a visit from the distinguished theologian, Dr. Joseph Agar Piet, now so well-known for his valuable commentaries on the Pauline Epistles as well as for other works of a more devotional character. He preached twice last Sunday to large congregations and on Monday evening lectured in the hall of the Wesleyan College. The subjects which he selected were rather a surprise to those who were familiar with his published works and presented him in a somewhat new light—being not so much theological or devotional as Apologetic. In two out of his three public addresses he discussed the relation of the Aëric Cosmogony to modern science. The position which he took must have been equally a surprise to many of his more conservative hearers. Instead of attacking the theory of Evolution he was disposed to regard this as purely a question of fact to be settled by scientists

on strictly scientific grounds and declared that if it should be proved to be true he saw nothing in Genesis that was inconsistent with it. In thus presenting the matter, however, he is probably speaking for a large number of the most influential theologians of tomorrow, and is certainly taking a position which puts an end forever to the old feud between science and religion. Dr. Beet, we understand, has been giving a series of addresses at Chataqua and also at Northfield. It is unfortunate that his visit to Montreal occurred at a time when so many of its prominent citizens were out of town.

Among other recent visitors to the city, who are not, however, strangers, have been the Reverends J. K. and D. J. Fraser, from Prince Edward Island. Both of these gentlemen are distinguished graduates of the Presbyterian College and have just returned from taking post graduate courses in Heidelberg University after having served several years in the Ministry. Mr. D. J. Fraser has also taken a session in the Harvard Divinity School, where he pursued special studies in the Greek of the New Testament. On Sunday morning last, he filled the pulpit of Chalmer's church with much acceptance.

A few weeks ago mention was made of the appointment of Mr. Frank Carter as a second professor of classics in McGill College. The Governors now announce that they have also appointed as a second lecturer in the same department, Mr. S. B. Slack, of Oxford. The Governors have at the same time made four new appointments in the Faculty of Applied Science, including a professor of Architecture. This last is a new departure and involves the recognition of the more artistic element in the University, which at some future time may receive almost indefinite extension in that and kindred fields.

The many friends of Dr. Smyth, of Calvin Church will learn with much regret that he has again been seriously ill, and is laid aside at present from all active work. Some slight improvement has taken place during the past few days, and earnest hopes are entertained for his recovery, but his condition still awakens considerable anxiety. The nature of his malady has not yet been definitely determined by the physicians in attendance.

### General.

Owing to ill health, Rev. John Hogg is about to resign the pastorate of St. Giles' Presbyterian church, Winnipeg.

The building of the Presbyterian church at Whitney is now far enough advanced to hold services. The church is 53 feet long and 32 feet wide.

The Presbyterian congregation of Huron church, Ripley, are building a fine brick manse for the use of the minister, Rev. R. Macleod. It will be completed this fall.

Rev. D. A. McRae, of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church, Nanaimo, B. C., has accepted a call from the Third Presbyterian church at Los Angeles, California, and will assume his new duties on September 1st.

On Tuesday evening, Aug. 4th, a committee representing the congregation of St. Andrew's church, Almonte, waited upon Rev. A. S. Grant at the manse and presented him with a Model 40 Columbia bicycle, and an address.

The Rev. J. I. Murray, M.A. Kincardine is interim Moderator of the session of Ashfield congregation. All applicants to Ashfield church must be made to Mr. Murray and applicants will please take notice that Gaelic services in that charge are indispensable.

August 13 was the last occasion on which Rev. James G. Potter, D. A., met his congregation of Southside Presbyterian church, he having accepted a call to St. Andrew's church, Peterboro'. At the conclusion of the service those present were requested to remain, and Miss Bertha Kennerley, on behalf of the ladies' Bible class, presented Mrs. Potter with a handsome mahogany rocking chair, while Mr. W. M. Brick, on behalf of the Ladies' Aid Society, presented Mr. and Mrs. Potter with a purse. In the afternoon and evening a garden party and reception was held at Moss Park Rink, where

Mr. and Mrs. Potter bid good-bye to their friends of the congregation. On August 27, Mr. Potter will be inducted into his charge.

A meeting of the General Assembly's S. S. Committee will be held (D. V.) in the parlor of Central Church, Toronto, Ont., on Tuesday, September 8th, at 10 o'clock a.m. As there are no funds for the payment of travelling expenses, those who attend are advised to take advantage of the cheap rates connected with the Industrial Exhibition. A full attendance is requested.

On his return to Vernon from attending the late Assembly, the Rev. Geo. A. Wilson, B.A., was given a welcome by his people in the form of a congregational reception. The festival though quite informal was a most enjoyable event. Mr. Wilson has now been two years in this city and has won the affection and respect of all classes. The reception was under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid.

Rev. M. P. Talling then gave an impressive address to the new pastor, Rev. Dr. Froudford, father of the London Presbytery, and professor at Knox College, addressed the people. He said Mr. Wilson had been called to this charge by the communicants, and they believed him to be able and qualified to edify them. This call was a solemn covenant between pastor and people, and one never to be forgotten. Mr. Wilson received many warm congratulations at the close.

An unique entertainment in the shape of a garden party under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church of East Toronto was held at Balmy Beach on Friday evening last. Mr. F. W. Roberts had kindly opened his house and grounds on Balsam-avenue for the purpose, and the members of the church drove down in busses from the village. A dozen or more large flags went to form quite a picturesque background for the enclosure, and about one hundred lanterns of all descriptions loaned by the residents of the Beach were arranged in a very artistic manner. During the evening the Pastor, Rev. J. R. Johnston delivered a most interesting address, welcoming the guests and thanking the friends of the Beach for their interest in the gathering. After which a number of vocal and instrumental selections were given.

The Presbytery of Toronto held its regular meeting for this month at Union church, Esquimaux, and Rev. W. M. McKay, a licentiate of the present year, was ordained and inducted there over the united congregations of Norval and Union. These churches became vacant about 14 months ago by the resignation of Rev. James Argo. After hearing many candidates for the vacant pulpit, their choice fell upon Mr. McKay, and on Tuesday he was formally inducted. Rev. J. C. Tibb, of Streetsville, presided and addressed the newly inducted minister. Rev. J. W. Rae, of Toronto Junction, preached the induction sermon and Rev. W. C. Clark, of Brampton, addressed the people. A reception was afterwards held, a pleasant feature of which was the presentation of an address and a purse to the Rev. J. C. Tibb, who has been moderator of the charge during the vacancy.

King Street Presbyterian church, London, held a larger audience on the night of August 11, perhaps, than any since the induction of the late pastor, Rev. Mr. Robertson. The occasion was the formal induction of Rev. Thomas Wilson, who will hereafter have charge of that flock. The congregation included prominent members of all the Presbyterian churches in the city. Rev. James Little, of Bethel, moderator of the London Presbytery, presided at the services, and the induction sermon was preached by the Rev. Alexander Wilson, brother of the new pastor. After the opening exercises, Rev. Alex. Wilson delivered an able and eloquent sermon from the words, "For after that in the wisdom of God, the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believed." Rev. James Little, as moderator, spoke of the resignation of Rev. Mr. Robertson, and of the acceptance of the call by Rev. Thomas Wilson.