

Ministers and Churches.

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

The rush of last week has been succeeded by a season of quiet, giving a breathing spell before the Synod and Assembly come upon us. There are no great questions for the Synod, for this quarter at least. The usual routine of reports and discussions will fill in the time. The meeting this year will be held in College St. Church, of which the Moderator of Synod is minister.

The aftermath of College closing is in evidence. The closing this year was a great success except that the majority could not get a seat in the hall, and many had to turn away, not being able to get with in sound of the speakers' voice. Rev. Dr. R.N. Grant's address in introducing Rev. R.P. Mackay for the honorary degree of D.D., was brief but good. Dr. Mackay, in response, spoke of the honorable history of the College and of the great and good men who had been preceptors there.

Twenty more received diplomas at the hands of the Principal this year. Most of these seem inclined to look for settlements in Ontario. One has already secured passage for Europe, where he intends pursuing a course of study in German Colleges.

We understand that the committee appointed to consider the matter of an additional professor for Knox College has had several meetings, but while several names have been suggested, no one can yet be recommended to the board for nomination. There will in all probability be another meeting before the meeting of the Assembly.

There is some talk among the members of the class of 1900 of coming up in a body for License before Toronto Presbytery. If that were decided upon it would be a gracious act for the Presbytery to appoint a special meeting for their Licensure; the afternoon for examination by the Presbytery's committee, the evening for the public service of Licensure. We believe that many would like to see such an evening set apart for this interesting service.

A farewell reception was tendered by the congregation of St. James Square church to the pastor, the Rev. Louis H. Jordan, B.D., on Tuesday evening. On behalf of the congregation Mr. W.E. Long presented a beautiful illuminated address to Rev. Mr. Jordan who also received from Mr. Robt. Carie an excellent oil painting of himself.

The late Mr. D. S. Ross, who died in Toronto, bequeathed \$1,000 to Knox College to be applied in establishing a scholarship, to be called the David Smith Ross scholarship.

OTTAWA.

Arrangements have been completed for a systematic canvass of Bank Street congregation, in aid of the Century Fund. A generous response is confidently expected.

Rev. J. J. Miller, formerly a member of the Ottawa Presbytery, but now taking a post-graduate course at McGill theological college, is in the city on a short visit.

On Sabbath last Rev. Dr. Armstrong made an earnest plea in behalf of the starving millions of India. In this behalf a collection will be taken up in St. Paul's next Sabbath.

Rev. George Bayne, of Ashton, who some time ago broke his thigh through slipping on an icy sidewalk, has so far recovered as to be able to sit up. He is at St. Luke's hospital. His brother, Mr. Robert Bayne, of Merivale, who at about the same time fell and so severely gashed his neck that his recovery was long despaired of, is also getting better.

In connection with the Century Fund movement St. Paul's congregation expect to wipe out a mortgage indebtedness of about \$4,000, as well as make a substantial contribution to the Common Fund.

Already \$1,500 has been subscribed—\$1,000 by one member. Dr. Armstrong, whose semi-jubilee as pastor was celebrated last year, is to be congratulated on this gratifying state of affairs.

At the Ottawa Presbytery on Monday a call to Rev. J. T. Scrimger, M.A., of Montreal, from the congregation of East Gloucester vacant through the recent resignation of Rev. J. J. Miller, was presented and sustained. In the event of acceptance the ordination and induction were fixed for the 11th of May; Rev. Dr. Armstrong, moderator, to preside, Rev. Mr. Main, to preach, Rev. Dr. Campbell will address the pastor and Rev. D. B. Ramsay, B.D., the people.

The members of Knox Church were the first in this city to interest themselves in the spiritual condition of the Chinese; and as the first-fruits of the self-denying laborers of Mr. J. H. MacLeod and his faithful board of teachers—two celestials, Ham Chang and Ham Wing Ya, for four years under instruction, received the rite of Christian Baptism at the evening service, the Rev. D. M. Ramsay, pastor, officiating. There is an attendance of about 30 at the classes in this church, with 20 teachers. It is expected they will be shortly several more candidates from these classes.

EASTERN ONTARIO.

The contract has been awarded for a new church building at Utica, Ont.

Knox Church, Beaverton, has purchased a library for the use of the Sabbath School.

The Rev. E. Cragg preached morning and evening in the Brighton church on Sabbath last.

Mr. W. McDonald, B.A., has been appointed to the Presbyterian mission at Calabogie, for the summer months.

Rev. Mr. Robertson of Oxford Mills, who has been confined to his bed for the last two weeks, is slowly recovering.

Rev. J. R. Conn, M.A., of Rosebank, conducted the prayer-meeting in St. John's Church, Almonte, on Wednesday evening.

Rev. A. E. Mitchell of Almonte, has been visiting friends in the West, and attending the closing exercises of Knox College.

The Rev. W. McCuaig, Montreal, has been called to Mill Street Presbyterian Church, Port Hope, in succession to the Rev. Alexander Laird, Kingston.

The Christian Endeavor Societies of Lanark and Renfrew meet in Carleton Place on Easter Monday, when Rev. Dr. Herridge, of St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, will deliver an address.

At a concert held in Cardinal last week under the auspices of the W.F.M.S., the handsome sum of \$70 was realized for the Indian Famine Fund. Dr. J. D. Reid, M.P., occupied the chair.

The new pipe organ in St. Andrew's Church, Carleton Place, has been opened and gives much satisfaction to all concerned. On a recent Sabbath Rev. R. G. Maxwell, M.P., of Vancouver, preached two admirable discourses.

The Presbyterian church of Prescott is now free of debt. Some time ago one of the members, Mr. J. P. Wiser, offered to pay \$2,000 if the congregation would contribute the balance, \$2,350. The offer was accepted and the debt has been paid.

A very pleasant at home was given at the Presbyterian manse, Kemptown, on Friday evening for the young people of the congregation. A large number were present and an enjoyable time was spent by all. Mr. and Mrs. Chisholm are greatly endeavoring themselves to the members of the congregation.

Rev. Robert Laird, M.A., a brilliant graduate of Queens University, spent the week in town. Mr. Laird was known as one of the brightest men in his year at Divinity Hall, and his abilities have since received well merited recognition, as he has charge of the largest Presbyterian church in Brockville. —Kingston Whig.

WESTERN ONTARIO.

The contract for a new church at Turin has just been awarded. The building will cost \$4,000.

Knox Church, Stratford, held anniversary services on Sunday. Rev. R. E. Knowles of Galt was the preacher.

The report of Central Church, Hamilton, has just been issued. The membership stands at 707 and total income at \$16,916.

Chalmers Church, Woodstock, received eighteen new members at its recent communion service. Rev. S. O. Nixon, of Ayr, conducted the preparatory services.

The Galt papers speak highly of the sermons of Rev. R. J. M. Glassford in Knox church, Galt, on Sunday, the occasion being the anniversary of the congregation.

Rev. R. J. Ross was inducted at Dresden on the 11th inst. The induction sermon was preached by Rev. A. A. Laing of Morpeth; Rev. J. P. McInnis, of Thamesville, gave the charge to the minister, and Rev. Donald Currie, of Wallaceburg, addressed the people.

WINNIPEG AND WEST.

The Presbyterians of Herson, Manitoba have decided to erect a handsome church this spring.

The congregation of St. Andrews, Vancouver, will erect a large addition to the school room this season.

Rev. R. G. MacBeth received a warm welcome from Vancouver Presbyterians on reaching the Terminal City on Friday last. A greeting social was held in the evening at which an address of welcome was presented.

The reception tendered Rev. Dr. Patrick on his arrival in Winnipeg was most enthusiastic. The new principal was introduced by Dr. Kilpatrick and Dr. DuVal, after which Dr. Patrick thanked them for the welcome. Dr. Patrick was formally installed into the principalship in Knox Church on Thursday evening last.

MONTREAL AND QUEBEC.

It is proposed to build a new church at St. Louis de Gougeon. Thirty families have subscribed \$2,600, and the estimated cost is only \$3,000.

The Ladies Association of Melville church Montreal of which Mrs. Winfield is president, held a very successful sale on Saturday afternoon and evening in Victoria Hall, Westmount Park.

Mission work has been commenced amongst the Galicians and Doukhobors by the Home Mission Committee of the General Assembly. In connection with this mission a free medical dispensary is to be established the management of which has been offered to Dr. J. T. Reid, of Montreal.

The longest sermon on record was preached by the Rev. Alexander Mackay, D.D., in 1866, in the Presbyterian church of Tiverton, Ont., of which he was then pastor. The subject was "The Mode of Baptism." The whole service lasted four hours and a half. The church was crowded to the doors, and remained so till the close. The sermon was severely criticised by the Baptist paper of that time. The substance of the sermon was afterwards published in pamphlet form.

The Rev. Alexander Mackay D.D., was ordained and inducted as pastor of the Presbyterian church at Tiverton with adjoining stations on April 25, 1860. On account of its being a new country and but recently settled, there was not a single manse then in the large county of Bruce. Now there are four manse, with glebes attached to three of them, in Dr. Mackay's first pastoral field. Able and faithful ministers have occupied these manse for many years. Perhaps there is no other minister in the Presbyterian church, who can look back for 40 years where the work of the Lord has prospered so much. Then Gallic as well as English was required.