

## Ministers and Churches.

MRS. JOHNSTON, wife of Rev. T. T. Johnston, of Wick, has gone to Florida with her mother and family to try the beneficial effect of the sea air. Her health of late has been such that a change of climate was considered necessary.

ON the occasion of the return home of the Rev. James Middlemiss, of Elora, after receiving the degree of D.D., from the Senate of Knox College at its late convocation, he was met at the station by a deputation of his congregation and conveyed at once to the church. Here, awaiting his arrival, was a large gathering of his people, who came to express their congratulations to Dr. Middlemiss on the honour he had received. A highly complimentary address was read by D. McKay, B.A., head master of Elora High School; and a number of the office bearers and members extended their warmest felicitations. Dr. Middlemiss responded in happy and feeling terms, thanking all present for their kind references to himself and to Mrs. Middlemiss. Afterwards, refreshments, abundantly provided by the ladies, were partaken of, and a programme of excellent music from the choir listened to. All returned home, with the wish that Dr. Middlemiss may long be spared to wear his honours, and exercise his gifts.

By appointment of Kingston Presbytery the Rev. Principal Grant preached in Chalmers Church, Kingston, on Sabbath week. At the close of the service the following finding of the Presbytery was announced. The Presbytery of Kingston having been requested to hold a visitation of the congregation of Chalmers Church, Kingston, and such visitation having been held on the evenings of Monday, March 29th, and on Thursday, April 8th, the following deliverance was agreed to and ordered to be read from the pulpit on the ensuing Sabbath: The Presbytery has heard with great satisfaction of the spiritual and material progress of Chalmers Church congregation under the ministry of Rev. F. W. McCuaig. At the same time the Presbytery regrets to learn that there is a want of harmony between the pastor and, at least, a section of the people, for which no cause has been assigned, and it prays God that He will guide them to a solution of the difficulty, and enjoins upon both to seek His aid "toward those things that make for peace."

LAST Thursday evening the Rev. Principal MacVicar, D.D., LL.D., delivered a lecture on "What Great Men Know, but Dare Not Speak of," in Central Presbyterian Church, Toronto. The lecturer demonstrated that the Church of Rome is established by law in the Province of Quebec; that there were vast resources at the disposal of the Church, derived from real estate, acquired by grant, bequest, and purchase, from tithes, assessments for church building purposes, masses, and other means of raising revenue. He also showed clearly that the Church of Rome fostered puerile superstition; was unprogressive, and the chief cause of the imbecility of the people; it is opposed to national education, and hence responsible for the widespread illiteracy; is opposed to the legitimate use of the Bible; and strives to hold the balance of political power, which it employs to promote its own wealth and influence. The lecture was bold and fearless in expression. Attention was called to the fact that politicians and journalists are too ready to pander to the Church of Rome. The disestablishment of that Church in Quebec was strongly advocated.

THE second annual meeting of the Roxborough Auxiliary to the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was held in Knox Church, Cornwall, on the 19th March. The result of the year's work was, on the whole, encouraging, the report showing a total of \$54, to which \$11 were added on the evening of the meeting. Notwithstanding a breezy evening, the church was well filled, and the friends who had met partook of the bountiful refreshments provided for them by the ladies of the congregation, and then listened with eager interest to an earnest address from the Rev. J. Fraser, of Indian Lands. As they hearkened to his glowing appeals, faithful exhortations and words of encouragement, they felt that Glengarry had indeed gained a prize when he became a member of her Presbytery. Mr. Fraser is in the full vigour of his zeal, and all hearts thrilled in answer to his words. We feel that it is not amiss for us to say that all in connection with this Presbytery feel more than grateful to him for the great interest he has taken in the religious welfare of the people in this section of the Church, and many, many hearts among the young as well as the aged cherish for him an undying love. Mrs. Fraser, president of the Presbyterian Society of Glengarry, was also present and gave a short but very beautiful address. She is most earnest and faithful in the work of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, and to her, as the instrument in God's hand, the Glengarry Presbyterian Society owes its present standing.

THE 6th of April last was a red letter day in the history of St. Peter's Church, Madoc. It was then declared to be free of debt, and the people gave thanks to God, "rejoicing with exceeding great joy." In 1859 Madoc was the centre of an extensive and destitute mission field. The total sum raised that year did not exceed \$210. A heavier debt rested on the church than it was worth; the people were sickened; a law-suit was pending; and the things that remained were ready to perish. In 1873, thirteen years later, four churches had been built and paid for, five stations had been hired off, and the revenue of St. Peter's alone had reached the sum of \$870. On a night ever to be remembered of that year, the fire fiend consumed half the business part of the village, and reduced the church to ashes. Thus perished the labours of sixteen years, and \$5,000. It was no use talking, "arise and build": as the Presbyterian merchants were the chief sufferers, and they were deliberating about removing elsewhere. The number of families only amounted to sixty, one third were of no account financially, and the highest income of any person did not reach \$1,500 a year. And now, in 1886, other thirteen years have come and gone; the number of families has risen to eighty-two; of these only fifty were contributors to the erection of the new church, costing \$20,000. Every

cent of the above has now been paid for, and the enclosed ground may be reckoned at \$3,000 extra. The St. James of the Church were always honoured, and the revenue for the year just closed amounts to \$2,200. When a general says to his men "come," not "go," they will dare almost anything.

ON a recent Sabbath evening the Rev. E. Wallace Waits reviewed his four years' ministry in Chatham, N. B. Each year has been one of temporal and spiritual prosperity to the congregation. Improvements to the amount of \$9,000 have been made on the church and manse during that period. The annual report of the congregation for the year ending December 31, 1885, shows a most encouraging state of affairs. In the past year thirty-eight have been added to the communion roll upon their own confession of Christ; and thirteen by certificate from other congregations. There have been removed by death and other causes thirty-one. The rite of baptism has been administered to fifty-five infants. The number of families claiming connection with the congregation is 250, besides sixty-five single persons not connected with these families. There are 350 members in full communion, and three Sabbath schools connected with the Church; 300 Sabbath school scholars, and thirty-five teachers and officers. There are 1,300 volumes in the various Sabbath school libraries. The financial statement shows that the following amounts have been raised by the congregation in the year 1885: Total contributions for strictly congregational purposes, \$2,197; total payments to the Mission Schemes of the Church, \$341.50; payments to Synod and Presbytery Fund (including commissioners' expenses to General Assembly), \$36; all other payments for benevolent and religious purposes, \$387.44. Total payments for all purposes, \$2,961.94. There are a Missionary Association, Ladies' Aid Society and a Benevolent Society, for the relief of the poor, all doing good work, in connection with the congregation.

PRESBYTERY OF MIRAMICHI.—The quarterly meeting of this Presbytery was held in the hall of St. John's Church, Chatham, on Tuesday, March 16, and was constituted with devotional exercises by the Rev. Wm. Aitken, Moderator. There were seven ministers and two elders present. The minutes of two previous meetings were read and sustained. Communications from Rev. Dr. Burns and Rev. Joseph Annand, returned missionary from the New Hebrides, enant his visit to the Miramichi Presbytery, were read, and Messrs. Waits and McKay were appointed a committee to make arrangements for his services not earlier than June or the beginning of July. Catechists were appointed to the various mission fields as follows: Mr. B. F. Wilson, of Princeton Seminary, to Talusintach and Burnt Church; Mr. Thomas G. Marquis to Kouchibouguac; Mr. J. F. Smith to Escuminac, Quebec. The Clerk was instructed to write to the Home Mission Board for students to be sent to the following mission stations: Caraque and Miscou, Flatlands, Metapedia and Upsalquitch, New Brandon, etc. The committee appointed to visit Douglastown and Nelson reported that they had failed to effect a union between these congregations. It was then resolved, on motion of Rev. Neil McKay, "That an adjourned meeting of the Presbytery be held on the last Tuesday of May (25th of the month) in the hall of St. James' Church, Newcastle, and that until then matters in Douglastown be left as they are, and that the Presbytery in the meantime provide otherwise for Nelson." A petition from the Nelson congregation was read, requesting that the communion be dispensed there, and Rev. Wm. Aitken was requested to attend to that duty at an early date; and further, that the relation of Nelson congregation to Newcastle be considered at the adjourned meeting in May. The circular anent the method of appointing a Moderator for the General Assembly was read, and it was not deemed necessary to take any further action thereon. Mr. McKay was appointed a committee on Temperance for the Presbytery. The Clerk reported that replies had been received from the lay commissioners to General Assembly, accepting their respective appointments.—E. WALLACE WAITS, Pres. Clerk.

### MONTREAL NOTES.

THE Synod of Montreal and Ottawa meets in St. Andrew's Church, Perth, on Tuesday evening, 20th April. The sermon will be preached by the retiring Moderator, the Rev. Dr. MacNish, of Cornwall. In former years this Synod has met in the month of May. It is hoped that the change in date will have the effect of bringing out a larger number of elders than usual.

ON account of ill health the Rev. J. Cormack, B.A., of Lachine, has, on the advice of his physician, gone south to Fortress Monroe for a few weeks, his pulpit being supplied in his absence by brethren in the Presbytery. Mr. Cormack has endeared himself to his people during the year he has been in Lachine. They generously handed him a well-filled purse to meet the expenses of his trip, and it is hoped that he will return in the end of May quite restored to health.

THE Rev. Professor Campbell and family left here on Friday evening for their summer residence at Yoho, Muskoka. The Professor conducts service regularly every Sabbath during the summer, the settlers and summer visitors from the neighbouring islands attending in large numbers.

A MEETING of the congregation of Cote St. Antoine was held in the new church on Wednesday last, the Rev. R. H. Warden presiding. Trustees were elected, a constitution for the congregation was adopted and ordered to be submitted to the Presbytery for its sanction, and the following managers elected: Mr. M. Hutchinson, president; Mr. D. Rutherford, vice-president; Mr. R. Harvie, secretary-treasurer, and Messrs. Samuel, A. C. Hutchison, Wills, McLeod, Russell and Minto. It was reported that a new pipe organ, costing \$750, was being built for the church, the gift of a few friends. The treasurer reported that the revenue of the congregation thus far, per Sabbath envelopes, exceeded \$1,600 per annum, and a resolution was adopted looking toward the securing of a pastor as early as possible. The congregation is steadily increasing. The church is fully

three-fourths filled at the Sabbath services, the Sabbath school numbers close on a hundred, and the week evening services, conducted chiefly by themselves, are well attended. The Lord's Supper is to be administered for the first time on the morning of the first Sabbath of May.

THE congregation of St. Matthew's Church, Point St. Charles (Rev. W. R. Cruikshank, pastor), have just purchased a lot for the erection of the new church, at a cost of between \$3,000 and \$4,000. The lot is a corner one, on Wellington and Magdalene Streets, centrally situated, and admirably adapted for the purpose. The sum of \$1,000 has already been paid, and the people are taking up a cash subscription among themselves, to meet next week as large a portion of the balance as possible. They are negotiating for the sale of their present church property, and it is hoped that by the assistance of friends in the other city congregations they may soon be in a position to let the contract for the erection of a church building to accommodate the ever increasing number of families desiring connection with the congregation.

THE annual business meeting of St. John's French Presbyterian congregation (Rev. C. A. Doudiet, pastor) was held on the 8th inst. Between sixty and seventy were present. The reports submitted showed a gratifying state of matters. The additions to the membership were large, and the amount raised by the people, upwards of \$400. After addresses by Rev. Prof. Coussirat and Messrs. Warden and Doudiet, it was unanimously resolved to adopt the weekly Sabbath envelope system for congregational expenses, including minister's stipend. Though the large majority of the congregation are in humble circumstances, it is confidently hoped that by means of the new system a much larger sum will be raised than heretofore. A concert given by the young people of this church in the Young Men's Christian Association Hall, on the 9th inst., was attended by nearly 300 persons, and an enjoyable evening spent.

THE Rev. James Sieveright, of Huntsville, Muskoka, is at present in this district endeavouring to raise money in aid of the erection of a manse and two churches in his field. He lectured in Huntingdon last week. He preaches on Sabbath, 18th inst., in St. Gabriel and Chalmers Churches in this city, and lectures on "Three Years in the North-West" in Erskine Church lecture room, on Monday evening, and Chalmers Church on Wednesday evening. Collections in behalf of the Huntsville Manse Fund.

THE congregation of Stanley St. Church entertained the Rev. J. McCaul to a farewell social on Monday evening last, which was largely attended. Addresses were delivered by Sir Wm. Dawson, Rev. Dr. Stevenson, Rev. J. Fleck, Mr. W. Drysdale, and others. Mr. McCaul was presented with a purse of \$300 as a farewell gift. He left Montreal on Wednesday, and sailed from New York for Glasgow the following day. He carries with him the good wishes of very many friends in this city.

THE annual report of the congregation of St. Gabriel Church (Rev. R. Campbell, M.A., pastor), has just been published. The session numbers nine, and the board of trustees—Mr. James Robertson, chairman—consists of twelve members. The congregation numbers 181 families and 355 communicants. Thirty-three members were added during the year. The Sabbath school numbers 147. The ordinary revenue last year reached \$2,500, of which \$1,900 were received by weekly envelope. The contributions for the Schemes of the Church were \$654, including \$103 from the Sabbath school. In addition to this about \$300 were given by special subscription to the Colleges, Augmentation and Woman's Missionary Society. Of the total receipts for the year only twenty per cent. were expended for congregational purposes, forty per cent. were given to missionary and benevolent objects. A list of the names and addresses of the families connected with the church is appended to the printed report. The congregation anticipated the sale of their present church building, and the erection of a commodious new church in a more desirable locality. A missionary society, a ladies' aid, a young people's and a temperance association are in active operation in the church.

### SYNOD OF HAMILTON AND LONDON.

The Synod of Hamilton and London of the Presbyterian Church in Canada met in St. Andrew's Church, Sarnia, on Monday evening, the 12th inst. There was a large attendance of the citizens, representing all denominations in the town, and a fair representation of ministers and elders. The retiring Moderator, the Rev. Wm. Robertson, M.A., of Chestersfield, preached an able and appropriate sermon from Acts ii., on the work of the Holy Spirit.

On motion of Mr. George Chrystal, seconded by Mr. Robert Hamilton, the Rev. George Burson, of St. Catharines, was unanimously elected Moderator. The Clerk then read a tabulated statement of all the changes affecting the roll of Synod during the year. A cordial resolution was passed, expressing the Synod's congratulations to the Rev. Dr. Smellie, of Fergus, on the occasion of his jubilee as a Christian minister. Before the adjournment of the Synod, Dr. Cochrane expressed the sincere gratification of all the members at the high honour conferred last week upon the esteemed pastor of the church in which the Synod meets, by Knox College, Toronto. The Moderator conveyed to Dr. Thompson the congratulations of the Synod, to which he responded in suitable terms.

The Synod met again on Tuesday morning, the Rev. George Burson, Moderator. The first hour was spent in devotional exercises. The report of the Buxton Fund showed that the sum of \$250.50 had been received during the year, and paid over to the Rev. William King. The report was received and the committee re-appointed.

The Synod then considered an overture anent the mode of electing the Assembly's Moderator from the Presbytery of Hamilton.

Dr. Macdonald, of Hamilton, spoke in support of the