

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

THE sacrament will be dispensed at Burns' Church, Rocky Saugeen, on Sabbath, September 7th, by the Rev. J. Campbell, B.A., of Harriston.

THE Rev. Samuel R. Warrender, formerly of King and Laskay, has been supplying Knox Church, Ottawa, during the summer, in the absence of the pastor, Rev. F. W. Farries.

AT a meeting of members of Melville Church congregation, Brussels, held on Tuesday last, it was decided to give a call to Rev. John Ross, of Toronto, at a salary of \$900 and a manse.

THE young people of the Quaker Hill congregation lately sent their pastor, Rev. W. J. Smyth, who was absent for a few weeks, a liberal post office order, accompanied by an affectionate address.

ROCHESTERVILLE Presbyterian Church Sabbath school made an excursion down the Ottawa by the steamer "Peerless" to Cumberland, where they held their annual picnic on the 21st of August, and returned in the evening after having spent the day pleasantly.

THE Rev. D. Tait, B.A., has been unanimously called by the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Berlin. Mr. Alexander Young and Mr. John King, barrister, were appointed commissioners to represent the congregation at the Guelph Presbytery, which meets on the 9th September, with the view of inducing Mr. Tait to accept the call.

THE Rev. John Wilkie, who has recently been appointed by the Foreign Mission Committee of the Church, as missionary to Central India, has been visiting some of the congregations of the Church previous to his departure to the mission field there. Last week, amongst other places he visited Baltimore and Coldsprings, and addressed a meeting at each place. The attendance at both meetings were very good. The pastor of the congregation, the Rev. F. R. Beattie, occupied the chair and introduced Mr. Wilkie, who gave addresses abounding in information about India and Indian Missions. He spoke of the country and its population, of the people and their religion, of mission work and its results, and of the mission of our own Church at Indore and Mhow and the duty of the people to this and other missions. At the close of the address, which occupied nearly an hour, a collection was taken up for the outfit and travelling expenses of Mr. Wilkie to his distant field. He intends to leave Canada in October, and his visit to Baltimore and Coldsprings will not soon be forgotten. He goes to India with the sympathy and prayers of the people there, and may the prayer of the Church be that the Lord may go with him and give him and the other missionaries many open doors to the heathen.

ON Monday, the 25th ult., Rev. Robert Torrance and Mrs. Torrance, of Guelph, were favoured with the presence at their residence of a large party of pleasant and happy people. The special object in view was the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Torrance's marriage—"the silver wedding," as it is conventionally called. The company enjoyed themselves in various ways in the grounds, and partook of tea together at five o'clock. A number of appropriate presents in silver were made by the visitors, among the rest a beautifully wrought silver set—ice pitcher, salver, and goblets—from the four children of the host and hostess. The eldest son occupies a position of trust and emolument in the Brantford branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. In giving an account of this happy meeting, a local paper says: "The high esteem in which Mr. Torrance and family are held, and which he has thoroughly deserved by his uniform uprightness, urbanity, earnestness of purpose, and eminently Christian life and bearing, both as a servant of Christ and in connection with the more secular matter of education, and otherwise, was made thoroughly manifest by the presence of the large number of friends and acquaintances, who did all in their power to make the occasion a most pleasant one."

TO HOME MISSION CONVENERS.

The Home Mission Committee, Western Section, meets in the Deacons' Court Room of Knox Church, Toronto, on Tuesday, 7th October, at two p.m. The necessary blanks were forwarded last week to the Conveners of all the Presbyteries' Home Mission Committees. Should any not have received them duplicates will be sent on application to Rev. R. H. Warden, 260 St. James street, Montreal.

THE LATE REV. DR. WILLIS.

BY REV. WM. REID, D.D., TORONTO.

The readers of THE PRESBYTERIAN have already heard of the death of the Rev. Dr. Willis, so long connected with the Presbyterian Church in this land. He died at Edinburgh, on the 19th August, at the ripe age of eighty. From his early years he had been carefully trained in the principles of the Presbyterian Church, and with a view to the Christian ministry. His father was a highly respectable minister of the denomination known as the Old Light Burghers, and was also Professor of Divinity in the same denomination. In this office Dr. Willis, who had gone through a full collegiate and theological course, succeeded his father, and soon gave evidence of his pre-eminent fitness for such a position. His soundness in the faith, his extensive reading, his exact knowledge of the works of theological writers, especially of the Fathers, and the theologians of the post-reformation period, and the eloquence, with which his views were often expressed, all contributed to fit him for discharging, with high credit to himself and with advantage to the Church, the duties of a theological professor. His lectures were highly valued by his students, and, in Scotland as well as in Canada, he was instrumental in training up many able ministers, who were called upon to occupy prominent places in the Church.

In 1839 the body with which Dr. Willis was connected as a minister and professor of theology joined the Church of Scotland. In 1842 Dr. Willis connected himself with the Free Church, as did most, if not all, of his former brethren. At that time he was the popular minister of Renfield street Church in Glasgow. A few years after the Disruption, he came as a deputy from the Free Church to the Church in Canada, and during his stay preached in many parts of the country, and also rendered assistance to those who were engaged in imparting instruction to the students in Knox College, then recently established. The Rev. Henry Esson had been appointed Professor of Literature and Philosophy in 1844, and Dr. Burns, who had been called to Knox Church, Toronto, was appointed Professor of Divinity. Before long, however, it was thought desirable to separate the Professorship of Divinity from the office of pastor, and, with the view of obtaining a suitable professor from the mother country, Dr. Bayne of Galt was deputed in 1847 to visit the parent Churches. Through Dr. Bayne, the appointment was tendered to Dr. Willis, and accepted by him, and in the autumn of 1847 he returned to Canada to enter on the duties of his office, his colleagues being Rev. Henry Esson, and Rev. W. Rintoul who for some years was Professor of Hebrew. From 1847 to 1870 Dr. Willis discharged the duties of Professor of Systematic Theology, and for the greater part of the time acted as Principal of the College, a position to which he was appointed in 1857.

The duties devolving upon Dr. Willis he discharged with great ability, and the services which he rendered to the Church, not only in the lecture-room, but in preaching the gospel in many parts of the land, were of the very highest value, especially in a young and growing Church. The character of his theological teaching and of his pulpit discourses gave a tone to the public teaching of the students who received their training under him, and largely tended to render the ministry of the Presbyterian Church what it has been and still is.

Dr. Willis took a prominent part in the business of the Church Courts, and his sound views, combined with a conciliatory and generous spirit, rendered him a valued counsellor in the Presbytery and in the Superior Courts. He took a warm interest in everything connected with the intellectual, moral and spiritual interests of the community. His counsels and his eloquent appeals were of great service to the Anti-slavery Society while it existed, and he lent very efficient aid in the movements which were inaugurated and carried on with a view to the settlement of the Clergy Reserves, and the establishment of the Toronto University on its present footing.

Dr. Willis had many qualities which rendered him highly esteemed and greatly beloved by those who were intimately acquainted with him. He was a steadfast friend, generous and sympathizing, and ever ready to take the part of the weak and suffering. His character is not represented as a perfect one. None is perfect. Many probably have spoken of weaknesses and failings in the character of Dr. Willis, while they themselves had far more serious defects. His

were on the surface without disguise, while in many others greater failings are hidden from observation, or only make their appearance under peculiar pressure. But making all allowance for imperfections and failings, none who knew Dr. Willis could deny that he was a truly good and devout man, and in many respects, a great man. As a learned and sound theologian, an eloquent and impressive preacher, a benevolent and philanthropic man he will long be remembered in this land where so many of his active years were spent.

After his retirement he was able to carry out a purpose which he had long cherished of visiting the east. He had also more than once visited a Scotch colony in France in whose spiritual welfare he was greatly interested. While he resided in London he collected and published a number of pulpit discourses and addresses on various subjects, forming a volume, which no doubt has a place in the libraries of many of his students.

The death of Dr. Willis took place on the 19th of August at the age of eighty. Just ten years before—19th August 1869—his colleague Dr. Burns had died at the same age. "Our fathers, where are they? and the prophets, do they live forever?" Our Church, so far as the ministry is concerned, is rapidly changing. May the lessons which God in His providence is teaching us from year to year and from day to day, have the effect of stirring all up to greater diligence and more entire devotedness.

Mrs. Willis, the widow of our departed friend, was extensively known and greatly beloved by many in this land. Many prayers will be offered up that she may be greatly comforted in the day of her sore trial, and that the rich promises of the gospel may be abundantly fulfilled in her experience.

OBITUARY.

Mr. George Pringle, who died in November last aged 92, was at the time of his death an elder in Knox Church, St. Thomas. He had lived in the said town for nearly forty years. In the congregation, in the town, and indeed in the locality at large he was highly esteemed and universally respected. Born in Earls-ton, Scotland, in the year 1786, he emigrated to Canada in 1832. That same year he was elected an elder in the congregation of the late Dr. Taylor, in the City of Montreal, where he spent five years. Thereafter he moved to Canada West, to the City of London, where he resided for six years; acting as elder in the congregation of the father of Dr. Proudfoot.

His occupation was varied; sometimes watchmaking, sometimes house-building, sometimes farming, organ-building, and again watchmaking. He was twice married; had three children by his first wife, and four by his second: all of whom are occupying positions of honour in the land.

He died as he had lived, trusting confidently, joyfully in the Lord: His end was certainly peace. He has left an example that is very worthy of imitation. His unostentatious and constant attendance upon Divine worship to the last was very noticeable, and very beautiful: even his last Sabbath on earth beheld his presence in the House of God.

"Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright; for the man is peace." Ps. xxxvii. 37. M. F.

EDUCATION AND CHRISTIANITY IN INDIA.

An article written on India concerning the influence of English education, which appears in the last number of "Woman's Work for Woman," is very suggestive of the difficulties to be encountered in establishing the truths and institutions of the Gospel in that country, even as its former religious beliefs are passing away. It says:

"The statistics of the Educational Department of India show that at the present time upwards of six thousand young men go up annually for the entrance examination of the Calcutta and other universities. These youths are examined as to their knowledge of the English of such standard works as Milton, Shakespeare, Chaucer, and Carlyle. There is scarcely any doubt that English education and contact with Englishmen is doing more to undermine the caste system, and indeed to destroy the foundation principles of Hindooism, than anything else, the Gospel of Christ alone excepted. However, while the influence of English is thus adverse to the systems of false religion and superstition, it would be a mistake to suppose it always favourable to the cause of Christ.

"As science is sometimes perverted and made subservient to the cause of Satan in the world, so English education may be made to advance the cause of Antichrist in India. The same key that unlocks the treasures of Christian knowledge and science in English literature, also unlocks the door