

Ministers and Churches

ST. JOHN, N.B.

Judged by the number of Thanksgiving suppers, the people of St. John fully appreciate the good gifts of Providence, and are extraordinarily grateful. Nearly every church of every denomination has celebrated the day gastronomically, much to the benefit of brotherly kindness and the funds of Ladies' Aid Societies. There has been but one opinion among them regarding the "dissemination of Turkey." Ministers have had something else to do than to write sermons full of the usual platitudes. We know of one at least who is famous for carving turkeys as well as texts, and who prepared ten of the popular birds in toothsome form for the table. One of the most interesting of these functions was held in the Presbyterian Hall at Fairville, one of the suburbs of St. John. This congregation is but four years old, but it is rapidly rising into the rank of a self-supporting charge. The special occasion of thanksgiving was the final retirement of the mortgage on their building. Quite a number of representatives of the other city churches drove out to join in congratulating the Rev. Arthur Morton and his people on their enviable circumstances. A hearty vote of thanks was given to Dr. James Walker, whose generosity in subscribing more than one half of the debt, made it possible for the congregation to raise the balance. More than one of our churches have reason to thank Dr. Walker for his judiciously bestowed liberality.

St. David's Church celebrates its half century in the first week of December. St. Andrew's Church claims to have had a continuous existence for 114 years, although not organized into a congregation at first, but worshipping as a distinct body of Christians with the Church of England for a long time. St. John's Church dates its organization from the preaching of the first sermon of its first minister, Rev. Robert Irvine, afterwards of Hamilton and Montreal, on May 12th, 1844. St. Stephen's is also one of our oldest congregations, but the continuity of its existence was broken by the heresy and deposition of its minister, who carried his congregation with him and formed the body known in local history as the "Wishartites," which disbanded upon his death.

The new St. Matthew's Church, in the North End, is approaching completion. Under the energetic efforts of Rev. Harvey Morton, this little congregation is making substantial progress, and has the good will of its older sisters. Should a "boom" visit St. John, this section of the city will have been pre-empted for Presbyterianism. Both the Mortons are sons of the Rev. Dr. Morton, of Trinidad, and are a sensible addition to the intellectual and moral force of the church in St. John.

St. David's Church has just been celebrating its semi-centennial anniversary, and the services have been of unusual interest, as they mark the completion of fifty years of church labor and triumph. Principal Pollok, D.D., of Halifax, conducted the services, preaching sermons appropriate to the occasion. On Monday evening there was an organ recital; on Tuesday evening a largely-attended congregational social; on Wednesday evening a prayer meeting participated in by the various Presbyterian churches in the city; on Thursday evening an excellent concert was given under the auspices of the Y. P. Association; and on Friday evening the sacred cantata "The Coming of the King" was given by the Sabbath School scholars, bringing to a successful close a varied and interesting programme. Dr. Bruce is to be congratulated on the prosperity and harmony which characterizes St. David's under his pastorate.

UPPER OTTAWA

The Rev. Morris MacLean, of Blakeney, has declined the call from Spencerville, much to the satisfaction of the people.

The Rev. R. V. McKibbin, B.A., has been supplying Ross and Cobden with much acceptance. He returned recently to his home at Ottawa.

The W. F. M. S. of Beaubien held their annual thank-offering meeting on the evening of Thanksgiving Day. The pastor, Rev. Robert McNabb, presided, and the Rev. Dr. Bayne, of Pembroke, addressed the meeting. The offering was the largest ever made by this auxiliary—some \$50.

Mr. R. S. Rudd has presented two pulpit chairs to St. Andrew's Church, Arnprior.

The Rev. John MacLaren, of Carp, Ont., preached at the opening of the new church at Bell's Corners on November 20th.

The Rev. Dr. Bayne, of Pembroke, preached at the opening of the new Methodist Church at Westmeath on the 29th of November.

A collection of \$43 was taken up in St. Andrew's Church, Arnprior, on Thanksgiving Day in aid of the Protestant Hospital, Ottawa.

The Rev. M. D. M. Blakely, late of Cobden, has taken charge of the Mission Field of Alice and is meeting with much encouragement.

Mr. J. W. Wallace, B.A., who assisted the Rev. D. J. MacLean, of Arnprior, during the summer, has returned to college, leaving fragment memories behind.

The jubilee of Calvin Church, Pembroke (Rev. Dr. Bayne, pastor), will be celebrated next March. This is now one of the strongest charges in Ontario. Since Dr. Bayne's settlement there ten years ago over 500 members have been added and the number of families has been increased by eighty. The jubilee will be a notable event, as the Presbyteries has consented to meet in Pembroke at that time and assist in the services.

OTTAWA.

The Rev. N. A. McLeod, has been called to the New Edinburgh Presbyterian Church, in succession to Rev. J. A. MacFarlane.

On the eve of her departure from the city, Miss Jennie Andrews was presented with a gold bracelet by the choir of Knox Church, with which she has been associated for some time.

At a recent meeting of the Home Missionary Society of St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, a letter was read from Rev. Mr. Johnston of Swan River Mission, Lake Dauphin District, N.W.T., describing his work, which is progressing favorably, although under difficulties.

The Ladies' Aid of the Glebe Presbyterian Church, Ottawa, gave their annual bazaar on the 6th inst., in the church on 3rd Avenue. Rev. J. W. Milne occupied the chair. The attendance was large and the church was beautifully decorated.

At the close of the entertainment refreshments were served. A tidy sum was realized and will go towards the organ fund.

Rev. J. W. H. Milne, who has been preaching at the Glebe Church all summer, and whose interest in temporal as well as in the spiritual welfare of his people, has earned for him golden opinions, was inducted this evening. Mr. Herridge, pastor of the parent congregation, presided. Rev. R. Herborn preached the sermon. Rev. J. D. Morrison (Billing's Bridge), addressed the people, and Rev. Dr. Moore instructed the minister.

There has been a change in the choir at the Bank Street Presbyterian Church. Miss Lena Rillance, who occupied the position of leader for over a year, has resigned, and is succeeded by Miss Mabel Shea. Miss Shea is one of the most talented singers in Ottawa, and her beautiful, flexible voice has been much admired at the services in this church for some time. Her promotion from the ranks is well merited.

The annual sermon of the St. Andrew's Society was preached to about one hundred and fifty members in St. Andrew's Church on Sunday evening by the chaplain, Rev. J. W. H. Milne. A large number of the most prominent Scotchmen in the city were present. Mr. Milne's discourse was an effort to arrive at the reasons for Scottish greatness, and he found that that which has given distinction to the Scottish people is religion. All the varied attainments of the Scotch found their foundation in the inherent devotion of the people to the Christian faith.

Mr. Herridge's Thanksgiving discourse in St. Andrew's Church was an effort always looked forward to by a large circle of admirers. On that day he discards for the nonce his regular style of sermonizing, and delivers a patriotic oration. On one occasion Mr. Herridge is said to have offended a number of his parishioners of American lineage by the ultra-loyal nature of his remarks. This Thanksgiving season he fell into the spirit of the hour, and expressed the

wish that the Stars and Stripes and the Union Jack might ever be found wrapped solid within fold. At another point he said: "As Canadians, there is no people on the face of the earth to-day whom we need envy, or with whom we need wish to exchange situations."

After having been in the renovator's and decorator's hands for some months, Knox Church was, on Sunday week, publicly re-opened for divine worship. Rev. W. T. Herridge, B. D., preached the initial sermon—a "re-ly beautiful discourse"—taking as his text the words, "I saw no temple therein." In the evening Rev. D. M. Ramsay, the pastor, who is meeting with a remarkably successful ministry in the congregation, spoke from his own pulpit. The improvements, taken as a whole, are quite extensive. They cost in the neighborhood of \$5,000. Coming so soon after the complete wiping off of the debt by the congregation, this must be viewed as additional cause for congratulation. The auditorium of the church is now tastefully tinted, and new carpet has been laid. The ceiling is of metal, and the lighting is effected by electric lamps in clusters of four around each pillar.

LONDON.

Rev. Robert Johnston, B.D., pastor of St. Andrew's Church, London, Ont., has been waited by a disputation from the Presbyterian church at Titusville, Pa. It is understood that the Titusville people offered Mr. Johnston \$3,000 a year and a free manse.

At the last meeting of the London Presbyterian Council, Rev. J. G. Stuart read a paper on the progress of the Presbyterian Church in Canada during the last decade. The paper showed much research, and evinced a pardonable pride in the record presented. A splendid discussion followed, redolent of thankfulness, yet keenly anxious that every defect in the armor of the denomination should be rectified, so that it might enter the twentieth century better fitted than ever for the task of keeping Canada for Christ.

Probably no other Presbyterian centre in Canada surpasses London in the matter of mutual good will and good wishes, as between congregations, pastors and office-bearers. This happy state of affairs is largely due to the London Presbyterian Council—an informal body, composed of all the Presbyterian ministers, elders and managers of the city. It meets quarterly and is the opportunity for bringing together the leading spirits of the various congregations. There is no aloofness, no unfriendly rivalry, between the different congregations; while the large discussions that take place are in the highest degree educative and informing. It will be understood that the Council claims no legal status; but it has in more than one instance been found that the force of a united Presbyterian public opinion is a potent force indeed.

Presbyterianism in London was never more aggressive, more hopeful than at the present time. St. Andrew's, the largest church, is doing extremely well under Rev. Robert Johnston. Rev. W. J. Clark, in Dr. Froudford's old church, finds the building often small enough for all who throng to hear his stirring appeals. Rev. J. G. Stuart holds the fort in London South. Rev. Thomas Wilson in London East. Rev. Walter Moffat, towards the southern portion of the city, is building up the new Chalmers' Church satisfactorily. On the eastern shore, the Asylum, success has rewarded the new charge presided over by Rev. George Gilmore. The recent settlement of Rev. A. J. McGillivray, in St. James' Church, has proved a happy one. The new pastor, with his "shining morning face" and strong common sense, is steadily sanctifying his way. There has been talk of the St. James' congregation moving farther north, into the new and rapidly growing residential neighborhood in that direction. There is a mission school up there now, under St. Andrew's, but what is needed is full congregational equipment. The sinner the better.

MONTREAL.

Considerable interest is felt in the announcement of a Presbyterian paper for this city, the Province of Quebec and Eastern Ontario.

The congregations in the city have all put on their usual activity, and are prepared for aggressive work during the coming months.

Melville Church people have got into their new building, a neat and commodious edifice. The opening services were conducted by the Rev. W. T. Herridge, and on the following Sabbath by the Rev. Dr. Barclay and Rev. Prof. Ross. Every seat has been taken so that already they are at a loss for room. Of course the intention is to put up a larger building and use the present one for Sabbath School purposes. However, this will hardly be attempted for a few years. The pastor of Melville Church, Rev. T. W. Winfield, is to be congratulated on having such splendid facilities for the performance of his important duties in this rapidly growing charge.