

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

WE would call the attention of Clerks of Presbyteries to the notice which appears in this issue from the Convener of the General Assembly's Committee on Statistics.

THE Rev. D. L. McCrae, of St. Matthew's Church, Osnabruck, was lately presented by the Pleasant Valley portion of his charge with a splendid fur coat, accompanied by an affectionate address. This is another of the many valuable gifts of which Mr. McCrae has been the recipient since his settlement in Osnabruck.

THE Metaphysical and Literary Society of Knox College held a public meeting in the College Convocation Hall last Friday evening. The large attendance of friends gave ample proof that their interest in the prosperity of the Society is by no means abating. The Rev. Dr. Proudfoot, who presided on the occasion, received a hearty greeting from the students. After a few appropriate remarks he introduced the programme for the evening, which consisted of an essay by Mr. D. James, a reading by Mr. J. Builder, B.A., several musical selections by the Glee Club, and a discussion on the question "Has the connection which has existed between England and Ireland been detrimental upon the whole to the interests of the latter country?" Messrs. C. H. Cooke, B.A., and T. Davidson, B.A., supported the affirmative, and Messrs. Jno. Neil, B.A., and J. Ballantyne, B.A., the negative. The chairman having reviewed the arguments decided in favour of the affirmative. All the parts of the programme were executed in a manner which elicited frequent applause from the audience. On motion, the thanks of the Society were tendered to the ladies and gentlemen present, and also to the reverend chairman, enthusiastic cheers echoing the hope expressed by the President of the Society that soon he might preside as *Professor Proudfoot*, of Knox College.

A VERY successful Sabbath School Conference under the auspices of the Presbytery of Peterborough was held in the Presbyterian church, Warkworth, on the 16th and 17th of November. The Rev. J. W. Smith, of Grafton, was unanimously voted into the chair. There was a large attendance of parents and teachers, and various persons interested in Sabbath school work. In the afternoon and evenings the church was crowded. The principal subjects discussed were the following: "How Parents may Help the Sabbath School," opened by the Rev. J. W. Smith, of Grafton; "Methods of Teaching," by Mr. Harcourt, Warkworth; "Imitation of Christ in our Teaching," by Rev. P. Duncan, Colborne; "Art of Questioning and Illustrating," by Mr. Bartlett, Warkworth; "The Sphere of the Sabbath School," by Rev. F. R. Beattie, M.A., Baltimore; "Sabbath School Libraries and Finances," by Mr. Douglas, Norham; "Use of Maps, Blackboards, etc.," by Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, M.A., Norwood; "The Teacher's Motives and Aims," by Rev. A. Doxsee, Warkworth; "Conversion of Children and their Training for Christian Work," by Rev. D. Sutherland, M.A., Warkworth. There was also a mass meeting of children held, who were addressed in an exceedingly interesting and happy manner by Rev. Messrs. Fotheringham and Beattie. The choir rendered effective service on both days of the Conference.

WE give the following from the *Sarnia "Observer"* for the benefit of all our church friends who contemplate having bazaars this season: "The ladies of St. Andrew's Church under whose auspices and management the bazaar was held in the town hall last week, are to be congratulated upon the success which attended their undertaking. The bazaar opened on Tuesday evening and closed at nine o'clock last night, when the articles remaining unsold were disposed of at auction. The bazaar was generously patronized throughout, the sales up to three o'clock yesterday afternoon having aggregated the handsome sum of \$1,300. This gratifying result was not alone due to the number and beauty of the articles offered for sale—and they certainly were both numerous and beautiful—but we believe is largely to be attributed to the thoroughly honest and business-like way in which the bazaar was conducted. The articles were sold at moderate prices; there was no haggling or importuning to buy, and those who purchased went away with the feeling that they had got their money's worth, instead of having made a donation under the flimsy

guise of a commercial transaction. The refreshments served at the tables were dispensed upon the same principle. The ladies have not only given the building fund of the church a substantial lift, but they have the satisfaction of having done so without resorting to means which have given the average church bazaar the rather doubtful reputation it possesses as a method of raising funds for religious purposes."

ON the evening of Thursday, the 2nd inst., the Rev. A. B. Mackay, of Crescent street Church, Montreal, delivered a lecture at the Y. M. C. A. rooms in that city on "The Book and the Man." He said there is a Book different from all other books, that is the Bible; and there is a Man different from all other men, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Book and the Man go together, and cannot be separated; the former testifies of the latter; they both reveal God, and consequently have the same name, the "Word of God." The lecturer said there were three questions he had always been able to answer "yes" to—Is there a God? Can that God speak? Has he spoken? He has revealed Himself by means of the Book and by the Lord Jesus Christ—the latter the incarnate, the former the written, Word. They have not only the same name but the same origin. It is no more true that the Bible is the product of the human brain than that Jesus Christ had a human father. It had, it is true, an earthly connection, just as Jesus was born of the Virgin. Not one sentence or fact is in the Bible but it is there according to the will of God; that is what we mean by the inspiration of Scripture. Without inspiration—nay, without *verbal* inspiration—we have not a foot to stand upon. The angel said to Mary, "The power of the Highest shall overshadow thee;" the result was the incarnate Word. The Bible is similarly the result of a power acting upon men from the outside. Nothing can be clearer than that the prophets did not deliver their own thought, but they were acted upon by a power they could not resist. Like the Lord Jesus the Bible grew gradually; but it was perfect from the first, and the Book of Genesis contains all the principles which were developed afterward. The perfect unity and agreement of its various parts, written at such different times and in such different places, prove it to be the "Word of the Lord which endureth forever."

MOUNTAIN CITY is the main point in the municipality of South Dufferin, Manitoba, in section 24, township 2, range 6, west, a beautiful site for a town. It is rising rapidly into importance, and only needs railway connection to become the centre of a large trade. There has been a preaching station in connection with the Presbyterian Church in this neighbourhood for the last four years. On Sabbath, November, 14th, a place of worship was opened in the village, the first "house of God" in all the extensive Pembina Mountain region. This church is 21 x 36 feet, walls 16 feet, oak frame and pine finish outside and inside, costing about from \$1,200 to \$1,500 when painted and seated. The owner of the town site, Mr. Bradley, of Her Majesty's Customs, Emerson, donated to the trustees ten town lots, worth at least \$300, besides other marks of good-will, he himself belonging to the Church of England. There were three services on the opening Sabbath, Presbyterian in the morning, Canada Methodist in the afternoon, and Church of England in the evening. On the Monday evening following there was the opening soiree at which addresses were delivered by Revs. Mr. Cameron (Presbyterian), Mr. Bell (Canada Methodist), and Mr. Wilson (Church of England). The cause is prospering in this district, and there is much reason to be thankful that, in spite of many difficulties, the Presbyterians have now a "home of their own" in which to worship their own God and their fathers' God. The missionary field of labour includes six townships covering an area of 216 square miles, about one-fifth part of what it was originally. Four Presbyterian ministers are now on duty where one alone did the work. Westward Ho! is the cry ecclesiastically as well as otherwise. Fifty copies of the "Record" are distributed monthly, and it is hoped that next year a good number will take THE PRESBYTERIAN. The different branches of the Church of Christ work in harmony together, and all who profess and call themselves Christians encourage each other in their Master's work. This was shewn in the carrying of the "Scott Act" in Marquette, of which South Dufferin is a small part, Marquette, itself, including more than the half of Manitoba. It will help wonderfully

to advance Christ's cause to prevent the liquor traffic making any inroads in the district.

PRESBYTERY OF MAITLAND.—This Presbytery met on the 18th November, in Chalmers' Church, Kincardine township, and inducted the Rev. Charles Cameron as minister in that congregation. The Rev. J. A. Anderson, of Whitechurch, preached an appropriate sermon. Rev. A. F. McQueen addressed the minister, and Rev. J. L. Murray, M.A., the people. At the close of the service Mr. Cameron received a very cordial welcome from his people, and the managers, in a praiseworthy manner, paid their minister the quarter or half-year's stipend in advance. Altogether the settlement bids fair to be a very happy one.

TO CLERKS OF PRESBYTERIES.

REQUEST BY THE CONVENER OF THE COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS.

The Rev. Mr. Torrance, Guelph, Ont., Convener of General Assembly's Committee on Statistics, desires us to state that, on the 2nd of December, he mailed to each Clerk of Presbytery throughout the Church, a parcel of blank forms for congregational returns, sufficient to supply one to every congregation (vacant or settled) and mission station in his bounds, so far as could be ascertained from the rolls of Presbyteries in the appendix to the minutes of Assembly. Should any parcel fail to reach its proper destination, or contain an inadequate supply, he would feel obliged if advised at once to that effect. He respectfully asks Clerks to address copies of the blanks to congregations and mission stations, and where more than one form a pastoral charge or group of mission stations, that the name of each be written on the form before being issued by the Clerk, so that each one may receive a separate copy, and thus secure fuller returns.

It is the earnest desire of the Committee to procure full and accurate reports from the congregations and stations, so that the real position and strength of the Presbyterian Church in Canada may be ascertained as closely as possible.

As the General Assembly has been pleased to enjoin the Committee to print their report for next meeting, it will be impossible to embody any returns that have not been in the hands of the Convener by the 1st of May. Presbytery Clerks would greatly oblige by endeavouring to procure and forward their returns promptly.

MONTREAL COLLEGE.

From unusual pressure upon our space we were last week unable to give the speech of Rev. Principal McVicar at the Foreign Missionary meeting, held in Erskine church, Montreal, on the 25th ult. It will also be noticed that in the hurry of the moment we did less than justice to the munificence of Mr. Morrice's gift. We are almost pleased that such was the case, as it leads us to return to the matter and to point out how far this donation exceeds any as yet given by a single individual in the Presbyterian Church in Canada, whether for theological education or for any other of our Church schemes.

We understand that the movement indicated in Principal McVicar's speech in reference to endowment has been already commenced, and that there is every prospect of its being brought speedily to a successful issue. We may add that the proposed buildings are not to be an extension of the present College, but to be erected on an adjoining lot properly connected, and be ready for use next session. We have but to repeat our hope that this very noble and notable proceeding on the part of Mr. Morrice will lead some who are equally able to go and do likewise:

Principal McVicar, Presbyterian College, Montreal, said: It would be wrong for me at this late hour to make a speech, but I wish to say a sentence or two respecting Christian work in our city. We have not done all we should or all we intend to do. Some, however, of our generous Christian men and women have turned special attention to the poor, and wisely and well they have done their work, as our charitable institutions shew. Some have with large-hearted liberality and tender sympathy made lasting provision for those who in God's mysterious providence are speechless, and only plead for themselves by their silence. Others have thought of secular education, and have poured out their means for the advancement of science and the strengthening of our noble university. I thank God for all this and for the fact that Presbyterians whom I might name, and whom you all know and honour, have shewn their public spirit and catholic liberality in a very prominent measure in these directions. But it gives me unmingled pleasure to-night to be able to announce an act of munificence in behalf of the direct work of our Church which stands alone in the history of Canada—something which will tell with unlimited power for good in our missions at home and abroad, and our Church