

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

The ministers in Toronto have held meetings for prayer and conference every week on Monday evening, in Central Church. These meetings have been the means of drawing minister and elder closer together, for the members of session were also invited to be present and take a part. There have also been meetings held, usually on Monday, of the ministers of all denominations. These have drawn the different denominations more closely together. On Friday evening there will be a union meeting at Broadway Methodist Tabernacle, at which the ministers of several denominations will take part. All these meetings have had the one subject of discussion, how to secure a deeper and stronger current of spiritual life. The effect has already been seen in action, in the special meetings that have been held in different quarters of the city, and in the success that has attended these. The results have been more evident in the quickening of the spiritual life in believers than in the ingathering of those who have not as yet believed. But the latter result will follow the former.

Christmas Day services are held in some churches, but the New Year service is held in all. It is most fitting that the first act of the New Year, on the part of the Christian, should be the consecrating of all new effort to God. It may be that this has little meaning on the part of some, nothing more than conformity to custom, yet it is worth while. Everything that brings responsibility to God for the life that we are living and that even suggests the dedication of that life wholly to Him, is good, and will result in good to the participant. And in these brief morning services from year to year, direction is given to the aspiration that may be followed later if not now.

There is usually a fly in the ointment of the most carefully appointed feast. The citizens gladly welcomed Colonel Otter and the brave men whom he led for Canada and her Queen in South Africa. At the opening of the banquet there was everything that could be desired, and something that might have been dispensed with. The free flow of strong drink overcame many before the banquet was over, and for some at least the closing scene resembled an orgy more than anything else. It is a pity that it has been so, but such abuses seem inseparable from an unlimited supply of that which is the curse of many a character that would otherwise reach nobility.

In many of the congregations next Sabbath morning the sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed, and in some of them the observance will take the simplest form possible. The customary distribution of communicants cards will not be made, but all who wish will be invited to be present at the table of the Lord. The object is to emphasize the fact that this communion is not that of a congregation, but a church that is wide as the Dominion. Many of the Presbyteries have commended the proposition to observe the sacrament at this time, and while it would be too much to hope that it will be universal, we believe the exceptions will be comparatively few, and these when compliance could not be given. There will be inspiration in the thought that upwards of two hundred thousand are gathered together, pledging their allegiance anew to Christ their Lord.

Western Ontario.

The collections in Knox church, Galt, on the 30th ult., amounted to nearly \$300.

Rev. R. M. Hamilton, Brantford, has been presented with an easy chair by members of his Bible class.

Rev. Joseph Hamilton, Mimico, has issued an appropriately worded New Year's card, which bears a suitable motto for the new century.

Rev. C. T. Tough, of Hornby, whose health has been unsatisfactory of late, is under orders to rest for three months. His health is improving.

At the small congregation of St. Andrew's church, Kippen, the annual report showed the affairs of the congregation to be in a highly prosperous and satisfactory condition.

Rev. A. H. Macpherson, Acton, owing to some disarrangement of the manse furnace, was nearly asphyxiated on a recent Sabbath morning. The whole family was affected by the dangerous fumes and prompt medical treatment was needed to neutralize the deadly effects.

Mr. David Brown, superintendent of the Paris Sunday School, was presented with an address and a beautiful gold watch and chain by the members and adherents of the church.

The members of Knox congregation, Hullett, presented Miss Aggie Scott with a handsome gold watch, on Wednesday evening of last week in recognition of her services as organist in the church and Sunday School for a number of years.

Rev. Dr. Smith, St. Catharines, preached anniversary services at Knox church, on Sunday, the 30th ult., both morning and evening. There were large congregations and each sermon was an eloquent and practical exposition of the Word of God.

The Rev. A. McLaren, Port Colborne, has made quite a record this winter among the Sunday schools of his neighborhood with his stereoscopic views. A correspondent writes us that they are much better than many of the high-priced entertainments of the professionals.

The pulpit of St. Andrew's church, London, was occupied last Sabbath evening by Rev. J. F. Dickie, the distinguished pastor of the American Presbyterian church, Berlin, Germany. When Dr. Dickie was in London before, he preached on the last Sabbath of the late Dr. Scott's pastorate.

The death is announced of Mr. Alex Jardine, a successful Toronto manufacturer, and for many years an active elder of Old St. Andrew's church in that city. Mr. Jardine was a brother of Rev. Dr. Jardine, for many years minister of John St. church, Brockville, and was held in high esteem by his fellow citizens.

Rev. Thomas Eakin, St. Andrew's, Guelph, in the closing sermon of the old year said: "We are today what yesterday made us; tomorrow will find us the products of today; and we begin the new year on the plane on which the old one left us. Tell me that tomorrow has no connection with today and I shall be inclined only to act for today; but let me feel that today is the vestibule of the morrow and that this year is moulding me for the next, and I shall receive a wonderful inspiration."

"What the twentieth century holds out for this congregation no one can tell," remarked Rev. R. J. M. Glassford in his sermon on the 30th ult., in Chalmers church, Guelph. "With harmony in our ranks, and untrammelled by reason of little financial burden, the new century calls us to better service. New doors will open, may we accept? New methods will be needed, may we have wisdom. New difficulties will arise, may we have discretion. New battles will face us, with bravery born of confidence in God may we enter the battle arena. Above all may we be baptised with the Holy Spirit. Filled with His power our best effort will be called forth, and then will we find even more abundantly than in the past that results will take care of themselves."

Eastern Ontario.

Rev. J. R. Conn, Blakenay, and Rev. Mr. Woodside, Carleton Place, exchanged pulpits on the 30th ult.

Peterborough Presbytery disapproves of the Assembly's remit on the appointment of a Sabbath School field secretary.

Rev. Lachlan Beaton, who has just been inducted at Roxborough, preached most acceptably in the Brick church, St. Elmo, on a recent Sabbath.

The jubilee of the venerable Rev. F. Andrews, Keene, will be celebrated on the 11th inst. A competent committee of Peterborough Presbytery has the matter in hand.

The two Presbyterian congregations at Almonte, St. Andrew's and St. John's, will hold a joint communion service in St. John's church on the evening of Sabbath, Jan. 6th.

The board of management of the Gravel Hill church have put some very fine lamps in the church, which add greatly to the appearance and also to the comfort of the congregation.

On the evening of Christmas Day there was a pleasant gathering in Knox church, Lancaster, when a cantata was well rendered; and the Bible class presented the Rev. A. Graham with a purse of \$25.

The lecture in St. Paul's church, Smith's Falls, by Rev. J. A. Sinclair, lately returned missionary from the Yukon, was well attended and greatly enjoyed. Mr. Sinclair gave his audience a fund of information regarding that far-off country, and illustrated his lecture with a number of pictures of people and places of interest.

The congregations of Glenvale, Wilton and Harrowsmith, have called Rev. W. Cram, M. A., B. D., a native of Carleton Place. He is a graduate of Queen's and has been acting as an ordained missionary in the Bath charge.

Rev. Prof. Jordan, D. D., of Queen's Kingston, took both services in St. Andrew's, Belleville, for the pastor, Rev. M. W. MacLean who was suffering from a severe cold. Prof. Jordan is a favorite with Belleville Presbyterians.

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of Carp Presbyterian church, elected the following officers at its annual meeting: President, Mrs. Sinclair; vice-presidents, Mrs. H. MacDougall, Mrs. Alex Andrews; secretary, Mrs. E. F. Wilson; treasurer, Mrs. Alex Andrews. The treasurer stated that the receipts of the year had been \$48.84.

On Christmas night the members of the Avonmore church presented Rev. George Weir with a valuable coat, and Mrs. Weir with a well-filled purse. The presents were accompanied by an address expressive of good wishes and hope of a prolongation of the kindly relations which have always existed between pastor and people. At the close of a recent service John H. Wert, Hugh M. Campbell and Wm. Alquire were solemnly ordained and inducted to the eldership.

The Christmas tree festival of the Berwick Sunday school was greatly enjoyed, and the proceeds amounted to over \$25. Rev. Mr. Miller addressed the audience in a few well chosen words, and Dr. Stark gave one of his patriotic speeches. There were two presentations, one to Miss Marcellus being a parlor lamp, accompanied by an address from her class. A large bible was presented to Mrs. P. D. Strader from the Sunday school as a token of their appreciation of her services as an organist.

The new organ now being placed in Knox church, Perth, will contain about three thousand five hundred and fifty feet of tubes, and eight hundred and sixty-three speaking pipes. There is a Crescendo pedal which brings on all the stops of the organs. The case is made of oak, the front pipes are ornamented in gold and colors. A water motor will be used to supply the instrument with air. The action throughout is tubular pneumatic. Mr. Collins, who is putting the organ together, told the Courier: "You cannot say too many good things about this organ; it is a splendid instrument."

At the last meeting of Peterborough Presbytery Rev. Mr. Potter reported on Home Mission Work within the bounds, showing that for the first time during the winter months, all the fields are occupied by good men. A very interesting conference, introduced by Mr. R. Harrison, was held on the subject of the supply of the lumbering camps of the district with religious services. Consideration was also given to the needs of the mining camps within bounds. The Home Mission Committee was authorized to secure missionaries for these fields as soon as possible. Rev. Mr. Lord reported that over \$25,000 has already been pledged for the Century Fund.

The Sunday school of St. John's church, Cornwall, says the Freeholder, which a couple of years ago found that there was as much pleasure if not more in giving than receiving, held their annual social recently. All the children brought to the social a pound or more of something, which was sent to the General Hospital, and the pile of "pounds" showed that there were many generous hearts in the school. Mr. C. J. Mattice, the superintendent, presided, and the little folks rendered an excellent programme of recitations, etc. At the conclusion of this programme Rev. Dr. MacNish took the chair, and Mr. D. Monroe, on behalf of the teachers and friends of the Sunday School, presented Mr. Mattice with a morocco bound hymnal, as a slight recognition of their untiring services in connection with the school. Thanks were expressed by the surprised and deeply grateful recipients and after kindly expressions all around a very pleasant gathering came to a close.

DIED.

At 307 Wolfe street, London, Dec. 22nd, Isabel Pirie, youngest child of Rev. W. J. Clark.

In London on Monday, Dec. 31, 1900, Robt. Morrison, formerly of Belfast, Ireland, aged 80 years.

Suddenly, at his residence, Davenport road, Bracadale, on December 30th, 1900, Alexander Jardine, in his 63rd year.

At Dunnville, Dec. 31st, Donald Lalor McLean, beloved son of Aggie and Malcolm McLean; aged 1 year and 10 months.