

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

THE Rev. S. R. Warrender has been unanimously called to St. Ann's and Wellandport.

SOME time ago the Rev. R. Leask was waited upon by Mrs. James Agnew, who in the name of the ladies of the Whitechurch congregation, presented him with the sum of \$43 as a token of their appreciation and esteem.

THE Rev. Donald Ross on his departure from Manitoba on the 20th October last, was presented with an affectionate address by the Presbyterian congregation of Selkirk. Mr. Ross has since that time been entirely laid aside from work, but at last accounts was under medical treatment and had fair hopes of recovery.

THE ladies of Free St. John's congregation, Walkerton, on Saturday, the 20th ult., held a very successful bazaar. Although the work of preparation was very short, yet twice more was realized than the most sanguine had expected. A very enjoyable social was held on the Monday evening following, closing with appropriate music and readings by Messrs. McGregors, Laughton, Polson, and the Rev. R. C. Moffat.

THE Managing Committee of Knox church, Gravenhurst, gratefully acknowledge the following contributions for the church debt, viz.: From the congregation of King, \$47; St. Paul's and St. Andrew's churches, Vaughan, \$33; Friends in Hamilton, \$40; St. Andrew's and Melville churches, Fergus, \$80; Union church, Galt, \$12; Friends in London, \$30; Rodgerville, \$23; Thames Road, \$20; Westminster, \$33; St. Andrew's church, Markham, \$22; St. Andrew's and Knox churches, Scarboro', \$117.

A VERY successful Christmas tree entertainment was given in connection with the Edwardsburg Sabbath school in the basement of the church on Christmas eve. Among the presents was a beautiful ice pitcher, given by the young men of the choir to Mrs. Samuel Ross, in acknowledgment of her services as organist since the opening of the new church. Mrs. K. Macpherson, Miss Louisa Mead and Mr. James Thompson were each presented with a handsome volume in token of kindly remembrances of their faithfulness as teachers in the Sabbath school for more than twenty years. The pastor, his wife and child were also remembered. Besides the presentations, the programme included a number of recitations, readings, and dialogues by the children, together with music by them and their friends.—COM.

THE anniversary services of St. Andrew's Church Sabbath school, Stratford, were celebrated on the 21st and 22nd ult. Owing to the inclement state of the weather the Sabbath services were not so largely attended as they deserved to be. The children sung a selection of hymns under the leadership of Mr. George Brent, in splendid style. On Monday evening the Sabbath school entertainment was a great success, both for numbers and interest manifested in the service. The Rev. J. T. Patterson, of Quebec, gave a racy and highly practical address. The Rev. Messrs. Clement and Hughes, who won for themselves golden opinions on Sabbath, were in the best of humour, and addressed scholars and friends with great acceptance. The attraction of the evening was the Christmas tree. It was indeed pleasant to see the little ones' faces brightening up as their various names were called, and the presents handed to them. The meeting dispersed after singing "God save the Queen."

THE soiree lately given by the Ladies' Association of the Widder street Presbyterian church, St. Mary's, was an immense success. The church was well filled, and the luxuries were abundant and excellent. The pastor, Rev. J. McAlpine, occupied the chair. After tea, the Rev. John Smith, of Toronto, delivered his humorous lecture on "Prejudice and Progress." The lecture was replete with telling points as to the prejudices of the age, and for an hour and twenty minutes Mr. Smith kept the unwearied attention of the audience. The reverend gentleman's rendition of an old and familiar tune, as sung thirty or forty years ago, was amusing to the more juvenile part of the audience, but tears were brushed from the eyes of many old persons who were thereby reminded of their youth. The choir of the church sang several anthems in good style. The proceeds amounted to about \$175. The children of the Sabbath school had their annual social gathering on the following evening, at which a very pleasant time was spent.

MR. JAMES BROWN, who for the last twenty years has been superintendent of the Charles street Presbyterian Sabbath school in this city, having announced his intention of retiring at the close of the present year, the members of the church determined to mark their appreciation of his long and faithful services in some suitable way. Accordingly, at the close of the prayer meeting on Tuesday evening, the 23rd ult., Mr. Brown was made the recipient of an address regretting the severance of his connection with the school. He was presented also with a valuable silver tea service. In his reply Mr. Brown gave a short and interesting sketch of the progress of the school from the time when it was founded until it furnished the nucleus of the present church, and so on to the present time, shewing how much it had been privileged in having had among its teachers such men as Rev. Messrs. Campbell, Thornton, Junior, Aitchison, etc., who are still alive, and such as Messrs. Breckenridge, Milne, and Mitchell, who have passed to their reward. Cordial informal addresses were also delivered by Rev. John Hogg, pastor, Rev. Dr. Reid, Messrs. J. K. Macdonald, S. A. Marling, and Wm. Alexander.

As we mentioned in our issue of the 19th December, the new Presbyterian church in Brockville was opened for public worship on the 14th of last month. The services on the occasion were all of special interest. We have not room to give even an epitome of the three sermons preached respectively by Rev. Dr. Macvicar, of Montreal; Rev. Mr. Smith, of Galt, and Rev. Dr. Grant, but they were in the estimation of all who heard them singularly able, eloquent and appropriate. The day will be long remembered both by old and young. On the next day, the 15th ult., at a social in the new church, an effort was made to remove, from both church and manse, all the debt, amounting then to \$13,000. In a short time \$8,360 were subscribed, increased next day to \$9,000. A committee was appointed to call on members and friends to take up the balance. On Tuesday evening there was an organ recital. In all \$10,000 have been collected or pledged at the opening services. We should think that there are few, if any, congregations in the Presbyterian Church in Canada that can give such a good account of themselves in the matter of building and paying for their places of worship. Let all who are similarly situated with the friends in Brockville go and do likewise. The church thus opened under such auspicious circumstances is architecturally modern Gothic, and is built on the amphitheatre plan. It is 85 x 94 feet in external dimensions. The auditorium is 75 x 84 feet with arched ceilings, which at their highest point have a height of forty-five feet from the floor. It has a seating capacity for 900, but can accommodate with comfort 1,000. The seats are all cushioned, are semi-circular in form, and complete in every way. Behind the platform there is placed a very fine organ which cost \$2,500. The frescoing and ornamental work on the ceilings are very finely executed. There are three large windows on the north, south and east of the building of very handsome design. All the windows of the church are of stained glass, rich in quality and design. Towers are placed on the main corners, through which are the main entrances to the basement and audience room. The main tower and spire are 175 feet high. The main room of the basement has a seating capacity for 600 people. There is a lecture room capable of seating 100 people. There is also a large room for the infant class, one for the adult class, a library, kitchen, and every possible convenience in the basement. The whole forms one of the handsomest, most commodious and complete church edifices not only in Brockville but in the whole of Ontario. The collections at the opening services amounted to \$650. The cost will not be much above \$30,000, but from a combination of favourable circumstances this is much less than such a building could be erected for in ordinary cases. We are sure every one of our readers will cordially endorse the words of our correspondent and say: "For long years, we trust, the church will stand in Brockville an evidence of the people's liberality and faith and love, and may it be the spiritual birthplace of many souls to truth, life and God."

ON the 21st ult. Knox church, Palmerston, after having undergone extensive repairs, was re-opened by the Rev. W. S. Ball, A.B., of Guelph, who preached impressive and eloquent sermons in the morning

from Eph. i. 22, 23, and in the evening from Rom. v. 47. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather (the thermometer registering eight degrees below zero), accompanied by a stiff breeze, the church was filled to its utmost capacity. On the Monday evening a grand soiree was held, the basement being set apart for refreshment purposes, and the auditorium being reserved for the intellectual part of the proceedings. The pastor, Rev. D. W. Cameron, occupied the chair. The proceedings were commenced by the Rev. Mr. Veale, the pastor of the Bible Christian Church, offering up an appropriate prayer. Sturring speeches were then delivered by the Rev. Mr. Moran of the Episcopal Methodist Church, the Rev. Mr. Ball, W. Johnstone, Esq., and Mr. Alexander, the Reeve of Elma; and excellent music was rendered by the choir under the able leadership of Prof. Black, late of Glasgow, Scotland. A subscription paper was circulated amongst the pews with the view of liquidating the indebtedness of the congregation on the church edifice for the ensuing year, with very creditable results. Altogether a most profitable and enjoyable evening was spent. The church now presents a highly creditable appearance. A commodious porch is erected at the front door, which adds to the good appearance of the building. The old vestibule which projected inwardly is removed, thus affording thirty-four additional sittings to the church accommodation. The ceiling is newly whitened and the walls tinted a salmon colour, and blocked off in imitation of stone work. The pulpit and platform are raised eighteen inches higher than they were and handsomely carpeted, the pulpit being grained in imitation of walnut, with oak panels. The pews are grained oak on the fronts and painted a rich drab on the inside. The chandeliers (five in number) are provided with beautiful porcelain shades and the latest improved burners. A fine organ is also placed in the church by the young men of the congregation, with the entire approbation of all concerned. The Rev. Mr. Ball initiated a new departure by requesting the congregation to stand while singing, to which all at once acceded, and which no doubt they will continue to do. The receipts at the doors and otherwise on the Monday evening netted the handsome sum of \$120. On the Tuesday evening the Sabbath school children, under the guidance of their teachers, enjoyed a high time in appropriating to themselves the fragments left over from the feast of the previous evening, and in eating the election cake which was divided amongst them. All then repaired to the skating rink hard by, and skated till a late hour beneath a blaze of Chinese lanterns and keeping time with the melodies of the town band. The Rev. Mr. Cameron is certainly to be congratulated on the unmistakable signs of prosperity evinced by his congregation. During this winter there has been a marked increase in church and Sabbath school attendance, and a greater interest manifested in church services of all kinds. It is to be hoped the spiritual prosperity will be even greater than the temporal. In a town of the rising importance of Palmerston, it is gratifying to see Presbyterianism taking such a noble stand and bearing such precious fruits.—COM.

PRESBYTERY OF MAITLAND.—This Presbytery met in Lucknow on December 16th. There was a good attendance of ministers and elders. Mr. Cameron reported regarding Chalmers' Church, Kincardine Township, amount certain arrears due to, and a claim of, the Rev. John Stewart. The Presbytery after considering the whole matter came to the following finding: "That whereas, Mr. Cameron having given in a report setting forth that the congregation of Chalmers' Church had paid the Rev. J. Stewart the balance of the amount of their indebtedness to him, that said report be adopted; but with regard to a further claim set forth in a communication from Mr. Stewart this Presbytery decline to take any action." Mr. Wilkins reported that the committee appointed to examine the hymns for the new hymn book had done so and sent the result of their examination to the Secretary of the Assembly's Committee as instructed. Mr. Dickson, Treasurer, mentioned the amount paid by the congregations to meet the expenses of the delegates to the last General Assembly, which shewed that almost all the congregations had attended to this matter. A call from Fordwich and Gorrie congregations to the Rev. Thomas Muir was sustained and transmitted. Members of Presbytery were asked whether the address issued by the Moderator of the General Assembly had