

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

THE Port Elgin congregation has recently purchased for a manse a handsome brick residence with an acre of land, nicely situated on the outskirts of the village.

THE Sabbath-school at Wildman's had their annual tea on the 21st ult. The teachers, scholars and their friends made a company of about one hundred and fifty, fairly packing the school-house. Everything went off well. Proceeds \$20.50—the best they have had.

ON Tuesday evening, the 4th inst., Mr. David Scott was presented by the Presbyterian congregation of Oshawa with a fine gold watch, as a slight token of appreciation of the invaluable services he has rendered to the church, especially as leader of the singing for many years.

LATELY the members of First Innisfil congregation took possession of the manse and presented their pastor, Mr. McConnell, with an address accompanied by a number of sleigh loads of articles of produce, as an appreciation of the success of his labours among them. At the same time Mrs. McConnell was presented with an address, and a purse of money amounting to \$30.

FROM the letter of a highly valued correspondent in Woodville, we learn that the meetings of Dr. Mackay on Saturday and Sabbath last, were exceedingly interesting and successful. The attendance at all the meetings was very large, and the collections liberal, amounting to \$223.26, besides donations from individuals given directly to Dr. Mackay. There will be about \$300 for Foreign Missions from Woodville this year.

THE anniversary services of St. Andrew's Church, Stratford, took place on Sabbath, the 9th inst., and were conducted by Principal Grant, of Kingston. The season was one of special interest, and Dr. Grant's sermons will be long remembered by those who heard them. On the following evening there was a very successful tea-meeting in the town hall. Music and addresses pleasantly and profitably occupied the attention of the audience, and all felt that it was good to be there.

THE visit of Dr. Mackay, of Formosa, on Sabbath evening, the 9th inst., to Oshawa, fully realized the great expectations formed. For an hour and three-quarters he was listened to with rapt attention, by a congregation which completely filled the church—both seats and aisles. The collection amounted to fifty-three dollars. On the Monday evening following, as the services of the week of prayer were to be continued, Dr. Mackay preached a powerful sermon to another large congregation.

ON Tuesday evening of last week a large number of the members and friends of the Kinlough section of Mr. Forbes' charge, visited the manse, and after doing ample justice to the sumptuous repast provided by the ladies, they spent the evening very pleasantly. When about to leave, Mr. Paxton, on behalf of the ladies of Kinlough and neighbourhood, presented Mr. Forbes with a well-filled purse as an expression of their regard. Last summer the ladies of the Kinloss section of Mr. Forbes' charge, on a similar occasion, presented Mrs. Forbes with an elegant set of glassware. These repeated acts of kindness are duly appreciated by the recipients.

THE Presbyterians of Hillsdale held a soiree on the 31st of December. The attendance was all that could be desired. After tea, the audience repaired to the Temperance Hall to enjoy the literary part of the programme. Rev. Mr. Crow was called to the chair, and gave a short account of the Pan-Presbyterian Council which he attended last fall. The following gentlemen delivered suitable addresses: Rev. Messrs. Scott, Fairbairn, Webster (Methodist), Millard and Blackstock (Methodist). The speeches were interspersed with music, Mrs. Webster presiding at the organ. This is the only soiree the Presbyterians of Hillsdale have held for the last thirteen years, but it is not likely they will be so long in having another.

THE anniversary of the Sabbath school in connection with the First Presbyterian Church, Port Hope, was held on Monday evening, 10th inst., and was largely attended, the large church being well filled by an attentive auditory. The proceedings, which were interesting, consisted of short addresses by Rev. R.

J. Beattie (the pastor), and others; also readings, recitations, and singing. Prizes were distributed for proficiency in the shorter catechism, after which the scholars were regaled with oranges. This congregation, which is among the largest and most important in the Presbytery, is situated in the centre of a large and populous Presbyterian district, and under the pastorate of Rev. Mr. Beattie, continues to prosper.

ON Christmas Eve, a very successful soiree was held in the Ross Presbyterian Church (Kerr Line). The house was filled with the happy and intelligent of the community. For the meeting there had been made the most complete preparations. Mottoes, evergreens, flowers and wreaths gave the building a decoration becoming the occasion. Entables were served in no miserly measure. An efficient choir and a skilful organist satisfied the audience with vocal and instrumental music. The public had been promised six addresses. They were not disappointed. Every speaker was present, present early and present with a message. The proceeds, free of all expenses, were eighty eight dollars. These are to help to remove a debt upon the congregational manse.

A VERY interesting and successful social took place in connection with the Presbyterian Church at Elmira, on the 4th inst., which was largely attended. J. S. Bowman, Esq., was elected chairman, who called upon the Rev. A. Russell to open the proceedings with prayer. After a very appropriate address by the chairman, the company partook of an excellent repast furnished by the ladies, at the conclusion of which an interesting programme was proceeded with, consisting of organ solos by Mr. A. Vogt, in excellent style, duetts, music by the choir, recitations and readings, all of which reflected great credit on the performers. The chief events, however, of the evening, were two presentations, one to the Rev. Mr. Russell and the other to Miss Laura Vogt, of a handsome Bible, in acknowledgment of her services as organist. Mr. Russell acknowledged the presentation of address and purse in fitting terms.

THE annual festival of the Presbyterian Sabbath school, Iroquois, was held on the 28th ult. Most of the parents were present, and after the children had thoroughly amused themselves playing various games, ample refreshments were served by the ladies of the congregation. The annual report of the school, read by the superintendent, was highly satisfactory. The pastor, Rev. H. Taylor, then addressed the children, after which he was presented with a purse of money, as a mark of the high esteem and appreciation in which his services were held by the congregation, for which he expressed his thanks in suitable terms. The superintendent, Mr. P. L. Palmer, was then presented with an elegant family Bible, the gift of the teachers and a few friends of the Sabbath school, expressive of their regard for the efficiency of his labours in conducting the school for the past three years, to which Mr. Palmer replied in a few well chosen remarks.

THE anniversary of the Norwood Presbyterian Sabbath-school was held on Christmas Eve. The secretary's report was read, shewing that \$83.95 had been received from all sources during the year, and that with all debts paid, and supplies for next year purchased, there remained in hand a balance of \$2.83. The report of the Juvenile Missionary Society shewed that the birth-day box contained \$8.61, contributed by fifty-nine scholars and teachers, and that the Sabbath collections amounted to \$38.57, giving a total of \$47.18. By the votes of the scholars this was divided as follows: 1. For the support of "Pathi," an orphan Hindoo girl in the Presbyterian Orphanage at Indore, Central India, \$25. 2. For the French Mission school at Point aux Tiembles, Montreal, \$11. 3. For Home Missions, \$11. The report further stated that 1,290 tracts had been distributed since last April, in Norwood and vicinity, by forty-eight of the Sabbath school scholars.

THE annual meeting of the congregation of Erskine Church, Montreal, was held on Wednesday, the 12th inst. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were received with applause, the affairs of the congregation being in a very prosperous condition. The pastor of the church, Rev. J. S. Black, made the pleasing announcement that during the past year the debt remaining on the church had been paid. This congregation has employed the envelope system for two years, and the remarkable statement was made that about \$8,000 had been pledged at the beginning of the year, and at the end of the year there was only

thirteen dollars of arrears. The returns for 1879 were equally satisfactory. Mr. Black in his address remarked that this was a practical righteousness of which he very much approved. Mr. William Angus was elected President; Mr. James Brown, Financial Secretary, and Mr. J. R. Lowden, Treasurer, for the present year.

THE united congregations of Dalhousie Mills and Cote St. George desirous of giving open expression to their warm attachment to, and respect for their minister, the Rev. Dr. Lamont, selected Christmas eve as particularly appropriate for the accomplishment of their intention. About dusk, any casual observer might have observed sleigh after sleigh, and cutter after cutter, hurrying with hot haste towards the new and beautiful manse of the Presbyterian church, well laden with all those good things that give a dwelling its best protection against the cold of winter—beef, pork, potatoes, apples, honey, butter, etc. After these varied articles were transferred to the cellar, to the surprise and pleasure of Mrs. Lamont, a committee of ladies assumed the management of the "Home Office," and prepared refreshments for the numerous visitors. Then the leading purpose of the visitors became apparent. W. C. Sylvester, Esq., Peveril, was appointed to preside over the meeting, who called on W. Brodie, Esq., Cross Mills, to read an address to the rev. gentleman, expressive of the cordial esteem in which he was held by all the members and adherents of his congregations. The Dr. made an appropriate reply, and, thereafter, the evening was spent in pleasant, social intercourse.

THE annual missionary meeting of the Central Church, Galt, was held on Tuesday evening, the 11th ult. There was a good attendance of members of the congregation. James Young, M.P.P., was called to the chair, and, after devotional exercises, spoke of the work in which the Church was engaged as one that ought to interest every Christian. He then called on the Rev. J. A. R. Dickson, pastor of the Church, to read the report of the Missionary Association. This shewed the contributions (not including the Assembly, Synod and Presbytery Funds, which are otherwise provided for,) to be \$396.14, which was distributed as follows: Home Mission, \$100; Foreign Mission, \$85; French Evangelization, \$100; Knox College, \$60; Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, \$20; Widows' and Orphans' Fund, \$20; leaving a small balance in the hands of the Treasurer. The Rev. J. C. Smith, B.D., delivered an able address on Foreign Mission work, and the Rev. Thomas Wardrop, D.D., spoke powerfully on Home Mission work. The meeting was one of the best held in this congregation for many years. This was the first year of the Association's work, and when it is remembered that an expensive church edifice is being erected, the contributions reflect credit on the liberality of the people; yet they hope to do even better next year.

FROM the annual report of Melville Church, Brussels, for the year 1880, it appears that the number of families in the congregation is 90; the net gain in membership during the year, 24; the whole number of members in full communion, 140. The receipts have been: balance from 1879, \$102.91; Sabbath collections, \$399.04; seat rents and subscriptions, \$1,489.47; total, \$1,991.42. And the disbursements: balance of minister's salary, \$675; two instalments on church property, \$812.10; note paid, \$107.50; precentor, \$61; caretaker, \$40; miscellaneous, \$271.82; cash on hand, \$24; total, \$1,991.42. The missionary receipts have been: from quarterly contributions, \$169.52; from the Sabbath collection for debt on College Fund, \$13.50; total, \$183.02. Disbursements not yet made. Number of classes and teachers in Sabbath school, 12; total names on roll, 175; average attendance, 80. Sabbath school receipts: Sabbath collections, \$49.36; proceeds from tea-meeting, \$31.70; total, \$81.06. Allocated to Pointe-aux-Trembles mission school, \$6.25; supplies (papers, books, etc.) for school, \$38.54; balance on hand, \$4.57; proceeds from tea-meeting, \$31.70; total, \$81.06. Summary: whole amount raised by church and Sabbath school for ordinary expenditure, \$2,066.23; whole amount raised by church and Sabbath school for missionary purposes, \$189.27; Sum total raised for all purposes, \$2,255.50.

THE annual meeting of the Missionary Association in connection with Chalmers' Church, Guelph, was held in the basement of the church on Monday the 10th inst. There was not such a large attendance of