

Ministers and Churches.

Toronto.

Rev. D. H. Fletcher, moderator of the General Assembly, conducted anniversary services in College street church last Sunday.

Rev. R. Atkinson, of St. Giles, has been lecturing on China and Ayr for the benefit of the two churches of the town. Stereopticon views greatly added to the interest and the lecturer was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his instructive lecture.

Two or three weeks ago at the Presbyterian Ministerial association "Funeral Reform" was the subject of an interesting paper by Rev. Robt. Atkinson of St. Giles' Church who advocated less ostentation and publicity and more simplicity in funerals. Thereafter Dr. Thomson of Montreal addressed the meeting, telling of the splendid work which is being performed by the church among the Chinese of the country.

Ottawa.

At Almonte, on Tuesday evening, Rev. J. H. Turnbull, of Bank street church, was the speaker at a W. F. M. Society's meeting.

At the communion service in Bank street church Rev. J. H. Turnbull, the pastor, was assisted by Rev. Dr. Wardrope and Rev. Dr. Moore. Twenty-one new members were received.

A press despatch from Toronto says that Rev. Dr. Moore of this city will address a series of meetings, during the next fortnight, in support of the \$50,000 by-law for a sanitarium to be submitted to the ratepayers of the Queen city at the municipal elections.

Revs. J. W. H. Milne, and R. Herbison, in concert with neighboring ministers, are moving for the establishment of a branch Y. M. C. A. in the southern part of the city. Their efforts are likely to be crowned with success.

The Ladies Aid Society of Knox church, at its last meeting, made arrangements for the annual meeting on the 5th prox., and also for the entertainment of members of presbytery on same date.

Rev. John Hay, Renfrew, conducted anniversary services in St. Paul's church. The morning service was largely attended and in the afternoon Rev. Mr. Hay addressed the Sunday school. In the evening the preacher gave an interesting sermon on the unity of love and power, in the Christian life.

Referring to Dr. Armstrong's long pastorate of nearly 30 years in St. Paul's church, the Journal says: Dr. Armstrong is not only beloved by his own congregation but is highly esteemed by his fellow ministers of all denominations in the city. He is broad-minded and liberal in his views and while laboring zealously for his own church is ever ready to assist any good cause.

Rev. Dr. Herridge and Mrs. Herridge, St. Andrew's church, have been holding a series of at homes to the members of their congregation at the Manse in order that the members may become better acquainted. To the last one on Tuesday evening a special invitation was extended to all young men.

At the Presbyterian ministerial association on Monday Rev. D. M. Ramsay read an instructive and able paper on "The Oldest Code of Laws in the World." The laws were formulated by King Hammurabi, Babylon, 2000 B. C. A discussion followed, in which nearly all present took part. Rev. R. A. Mitchell, Honan, China; Rev. Dr. Wardrope and Rev. John Hay, B. D., Renfrew, were present as visitors.

Mr. Wm. Esdale, whose death is noted in another column, was for more than thirty-five years an elder in the Presbyterian church, in the life and work of which he ever took a deep, though unostentatious interest. His walk and conversation were in close accord with his profession; and always wise in counsel, he will be greatly missed from the monthly meetings of St. Paul's session. The widow and family have the sincere sympathy of a large circle of friends in their sore bereavement.

The St. Paul's Auxiliary to the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, at its annual meeting reported one of the best years ever held. Rev. Dr. Armstrong opened the meeting, and brief addresses were given by the President, Mrs. John Thorburn, and Mrs. George Hay, India, being the subject of the latter. Afterwards the

election of officers took place, resulting as follows:—President, Mrs. John Thorburn; Vice presidents, Mrs. Armstrong and Mrs. Gallagher; Recording secretary, Mrs. Hill; Corresponding secretary, Mrs. Macnab; Tidings secretary, Miss Lindsay; Treasurer, Mrs. Irvine; Supt. of Scattered Helpers, Mrs. J. B. Anderson; Executive, Mrs. C. H. Thorburn, Mrs. W. G. Charleson, and Mrs. Denishi.

It is very gratifying to note the increasing prosperity of Erskine church. The present church building is not sufficiently large for the ordinary church purpose of this rapidly growing congregation. At the recent anniversary services, conducted by Rev. F. G. Lett, and Dr. Herridge, the church was crowded at both services; and at the Sunday School 350 children were present and also about 150 parents. Erskine will soon have to face the problem of increased accommodation.

In the course of his discourses on a Wise Life Rev. Dr. Armstrong dealt with the subject of Marriage, taking for his theme Jacob's service of seven years for Rachael, dwelling at length upon the great importance of marriage and of the dispositions in which it should be approached. He said a great deal of the stories, witticisms and proverbs cast at marriage tended to create a wrong impression. Marriage, he continued, is a matter of choice and love and the exercise of prudence should enter into it just as into any other important matter of life. Though all comes under the sway of the little god, cupid, it does preclude the exercise of thought and judgment. Young men and women should prepare for marriage by strength and vigor of body and purity of mind. The husband should possess a good trade or occupation and should have sufficient capital to keep up a home. Riches were not necessary, he said, and instanced the fact that John Anderson and his wife climbed the hill together and hand in hand went up though they were not rich in this world's goods. Carefulness and truthfulness as well as accomplishments to embellish the home are necessary. As for the young woman she should be a competent housekeeper and accomplished in a manner that will make a strong womanhood in the home, the church and society.

Montreal.

A Bazaar was held on Tuesday in the Victoria Presbyterian church, Point St. Charles, and the date will stand out as a red letter day in the annals of the church. The bazaar was under the auspices of the Ladies Aid society and was organized with a view of removing the church mortgage, which up to recently was about \$500 and of paying the expenses of some repairs and improvements which amounted to another \$500.

An informal opening took place in the afternoon at which the Rev. Dr. Barclay of St. Paul's and Rev. E. A. MacKenzie of St. Matthews' were present and expressed their gratification at the arrangements and improvements in the church. A pleasing feature of the afternoon was the presentation to the Rev. J. Myle Crombie, the pastor, of a gold-mounted fountain pen as a token of esteem. It was for the evening, however, that the chief function was reserved and at eight o'clock Mayor Cochrane arrived for the formal opening and announced the fact that Lord Strathcona had forwarded a cheque for \$100 in aid of the church funds, and this amount together with other subscriptions, among which was \$112 subscribed by the teachers and scholars of the Sunday School, had reduced the debt to \$81.35.

This amount the Mayor offered to donate to the funds, consequently the church now stands free from debt, with the expenses of the improvements paid. The church was tastefully decorated for the occasion; palms, ferns, chrysanthemums and lilies were beautifully blended with the national flags in honor of Queen Alexandra's birthday, prominent over all being the church's lovely banner in blue and gold with the legend "Victoria."

Quebec Notes.

Rev. J. M. MacLennan, of Winslow, Que., has returned to Scotland, and his resignation has been accepted.

In consequence of the resignation of Mr. W. Shearer of the office, Rev. H. C. Sutherland, Iversness, is now the H. M. Convener of the Presbytery of Quebec.

The congregation of Leeds Village and St. Sylvester are taking steps towards the securing of a manse at Leeds Village. Hitherto the manse occupied by the various ministers who

occupied the charge, was at St. Sylvester, a very country place, and in the smaller end of the charge, and lacking many conveniences. The manse, too, was sadly out of repair. It will be a great convenience for the minister to live in the village, having the advantage of school, mails, and in addition being convenient to the bulk of people.

Rev. W. Shearer, of Sherbrooke, has been in the Protestant Hospital of that city for some weeks, being laid aside by a mild attack of typhoid fever. After leaving the Hospital spent some time recuperating with friends in Ottawa. His friends will be glad to learn that he expects to resume his work shortly.

The Presbytery of Quebec is about to sustain a very great loss. The Rev. D. Tait, B. A., the esteemed pastor of Chalmers' church, Quebec, where he has ministered for 14 years, and a valuable member of the Presbytery, has tendered his resignation, which was dealt with at the last meeting. A very large deputation from the Session, Board of Managers and the Congregation appeared. Each member of the deputation spoke of the high esteem in which Mr. Tait is held in the congregation and whole community; assured the Presbytery that the congregation is most hearty in the desire to retain him; and that they know of no reason whatever that justifies the resignation, or the acceptance thereof. The Presbytery appointed two committees to confer with Mr. Tait, with a view to his reconsidering, or withdrawing the resignation; and member after member expressed the earnest desire that he would do so. Mr. Tait, however, adhered to his resignation, but consented at the request of representatives of the congregation to continue in the pastorate for six months, when the resignation will take effect. Mr. Tait contemplates a period of rest and travel.

Eastern Ontario.

Rev. R. A. Mitchell, returned missionary from Honan, addressed a large and interested gathering at Vars on 10th. inst.

The Eganville Presbyterians have arranged for a Christmas tree for the Sunday School on 23rd. inst. Rev. Mr. Rattary and a good committee have the matter in charge.

The Ladies Aid of Alexandria church held a very successful social in McLaren Hall on the 24th inst. with Mr. J. A. McRae in the chair. An interesting programme was submitted.

Rev. N. H. MacGillivray, of Carp, has been called to St. John's church, Cornwall, in succession to Rev. Dr. McNeil, who recently resigned.

At the recent anniversary services of St. Paul's, Bowmanville, conducted by Rev. W. Beattie, of Cobourg, the people were asked for \$500 towards the church funds, and the response was \$525.

Rev. Dr. MacTavish, of Deseronto, a native of the township, is announced to preach anniversary services in the Franktown church, on the 17th prox.

The services in the First Presbyterian church, Brockville, on the 16th. inst. were conducted by the Rev. Geo. A. MacArthur, of Cardinal. The Recorder says: Mr. MacArthur is always a welcome visitor to Brockville and his excellent practical sermons were listened to with pleasure and appreciation.

At the recent communion service in the churches of Enniskillen and Blackstock, twelve new members were added to the roll, seven of them being young men and women. There were three baptisms, two being adults.

Rev. A. G. Cameron, of Vars, gave an illustrated lecture entitled " Rambles in Ireland and Scotland," which was both entertaining and instructive, yielding a handsome sum for the manse building fund.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed in St. John's church, Almonte, (A. M. Currie, M.A., pastor) on Dec. 6th. when 45 were received into full communion on profession of faith. This enlarges the communion by 81 for the year. Of this number 58 were by professions of faith. The W. F. M. S., held their annual thank-offering meeting on Dec. 1st. Offering \$75. The Home Mission Band also held their annual thank-offering meeting on Dec. 9th. Offering \$42.50. Rev. J. W. H. Milne of Ottawa addressed the W. F. M. S.; and Rev. F. Milne of Blakeney addressed the H. M. B. Both addresses were very inspiring.