

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

MR. JAMES HAMILTON has presented to the Presbyterians at Whitechurch a handsome communion service and baptismal bowl. This is not Mr. Hamilton's first or only present to the congregation.

WE are glad to see that the Rev. Dr. Mackay visits Hamilton during the ensuing week. He is to conduct three services on Sabbath first, one on the following Monday evening, and another on the Tuesday evening. We have no doubt about the reception which the Dr. will receive on these occasions. It would be very strange if the meetings in Hamilton should be different from what they have been in other places. If there should be any difference we expect it will be in their being even larger and more enthusiastic, and the collections being still more liberal.

The annual meeting of Zion Church, Brantford, was held recently, Dr. Cochrane in the chair. Reports were read by Mr. McLean on behalf of the session, shewing an increase in the membership during the year of seventy-three, with deaths and dismissions of the same number, leaving the members on the roll at 618. Mr. Grant read the financial statement, shewing the amount raised to be \$5,500. Reports of a satisfactory character on behalf of the Sabbath schools and missionary association were read by Mr. Wm. Geddes and Mr. J. H. McLean. The attendance upon divine worship and Sabbath schools was shewn to be in the highest degree encouraging.

A SOCIAL entertainment of a very interesting character was held in St. Andrew's (Presbyterian) Hall, Pickering, on the evening of Thursday, the 3rd inst. Notwithstanding the severity of the weather, the hall was well filled by an appreciative audience. A lecture was then delivered by the pastor, Rev. J. J. Cameron, on "Memories of the Centennial," being a description of a trip to the famous Centennial of 1876, and other places of interest. A very attractive part of the programme was an address and presentation of a purse of money, by the congregation, to Miss Jeannie Gregg, as an expression of their hearty appreciation of her services as organist, to which she made a suitable reply. The meeting was enlivened throughout by choice selections of music from the choir. The proceeds are to be devoted to the replenishing of the Sabbath school library.

THE annual meeting of the congregation of Fort Massey Presbyterian Church, Halifax, was held on Wednesday, the 19th ult., the Hon. Wm. Ross, retiring chairman of the Board of Managers, in the chair. The secretary, Mr. J. C. Mackintosh, presented a most satisfactory report, shewing a remarkable measure of liberality. In addition to meeting current expenses the congregation paid off during the year the floating debt, amounting to more than \$3,300, the last \$100 being made up at the meeting. The contributions to missionary and benevolent objects have also been very commendable. It speaks volumes for a congregation of some ninety families to raise in such times as these, the pressure of which it has felt in common with others, considerably over *eight thousand dollars* in a single year for church purposes alone. The meeting was marked by the utmost cordiality. Before it commenced, the pastor, Dr. Burns, was (privately) made the recipient of a generous gift, accompanied by warm expressions of regard.

REV. J. W. MITCHELL, M.A., of Knox Church, Mitchell, having resigned his pastoral charge, a large number of the members of the congregation and other friends met in the school room on Wednesday evening, the 9th inst., and after the close of the prayer meeting presented him with a valuable gold watch, accompanied with an affectionate address. In reply Rev. Mr. Mitchell reviewed briefly his labours among them. He referred feelingly to the many acts of kindness and words of cheer and comfort which he had received from members of the congregation, and concluded by quoting the last verse of the 15th chapter of 1st Corinthians. On Friday evening, the week before last, a large number of the members assembled at the manse, taking the occupants completely by surprise, the object being to present Miss Mitchell with a purse of gold, as a slight token of respect, and in acknowledgment of her active services for the past ten years in both Sabbath school and church work. Her brother, Rev. Mr. Mitchell, delivered an appropriate reply, thanking the donors of the unexpected

gift on behalf of his sister. Others followed with short complimentary addresses, after which refreshments were partaken of, and a few hours most agreeably spent.

WE regret to learn that the Rev. James Hume, of Kennebec, died there on the 28th of January, after a pastorate in Kennebec of sixteen years. The deceased brother was born in Ireland, and after finishing his collegiate course at Belfast, laboured for ten years as a missionary in Gifford (County Town). He came to Canada in 1855, and has ever since laboured in different parts of the country with much diligence and acceptability, and was very much respected by all who knew him. By his will, Mr. Hume, among other bequests, leaves £900 to benevolent and religious purposes in Canada, in, we understand, the following manner, viz: To Presbyterian College, Montreal, £300; Knox College, Toronto, £300, Queen's College, £200; Library at Kennebec Road, £30, Tracts to be distributed there, £5; Aged Ministers' Fund, £25; Widows' and Orphans' Fund, £10, and the rest to private individuals. We are not told whether the pound is sterling or provincial, but we presume the latter, in which case the sum thus left will amount to \$3600. Besides this sum Mr. Hume leaves \$5,920 to relatives and benevolent purposes in Ireland.

ON the evening of Monday, the 7th., the annual meeting of Chalmers' Church, Woodstock, was held. The meeting was far the largest of the kind ever held in the church, there being a large number of ladies and young people present. Rev. Mr. McKay, the pastor, opened with religious services, after which he gave a brief review of the year's work. Forty-nine persons were received into the fellowship of the church. He thanked the session, the board of trustees, the Sabbath school, the woman's association, the missionary collectors and the tract distributors for their diligence and hearty cooperation, and hoped that God would bless them and prosper their work more and more. Mr. McKay then requested the meeting to appoint one of themselves chairman. Mr. Jonathan Martin was unanimously voted into the chair. Mr. J. White was appointed secretary. The financial statement was then read. From this it appears that the total amount raised for congregational purposes during the year was \$4,12. If this be added to the amount raised for religious and benevolent purposes there was contributed by the congregation during the year the sum of \$4,700. The receipts from all the ordinary sources had increased so that the total receipts of the congregation from ordinary sources were \$240 more than in any previous year, leaving a balance on hand of \$322 98. During the year the debt has been reduced by \$1,575, leaving the liabilities of the congregation at present \$2,625, to meet which there are assets, considered good, amounting to \$2,275.

THE first social meeting in connection with the Archibald and Newhaven (Manitoba) group of mission stations was held in the house of Mr. John Davidson, Newhaven, on the evening of December 30th. After tea had been served, the evening was very pleasantly spent in conversation, addresses, readings, recitations, and music. Before breaking up, Mr. Samuel Forest, one of the elders, in a neat and kind address, on behalf of the ladies of the mission presented the Rev. D. McRae, the missionary in charge for the past eighteen months, with a purse containing \$35, the donors expressing the wish that this sum should be used in the purchase of fur garments, the better to enable the missionary to endure the extreme cold of a Manitoba winter. Two weeks afterwards a second meeting of a similar kind took place at the house of Mr. John McGregor, Archibald, with whom Mr. McRae boards. Although the evening was extremely cold, the meeting was the largest ever held in the Archibald settlement. After tea two hours were very pleasantly spent in conversation, addresses, readings etc., with excellent music by a choir—a display of local talent that no one thought the settlement possessed—many of the people meeting on these occasions for the first time and forming their first acquaintance. At an early stage of the meeting Mr. McRae was informed by the chairman, Mr. D. D. Campbell, that he would find stored in Mr. McGregor's granary, forty-five bags—more than 100 bushels—of oats for the use of his horse. These valuable gifts were feelingly acknowledged by Mr. McRae, who stated that they were entirely unexpected. Archibald is one of the newest, but one of the most promising mission districts in the Presbytery

of Manitoba, the settlement only beginning two and a-half years ago. These incidents serve to shew the people's appreciation of the missionary's services, and their willingness to contribute to his support to the full extent of their ability.

THE opening services in the newly erected Presbyterian church at Innerkip took place on Sabbath, the 30th ult., and were attended by very large and deeply interested congregations. Both services were conducted by the Rev. Prof. McLaren, of Knox College, Toronto. His text in the morning was Haggai ii. 16-19; and in the evening Matt. vii. 19-21. Both sermons were listened to with great satisfaction and delight by the large audience which completely filled the new building. The new church is a handsome brick structure of Gothic style, 60 x 38 feet, with basement full size. Lecture room, infant class room and vestry are in the basement. The auditorium of the church proper is undoubtedly one of the best in the county. From floor to ceiling, which is concave, is twenty-seven feet in height, with neat and tasteful Gothic stained windows on the side walls and end. There is no pulpit, but merely a platform and desk, and the seats are neat and substantial. The wood-work throughout is chestnut. Four handsome chandeliers, with side lamps, light the church. The chief entrance is from the front, but there are entrances from the basement in rear. The seating capacity of the church is 350. The total cost of the building is \$4,660—the congregation finding the stone and sand and hauling the brick, thus reducing the cost very materially. A tea meeting was held on the following Monday evening, and was in all respect a success. The ladies of the congregation took charge of the tables, which were set in the basement, and the arrangements throughout were satisfactory and creditable to all concerned. The church was crowded, many finding it difficult to secure seats. The Rev. W. A. McKay, Woodstock, Moderator of session, presided with much acceptance, and on the platform were the Rev. W. T. McMullen, of Knox Church, Woodstock, Rev. A. Tolmie, of Southampton, and Rev. Mr. Aull, of Palmerston. The choir of the church, led by Mr. J. Hill and assisted by Prof. Tanney (who has given much time and effective aid to the Innerkip choir recently) and Miss McLeod, of Woodstock, provided excellent music for the occasion. A festival for the children was held on Tuesday evening, and was addressed by the Rev. Messrs. Aull, Tolmie and others, an extremely pleasant time having been spent by all. The proceeds amounted to \$30, making a total of \$396.

FROM the fiftieth annual report of St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, we learn that the past year has been one of marked progress in every department of congregational work. The income for the year from all sources has reached the large sum of \$25,684, and when the various details of that income are given the whole will be found to be still more gratifying and full of encouragement. From the report of the managers it appears that the total ordinary revenue of the congregation for the year, from collections and pew rents, was \$21,766.12, of which the largest item, by collections, amounted to \$14,011.63. The revenue from pew rents has varied little for the last four years, from the simple fact that all the pews, during the period, have been rented, so that the difference in any year is simply from the amount of pew rents unpaid. It may be interesting to note that in 1871 the average collection per Sabbath amounted to \$30.32, and in 1880 to \$269.46. There has never been a year during the interval in which there has not been an advance on the preceding one, but that of last year has been specially marked, rising from an average of \$165.67 in 1879, to \$269.46 in 1880. The process of debt liquidation is equally satisfactory. When the new church was opened in 1876 there was a debt resting on it of \$82,550. At the close of 1880 the debt, both floating and funded, amounted only to \$49,666.66. It may be said that even as it now stands, the debt is formidable, but a congregation which has in less than five years reduced it so greatly will not find much difficulty in disposing of what remains. While so much was done for congregational purposes, the sum of \$2,007.69 was raised for the various schemes of the Church and for other extra-congregational objects. We cannot specify all the items; sufficient to say that \$650 were devoted to Home Missions; \$450.77 to Foreign; \$120 to College Fund, etc. The number of families connected with the congregation is 296; of