

## Ministers and Churches.

### Our Toronto Letter.

Annual congregational meetings are still the principal feature in Presbyterian ecclesiastical life in this city. It is very encouraging to notice not only that in every case so far mentioned, the reports are good, but in many cases it is stated that the last is the best year in the history of the congregation. Debts in many cases have been reduced, and in many cases can well bear and loudly call for yet greater reductions, balances for ordinary expenses are on the right side, and in a good many congregations the sums raised for the schemes of the church are large, while in many not nearly what they might and ought to be, especially in view of the large amounts constantly spent by professing Christians on pleasure and worse than useless show. Chalmers' church is about to lose its pastor, Rev. R. George Davey having accepted the call to Union Congregational church, Montclair N. J. A flutter of disquietude has been raised in St. James' Square church, by its pastor, Rev. Alfred Gandier, B. D., having been nominated by the presbytery of Truro, Nova Scotia, for the chair in Halifax Theological College left vacant by the transference of Rev. Dr. Gordon to Queen's University. Rev. Mr. Gandier's work is evidently telling on St. James' Square congregation, he has only really got fairly into his work, and more and more is commending himself to his people. It is too soon yet to discuss such a contingency as a possible vacancy. The missionary contributions of this congregation are larger than for many years. Westminster church, Rev. John Neil's, has taken a step to be commended, and, one which, if pulpit preparation is to be kept up to present day requirements, and all other kinds of work which now make incessant and exacting demands upon a minister's time and strength, must become more common in all city congregations, namely appointing an assistant to their minister.

Rev. Dr. Milligan in the "Monthly" of McMaster University for this month, has a paper on the late Principal Grant, in which he points out to young men the inspiration to be drawn from a study of the life and work of Dr. Grant. Last Sunday evening the account of the flood as given in Genesis, was the subject of Dr. Milligan's lecture in the series he is delivering on Historical Criticism. Last Sunday also, Rev. J. W. MacMillan of Lindsay, pastor elect of St. Andrew's church, Winnipeg, occupied Cowan Avenue pulpit, and on Monday evening gave a lecture on what he saw in Scotland and Germany last summer. On Tuesday evening of this week Hon. Emily Kinnaird gave an account in the parlor of the Central Y. W. C. A. on Zenana work in India, which was begun by her mother. She was accompanied by Miss Edge of Bombay.

The Sunday previous was a high missionary day among our Methodist brethren in the city. At 9:30 a. m. the students of Victoria University held a meeting to take note of and pray for their work during the coming summer. This meeting was under the direction of Rev. Dr. F. C. Stephenson. In many churches special missionary sermons were preached by special preachers. In Sherbourne street church, between \$10,000 and \$11,000.00 were subscribed to mission fund, and in the evening a platform meeting was held having special reference to the needs of Home Missions in the Northwest. Yonge street mission well known in the city gave lately its fourth Sunday morning free breakfast, at which one hundred and sixty eight men sat down to sandwiches and coffee, and after it listened attentively to a gospel address and joined heartily in the singing of gospel hymns.

A small but influential number of Premier Ross's supporters in the city lately interviewed him privately, to urge upon him legislation giving effect to the mind of the people as expressed so clearly and strongly in the referendum vote at the polls, and as expressed by the large deputation which waited upon the government a few days before. Rev. Principal Caven, who could not accompany the large deputation, because of indisposition, is out in the Globe with a calm and forcible letter, urging on the government and legislature to take steps in the same direction. Hon. Mr. Harcourt has so explained in a published interview his position on the temperance question, as to leave little or no doubt that he will be found ready to do his share in sweeping away this threatening source of evil

and danger to the country. The government has been applied to in a petition influentially signed, to appoint a commission to investigate charges of personation and conspiracy in the referendum vote. With the petitions were given names of one hundred and sixty-two persons in South Toronto, who charge that they were personated in the vote, and similar charges were made in the case of a number of other cities and towns.

Flags flying at half mast on all public buildings on Thursday last, reminded all our citizens of the second anniversary of the death of the late beloved Queen Victoria, and recalled many associations connected with her memory and reign. The funeral of Rev. Geo. Cuthbertson, whose death was noticed in last letter, took place on the 20th inst., and was largely attended by ministers in the city and others. Rev. Alex. Gilray, pastor of the deceased, conducted the services in College street church, and they were taken part in by a number of other well known ministers in the city.

### Ottawa.

Rev. P. M. McDonald, of Truro, N.S., occupied the pulpit of Bank street church for the last two Sabbaths, when he made a most favourable impression.

The pulpit of Erskine church was acceptably filled last Sunday evening by Rev. Thos. H. Mitchell of Barrie, Vermont, who delivered a thoughtful and impressive sermon. Mr. Mitchell is a brother of the pastor of Erskine church and is spending a few days in the city.

The reports presented at the annual meeting of Erskine church showed that the past year had been one of unusual prosperity, and that the congregation had made splendid progress. Rev. A. E. Mitchell occupied the chair, and read the session report. At the beginning of the year 244 names were on the roll. Since then 76 names have been added; 24 by profession of faith and 32 by certificate. During the year 7 members received their dismissal, and two were called away by death, leaving a net gain of 67. At present 311 are in full communion of the church. During the year 10 deaths occurred. There were 23 baptisms, 21 children and two adults; 11 marriages were performed. The managers report indicated that the year closed with a substantial balance to the good. The revenue during the year was \$1,107.55 over that of 1901 and \$1,282.38 over the previous year. Besides this amount there had been nearly \$1,000 received for the building fund. The following is a statement of the church's financial standing:—

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|---|------------|
| Total amount received .....             | \$3,604.40 |
| Total expenditure .....                 | 3,211.67   |
| Balance on hand .....                   | 486.73     |
| Sustentation Fund.                      |            |
| Amount received .....                   | \$2,538.49 |
| Other contributions .....               | 66.58      |
| Balance on hand 1901 .....              | 93.68      |
| Total .....                             | \$2,698.75 |
| Expenditure.                            |            |
| Expenditure for Sustentation Fund ..... | \$2,350.57 |
| Balance on hand .....                   | 348.08     |
| Total .....                             | \$2,698.75 |

The amount received for building fund was \$999.65; of this amount \$600 was paid on note account and \$261 on manse, leaving a balance of \$138.65. The various christian activities of the church—such as the W. F. M. S., Young Ladies' Mission Band, the Ladies' Aid, and Mission Fund Scheme, are all in a healthy condition; while the growth of the Sabbath School has been most encouraging. Last year the school opened with an attendance of 230, this year 377. In 1902, 482 scholars and 44 officers and teachers or a total of 528 were on the roll. During the year 15,755 attended school compared with 13,057 in 1901, showing an increase of 2,698. The total revenue for the year was \$152.28, and the expenditure \$421.04, leaving a balance on hand of \$31.24. The following officers were elected: Board of Management—Messrs. James Baxter, R. E. Scott, A. Watson and James T. Pattison; Secretary—C. J. Johnston; Treasurer—J. S. Stewart; Auditors—H. M. McGillivray and Gordon Watt; Secretary Treasurer of Mission schemes—H. M. McGillivray. On the whole we think that the pastor and people of Erskine church are to be heartily congratulated on the marked success which attended their united efforts during the past year.

### Winnipeg.

Rev. Dr. Wilson resigned the convenership of the committee on Young Peoples' Societies, and Rev. Charles H. Stewart was appointed to take his place.

Rev. A. G. Bell, of Balmoral, has tendered his resignation which will be dealt with by the Presbytery at meeting on 26th Feb.

At the recent meeting of the Presbytery the evening of Tuesday, Feb. 26, was fixed for the induction of Rev. J. W. McMillan as pastor of St. Andrews' church; Rev. Principal Patrick to preside, Dr. Wilson to preach, Dr. Kilpatrick to address the minister and Dr. Pitblado to address the people.

The Presbytery, in accordance with a resolution reached at last meeting, spent an hour and a half in conferring on evangelical services. Rev. Dr. Kilpatrick, the convener of the committee, proposed that for the present winter each congregation should be left to make its own plans for some kind of definite evangelical effort before the winter is over.

Principal Patrick appeared before the session and board of managers of St. Stephen's church last week to request on behalf of the Board of Manitoba College that Rev. C. W. Gordon be set free for a brief period early in the year to visit the East in the interests of the King Memorial Fund. It is understood that the appeal will not in any sense be a general one, but will be limited to the personal friends of the late principal and the friends of the college. The request was cordially granted, and Mr. Gordon will leave early in February, his pulpit is to be supplied in his absence by Revs. Principal Patrick and Dr. Kilpatrick. It is expected that the new building will be dedicated in May.

### Eastern Ontario.

The induction of Rev. Mr. Wallace at Middleville has been fixed for 3rd Feb.

Rev. Alex. Laird, of Cooke's church, Kingston, is gradually recovering from a severe illness.

Mr. James MacAllister M. A., who made many friends during his brief stay at Depot Harbor, in charge of mission work there during the absence of Mr. Craigie, has returned to Knox College.

The anniversary services of the Millbrook church, conducted by Rev. A. MacGillivray, of Toronto, were very impressive, were well attended, and the collections were generous.

At the annual meeting of the Pembroke church the Rev. Dr. Bayne was in the chair. The reports showed the congregation to be in a flourishing condition. The only drawback reported is a difficulty in finding accommodation for those applying for pews. Dr. Bayne's special course of Sunday evening sermons is attracting large congregations.

The Y. P. A. of Calvin church, Pembroke, held a most successful meeting on a recent evening. Amongst those who took part in the evening's proceedings were: Misses M. G. Millar, B. A., Jennie Moffat, May Johnston, Mrs. J. C. McCormack, Miss Mac Lachlan and Dr. Bayne.

The annual meeting of Emmanuel church, East Toronto, was held recently, and the reports were received with great satisfaction. The roll shows an increase of thirty-three and a total amount raised during the year has increased \$2,500. The Ladies Aid Society showed much energy, having made payments two years in advance on the new organ, the responsibility for which they assumed. The stipend of the pastor (Rev. T. H. Rogers) was again increased \$100 per annum.

Lanark and Renfrew Presbytery appointed the following commissioners to General Assembly: Ministers, Rev. A. H. Scott, M. A., Perth; Rev. C. A. Ferguson, Rev. Mr. Crambie, Oliver's Ferry; Rev. A. A. Scott, M. A., Carleton Place; Rev. Geo. Campbell, Chalk River, and Rev. John Hay, B. D., Renfrew. Elders, J. A. Allan, Perth; A. J. Farrell, Smith's Falls; A. M. Greig, Almonte and Mr. Dickson Pembroke.

The annual meeting of St. Andrew's church, Campbellford (Rev. A. C. Reeves, pastor) was held on January 14. There was a large attendance of members and adherents. Excellent reports from the various organizations in the church were read. The membership of the church at the close of the year was 343. The Treasurer presented a very creditable report, showing a balance on hand for ordinary purposes of \$32.00, and for special purposes of \$280.00. The amount contributed to the regular mission