

younger portion of the congregation, Mrs. McKee was the recipient of a purse containing \$50, as a slight token of esteem for her many endearing qualities since she came among them, and for her indefatigable exertions in bringing the psalmody into its present harmonious state, of which she is the efficient leader.

The annual social meeting of the Bay street Presbyterian Church Sabbath school, in this city, was largely attended. Rev. John Smith, the pastor, occupied the chair. Messrs. Wm. Anderson and John A. Patterson, superintendent and secretary of the school, presented reports showing that matters were in a very satisfactory state, numerically and financially. The pupils had collected \$108 for missions and \$100 for running expenses. Readings were given by Messrs. Jas. McCoy and Tibbs of Knox College; and the singing was well executed by Professor Jones and the choir, assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Summerfeldt, Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. Greenfield, and Mr. Sturrock.

MISSIONARY meetings were recently held in Knox Church and St. Andrew's Church, Perth. At the meeting in Knox Church Dr. Bain of St. Andrew's Church occupied the chair. Rev. Mr. Mylne of Smith's Falls spoke on the importance of mission work in general; Rev. Mr. Farries of Ottawa, on Home Missions; Rev. Mr. Stewart, on missions in America, China and India; Rev. Mr. Crombie, on Systematic Giving; and at the close the chairman made an earnest appeal to Christians to do their duty in supporting missions. At the meeting in St. Andrew's Church on the following evening, Rev. Mr. Burns of Knox Church took up the subject of Home Missions; Rev. Mr. Mylne, that of Foreign Missions; and Rev. Mr. Crombie that of French Evangelization in Quebec.

On Tuesday, the 28th January, the Presbytery of Barrie met in the church at Alliston, and inducted the Rev. J. R. S. Burnett into the pastoral charge of the congregation of Alliston and Carleton Place. The Rev. Wm. Fraser of Bondhead presided. The Rev. S. Acheson preached from Isaiah ix. 13, last clause. The Rev. J. A. McConnell addressed the minister and the Rev. E. Panten the people. A large congregation was present, from whom the pastor received a very cordial welcome. Shortly after the induction services were concluded tea was served. Suitable addresses were delivered by Messrs. Fraser, Acheson, and McConnell, after which a long and really social meeting was brought to a close. We hope the union now formed may be long, and bear much fruit.

The annual congregational meeting of the Brock street Presbyterian Church, Kingston, was held on the 18th ult. The pastor (Rev. Andrew Wilson) stated that notwithstanding the unusual number of deaths, the communion roll had greatly increased. When the financial report was called for, Mr. William Coverdale rose, and in the name of the managing committee and congregation, presented the pastor with a check for a handsome sum of money, as a token of their high esteem of him and appreciation of his assiduous labors among them. This was acknowledged in suitable terms by the minister. After Mr. Coverdale's action we do not suppose there was much anxiety felt regarding the financial report; however, it was read, and plainly manifested that the congregation had enjoyed such prosperity as fully justified their generosity.

A TEA MEETING was held in Knox Church, Aton, on the evening of Wednesday, the 24th ult., which, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, was largely attended. On motion of Rev. D. B. Cameron, A. Campbell, Esq., was called to the chair. The platform was occupied by the Rev. A. D. McDonald of Elora, Rev. Mr. Davis of Caledon, Rev. G. W. Calvert of Aton, and the Rev. D. B. Cameron. After partaking of a plentiful repast supplied by the ladies of the congregation, pleasant and instructive addresses by the rev. gentlemen were delivered, interspersed with choice selections of sacred music tastefully performed by the choir of the congregation. The proceeds of the meeting after defraying all expenses amounted to upwards of \$100. After the usual votes of thanks to speakers, choir, chairman, and ladies, the meeting was dismissed by the benediction, and the assembly retired to their homes highly pleased with the entertainment, socially, intellectually and financially.

The annual social meeting of St. Gabriel street Church, Montreal, was held on Wednesday evening, 17th inst. The attendance was large. Addresses were delivered by Rev. Mr. Warden, Rev. Mr. Chiniy, Mr. James Croil, Rev. Mr. Campbell and others. The refreshment tables in the lecture room, supplied and attended by the ladies of the congregation, were well patronized. Rev. R. Campbell, the pastor of the congregation, being on the eve of departure on a six months' leave of absence for the benefit of his health, was unexpectedly presented with a purse of \$200, and an address expressing the respect, affection and esteem of the donors; their appreciation of Mr. Campbell's ability, zeal and

devotedness; their sense of the greatness of the efforts which he had put forth, especially in behalf of the spiritual welfare of the young; their regret for the state of health which demanded a temporary cessation of his labors; and their earnest hope and prayer that he should be restored to his family and congregation with his physical powers completely restored.

A VERY satisfactory state of affairs is manifested by the various reports read at the annual meeting of the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, London, held on Wednesday evening, 31st ult. The managing committee reported that the regular attendance on the Sabbath services had greatly increased; that there had also been a large increase over previous years in the Sabbath day collections and pew rents; and that the minister's stipend had been paid up to the 1st April next, and the insurance of the Church for the next three years. The financial statement shows the receipts of the year to have been \$4,890.18, and the balance on hand 31st December \$12.75. From the report of the Missionary Society connected with the congregation, it appears that \$680 had been collected—being an increase of \$55 over the previous year—and appropriated as follows: Knox College, \$150; Home Missions, \$150; Foreign Missions, \$160; Presbyterian Fund, \$85; Assembly Fund, \$25; Infirmary Ministers', Widows' and Orphans' Fund, \$50; French Evangelization, \$25; Chiniy Mission, \$30; Synod Mission Fund, \$2; balance, \$3. Besides this it ought to be stated that the sum of \$108.52 was given to missions out of the regular congregational fund. The Sabbath school report also indicates a favorable state of affairs. The library had been replenished, and the children regularly supplied with five different Sabbath school papers.

On Sabbath last the basement of the new Presbyterian Church in London East was opened for divine worship. Rev. Dr. Proudfoot presided in the morning, Rev. Mr. Cameron in the afternoon, and Rev. Mr. Murray in the evening. The services were well attended. On Monday evening a social meeting was held, with the success of which the friends of the mission must have been highly pleased. The basement, capable of seating nearly 400 persons, was filled to overflowing. After the refreshments had been partaken of, addresses were delivered by Rev. Dr. Proudfoot, Rev. Messrs. Cameron and Henderson, (who has charge of the congregation at Hyde Park), and by Mr. Wilson of Knox College, Toronto. The musical part of the programme was contributed by Messrs. Marshall, Barron and Murray, and Messrs. Young, Craig, Moses, Kershan, and Mrs. Love. Mr. Fairbairn gave a humorous reading which was much enjoyed by the audience. The Presbyterians of London East are to be congratulated over their success in having erected a handsome commodious brick Church. The auditorium which is estimated to seat 450 persons, will not be ready for use till spring. The basement which is large, well lighted, and cheerful looking, will be used in the meantime as a place of worship. The estimated cost is \$4,500. The Presbyterians of London are not going to be behind their brethren in Toronto in the matter of Church Extension.—*Com.*

W. P. F. M. S. of Glengarry.

The last meeting of the Presbytery of Glengarry was held in St. John's, Cornwall, on the 9th inst. A digest of the proceedings cannot now be expected from the clerk of Presbytery as on former occasions, as his whole time is taken up with the awakening in his congregation. I think it of importance as one member of that Presbytery that at least one item of that day's proceedings should be made known, viz., that the Presbytery of Glengarry on that day, passed a resolution empowering the Ladies Foreign Missionary Society, organized within its bounds, to form a Presbyterial Society under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery, to be known as the "Women's Presbyterial Foreign Missionary Society of Glengarry."

A constitution was submitted and adopted, and the first meeting of the "Women's Presbyterial Society" is expected to be held in Martintown on the same day with the regular meeting of the Presbytery in April, when the Society will give in its first report, and be addressed on missions by one or more members of Presbytery.—*R.*

Students' Missionary Society.—Presbyterian College, Montreal.

The following sums have thankfully been received by the Treasurer, Mr. J. A. Anderson, from Dec. 9th, 1876, up to Feb. 1st. Cornwall, per J. R. McLeod, \$14.50; Summerstown, per J. R. McLeod, \$7.75; Mrs. Conn, Ashton, per J. R. McLeod, \$5.50; Rev. Hugh McGregor, Kintyre, \$5; Norman McPhee, \$1.50; Morrisburg, per N. McPhee, \$11; Pleasant Valley and Orono, per A. C. Morton, \$9.50; Goddard, per I. T. Donald, \$12; A friend in Waddington, N. Y., per G. F. Walker, \$10; Rev. R. D. Fraser, M.A., Toronto, \$5; Martintown, per Rev. R. Hughes, \$20; Union School House, 4th con., Lancaster, per Rev. R. Hughes, \$7; Lancaster, per David Sangster, \$11; Philip S. Bown, Esq., Montreal, \$9; collection, St. Andrew's Church, Lachine, per W. D. Russell, \$28.

Book Reviews.

THE METROPOLITAN PULPIT FOR FEBRUARY.

The following are the contents of *The Metropolitan Pulpit* for this month. Impossibilities with Man Possible with God, by S. D. Burdard, D.D.; Address and Prayer at the Burial of Cornelius Vanderbilt, by Charles F. Deane, D.D. (carefully revised by Dr. Deane for this publication); The Power of Things Invisible, by R. S. Storrs, D.D.; Christian Obedience, by John Hall, D.D.; The Prophetic People, by J. E. Rymal, D.D.; Master and Man, by Emory J. Haynes; The Essential Thing, by E. H. Chapin, D.D. (nearly a verbatim copy of the notes used by Dr. Chappin while preaching in a recent sermon); An Earnest Life, by A. O. Wedekind, D.D.; The Sign of a Christian, by Henry Ward Beecher; God's Care Specific, by George H. Hepworth, D.D.; The Shepherds of Judea, by Charles H. Hall, D.D.; Sermon at the Funeral of J. Igen Burrell, by A. Hillier; Fifty Themes and Texts of Leading Sermons. Published at 96 Nassau street, New York.

A DISSERTATION ON THE DEGREES OF KINDRED WITHIN BAR MARRIAGE. By Rev. D. B. Blair. Halifax, N. S.: Nova Scotia Printing Co.

It is only a pamphlet of forty-two pages but it exhausts the subject. There are no words wasted. "To the Law and to the Testimony!" Mr. Blair maintains, and we think proves, that the prohibitions contained in the eighteenth chapter of Leviticus are as binding upon us as they were upon the children of Israel. He then explains the principle of the law, and arrives at a couple of generalizations by means of which a person can at once tell whether any particular relationship comes within the forbidden degrees or not, without having recourse to a long list. In the conclusion he carefully rests his case on the moral aspect of the question—not upon any physiological ground. He does not say that there are no physiological reasons for such a law; but as the moral reason is in his estimation the stronger of the two, he takes his stand upon that.

THE RELATIONS BETWEEN GENERAL YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS AND THOSE BELONGING TO CHURCHES OR CONGREGATIONS. An Essay read at the Provincial Convention of Young Men's Christian Associations at London, Ontario, Oct. 21st, 1876, by a member of the Executive Committee. Toronto: Hunter, Rose & Co.

This essay is able. It shows that the two kinds of associations spoken of are not opposed to each other—are not incompatible with each other—ought to exist together and assist each other; their uses and fields being different.

ST. NICHOLAS. New York: Scribner & Co.

The February number of this beautiful illustrated magazine for the young has a very tempting table of contents; and sure we are that very many girls and boys as well as perhaps some "children of a larger growth" will derive a good deal of amusement and instruction from its perusal. The lessons in Astronomy still go on, giving this time the "Stars of February," with the usual beautiful and instructive sky-pictures.

THE LIBRARY TABLE. New York: Henry L. Hinton & Co. \$1 per year.

This is a monthly magazine which has a field of its own among the literary journals of the day. It is very cheap, and still it does a good deal of the work of the high-priced periodicals—especially in criticism. Its "Index to Periodical Literature," appearing regularly every month, is very useful; and its monthly biographical and critical paper on some writer of note is both useful and interesting.

THE EARNEST STUDENT. By the late Norman Macleod, D.D. Toronto: Belford Bros.

To show that this book is popular we have only to mention that it is in its twentieth edition. The death of its lamented author has awakened a more wide-spread interest in his writings than they attracted during his life; and among his voluminous works, this biography of his brother-in-law, John Mackintosh, is perhaps the best. Independent of its value as being the work of a famous author, this book also possesses great merit as a study of character of a very high order; and we should think that there are very few who can rise from its perusal without having their own characters improved and elevated.

SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY. New York: Scribner & Co.

In the February number there is a very useful article under the heading "How do I know what is the Bible." The meaning is,—How can a person satisfy himself that in the Protestant English version commonly used, he is in possession of all the books constituting the inspired record, and that no uninspired books have been permitted to intrude. We say that the article is useful, for readers in general have not time to consult such writers as Biddens, Hottinger, Frideaux, Lardner, Jones, Morris, and Alexander; and so plain and satisfactory are the proofs adduced in this article that they are well calculated to strengthen the confidence of those who entertain no doubts as to the authenticity of our sacred Scriptures. The other articles in this number are of the usual interesting and instructive character.

Correspondence.

Colleges and their Constituencies

EDITOR BRITISH AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN.

SIR,—We have now, as "Your Contributor" remarks, the official statement for the current year of both college constituencies—the eastern and the western. They are, in the former for Montreal College \$7,994; in the latter, for Knox \$11,900, for Queen's \$2,480. The advantage is but the two constituencies are assured without doubt, as to the amounts they are asked to contribute to the college fund during this financial year. That, as I have before indicated, is with me for the present, the main question; and in view of the work prescribed by the Supreme Court of the Church, it is for the present the main question for the constituencies. This point of agreement being reached there is not now any danger of "Your Contributor's" first communication having a misleading effect, because of its obscure distinction between annually and "annually hereafter" or any other circumstance. This might not have been the case had his original statement been allowed to pass, seeing that it was not sufficiently guarded against the supposition that it gave the amounts estimated by competent authority for this year, while it put that for Knox much below the official estimate, and that it appeared most unreasonably at the very time the authorities of Knox and Queen's were making efforts to obtain from their constituency all that is required to meet the large demand upon it. "Your Contributor" has told us he was ignorant of such efforts when he wrote, and we are bound to believe him. It was therefore an unfortunate coincidence.

It is now known too from what source his so-called estimate for Queen's "annually hereafter" was obtained. It is not the result of his calculations at all, and though it is only the authorized estimate for this year, he adopts it, and works upon it as the estimate for future years, on the assumption that the revenue and expenditure will remain annually as at present.

As to his original estimate for Knox "annually hereafter," namely, \$8,750, he has not yet condescended to explain, and it appears is not now likely to explain, how he obtained it from "the statistics of last year." It is not once separately named in his last communication, but is included along with that for Queen's in the sum of \$11,200 originally given by him "as the estimated amount" for the two colleges. Compare it with the official estimate for this year, and it is short of it by \$3,150. Compare it with last year's expenditure, as given in the statistics from which he compiled his estimates, namely \$13,981.80, and the difference is \$5,181.80. It was given in his first communication as the result of his calculations "after deducting the income derived from endowments (including the recent bequest from the 'Hall estate')." Deducting interest on the Hall bequest of \$40,000 at eight per cent., and \$440 interest of endowment reported to last assembly from the official estimate for this year, and we get \$11,900—(\$3,200+440), or \$8,380. Make the same deduction from the expenditure of last year and we get \$10,291.80. The authorities of the college, it may be fairly presumed, made all the necessary deductions, taking actual time and rate of interest into account, and in view of last year's expenditure and this year's requirements ascertained that "the very lowest estimate for current expenditure" is \$11,900. Any one, I think, may conclude that \$11,900, their estimate for this year, is much nearer what will be required "annually hereafter" than "Your Contributor's" estimate of \$8,750, and that the total sum of \$14,850 required this year is nearer what will be required "annually hereafter" from the western constituency, than \$12,550, which "Your Contributor" gives in his last communication as the result of his latest calculations,—always keeping in view the risky supposition that revenue and expenditure are to continue the same as now. This seems to some extent to touch his "main question."

What "Your Contributor" calls "the relative strength of the constituencies set apart for the support of the respective colleges" may now be adverted to. This fully covers his "main question," and according to his showing, the strength preponderates largely in favour of the western constituency. "Why," he asks, "should the Montreal Presbytery be dealt with so differently from the others? This is the main question, and one which none of your correspondents have ever yet touched."

I have hitherto concerned myself chiefly with another main question, but let us now see how "Your Contributor" touches his. Given, as accurately as can be, the amounts required from each constituency; then compile as correctly as possible a "table of membership" from the defective statistics of last year, and the statistics of the Canada Presbyterian Church for the preceding year, "making due allowance for the congregations of the Church of Scotland," and for the territory in the Presbyteries of Ottawa and Brockville, whether "debatable" or undisputed. Divide the amounts by the membership respectively, and you get the "relative strength" of the constituencies; only don't forget to throw into the scale of the western constituency all the evidences of "greater wealth" which its more productive soil, "the better circumstances" of its farming community, and its larger number of prosperous cities, towns, and villages afford, and remember that the city of "Quebec is interested in Morrill College," and "Montreal has few congregations with a large membership." These are all the materials utilized by "Your Contributor" in compiling the calculations contained in his first communication, for I suppose no further reference need be made to the paragraphs freighted with orthodoxy, loyalty, and attendance of students.

Well, what does experience teach any one who has tried to estimate the pecuniary productiveness of any considerable territory for the support of good objects, by dividing the amount required or desired by number of persons? Is it not roughly defined as it been sufficiently? Or, has it proved to be a second estimate? Or, has it proved to be almost any failure of unrecognition—such as the

interest really felt in the cause, willingness on the part of successful men to part with their means on its account, local claims and exertions of all kinds especially ennobling in new sections of the country, general schemes of compelling or exceeding attractiveness, etc., etc. The truth, in my judgment, is that the main question has, comparatively speaking, little to do with relative strength ascertained after the manner of "Your Contributor," and that the only conclusive determinant is giving capacity, tested by actual results. A sub-committee of the committee which met at Montreal in September, 1876, had been constituted before it, so far as they could be obtained, and for the rest it was obliged to make its reckoning, as well as it could, on the ground of probabilities, and in view of all interests involved. The last Assembly, as I understand the matter, resolved to give the territorial arrangement proposed and recommended by the committee a trial. This is the first year of the experiment. To be worth anything for future guidance the trial must be a fair one, that is to say, the best endeavours of which the short time allowed for devising plans of operation admits, should be made in each constituency. Montreal has in its favor all the ardour which a comparatively new enterprise, and all the enthusiasm, which its services in behalf of French Canadian evangelization may be supposed to command. The western constituency has the advantage of old associations, but the disadvantage of all the contingencies connected with the maintenance of two institutions instead of one. The active influence of the Presbyteries operating upon the good will of congregations is in both cases the principal agency upon which, under God, the church and the colleges have to depend. After all the result may be such as to show that the present territorial arrangement is not the wisest, not to say the most just. Neither the Assembly nor any committee of the Assembly is infallible, and if inequality or unfairness be established against the existing distribution, it will only confirm what we have high and venerable authority for accepting, and what has often been proved before, namely, that "all synods or councils since the apostles' times, whether general or particular, may err, and many have erred." Yours etc., W. SNODGRASS.

Montreal, 6th Feb., 1877.

Presbytery of Quebec.

A meeting of this Presbytery was held in Morrill College, Quebec, on the 18th of December last. The following were the principal items of business: Petitions praying to have calls moderated were presented from the congregations of Hampden and Scotstown respectively, which after due consideration were granted. A call from the congregation of Lingwick to Mr. Malcolm McLeod, preacher, was also presented. Considerable difficulties stood in the way of its being sustained. In the first place it was strongly opposed by a large minority, and in the second place there were heavy arrears and other claims unsettled. However, on a careful review of all the circumstances, it was agreed to sustain the call and proceed with the settlement of Mr. McLeod, on the condition that said arrears be liquidated previously; and the Moderator, Rev. Peter Lindsay, with Rev. Messrs. Mackenzie, Edmondson, and William B. Clark, were appointed as a delegation to moderate in the calls at Hampden and Scotstown, examine the parties to be ordained and inducted—Mr. Mackenzie, Convener. In compliance with a petition to that effect the managing committee of the Winslow congregation were granted leave with the view of meeting a pressing claim to mortgage their manse property for a sum not exceeding \$200. In the matter of arrears claimed by the same parties in behalf of their pastor from the Hampden congregation, the Presbytery having, time and again, endeavoured to settle the matter in dispute, recommended both parties to settle it by arbitration. Complaints were made at the same time by parties representing mission stations and aid-receiving congregations in reference to the delay, and feared withdrawal by the General Assembly's Home Mission Committee of the grants formerly given to them. The Presbytery expressed their sympathy with the parties aggrieved, and promised to use their influence to have the rules passed by last General Assembly, with respect to aid-receiving congregations, modified at least in the case of congregations situated in the Province of Quebec. Mr. Alex. Baptist having resigned his office as Treasurer, the Rev. W. B. Clark was appointed in his stead. The next meeting of Presbytery was appointed to be held in Melbourn, on the first Wednesday in March next, at ten o'clock, a.m., and the present meeting was then closed with the benediction.—*Com.*

Our agent, Mr. Wm. Selby, is at present canvassing Hamilton. We trust our friends in that city will give him such a hearty reception as will greatly encourage him in his work.

Official Announcements.

MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERIES.

LINDSAY.—Next regular meeting (D.V.) at Woodville on the last Tuesday of February, at 11 a.m.
PARIS.—At Ingersoll, on 13th March, at 11 o'clock a.m.
LONDON.—In the First Presbyterian Church, London, on the first Tuesday of March, at two p.m.
BROOKVILLE.—In the Presbyterian Church, Brockville, on Tuesday, 20th March, at seven p.m.
BARRE.—The meeting of this Presbytery will meet on the first Tuesday in March, 1877.
OTAWA.—The Presbytery of Ottawa will meet in St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, on the first Tuesday of February, at 5 o'clock.
FREDRICKSBURG.—In the First Presbyterian Church, Fredericksburg, on the 1st of March, at 11 a.m.
HAMILTON.—In the Central Church, Hamilton, on the first Tuesday of March, at 11 a.m. General Assembly delegates will then be appointed.
PARANBRO.—At Warsaw, on Wednesday, 21st February, at 11 a.m., and on the 2nd of March, at 11 a.m.
PORT HOPK.—On the 1st of March, at 1:30 p.m.
BAYON.—At Paisley, on the 1st of March, at 2 o'clock, p.m.
KNOX.—In the Knox Church, on the second Tuesday of March, at 7 p.m.
ROSEMONT.—In the lecture hall, on the 6th of March, at 7 p.m. General Assembly delegates to be appointed.