

## Church News

[All communications to this column ought to be sent to the Editor immediately after the occurrences to which they refer have taken place.]

### MONTREAL NOTES.

As in many other places the Evangelical Alliance has continued to observe the first full week of the New Year as a week of prayer, and this year union meetings were held on two evenings of the week in order to give expression to the sense of Christian unity. But for a long while back such meetings have been very far from successful. Somehow the interest in them has become exhausted and they do not seem to meet the popular need. There is not less prayer or less unity than formerly, but the Christian public have grown weary of the same old list of subjects suggested from year to year, and disgusted at the extent to which cranks of all kinds availed themselves of the opportunity to put their lives in evidence. If the Alliance were to take a leaf out of the Salvation Army book and invite to a week of self-denial for missions it might lead to something practical. Coming on the back of the Christmas festivities it would in many cases be as good for the body as the soul. The experience of the Christian Endeavor Society shows that an appeal to something heroic is likely to meet with a response from the hearts of the people. Some of our needy missions might at the same time be relieved of their embarrassments.

The Board of Management of the Temperance Fund of the late Presbyterian Church in connection with the Church of Scotland have given notice that they will apply to the Parliament of Canada at its next session to amend the acts under which it is incorporated so as to enable the Board to commute the claims of beneficiaries, settle with the claimants and wind up the fund. This is the beginning of the last chapter in a story too long for this column. It is a story which has largely lost its interest for the present generation, but it is connected with a question which has played a large part in Canadian political and ecclesiastical history. There are many who will be glad to see the Presbyterian section of that story peacefully and amicably closed.

As far as Protestants are concerned the question of state ecclesiastical endowments is not likely to give further trouble. But it is safe to say that we are within sight of an agitation for the abolition of the legal privileges granted to the Roman Catholic Church. In the meantime, however, Protestants may be content to look on as spectators. The agitation will be taken care of by the Roman Catholic laity.

A somewhat noted figure has passed away from our public life in the death of Sir Joseph Hickson, an elder of St. Andrew's church. His long connection with the Grand Trunk Railway and more recently his position as President of the Commission on the Prohibition of the Liquor Traffic made him widely known throughout Canada. As to the value of his services in the last connection there is some difference of opinion. But it could hardly have been surprising to those who appointed him that he should have taken the position he did when it is considered that he was connected by marriage with one of the principal brewing families of the Dominion. Whatever his convictions may have been it would have been more seemly had he declined to act in a capacity which exposed him to such suspicion of being influenced by selfish considerations. He was one of the Governors of McGill University and of late years gave a considerable amount of attention to the interests of the institution.

The January number of the College Journal has just appeared and contains a large amount of most interesting material besides the usual college items. Specially timely is an article by Dr. Neil Mackay on the "Religious Element in the Education of the Young." This is a subject which will stand a good deal of discussion for it is evident we have not yet reached the position that is likely to be permanently maintained anywhere. Public opinion will not long content to the exclusion of religious education from the schools. The problem is how

to secure it and at the same time maintain public schools at all. Dr. Mackay's suggestion of a limited circle of doctrines on which all practically agree may not be the true one. But every thoughtful contribution to the discussion is welcome and somebody will strike out the right idea in the end.

The pulpit of Calvin Church was declared vacant on Sunday the 8th inst. Pulpit supply has been arranged for the ensuing three months.

Prof. Ross, of the Presbyterian College, preached last Sunday at L'Orignal and lectured on Monday evening to an appreciative audience.

### GENERAL.

Prof. Ballantine preached last Sabbath at St. Enoch's Church Toronto.

Rev. J. A. Morrison of Oak St. Church preached in Chalmers' Church Guelph for Rev. R. J. M. Glassford.

A call from the Presbyterian Church at Newmarket has been extended to the Rev. Mr. McNab of Meaford.

Rev. William Burns conducted the morning service in Oak St. Church Toronto and Rev. J. A. Macdonald preached there in the evening.

The anniversary services were held in the Presbyterian church, Manotick, Dec. 20th by the Rev. Mr. Eadie, of Hintonburgh. The services were well attended.

The primary class teacher of St. John's Church St. John N.B., Miss Trimble, was presented with a handsome opal ring as a Christmas gift from the parents of her class.

The Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, St. John's N.B., was agreeably surprised on Christmas morning by receiving a handsome hardwood rocker for his study from the members of his Bible class.

The Rev. E. G. Florence, pastor of the White Lake Presbyterian Church, has gone to Florida for a few weeks' sojourn and his place will be taken by Mr. R. A. Wilson, principal of the public school.

The Rev. John E. Duolos, B.A., Valleyfield, Quebec, has been appointed Moderator of the Session of Beaufort and Chateaufort and all applications for a hearing in that vacancy should be sent to him.

Rev. Mr. Jenson of Durham lectured in the Presbyterian church Priceville on Dec. 7th, on Holland. His influence on other nations, which was very interesting. All parties seemed well pleased with the lecture.

Rev. Dr. Warden and Rev. R. P. Mackay left for New York to attend a conference of Secretaries and Treasurers of the Mission Boards of the Presbyterian Church, with a view to comparing methods of work and to endeavor to unify plans of operation in connection with Foreign Missions.

On Christmas Eve Rev. W. S. Smith, pastor of the Midville Presbyterian congregation, was presented with a well filled purse and an address. A few weeks ago Rev. Mr. Smith received a similar evidence of appreciation from his Darling congregation. He has apparently won the goodwill of all during his four years' pastorate.

The Centenary and Christmas tree, held in West Adelaide Presbyterian church Strathroy on Christmas night, passed off pleasantly. The church was beautifully decorated with evergreens and the tree was magnificent. The Centenary was nicely rendered and the large crowd of people were well satisfied. The collection taken up for the relief of the Armenians amounted to fifteen dollars.

The New Presbyterian Church at Farewell was opened on Sunday Dec. 20th. Rev. Dr. Fraser of Hamilton preached in the morning and evening and Rev. Dr. Williamson in the afternoon. This comfortable new church is situated in the upper end of Arthur township, a little to the west of Farewell. The Sunday services were all well attended, as was also a dinner given on Monday evening. The new church is a substantial brick structure 50 x 32 feet, which seats 200 easily and has cost about \$1500. The proceeds at the

opening services amounted to more than \$200. A debt of perhaps \$200 was left, but this will soon, it is hoped, be wiped off. The congregation starts out with high hopes under the pastorate of Rev. Mr. Ramsay of Mount Forest, who will conduct service in the new church every Sabbath afternoon at 2.30.

Rev. Dr. Buchanan preached in the Presbyterian church, Preston, on the evening of Dec. 27th, on the subject of "Missions in India." A large and appreciative audience listened with interest to the speaker as he told of the work among the B. A. He stated that from 50 to 150 people are treated at the hospital almost every day, and that in that way they are able to reach their hearts with the story of Christ, the Redeemer.

The anniversary of the Presbyterian church was held on Sunday and Monday Dec. 27th and 28th. Rev. Mr. Shearer, M.A., of Hamilton, conducted the services, morning and evening, on Sabbath. On Monday evening a grand missionary festival was held. Addresses on missionary topics were delivered by the Rev. Messrs. Shearer, Shaw, Henderson, Stewart, Graham and Acheson. The collections amounted to nearly \$50.

Rev. D. R. Drummond, R.D., of Russelltown, Que., was called to the pastorate of Knox Church, St. Thomas, on Tuesday evening Jan. 5th. This is one of the largest and most important congregations in the Presbyterian Church. The call was entirely unanimous, no other name being proposed. The interesting thing is that Mr. Drummond was not a candidate, and never preached to the congregation there. He was called upon his record as an able preacher and faithful pastor. The pulpit has been vacant since July last, when Rev. J. A. Macdonald resigned to accept the editorship of The Westminster. Knox Church, Ottawa, has also been desirous of having Mr. Drummond's services.

Dec. 20th being the anniversary of Melville church the pulpit was occupied by the Revs. Dr. Campbell and Knox, the former in the morning and evening and the latter in the afternoon. Large congregations were in attendance at all the services and listened with the most careful and interested attention to the forcible and eloquent sermons delivered by the reverend gentlemen. On Monday evening Dr. Campbell delivered an exceedingly interesting lecture on "The Sins of the Fathers," which fully repaid the audience for braving the exceedingly cold. The choir of St. Andrew's church, Carleton Place, furnished an excellent programme of music. Refreshments were served in the school house before and after the lecture. Receipts were nearly one hundred dollars.

A conference of the Presbyterian Young People was held in St. Andrew's Church, Strathroy, in December to consider the question of forming a Young Peoples' Presbyterian, similar to those now existing in other Presbyteries. The attendance was large and great interest was manifested. The delegates from Parkhill were Rev. R. Aylward, Miss E. Rawlinson and Mr. D. Worla. An excellent programme was presented containing several valuable papers and addresses dealing with the history, development and present position of the Presbyterian Church. On motion of Rev. A. L. Bridgman it was unanimously agreed to form a Presbyterian which shall include all Young People's Societies within the bounds of the Presbytery. Officers were appointed for the ensuing year. The first annual meeting will be held in Strathroy.

A very pleasing event was the formal opening of St. Andrew's Church, L'Orignal, on January 3. For some time past the church has been undergoing repairs, and on Sabbath Rev. Prof. Ross, of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, assisted by several of the clergymen from the surrounding country, conducted the reopening services. This church is a substantial stone structure, built about sixty years ago. At that time L'Orignal was the country seat for Carleton, as well as Prescott and Russell, and it was reasonable supposed would rapidly increase in population. The enterprising Scotchmen of those days accordingly put up a much larger church than they actually required. However, the sanguine expectations of these worthy men have been dis-