

## Ministers and Churches.

### Our Toronto Letter.

We here in humble, modest Toronto, are being honoured at present as an unwanted favor and luxury, with what to you in the capital of this great Dominion is a common everyday thing, the presence of vice-royalty. Lord and Lady Minto have been here now for some time, and after giving the horse show the first and largest share of vice-regal patronage, are now diligently turning their attention in other directions. Lady Minto especially, has paid quite a numerous round of visits to a large number of the charitable and humane institutions of the city, and in doing so has both shewn a kindly spirit, and given great pleasure to their inmates and satisfaction to those charged with the carrying on and administering of all such benevolent institutions. Royalty is never so royal and attractive, as when it exemplifies by such deeds that, the highest dignity and honor are not to be ministered unto, but to minister. The example of the late Queen, as well as of Queen Alexander, and the whole royal family indeed, has made its impression on the whole empire in this respect.

At the last meeting of Toronto Presbytery, there was discussed an overture from the Church Union Society of Canada for a union of the Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian bodies. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that the time is not yet ripe for such a union, but the principle of it was favoured. Even the discussion of such a subject in a friendly, tolerant, christian spirit is one of the steps which must be taken before union of any kind can be reached, but before such an one as that projected can be accomplished, many a weary mile will have to be painfully travelled. At the same meeting the call of Chalmers church, Acton, to Rev. H. A. McPherson, pastor of Knox church, Acton, was sustained. St. Paul's church pastor, Rev. G. R. Fasken was announced to be out of debt. This is one of the younger churches of the city, and it speaks well for it to have already attained to this enviable position. The Synod of Toronto and Kingston met in Knox church last Tuesday evening, and in next letter it will be possible to refer to some of the business which came before it. The first meeting of the Advisory Council of the lately formed Presbyterian Union was held last week, officers nominated were: Hon. President, the Moderator; First Vice-President, Rev. A. Gandier; Second Vice-President, H. E. Irwin, K.C.; Secretary, Rev. R. C. Tibb; Treasurer, R. Kilgour; Convener of Missionary and Evangelistic Committee, Rev. J. McP. Scott; Convener of Equipment and Extension Committee, Thomas Kinnear. It was also decided to continue the work begun last year of keeping three Bible Women or deaconesses engaged in the city mission work. The initiation of some christian service on the Island was discussed, and if found desirable, it will be begun at Centre Island. Bonar church, Rev. Alexander MacGillivray, pastor, held its 13th anniversary on the 3rd in which with the minister, there took part, Rev. Dr. McLaren, Superintendent of Home Missions, and Mr. Frank Yeigh, who gave to the Sunday School, the largest in the presbytery, a delightful black-board talk.

The Sunday School Publication Committee met last week, and the report presented to it by the editor-in-chief was most favourable. There is a marked increase in all the publications issued by the committee, and in acknowledgment of valuable service already rendered, and still further to strengthen the editorial staff, Miss Jane W. Fraser was appointed assistant editor of the illustrated papers.

The closing exercises of McMaster University which began on Tuesday with the Baccalaureate sermon, preached by Prof. A. T. Robertson, D.D. of Louisville, Kentucky, were closed by the conferring of degrees, presenting diplomas, and an address by President Harper of Chicago University before an audience which quite overflowed the Castle Memorial Hall. Great interest was shewn in the class which was large, and in the presence and address given by the distinguished visitor. He very graciously acknowledged the large contributions which Canada had made to educational institutions in the United States, and to the University of Chicago in particular. From these complimentary and very pleasant preliminaries he proceeded to give a thoughtful and suggestive address of some

length, on "Religion and the Higher Life." It was listened to with the closest attention by the large audience, and at its close applauded very heartily. Brief addresses were also made by President London of Toronto University, and Hon. Mr. Harcourt, Minister of Education, the former mentioned that he had secured a promise from President Harper to favor Toronto University Convocation next year with his presence, a statement which was warmly received.

The trustees of the Massey estate have expressed a willingness, if the City Council is prepared to exempt Massey Hall from taxation, to expend \$100,000 in still further improving it, and particularly, by providing it with an organ which will be one of the best in the world. It would appear on the face of it, to be very short sighted policy for the city to deprive itself of a gift of \$100,000 for the sake of a few hundreds of dollars of taxes annually. "The City," one of our powerful daily papers says, "cannot too soon close with the trustees, reverse the action of a few years ago in imposing a tax upon the Hall, and give the necessary undertaking that the Hall will hereafter be left free from civic burdens."

The extent to which deaconess work is now being taken up by young ladies is very noticeably illustrated by the fact that, at the graduating exercises of the Methodist Deaconess home here, seventeen ladies were presented with diplomas at the sixth annual meeting of the Deaconess Aid Society held last week in the Metropolitan Church. Some interesting statements of the work done in connection with this society were given at the meeting. The Fresh Air home at Whitby was built and kept up at an outlay of \$5,280. During July and August, 500 poor children spent two weeks at the home, in September, 79 poor women and babies were kept there. The Deaconesses of the Home made 7,419 calls on the sick, 3,178 business calls, 9,413 missionary and parish calls, and 4,764 canvassing calls, or a total of 26,385.

With the warm weather now setting in, the city missionary so well known to this city, and so welcomed by all began his street preaching with his associates, in the Gospel Waggon last week.

Great preparations are being made for the Old Home visit of Toronto boys from abroad, especially as being nearest to us, those from the neighbouring republic, from July 1st to 4th. The secretary reports communication with 742 newspapers and 5,000 former Toronto residents in promoting it. The city has granted \$5,000 for this purpose, and \$5,000 will be expected by voluntary contributions; 50,000 booklets are being disposed of, and 1,000,000 more are on the press, and there will be public sports and entertainments of all kinds to suit all tastes. A lady's committee has been suggested to aid in making this home-coming to old Torontonians as complete and happy as it can be made.

### Manitoba Notes.

Mr. L. W. Anderson has been chosen as assistant in Knox church, Winnipeg to the Rev. Dr. Duval.

The Rev. H. M. Irwin, of Knox church, New Westminster, who was a student at Winnipeg when the Strathcona horse was formed, and enlisting in that body, was through the close of the war, successfully lecturing in the coast cities on the subject "Personal Experience in South Africa."

It has been decided to proceed with the scheme to establish a college for boys and girls at Calgary. It will be denominational and run by a joint stock company. The sub-committee having the matter in hand will recommend that it be called the "Western Canada." The Rev. Dr. Hurdman, James Short, James Muir, C. A. Stuart and W. McC. Davidson are the committee who are assisting in organization.

The funeral took place last Tuesday of Mrs. Ethel M. Scott of Brantford, Ont., only daughter of the Rev. Prof. Hart of Manitoba college. A large number of relatives, members of the faculty, students and other friends attended the funeral. The services were conducted by the Rev. C. W. Gordon, pastor of St. Stephen's church, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Bryce and the Rev. Dr. Kilpatrick. The pallbearers were: R. M. Thomson, D. R. Campbell, Frank Fisher, D. M. Duncan, George Dingle, and R. Ross Sutherland. The floral tributes were numerous and extremely beautiful.

Grace church was well filled at both the morning and evening services last Sabbath, when the Rev. A. C. Courtice, D. D., late editor of the Christian Guardian, occupied the pulpit. In the morning he delivered a powerful address on the educational work of the Methodist church, which, he said was aimed at improving the quality of the ministers and members.

Rev. R. G. MacBeth, of Vancouver, believes that the attendance at the meeting of the general assembly in June, at Vancouver, will be much larger than is usual at the sessions of this ecclesiastical court. All of the eastern Presbyteries are sending full delegations and the most prominent Presbyterians in Canada will be present.

The Oddfellows of Winnipeg celebrated the eighty fourth anniversary of their order with a parade to St. Andrew's church in which about 800 took part last Sabbath. Rev. Mr. Millan preached from the text Mark iv, 30. "There is no man which shall do a miracle in my name who can lightly speak evil of me. The proceeds of the collection taken at the services amounted \$110.12, and was divided equally between the Children's Aid society and the Children's home.

Rev. R. A. King, M.A., late of New Westminster, B.C., was this week set apart by the Presbytery of Winnipeg as missionary to Central India, and Principal of Indore College. The service was held in Knox church, Rev. Dr. DuVal presiding, and conducting the opening devotional exercises, Rev. Joseph Hogg leading in prayer. Rev. Dr. Kilpatrick preached eloquently from Ephesians 3: 8, dwelling particularly on the words "the dispensation of the mystery."

The fifth anniversary of the opening of Knox Presbyterian church, Bat Portage was celebrated on Sunday, when special services were held, the pastor Rev. W. M. Rochester, preaching both morning and evening. Large congregations attended both services. The musical portion especially the evening, was particularly well rendered. Monday evening a social was held in the basement of the church when tea was served by the ladies of the congregation, after which a programme of singing and instrumental music was rendered, followed by an address by the Rev. J. H. Morgan, pastor of Zion Methodist church, on the life of Henry Drummond, which was most thoroughly enjoyed by the large gathering.

### Western Ontario.

Rev. A. L. Howard, of Toronto, a recent graduate of Knox College, has accepted the call extended to him by the Cayuga church.

At the last meeting of the trustees of the Stratford hospital, Hon. Thomas B. Lantry announced that he would build a nurses home as a memorial to his late wife.

Sunday last was children's day in Knox church, Ayr. Unfortunately it was very wet and the congregation was consequently small.

The last lecture of the winter course will be given in Knox Church, Ayr, on May 14th, by the pastor, the Rev. John Thomson M. A. on "Scottish Humor."

At the united meeting of the congregation of Claude and Mayfield a unanimous and enthusiastic call was extended to Rev. J. Gordon Cheyne, a recent graduate of Knox College.

Knox church, St. Catharines, celebrated its 62nd anniversary by special sermons given by Rev. A. B. Winchester, of Toronto. Large congregations listened to the helpful sermons rendered by the visiting clergyman.

Rev. Robert McIntyre is arranging for a spectacular affair to be held at the Tempo church on June 9. The proceeds will be applied to the debt on the parsonage, and an effort is to be made to wipe out the entire amount, which is now \$150.

A large congregation was present at Knox church, Hamilton, last Sabbath morning to hear Rev. R. A. Mitchell, of Hong Kong, China, speak on mission work among the Chinese. In the evening Mr. Mitchell spoke in Erskine church.

Rev. J. H. Radcliffe, of the First church, St. Catharines began his 21st year in the pastorate of that church last Sabbath by reviewing the work of the past twenty years. In referring to himself he said that he had sought to preach a pure gospel, not popularity; he had not adopted sensational methods, but he had sought to please Christ.