

## MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

THE Ladies' Aid Association of Knox Church, St. Mary's, held a very successful garden party at the residence of Mr. Alex. Smith, River road, Blanshard, on the evening of the 24th. Something over \$80 was realized.

WE are glad to learn that the Rev. Mr. McRobbie has been the recipient of a very flattering address and a handsome present from the Odd Fellows of Feterlen, in acknowledgment of his kindly consenting to preach to the Society on the anniversary of the introduction of the order into America.

WE are pleased to learn that Mr. Thos. H. Hodgson, produce merchant of Montreal, has, through Mr. J. M. Gill, of Brockville, presented the very liberal donation of five hundred dollars to the Building Fund of the First Presbyterian Church, Brockville. The congregation feels deeply grateful to Mr. Hodgson for his unexpected and very liberal gift.

THE Lord's supper was observed on Sabbath, the 30th of May, in the new church, Cumberland. Although the church was not quite finished it was considered necessary to adjourn to it so as to accommodate the congregation, which has more than doubled during the past year. Fifty-three new communicants were received for the first time on profession of their faith in Christ as their Saviour; making in all a total of one hundred added to the communion roll since the first of March, 1879.

THE lecture room of the West Presbyterian Church, in this city, was crowded one evening last week by an appreciative audience attracted thither by a concert given by the friends of the church. The programme was tastefully selected, and pleasingly carried out. Among those taking part were the following amateurs: Miss Adele Lemaitre, the Misses Lawson, Ald. Baxter, Mr. C. W. Baxter, Mr. Tilley, Miss Jackson, Miss Wright, Miss Taylor, and Mr. Carruth. Mr. W. Tilley officiated as conductor, and Mr. J. Baxter played the accompaniments. The proceeds of the concert are to be devoted to the Ladies' Aid Society in connection with the church.

ON Tuesday, 1st inst., the Presbytery of Hamilton met at Burlington to ordain the Rev. R. H. Abraham, a licentiate of the Toronto Presbytery. The services were commenced by the Rev. Mr. Munro, who preached an appropriate sermon. Rev. Simon Fraser, presided and put the questions to the young minister who was set apart to the work of the ministry. The newly ordained minister was addressed by the Rev. R. J. Laidlaw, of Hamilton, and the people by the Rev. Thos. Goldsmith, of the same place. In the evening a social was held in the Town Hall, and at half-past seven the assembly adjourned to the church, when addresses were delivered by various ministers, among others Rev. Principal Caven, D.D., Knox College, Toronto, Rev. John Kirkpatrick of Cooke's Church, Toronto, and Rev. R. J. Laidlaw. The following members of Cooke's Church, Toronto, were present: Messrs. William Wilson, Robt. Armstrong, Thomas Kinnear and Thomas Kerr. The proceedings, which were very interesting, were presided over by the Rev. Mr. Fraser, Moderator of the Presbytery. Mr. Abraham's reception was most cordial and enthusiastic.

ON the 2nd inst., Mr. Alexander Russell was ordained to the work of the sacred ministry over the Presbyterian congregation of Hawkesville. The Rev. James Bryant, Moderator of the vacant congregation, presided and preached from the words, "Dost thou believe in the Son of God?" (John ix. 35). He opened up the text in a forcible and eloquent sermon by shewing how Christ is the Son of God, from His works, words, and death, and also the bearing of the question on those assembled—"Dost thou believe?" After narrating the steps taken in reference to the call, he asked the usual questions, which being satisfactorily answered, he offered the ordaining prayer, the Presbytery laying on their hands, and then gave the right hand of fellowship. After this the ministers gave a hearty welcome to Mr. Russell. The Rev. J. A. R. Dickson, of Galt, addressed the newly ordained minister on the words, "Take heed to thyself and to the doctrine, and continue in them, and thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee." The Rev. Donald Tait, B.A., of Berlin, addressed the congregation, dwelling specially on what would encourage the minister. The Rev. Mr. Boyd closed the meeting with the benedic-

tion. We trust Mr. Russell may have a happy and successful pastorate in his first charge. The people are united, and rejoice in their new settlement.

PRESBYTERY OF OTTAWA.—This Presbytery met in Knox Church, Ottawa, on the 4th of May. Fifteen ministers and five elders were present. A call from the congregation of Lancaster in favour of Rev. J. A. G. Calder was disposed of. The Presbytery agreed to translate Mr. Calder from Osgoode to Lancaster. Arrangements were made for the moderation of calls in Richmond and Stittsville, and also in Aylmer and Chelsea, as well as in North Gower. The remits of the General Assembly were disposed of, as the following motions indicate: On the University—"That the Presbytery disapprove of the principle of the Presbyterian University remitted by the Assembly for the consideration of Presbyteries." On Romish Ordination—"That inasmuch as there is a radical distinction between ordination, as understood by Presbyterians and as understood by Romanists, the validity of Romish ordination be not recognized." On the status of retired ministers—"That only pastors of churches should be regarded as full members of Presbytery, and all others receive only the usual courtesies of recognition as corresponding members; at the same time retired members residing within the Presbytery should be regarded as under its care and jurisdiction." On the reception of ministers—"That the regulations submitted in the remit be approved with the exception of clauses three and four, and that instead of the course prescribed in those clauses, it be provided that ministers presenting Presbyterian certificates shall be received on the same terms as ministers translated from pastoral charges provided as in clause first." The Home Mission report was submitted, received, and its recommendations adopted. The Rev. Mr. Maguire, and Mr. Hamilton, elder, were appointed to audit the books of the treasurer of the Home Mission Committee, and at a subsequent sederunt reported that they had examined the books and vouchers for money received and paid out, and found them correct. Reports on the State of Religion and Sabbath schools were submitted, received, and thanks tendered to the respective committees, especially the conveners. Two overtures, one on the preparation of students for entering upon the study of theology, and another on "uniformity in the examination of theological students to be taken on trial for license," were ordered to be forwarded through the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa to the General Assembly. The Rev. Mr. Fairlie and Mr. John Durie, elder, were appointed to fill vacancies that had occurred among commissioners to the General Assembly appointed at the last regular meeting of Presbytery. Other routine business of no general interest was transacted.—JOSEPH WHITE, *Pres. Clerk*.

### REV. DR. STEEL, SYDNEY, N.S.W.

AS we have already intimated, the Rev. Dr. Steel, of Sydney, New South Wales, will be at the Assembly, now met in Montreal, as a deputy from and representative of the Presbyterian Church in Australia.

Dr. Steel has long occupied a very prominent position among the Presbyterians of New South Wales. He is not only pastor of a large and influential congregation, but also editor of a weekly newspaper, published in Sydney, in the interests of the Presbyterian Church. He is also the author of several works, prominent among which is an interesting and exhaustive History of Christian Missions in the New Hebrides. We have not yet seen the volume, but it is spoken very highly of by the religious press of Britain. It will be specially interesting to our friends in the Lower Provinces, as it gives a very full account of the mission work of our Church carried on so successfully in Annetum, Erromanga, etc. Dr. Steel has personally visited all those islands, and can tell from personal acquaintance what the Lord has accomplished there by the labours of our missionaries.

### THE GENERAL ASSEMBLIES IN SCOTLAND.

THE ESTABLISHED ASSEMBLY, on May 21st, was during the opening hours chiefly engaged in arranging the order of business.

The report of the Committee on Sabbath schools was given in. The total number of Sabbath schools is 1,961—an increase for the year of 62. The number of scholars on the roll is 185,796—an increase of

12,589. The number of teachers is given as 7,692 males and 9,684 females—an increase of 428. The attendance of ministers' classes is 39,583; and at classes taught by elders and others not ministers, 4,974—a total increase of 5,760. The amount collected for missions was £2,126 2s. 9½d.—an increase of £10 9s. 5¼d. as compared with last year. The report of the Colonial Committee stated that its receipts last year were £6,974 2s. 8d. and the expenditure £9,013, leaving them to begin the work of this year with a balance on the wrong side of £2,038 17s. 4d. This deficiency, however, is expected to be wiped out by a legacy of the late John Buist, of St. Andrew's.

In the evening deputations were heard from various colonial Churches, among them the Rev. Mr. Galbraith, Ontario, Canada. The members of the deputations gave details of the work of the Churches in their different localities. Mr. Galbraith was proceeding to make reference to the effects of the union, and was condemning one of the Churches in the union in Canada, when Dr. Phin interrupted, and said he must use another style of address. He was attacking another Church in very strong terms—a Church which the Assembly had not seen any reason to condemn for going into the union. If the Assembly listened to a statement on the one side of this subject they might have another statement on the other side, and it was very undesirable that such quarrels should be brought up in the Assembly. Mr. Galbraith told the Moderator he was merely carrying out the instructions of his Church, and then retired to his seat.

Dr. Phin said the Assembly would be glad to hear Mr. Galbraith speak of what was being done by his Church, and the Moderator also requested Mr. Galbraith to continue his statement in this line.

Mr. Galbraith—I respectfully decline to say any more, stopped as I have been.

Dr. Phin, in moving the thanks of the Assembly to the deputations, said he was very sorry if anything had occurred which might leave an impression that the General Assembly did not feel an interest in the small Church represented by Mr. Galbraith; but he was persuaded that the members of the Assembly would agree with him that it would not do to allow one Church in America to come to the Assembly and occupy their time in condemning another Church in its absence. If the other Church had been present, and had attempted to condemn those who had refused to go into the union, he would have been as decided with it as he had been with Mr. Galbraith. They all desired union if it could be accomplished upon proper terms, and they rejoiced in the union that had taken place in the colonies. They deplored that there should be any Church which felt itself conscientiously precluded from entering the union, and they also felt that there was nothing more unlikely to bring about a removal of the difficulties which existed than strong statements on either side in the presence of such a body as the General Assembly.

On Saturday the report of the Committee on Christian work was considered.

Monday, the 24th, was taken up chiefly with cases of discipline and reports.

Tuesday was spent in the discussion of Home Missions, the report on which was very hopeful and encouraging. Other reports were got over expeditiously, and the court adjourned at five o'clock, p.m.

Wednesday, the 26th, was chiefly occupied with the endowment scheme. It was reported that ten new parishes had been erected and endowed during the year.

A considerable discussion rose on the proposal to modify the subscription of elders to the Confession of Faith.

The change proposed by Dr. Story was, that elders should only be required to make the following declaration:

"I, A. B., subscribe my approbation of the Confession of Faith approved by former General Assemblies of this Church, and ratified by law in the year 1890; and I promise to adhere to the sum and substance of the doctrine contained therein. I likewise own and acknowledge the Presbyterian Church government of this Church, now settled by law, by Kirk Sessions, Presbyteries, Provincial Synods, and General Assemblies to be the only government of this Church; and that I will submit thereto, concur therewith, and never endeavour, directly or indirectly, the prejudice or subversion thereof; and that I shall observe uniformity of worship, and of the administration of all public ordinances within the Church, as the same are at present performed and allowed."

A committee was eventually appointed to consider whether such a change were practicable, and if not, to