

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

The noted library founder, whose name bids fair to become immortal in connection with such institutions, Mr. Andrew Carnegie, has now included Toronto in the long and constantly growing list of his munificent gifts. To build a central and three branch library building, he offers the city \$350,000, on condition of the city Council guaranteeing to support the library with a yearly sum of \$35,000. This offer has, as in a good many similar cases of Mr. Carnegie's offers, been received with a variety of opinions as to its acceptance or non-acceptance. Some who recommend the latter course, accompany the expression of their opinions with remarks not very complimentary to the donor, and in exceedingly bad taste to say the least. Toronto, they say, is quite able to provide its own library and buildings, which is quite true, only it does not do it, or with that liberality and efficiency which a rapidly growing city needs. The bulk of opinion, however, is so strongly in favor of accepting this timely offer, that there can be little doubt of what the issue will be, and that in many ways it will result greatly to the benefit of the city, both in the present and for many generations to come. The public library board has adopted, and passed on for action by the city Council, a motion for the acceptance of Mr. Carnegie's offer.

The first of the series of University sermons which has been arranged for by a committee representing the staff and undergraduates of all the faculties and affiliated Colleges of the University of Toronto, was given on Sunday, 25th inst., by Rev. John De Soyres of St. John, N.B., in the Convocation Hall of Wycliffe College. The Vice-Chancellor, President, and many other officials and members of the staff occupied seats on the platform, and from 500 to 600 students were present. It is hoped in this way, to bring to the service of college students in Toronto, some of the most noted preachers on the continent, and so inspire them and minister to their highest life. Owing to the illness of Chancellor Burwash of Victoria College, Principal Sheraton of Wycliffe, presided. The services were exceedingly simple. The preacher's subject was the Example of Christ and based his sermon on Phil. 2: 1-18, where St. Paul presents Christ as an example of love, charity, humility, and obedience, and his presentation of this subject made a very deep impression on his hearers. The hall, it is to be regretted, is too small to accommodate the whole body of students, and the attendance had to be confined to a number in each College proportioned to its whole student body. As these services are intended for students only, it may be hoped that an audience room of sufficient size may be found to hold all students who wish to attend them. It is to be regretted, and rather short-sighted, that the meeting of the General Ministerial Association on the following day should have objected to the service being held at 11 a.m., on the ground, as reported, that it prevented students from attending their own churches. Surely a case like this might be treated as exceptional, without any such carping, the more especially as no student who wishes to do so is prevented from attending his own church. On the Monday evening an intellectual treat was enjoyed by the audience present at a lecture given in the Chemical building by Mr. De Soyres on the "Life Work of Friedrich August Gottlieb Tholuck, the eminent German theologian and preacher."

The Foreign Mission Committee of our Church was in session two days last week. Encouraging reports were presented by Rev. Dr. Mackay, the secretary of the Committee, and by Rev. Dr. Warden. The appointment was made of Rev. R. A. King, of New Westminster, B.C., as Principal of Indore College, of Dr. Waters of the Sick Children's Hospital and of Mr. R. Davidson of Knox College to the same mission. Plague has appeared at Rutlam and the deaths range from 25 to 50 per day, and over all India the death rate from the same cause is given at 12,500 weekly. To Honan was appointed Rev. G. S. Robb, of B.C., and the assistance of three more missionaries for China is urgently called for. On Friday evening Rev. Dr. Wilkie gave an address under the auspices of the Young Peoples Society in the schoolroom of Knox church on "Recent Changes in India, and their Effect on Missionary work there." Last week in the same place, a meeting was held of ministers

and elders to consider the condition of down town and mission churches in different parts of the city, and of churches working in parts of the city chiefly occupied by the artisan and labouring classes. The meeting though not large was very earnest in its spirit, and the whole situation was most clearly presented and intelligently discussed by men labouring in such fields, and who spoke from their own knowledge and experience. The situation is one most difficult to cope with effectively, and the meeting was adjourned for another to be held at the call of the chairman and a committee appointed to act with him, and submit some practical scheme for discussion, and, if found possible, for action. This subject is one of the utmost importance and cannot too soon or too effectively be dealt with in all our growing cities if we would not have grown up amongst us a slum population such as is to be found in all the large cities of the old world, and in the United States. In connection with this subject we notice the change coming over pulpit ministrations and themes. Here are a few announced for last Sunday evening: "Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress," illustrated with limelight views; "Great Britain in India"; "The Claims of Women in India on Canada"; "Was Jesus Original?"; "The Narration of the Tower of Babel"; "The Signs of the Times."

Few men have been so long and well-known as holding a most honourable and important position in the city as the late Judge MacDougall. For some time past he had been feeling ill and suffering from the effects of overwork, and had gone over to St. Catharines for a few days rest and change. The city was shocked by the report of his sudden death which took place there on Thursday morning. For twenty years he has been Judge of the County of York and for eighteen of the twenty senior Judge; and besides, has discharged many other difficult and delicate public duties. The testimonies to his ability, high character, and devotion to the public service, and to his many estimable personal qualities are of the highest kind, and without one dissenting note. Canada owes much to the high character alike of the Bench and the Bar, and it is acknowledged heartily and readily on all hands, that in the death of Judge MacDougall, the Bench has lost one who, for twenty years, upheld its honour without stain or reproach, and whose place it will be hard to fill with one in all respects his equal.

Toronto Junction congregation which has been vacant for some months, lately called Rev. G. C. Pidgeon of Streetsville. Mr. Pidgeon having left the whole matter in the hands of the Presbytery, it decided on his removal to the Junction, and his induction into Victoria church there on the 3rd inst.

The Aberdeen Association for the dissemination of good wholesome literature in our new settlements, held its annual meeting lately and received a most encouraging report from its secretary. Complaint is made of the change in the postal arrangements, which reduces the amount of book matter which may be carried free from five pounds to three. Abuse of this privilege in some cases, is given as the reason for the change. It is a pity that the abuse could not have been got at without curtailing or hampering so much needed a service.

Ottawa

Rev. A. H. McGillivray, of Carp, preached with much acceptance in Bank Street, last Sunday.

Rev. Norman McLeod, of Mackay church, conducted anniversary services at Gravel Hill, Glengarry, last Sunday.

Rev. Wm. McIntosh, of the First Congregational church exchanged with Rev. Dr. Armstrong of St. Paul's. Both congregations were pleased with the change.

Rev. Dr. Herridge, will be the University preacher in Toronto next Sunday. Rev. Dr. Moore will occupy the pulpit of St. Andrew's in the morning and Rev. Mr. Milne, of the Glebe, in the evening.

Rather unique and decidedly interesting was the entertainment held in Knox church of Monday evening of last week. The pupils of the Chinese class were entertained by their teachers and friends. All partook of refreshments in the Sunday school hall, after which a short program was rendered by the Chinese pupils. Several hymns were sung in unison and instrumental numbers were contributed by the men of the

Orient on their strange instruments. Prizes were distributed. The teachers who contributed to the program were Mrs. Thompson, Miss Gibson, Miss M. Kennedy and Miss Campbell. Members of the Chinese class thanked their teachers for the efforts put forth in their behalf.

At the beginning of the year Rev. Dr. Armstrong sent out to his people a suitable and timely "Message for the New Year." Printed on one side of the folder is an excellent portrait of the much esteemed pastor of St. Paul's church, which enhances the value of the card to the recipient.

At the annual meeting of the Missionary society of McKay church, the following officers were elected for the coming year: Honorary presidents, Mrs. T. C. Keefer and Mrs. MacLeod; president, Mrs. MacLeod, first vice-president, Mrs. Hill; second vice-president, Mrs. Elliott; corresponding-secretary, Miss D. Elliott; recording-secretary, Miss E. Rankin; treasurer, Miss Holt; superintendent of scattered helpers, Mrs. Ralph and Mrs. Barron; organist, Miss M. Holt; librarian, Miss J. Rankin; distributor of tidings, Miss M. Holt. The amount of money raised during the year was \$52.37; the Children's mission band collected \$6.70. Mrs. J. D. Sherwood read an interesting paper on Indians in the Northwest and British Columbia; Miss E. Rankin gave an account of the French work, and Mrs. MacLeod read a paper on Home Missions. Items of news from the different stations were also read.

Northern Ontario.

Rev. G. C. Little, of Corbetton, who has accepted a call from Bothwell and Florence, delivered his farewell message to his congregations on Sabbath last.

Rev. P. Fleming, of Maxwell, recently conducted a series of special services in his McIntyre congregation and was assisted by Mr. Gaudin of Euphrasia.

At the meeting of Orangeville Presbytery on the 13th inst. Rev. James Buchanan, of Dundalk, was elected Moderator for the current six months.

Rev. T. R. White, of Eugenia, supplied the pulpit of Chalmers church, Flesherton and Proton Station on Sabbath last, the pastor, Rev. L. W. Thom, who was united in marriage on the 20th inst. to Miss Christie, only daughter of Dr. Christie, of Flesherton, being on a wedding holiday at Cobourg and other points east.

Knox church, Sydenham, has lost a valued member in the person of Mrs. Wm. Boddy, who on the 18th inst. passed to her reward, aged 68 years. Mrs. Boddy, who has been a resident of Sydenham for forty years, was a noble Christian character beloved by all who knew her. Impressive burial services were conducted by her pastor, Rev. J. A. Black.

Knox church, Ventry, Rev. J. Buchanan, pastor, had also a successful year, as indicated by the reports presented at the annual meeting on the 15th inst. Total receipts \$2,022.48, as follows: S. F. \$15.81; S. S. \$24.26; C. E. Society \$49.50; L. A. \$109.00; Managers \$490.00; Building Fund \$1237.75; Missions and W. F. M. S. \$98.96; Children's Hospital \$4.20. Officers were elected, and the hope was expressed that the new church would be ready to open on the second Sabbath in March.

The annual meeting of Erskine church, Dundalk, was held on the 14th inst., the pastor, Rev. Jas. Buchanan, in the chair. The church had an active and prosperous year, the reports showing that \$1,690.94 had been raised as follows: Session, \$11.81; Sunday School \$63.25; L. A. \$262.32; Managers \$250.44; Building Fund \$254.90; Missions and W. F. M. S. \$72.23; Sick Children's Hospital \$6.00. The thanks of the congregation were tendered the pastor and his wife for their untiring zeal and fidelity to the work of the church, and it was also agreed that the pastor have four weeks holidays during the summer.

Western Ontario.

At the recent meeting of Guelph Presbytery, held at Hespeler, the attendance of members was considerably affected by the prevalence of small-pox in Galt and the neighborhood. In the absence of the Moderator, Rev. J. B. Mullan, of Fergus, occupied the chair.

A report was presented by the Committee on Aids to Family Worship, at last meeting of Guelph Presbytery, which contained several recommendations of changes in the phraseology