

Ministers and Churches.

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

Many ministers and people are out of the city for well earned holidays. Strangers enter the pulpit on the Sabbath, and as they glance about the scantily filled pews some opinions are formed as to the church-going propensities of the Toronto people that are not at all to their credit. These opinions are changed somewhat after ten minutes conversation with the people, chiefly a monologue, in which that useful functionary totes up, for the stranger's benefit, the number of "best families" that are at present out of the city. The people have more uses than keeping the church building in order.

Toronto churches have benefitted by the holiday season. We hope the captious reader will not suppose that we refer to the absence of the stated ministers primarily. Many of the commissioners to the General Assembly, tempted by the beauty of the city, and no doubt helped to a decision by the hotelable civility of the people, have spent the week here. Most goodnaturedly, and greatly to the pleasure of the Toronto people, several of them agreed to preach on the Sabbaths of their stay. Falconer, of Pictou, and Gaudier, of Rossland, preached in Westminster Church on the 26th, and Falconer, of Halifax, and Gaudier, of Halifax, preached there last Sabbath. Dr. Falconer, Bowman, and others occupied pulpits elsewhere throughout the city. They have good preachers down east, if these men are fair samples.

The I.O.G.T., with their striking uniforms and regalia, have been the attraction of the city during the past week, and many of the ministerial delegates filled the pews last Sabbath. The distribution was both generous and general, and many of the preachers took occasion to speak some plain words about the great evil against which they were combined, seeking its overthrow.

The ebb and flow of the tide of ministerial change goes steadily on. Two weeks ago the announcement was made that all the pulpits in this large Presbytery were filled with actual or vista prospective pastors. One of these, the Rev. Angus H. MacMillan, was ordained and inducted at Newmarket on Thursday of last week, under peculiarly happy auspices, and we trust the settlement may be a long and profitable one. A second, Rev. J. McNair, of Waterloo, under call to Oakville, has asked for a little longer to consider the matter and will give his final answer on Tuesday. The Birkenhead congregation, from which St. Andrew's congregation called the Rev. Armstrong Black, has since become unexpectedly vacant by the resignation of the senior minister. Under the new circumstances the Birkenhead congregation determined to take time by the forelock, and recall their former minister from St. Andrew's. Mr. Black, however, recognized the claim of St. Andrew's congregation, and declined to entertain the recall. It was a great tribute to him.

Close upon the announcement that all the pulpits are at least prospectively full, comes the news that the Rev. D. C. Hossack will again ask that he be released from the charge of the Parkdale congregation. Three months ago he tendered his resignation, but, moved by the strong plea of his people, he accepted six months' leave of absence, in the hope that at the end of that time he would be able to resume work there again. Mr. Hossack has reached the conclusion at the end of three months of his furlough that he will not be prepared to undertake work in that charge again at the end of six months, and desires that the congregation shall be free to hear ministers with view to settlement at once. It is probable that the Presbytery will give a reluctant consent to his request.

Then, too, the popular and successful minister of Chalmers' Church has received a pressing invitation from the First Church, Rutherford, N. J., to become its pastor. He is considering the matter, but will not give his decision till he returns from Europe early in September next. Should he accept it will remove one of the most successful pastors from our city. Dr. MacClellens has carried on a very quiet, but most efficient work during his short ministry, and his work, both in the pulpit and in the homes, has been marked by great thoroughness. He has avoided publicity, and so is not so well known in the city as he ought to be.

Rev. Dr. Milligan, of Old St. Andrew's, and Rev. J. A. Grant, of Richmond Hill, sailed for Scotland on Tuesday last. They will make the voyage pleasant with their genial good humor. Even a searick company would brighten under their good comradeship. We wish them a happy return.

A pleasant hour was spent in the parlors of the Y.M.C.A. on Saturday morning. It has been the custom for the Evangelical Alliance, on the morning of each Dominion Day, to invite pa-

triotic Christians to meet for an hour of thanksgiving, looking back over the year just closed, and then looking out into the future, to seek for guidance and for still richer blessing in the new year just opening. It is a fitting prelude to the joyousings of the day.

One little congregation, a mission congregation at that, has anticipated the Century Fund movement, and has entirely cleared off its mortgage indebtedness. The mortgage is one of the suburbs of Toronto, lying to the west, between Toronto and Mimico. Some years ago a pretty little church was built there, but the burden of a \$1,000 mortgage lay heavily upon it. It taxed their resources to meet current expenses, and when the year they were notified that the mortgage was due and must be paid, the burden seemed to settle down as if it extinguish them. There were half a dozen heroic men who determined to make an effort to lift it. They aroused the people to action, secured the promise of all they could do, sent out a statement and an appeal to the public, asking for subscriptions of \$1 or more. Last Friday evening they met to report, and after meeting the mortgage and all expenses connected with the effort had \$80 of a balance to their credit. Bravo, Morningside! Make it \$100 and put it into the Century Fund.

The St. Andrew's Sunday School went to Lorne Park for their annual picnic Tuesday last.

The Rev. Wm. Patterson, of Cooke's Church, will be one of the speakers at the Christian Endeavor convention in Detroit.

A strawberry festival under the auspices of Chester Presbyterian Mission, was held on Mr. Hall's lawn, Danforth avenue, on Thursday evening of last week. Duets, solos, readings and speeches enlivened the proceedings. The choir of Boer Street Presbyterian Church provided the music.

The pulpit of Dunn Avenue Presbyterian Church will be officially declared vacant by the Presbytery next week. Two names which are mentioned for the call are those of Rev. Mr. Drummond and Rev. Mr. McMillan. Rev. Mr. Drummond, who is now at St. Thomas, gave Rev. Mr. McMillan a close run for St. Andrew's.

An unanimous call has been extended to Rev. T. W. Campbell, of Toronto, by the Noble Street Presbyterian Church of Williamsburg, N.Y., where he has preached on several occasions. Rev. Mr. Campbell was at one time Bishop of the Reformed Episcopal Church, but withdrew from it about four years ago, and was subsequently received into the Presbyterian Church. He was also at one time a minister of the Methodist Church, as was his father before him. Mr. Campbell supplied the pulpit of Knox Church most acceptably during the illness of Rev. Dr. Parsons. The call will come before the Presbytery in a few weeks.

At the meeting of the Toronto Presbytery held Tuesday last, the postponed resignation of Rev. D. C. Hossack, from Parkdale Presbyterian Church, was accepted, to take effect the 16th inst. Mr. Hossack will preach next Sabbath. Rev. J. McP. Scott was re-elected Moderator. A number of visitors were present, among them Rev. F. R. Beatty, of Louisville, Ky.; Rev. John Cairns, of Kilmarnock, Scot.; Rev. Alex. Brown, Glasgow; Rev. W. W. Dalziel, Glasgow; and Rev. Mr. Bruce Meckleham, Glasgow.

The closing exercises of St. Margaret's College took place recently, the music hall of the academy being filled with friends of the college and of the young ladies who received prizes and honors for work done during the past session. Rev. Dr. Milligan occupied the chair, and was assisted in the distribution of awards of recognition of merit by the Lady Principal, Mrs. George Dickson, and Revs. Louis H. Jordan, C. H. Shortt, Father Teedy, J. W. Milne, of Ottawa, Dr. I. Tovel, President London and Prof. Baker. Following the presentation of honors the guests were entertained at tea, daintily served on the pretty and spacious lawn that surrounds the college.

The beautiful grounds and residence of Mr. Cruikshank, Weston, were the scene of the annual garden party given by the members of the Presbytery Church, which was held Saturday evening. Chinese lanterns, ice cream, lemonade and candy booths, a fish pond, etc., ferns wheeled in miniature were among the attractions. Tea was served between 6 and 8 o'clock, after which a social programme of tableaux and music was seen and listened to by about 600 people. The tableaux were given by children of the Sabbath School, and were exceedingly well executed. The musical part of the programme consisted of choruses by the choir of the church under the efficient leadership of Miss Rutherford, Toronto; selections by the Arion Male Quartette, a duet by Mrs. L. L. Rice and R. Dinsmore and solos by Miss Rutherford, Mr. J. Levack and Mr. R. Dinsmore, all of Toronto. The Western Band was also present, and furnished music at intervals during the programme.

OTTAWA AND VICINITY.

The strawberry social in Bethany Presbyterian Church, Hintonburg, was in every way a success. The chair was occupied by Rev. Robt. Eadie. The programme consisted of a piano duet by Misses Deneault; song, with violin accompaniment, Miss Deneault and Elbow; song, Miss Allen; violin solo, Miss L. Smirle; recitation, Miss Montgomery; piano solos, Mrs. J. Rice and Miss J. Hanwright; solos, Miss Edith Sparks and Miss Mosser. A vocal quartette consisting of Messrs. J. Potts, Russell and Percy Sparks and Rev. R. Eadie, sang very acceptably. The Harmonica band and the Sunday school orchestra also contributed to the programme.

Last Sunday, speaking from the words "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's," Matt. xxii, 21, Rev. D. M. Ramsay, in Knox Church, said in part:—"If you ask what do we owe to our country, I answer in a word, a single eye to her true welfare. To my mind public spirit is one of the highest of Christian duties. This it is which makes so deplorable the recent revelations concerning the corruption of constituencies, particularly in our own province. Evidently bribery finds its ordinary impulse in selfishness. I believe that sometimes a noble state has been lost it would be ridiculous to say that any such motives—any patriotic motive—have actuated the band of bribers which has recently been operating in our vacant constituencies. They have simply wrought upon the cupidities of degraded electors in order to secure personal advantage. They have hoped, I trust without warrant, to put those who have control of patronage under obligations to themselves, and so to gain their own ends. Now I desire to point out to you that such a state of affairs is a public danger. Ought we not to demand of the Government investigation that will not stop at the surface and legislation that will deal drastically with the offence?"

HAMILTON.

Central Presbyterian Sunday School picnic was held at Niagara Falls, Monday, July 3rd.

Rev. Mr. Macgregor, of Scotland, preached in Wentworth Presbyterian Church Sunday morning, and Rev. Neil McPherson in the evening.

Rev. Hugh McKay, M.A., missionary from Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, preached in Erskine Church last Sunday morning.

LONDON.

The two Westminster congregations were favoured with the services of the Rev. Walter Moffat, of Chalmers' Church, on Sabbath, July 2nd.

The King's street Presbyterian Sabbath school will picnic at Port Stanley on Thursday, July 13.

The First Presbyterian and the First Congregational churches of London have each been left \$200 by the will of the late Mr. George Phillips.

On Saturday last the St. Andrew's and Park Avenue Sunday schools held a joint picnic at Port Stanley, over 800 persons took the morning train and about 250 went by the afternoon train. The day was wet and generally uncomfortable, still there was much enjoyment.

The Christian Scientists of London have purchased the old St. James' Presbyterian Church on Richmond street for the sum of \$3,100, and will occupy the building by the middle of July. The church will hereafter be known as the First Church of Christ Scientists, London, Ont. Incorporation papers have been taken out by the Board of Directors. It is the first incorporated Christian Science Church under the Union Jack.

St. Andrew's Church uses the "Record" as its church magazine, under the name of "The Outlook," the June number being the first.

The St. James' Church collectors are on the war path seeking subscriptions for their new church building fund. They are making satisfactory progress and it is expected the congregation will be in even circumstances. The church will cost about \$30,000.

A congregational meeting was held in Alma street Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, for the purpose of selecting a pastor. The church having been vacant for some time, and the supply being good, it was hard to make a choice. However, the choice narrowed down to three, Rev. Mr. Wilson, of Newbury; Rev. Mr. Reid, of Teeswater, and Rev. Mr. Currie, of Delhi, all of whom left a good impression. Mr. Reid, of Teeswater, was the unanimous choice of the meeting. On the third ballot, when nearly all of the members and adherents signed the call. The Rev. Mr. Courtney, of Port Stanley, presided, to the satisfaction of all.

Melbourne.—The congregation of Guthrie Church held its annual social in a grove near the village. A substantial dinner was partaken of, at the close of which several city and local country ministers provided "The feast of reason and the flow of soul."

Pottersburg.—This pulpit was ably filled on Sabbath, the 2nd inst., by Elder A. S. MacGregor of St. Andrew's Church, London. The pastor is away at Rossland.