

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

There has been little to chronicle in church circles during the past two or three weeks. Most of the pastors are absent, and the pulpits are filled by substitutes. The pews are not full, though there are plenty in the city to fill them. This is not due to the poor quality of the preaching, for were the pastors present the seats would be empty. There is a disinclination to attend church in the hot season and if the services are to be continued there must be some change in the manner of the service. At present it is an abbreviation of the regular order. Somehow one feels as if he were being deprived of a part of what he had been led to expect when in his place in the church, and a curious sense of aggrievedness comes over him. Better adapt the place and mode of service, and go out to the people if they will not come in.

In some instances where a distinguished preacher has taken the service there has been a good congregation. But he was there for but one day, and the neighboring congregations were smaller that day than usual. There are some who will always be in church, and who mark the vacation season by going to another than their own church. That is the full extent of their wandering. But there are many who are usually found in their pew at other times who do not enter a church twice during the hot summer months. There are hundreds more who do not enter a church at other times. The summer, with its long, warm evenings, when it seems impossible to stay indoors, offers an excellent opportunity to reach these. Let the services be held out of doors; let them be bright and full of encouragement. Let the aim be to attract rather than instruct, but beneath the attractive covering let truth be presented, and it will make itself felt. If two or three congregations were to give up their evening services, and unite in one of these outdoor services, the results would, we believe be at once evident. It is worth a trial, and it is not too early to begin preparing for them.

This summer has witnessed a greater disregard for the Sabbath than any preceding it. The unfortunate interpretation of the statute regulating Sunday traffic has borne fruit quickly and abundantly. The Sunday excursion is one of the regular institutions of Toronto now, and there are many who patronize it. It matters little that each one purchasing a ticket is acting a lie, that weighs nothing with them. One could understand the rush of many at first for the thing was novel, and there was a certain amount of daring attached to it. It has passed that stage and bids fair to become a regularly established thing in the near future.

The advance guard of the returning citizens may be seen on the streets, and their free step and brighter eye tell of the benefit of a few weeks' freedom from the terrible stress of city life. Even if it has been with a string from the office that the master is obliged to leave, and if the checks upon the string have been annoyingly frequent, yet the change of scene has been beneficial, and he will come back again with stronger will and clearer brain. But the full benefit is seen only in those who have had a clear month in which to forget office life, who have left everything in the hands of others, and who feel as they must learn it all over again when they sit down to the desk again. These have entered upon a new lease of life, and the clock that marks the year seems to have gone back several degrees.

Some of our ministers have tried to combine rest and work in the vacation season, and we predict that the result will not be satisfactory. True, they have become pupils who were teachers, but the mental attitude is much the same, and it is the mind especially that needs relaxing. These will come back to their work with the impulse of some new ideas, and with many new plans simmering in their brain, and yet ten months must draw upon capital again. It does not pay.

The attention of our readers is directed to the Fall announcement of the Ottawa Business College which opens for the Fall term on Aug. 26. This old reliable school is magnificently equipped for its work and possesses the strongest staff of professionally trained instructors in business education in Canada today.

Western Ontario.

Rev. R. Fowlie, of Erin, is away for a month's holidays.

Rev. Mr. McIntosh, of Elora, has been preaching in Knox Church, Guelph.

While the Dresden church is undergoing repairs the congregation will worship in Shaw's Hall.

Rev. Thomas Eakin, M. A., of St. Andrew's, Guelph, has been preaching in Bloor Street Church, Toronto.

Mrs. Cameron, wife of Rev. Charles Cameron, of Windsor, died from injuries received by her clothing catching fire.

Rev. R. O. Cranston has been called to Cromarty, where he is offered a stipend of \$800; free manse and three weeks holidays.

For the first time the Methodist Conference is sending an ordained minister to Pelee Island. The Rev. Mr. Bryan, of Belfast, Ireland, went over in July.

Rev. W. A. J. Martin, of Brantford, visited Guelph a couple of weeks, and preached to his former congregation in Knox Church, where he is always welcome.

Rev. W. A. Maclean, of Oak Lake, Manitoba, has been visiting friends at St. Mary's where he preached in the First Presbyterian Church on a recent Sabbath.

Rev. B. Richardson preached in the Tilbury church last Sunday; and Rev. Mr. Johnston occupied the pulpit of the First Presbyterian church, Chatham.

Miss Bella Hood, second daughter of Mr. Thomas Hood, senior elder, of the church in Harrow, is training as a nurse in the Lakeside Hospital, Cleveland.

The Rev. A. R. Linton, of Harrow, preached in St. Andrew's Church, Amherstburg, on Sunday morning 11th inst. The Harrow Church is closed for repairs.

Rev. M. N. Bethune, who recently resigned the charge of the Presbyterian Church at Aylmer, will enter evangelistic work, after taking a course at the Moody Bible Institute at Chicago.

Rev. Prof. Beattie, D. D., of Louisville, Ky., has been preaching in Knox Church, Galt, in the absence of Rev. Mr. Knowles. He also delivered an interesting address on the "Negro Problem" in the same place.

The corner-stone of the new Presbyterian Church at Alexandra Park, Brantford, was laid by Rev. Dr. Beattie of Louisville, Ky., on Thursday of last week. Dr. Beattie is a former pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in that city.

Woodstock seems to be a popular rendezvous for Presbyterian ministers in the United States when seeking a vacation. There are at present three of them summering there. The arrivals of Rev. P. R. Ross, D. D., of Waverley, N. Y., and of Rev. J. R. Sutherland, D. D., of Burlington, Iowa, are noted.

The Rev. Thomas Hood, B. A., our Essex County missionary on the Homan staff, has been inland along with Mr. Eitersch, of the American Presbyterian Mission at Chetoo, on a tour of investigation. They are again in Chetoo. They were well received and, apparently eagerly welcomed by the Chinese authorities, but were accompanied by a strongly armed guard furnished them by the American and British consulates.

The London Advertiser of the 14th inst., says: Rev. Wylie Clark, of Brampton, who is at present filling the pulpit of the First Presbyterian Church during the pastor's absence, was a busy man last night. During the evening he conducted services at a private funeral on Mill street, led the usual Wednesday evening prayer meeting, performed a marriage ceremony on Elias street, and, later in the evening, performed the rite of baptism in another portion of the city. The reverend gentleman's experience is probably unique.

Quebec.

The Presbyterian congregation of La-Guerre held a lawn social on the manse grounds under the auspices of the Ladies Aid Society on Tuesday evening 30th July. The people, young and old assisted with a will, and did all in their power to make the social a success. Their efforts were well patronized by friends from a distance. A more happy, hearty and agreeable gathering is rarely seen in any place. Providence favoured us with as fine an evening as could be desired. Financially and socially it was a success.

Eastern Ontario.

Rev. Dr. Stewart, of Prescott, joined his wife and daughter in a visit to Pakenham.

Rev. Mr. McKellar, Martintown, has been preaching in Knox Church, Cornwall.

Rev. D. M. Buchanan, Lanark, and Rev. Mr. McIlraith, Balderson, have been exchanging pulpits.

Rev. W. S. Smith, Middleville, has gone to the Maritime provinces, where he will spend his holidays.

Rev. W. S. Smith, Middleville, and Mr. D. Patterson, of the Mission, Lanark, exchanged pulpits on a recent Sunday.

Rev. R. J. Hutchison has returned home after a much enjoyed holiday with friends at Kingston, Campbellford and other places.

Rev. Robert Laird, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, Brockville, has returned from a two weeks holiday at Prout's Neck, Maine.

Mr. McIntyre, a student of Queen's, has been taking his brother's work at Cumberland and Rockland during the latter's absence for a brief holiday season.

The proceeds of the garden party at the residence of Mr. Jas. I. Davidson, Ashburn, under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church, amounted to the handsome sum of \$300.

The lawn social at Harriston's Corners in aid of the Presbyterian church held on Geo. A. McEwen's lawn on Aug. 7, was a decided success, considering the state of the weather. About 350 were present and the amount realized was \$71.

A number of Plantagenet musical friends have secured copies of Rev. J. McLaren's new song entitled "Canada's Welcome to the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York." The song is a decided success and has received much favorable criticism.

On Sunday last, says the Packet, the pulpit of the Orillia Presbyterian church was occupied, morning and evening, by the Rev. C. H. Cooke, B. A., of Smith's Falls. There were good congregations, and a hearty service on both occasions.

The Rev. D. M. Buchanan, of Lanark, is spending his holidays on the Rideau and among the Thousand Islands, attending on the way the Bible Institute meetings at Oliver's Ferry. Mr. Robert Taggart, of Carleton Place, a student of Queen's, is supplying during Mr. Buchanan's absence.

Children's services were held in St. Andrew's church, Appleton, last Sunday morning and evening, and were largely attended. The edifice was tastefully decorated, and presented a fine appearance. The pastor, Rev. G. T. Bayne, conducted both services, and preached interesting sermons.

The death is announced of Mrs. Sinclair, wife of Rev. Geo. Sinclair, of First Presbyterian church, Port Hope. Deceased leaves in addition to her sorrowing husband, twin children, a son and daughter. Mr. Sinclair, who is ill with typhoid fever in hospital at Toronto, will have the warm sympathy of many friends in his sore bereavement.

On the evening of his induction Rev. G. C. MacLean received a hearty welcome from the congregation of St. John's, Almonte, as well as from the townspeople generally. The reception social was largely attended and was a decided success. Rev. A. A. Scott presided; and congratulatory speeches were delivered by resident ministers and others.

Mr. John Connolly, for many years principal of the Cornwall public schools, and more recently head master of the Model school in that town, has been appointed Inspector of Public Schools in Brockville. Mr. Connolly will efficiently discharge the duties of the important office to which he has been called; and Cornwall's loss will be Brockville's great gain.

The Presbyterians of Rockland though few in number are liberal as well as courageous. They have decided on erecting a commodious church edifice at a cost of about \$5,000. Work on the building has been commenced. Dr. W. D. Ferguson is treasurer of the building fund; and any wealthy reader of THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN, who would like to aid a worthy cause, could not make a better use of fifty or one hundred dollars than by contributing towards the erection of Rockland Presbyterian Church. Rev. Mr. McIntyre is carrying on a very useful work in this rapidly growing locality.