

Ministers and Churches.

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

After the unusual number of special and adjourned meetings of Presbytery, and departure of the Assembly commissioners, there is quietness this week in church circles. The Presbytery has a very small representation at the Assembly, eight out of the fifteen ministerial commissioners finding it impossible to go. Out of the ruling elders appointed not more than eight have gone to Halifax. But the work goes merrily on, and at the present rate the work should be finished before Wednesday evening.

There is not stagnation in Toronto, though the work is going very quietly. Some churches are holding anniversary services, whether Sabbath school or induction, or organization, is not clear, but anniversary service is anyway. Fern Ave. congregation has done good work during the past year, and will celebrate their anniversary on the last Sabbath of this month. So too, College St. congregation will hold their anniversary on that day. Rev. Dr. Parson will conduct the evening service at Fern Ave., and Rev. D. C. Hossack will conduct that at College St. on that day.

At the recent communion service at College St. there were thirty-nine new members added, and upwards of six hundred members partook of communion. Westminster congregation observed the sacrament of the Lord's Supper the same day, and added thirty-eight to the communion roll, eighteen of them being on profession of their faith. So the ministers are not lying upon their oars, and the good work is going steadily on.

The recent census shows that there is still plenty of work to do. The number of unattached families of those who attend church more or less irregularly is three thousand, and almost every minister was surprised to find that there were numbers who considered themselves adherents of his congregation, whose names he did not even know. This is not to be wondered at where the congregation numbers one thousand souls and upwards. It is simply impossible for one man to care for this multitude. Long before he has got round to the six hundredth person, there have been changes that will necessitate his beginning over again, and so the endless, unsatisfactory round goes on.

One cannot tear down the great churches and build smaller ones. It is said the congregations are not able to pay the stipend of an assistant. There are two other solutions. Let the minister engage and pay his assistant as the rector often does his curate. Or is it not possible to make use of the order of Deaconesses. The Methodist church is making excellent use of this part of the church's strength, and for many phases of visiting in the city a woman is much better than a man. Were each of our large churches equipped with one or more Deaconesses, trained for the work of visitation and ministering, they would find the work very much lightened for the minister, and much of the work that now remains undone, or is at best done imperfectly, would be well attended to. Of the alternatives the latter is much to be preferred, if prejudices could be removed.

The strength of the boys brigade was well shown at the recent parade. They turned out almost six hundred strong, an all the glory of bugle band and banner, and trappings. Just how far it is wise to cultivate this military spirit among the children is an open question, but if the Boys' Brigade will keep true to its original intent, it will do excellent service. Already the good effects are seen in more respectful bearing and more care in the use of epithets. It is easy for the boy about town to learn to swear or and lie. He will get the idea, in some quarters, that it is a virtue to be able to lie skillfully. He cannot cross the street at times without hearing an oath. The organization that inculcates straight conduct and clean speech is worthy of every support. This the Boys' Brigade does, and from the specimens of its work in Toronto, we are of the opinion that it does this work well.

It will not be till after the next regular meeting of the Toronto Presbytery that London Presbytery will consider the call to Rev. Dr. Johnson of St. Andrew church London. It has not been customary to hold a meeting of the Presbytery in August, but we presume there will be exception made this year, as it would be late in September before the matter could be issued were it to lie over till the regular September meeting. Of course Dr. Johnston may decide to remain with his present congregation and this will issue the case in July.

St. James Square congregation is taking its vacancy with characteristic quietness. Professor Ballantyne is available for services when no other suitable man is on hand, and no more acceptable services could be given. The impression is created that the session and congregation is not anxious for settlement but this is a wrong impression. They are constantly on the lookout, but their work is so quietly done that its effect is not seen till the man is under call. The three men who shall fill the three pulpits now vacant in Toronto should add very appreciably to the pulpit strength of Toronto, and we believe they will do so.

OTTAWA.

Rev. J. L. Gourlay, M.A., is filling the pulpit at Chelsea in the absence of Rev. Mr. Logan.

Mr. John Cameron, M.P., for Sunderland, England, in the British Parliament, is at present on a visit to his brother, Rev. A. A. Cameron, of Ottawa.

The Rev. Prof. Jordan, D.D., of Queen's, was the preacher at both services in St. Andrew's last Sunday. The attendance was good, and the Professor's thoughtful sermons had appreciative listeners. Dr. Jordan will occupy the pulpit during July and part of August.

Monday's Citizen says: Rev. Dr. Bayne, of Pembroke, preached in Bank Street Church yesterday. His sermons were eloquent and convincing and made a deep impression on the large congregation present. Rev. Dr. Bayne, who is well known in Ottawa, having resided in the vicinity for a number of years, was warmly greeted by many friends.

Rev. Mr. McFarland, of Denver, preached at both services at St. Paul's Church on Sunday. Mr. McFarland was formerly a member of the church, having been converted by the present pastor, Dr. Armstrong. In the morning he gave a vivid account of the circumstances leading up to his conversion and entreated his hearers to take similar steps.

Several enjoyable picnics have been held under the auspices of Stewarton Presbyterian Church, but that of Saturday last eclipsed all previous ones. At 10 o'clock three commodious cars left the church, corner of Argyle ave. and Bank street, bound for Britannia. Rev. Mr. Herbison, pastor was present, and, assisted by the Sunday School teachers and church officers, worked with a will to make the day an enjoyable one for all.

Knox Church Sunday School scholars, their teachers, friends and relatives enjoyed themselves immensely at Chelsea on Saturday at the annual picnic. Early in the day a party of young men wheeled out and arranged swings, etc., hence, when the pleasure seekers arrived on the early afternoon train, everything was in readiness for them. The day was passed pleasantly in games and amusements, a good time being spent by all. The pastor, Rev. D. M. Ramsay, and the Sunday School teachers and church officers were well in evidence, contributing greatly to the success of the outing.

The closing exercises of the Presbyterian Ladies College were held in the College Conservatory of music. A programme of vocal and instrumental music was rendered at the close of which the certificates were issued to the successful students. During the past year four series of examinations were held, a series at the close of each term and the certificates were awarded the pupils on the standing they received on the whole four series, 80 per cent. or over entitling a pupil to a certificate. A reception was held in the College the following evening.

EASTERN ONTARIO.

On Sunday of last week Rev. S. S. Burns, of Stirling and Rev. E. W. Mackay, of Madoc, exchanged pulpits.

Rev. Mr. Noble, of Gravenhurst, is expecting to preach in the Bradford Church next Sabbath, morning and evening.

Mr. J. A. James occupied the pulpit in St. Andrew's, Almonte, on Sunday, in the absence of the pastor, Rev. Mr. Hutcheon, who was in Brockville.

Rev. A. J. C. Ferguson was last week inducted into the charge of the Presbyterian Church at Ross Forester's Falls.

Rev. Mr. Campbell, of Ottawa, preached in St. Andrew's Church, Appleton, Sunday morning. Rev. Mr. Bayne was present, this being his first visit to Appleton since he met with the accident.

The congregations of Marmora, etc., lately promoted to the status of an augmented charge are still waiting for a minister. Rev. E. W. Mackay, of Madoc, is moderator.

At the morning and evening services in the Alexandria Church on Sunday, Prof. MacLaren, of Toronto officiated. From here the Professor went to Halifax to attend the General Assembly.

Rev. J. McLeod of Vankleek Hill and family left on Tuesday last week for their summer vacation. Rev. D. McLaren, of Alexandria, occupied the pulpit here on Sunday. Rev. Mr. McCallum, Glen Sandfield, will preach on June 24th and Rev. M. McLennan of Apple Hill, on July 1st. Mr. McLeod will be absent about two months.

The attendants at St. Andrew's church, Lanark, last Sabbath morning and evening was very large. Rev. D. M. Buchanan preached at the morning on 'The Good Samaritan.' In his sermon he alluded to the unchristian policy of politicians in this country in seeking to gain political capital by setting one race against another. The Bible taught us to love our neighbor as ourselves, and Christ showed us in this parable that those to whom we should act as a neighbor were not confined to any nation, class, nor creed.

WESTERN ONTARIO.

The Crosshill Presbyterian Church purposes holding a garden party on Thursday evening, June 28th, at the residence of Mrs. Cote.

The Rev. J. S. Scott, of St. Andrew's Church, Brantford, conducted the preparatory service at Knox Church, Galt.

Knox Church, Galt, is being altered and re-beautified, and \$8,000 will be spent on Knox Church, Guelph, for a like purpose.

Rev. Dr. Mungo Fraser, of Hamilton, exchanged pulpits with Rev. Dr. Johnston, of London, on Sunday last.

The call to Rev. Dr. Johnston from Knox Church, Toronto, will be considered by the London Presbytery on July 10.

Rev. Fred Barron, of London, will occupy the Presbyterian pulpit in Alvinston next Sunday, both morning and evening.

The place of meeting for Bruce Presbytery on the 10th July has been changed from Port Elgin to Paisley.

Next Sunday, Rev. B. B. Williams, of Guelph, is expected to fill the Winterbourne Church pulpit, and the following Sunday the pastor, Rev. A. M. Hamilton, is expected to be present himself.

Mr. J. Pomperoy took charge of the morning service in the Winterbourne Church on last Sunday, in the absence of the pastor. Rev. A. M. Hamilton, who is attending the General Assembly in Halifax.

In the absence of Rev. R. J. M. Glassford, who is attending the General Assembly, Rev. D. Strachan occupied the pulpit of Chalmers Church, Guelph, on Sunday.