

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

The Meeting at London, Ont.—St. Andrew's Church and its Pastors—Sermon by the Moderator—Synopsis of Reports by Standing Committees.

LONDON, ONT., June 11th, 1895.

Fathers and brethren have been arriving to-day for the meeting of the Assembly which will open in St. Andrew's Church to-morrow. They are being accorded a kindly welcome as was to have been expected in this centre of loyal Presbyterianism. The friends are doing everything possible to meet the comfort of the Commissioners and when the sederunts are in full swing and the pressure of business felt, the provisions made for the convenience of committees, and others will be realized.

A word about the place of meeting and the pastors of St. Andrew's Church may not be out of place here.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, LONDON.

The congregation of St. Andrew's London, was organized as a Mission Station in the year 1841, under the care of Rev. Donald McKenzie of Zora.

The present site was selected, and the corner stone was laid with Masonic honors on Oct. 12th, 1842, for a frame edifice 60x45. The building was completed and opened for public worship in Sept., 1843. The first Communion was dispensed to the congregation by Rev. D. McKenzie of Zora, assisted by Rev. Duncan McMillan of Williams, on the first Sabbath of November, 1843.

The congregation continued as a Mission Station under the care of Rev. D. McKenzie of Zora, until the year 1850, when they called their first pastor, Rev. John Scott, who was ordained and inducted by the Presbytery of Hamilton on the 10th day of Oct. 1850.

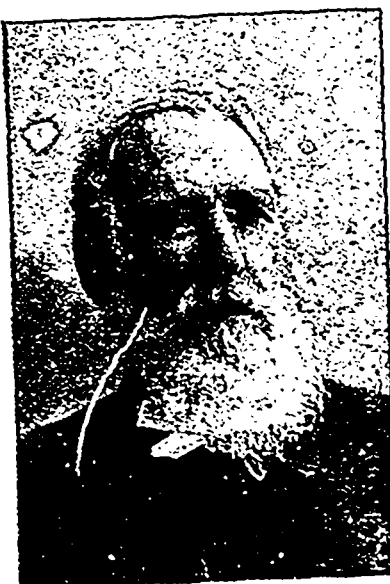
Under Mr. Scott's ministration (25 years) the congregation advanced steadily, and in 1867-8 it was found necessary to build the present handsome and commodious brick edifice, with a seating capacity of 1500. A handsome manse was also erected at this time on the church property. The church property is one of the finest in Canada; both the church and manse are surrounded by extensive grounds situated on the corner of Queen's Ave. and Waterloo St., the grounds of the church, indeed, form a small park in one of the most pleasant parts of the city.

In April, 1875, the Rev. John Scott resigned his position as pastor of St. Andrew's, and in December of the same year a call was extended to Rev. J. Allister Murray, of Lindsay. This call was accepted, and Rev. Mr. Murray was inducted on 29th Dec. 1875. The congregation continued to grow under Mr. Murray's pastorate until at the time of his death—last October—the membership had reached over 700, and the church property, being one of the finest in Canada, almost free from debt.

After the Rev. Mr. Murray's death in October, the congregation unanimously extended a call to the Rev. Robert Johnston of Lindsay, which was accepted, and Mr. Johnston was inducted into the pastorate on the 12th day of April, 1895. The congregation is very enthusiastic over their present talented pastor, and large results are looked for from his labors.

REV. JOHN SCOTT, D.D.

The first pastor of St. Andrew's church, London, was Rev. John Scott, now the venerable Dr. Scott of Hamilton.



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named had not up to this time ever had a settled pastor. St. John's, Quebec, had been rendered vacant by the removal of Rev. Mr. Lumsden to Scotland, and Knox church, Hamilton, had been made vacant by the death of Rev. Mr. Robb.

John Scott, now the venerable Dr. Scott of Hamilton. His services to the church have been many and valuable, and his connection with London will ever be held in grateful remembrance. Dr. Scott is a graduate of Knox College, where he completed his studies in the spring of 1849. He had served as a student missionary for eighteen months, a portion of which time he labored at Port Dover and the adjoining stations of Simcoe, Victoria and Jarvis, all of which for many years have been separate pastoral charges. He, also, as student missionary supplied the pulpits of St. John's (now Chalmers) church, Quebec, Knox Church, Hamilton and St. Andrew's, London. The last

In October of 1850 Mr. Scott was ordained and inducted as minister of St. Andrew's church, London, in which position he continued for twenty-four and a half years, during which period the congregation became one of the most important, in many respects, in Western Ontario. In 1876 he removed to North Bruce, where for two years he ministered to that congregation alone, but on the resignation of Rev. D. Fraser, of St. Andrew's church, Saugeen, the two charges were united and Dr. Scott became minister of the united charge. Since his retirement from the active ministry he has resided in Hamilton, Ont., enjoying the quiet which crowns a well spent and honored life, and the affection of a circle of devoted friends.

REV. JAMES ALLISTER MURRAY.

Rev. James Allister Murray, pastor of St. Andrew's church, London, was born at Big Meadows, Roger Hill, Pictou Co., N.S.



REV. JAMES ALLISTER MURRAY.

His father was a Scottish Highlander from Sutherlandshire, and his mother a native of the parish of Hunzie. His parents emigrated from Edinburgh to Nova Scotia early in the present century. Mr. M. had the claims of the Christian ministry early impressed upon his mind by his parents and his early education was directed accordingly. He studied for some three years at the Grammar School in Tatamagouche under the able superintendence of the late John Currie, famous as an expert of teaching. Afterwards he studied at the Pictou Academy and after teaching at Salt Springs Pictou Co. for three years, entered the Presbyterian College at West River, Pictou, where he took a full course and after an extra session at the Free Church College, Halifax, was licensed to preach in 1857 by the Presbytery of P.E.I. Before entering on the ministry he taught with success for three years the Grammar School in U.P. Musquodoboit. After laboring for a short time in the Home Mission field he received almost simultaneously four calls to important charges, viz., Newport, Matland, Economy and Annapolis. In 1857 he was ordained pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Annapolis Royal and after three years successful labor there he accepted a call to St. Luke's church, Bathurst, N.B., in connection with the Church in Scotland. He subsequently removed to Ontario and accepted a call to St. Andrew's church, Mt. Forest.

REV. ROBERT MCL. JOHNSTON, B.A., B.D.

The pulpit of St. Andrew's Church in which the General Assembly is being held, is ably filled by Rev. Robert McL. Johnston, B.A., B.D.



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Although young in the ministry few names in the Canadian Church are more widely or favorably known than that of Mr. Johnston. It is but twelve years since in 1883 he matriculated as a freshman into McGill University. His career as a student both in this seat of learning and afterwards in the Montreal Theological College was a specially brilliant one. The winning of prizes was to him a familiar experience and a distinction not difficult of attainment. From both of these institutions he holds gold medals for highest excellency in the departments to which he gave special attention, but unlike many who have attempted similar eminence he came forth from college halls not only with a well-stored mind, but with a sound body for the mind to dwell in.