

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

ON his return recently from a trip to Tennessee, the Rev. W. G. Wallace, B.A., Georgetown, along with Mrs. Wallace, was accorded a reception, at which a handsome horse, carriage, harness, robes, etc., were presented to him. He made a graceful and suitable acknowledgment.

THE Presbytery of Lindsay at a meeting held in Uxbridge last week, to consider the call to the Rev. E. Cockburn from the congregation of Barrie, set aside the call and refused to translate on the ground that a vacancy at this time would injure the cause in Uxbridge, and put a stop to the building of a new church, for which some preparation has already been made.

KNOX COLLEGE Students' Missionary Society has issued a most attractive programme for the second public meeting to be held in Convocation Hall on the evening of Thursday, 24th inst. Reports of mission work in the North-West and Muskoka will be given; also a paper on "The Missionary Outlook in Japan." Addresses are to be delivered by Dr. Wardrope, convener of Foreign Mission Committee, and Rev. James Robertson, superintendent of missions in the North-West. Musical selections will add to the enjoyment of the meeting.

LAST Sabbath afternoon, before the scholars in Erskine Church Sabbath school, Toronto, were dismissed it was discovered that the basement under the lecture room was on fire. Without panic or confusion, the children were dismissed with almost all the quiet and regularity of ordinary occasions. The flames spread rapidly to the main building. The roof fell in. Spires of fire shot up the tower, and in a short time, what, in the morning had been a comfortable and elegant place of worship, was reduced to the mere shell of a ruined building. Notwithstanding the insurance, the congregation has met with a heavy loss. Steps are being promptly taken to maintain the unbroken continuity of the congregational work. The pastor, officers and congregation, are assured of the fullest sympathy an occurrence of this kind always calls forth.

THE Presbyterians of Admaston have again been showing their esteem for Rev. Chas. McKillop, and their appreciation for his pastoral services. Last Tuesday, the *Reafrew Mercury* states, his Bible class presented him with a silver butter-dish. On the following day, a large number of the male members of the congregation met in Miss Patterson's bush, and felled a quantity of "the forest primeval," sufficient to keep the rev. gentleman in firewood for a couple of winters at least. After mentioning several other considerate and kindly acts the *Mercury* concludes its remarks by saying:—"These presents have not been given as an easy method of paying their minister, in trade; but are over and above his stipend. Mr. McKillop's lines certainly seem to have fallen in pleasant places; but no one who knows him will think it is more than he deserves."

AT his residence in Vaughan, Mr. Ross, father-in-law of the Rev. J. Carmichael, King, celebrated the sixty-fifth anniversary of his marriage, recently. He is eighty-seven years old, while Mrs. Ross is in her eighty-first year. Sixty of the relatives, representing three generations were present to congratulate the venerable couple. Mr. Ross, who was born at Niagara, was the son of a soldier in the famous Cameronian Highlanders. He saw service himself, having been in a militia regiment during the war of 1812, and was present at the defence of Toronto when attacked by the Americans. While a boy Mr. Ross gathered brushwood where St. James' Cathedral now stands and treed a bear on the ground occupied by the Union Station. He has many interesting reminiscences of "Muddy Little York." Both he and his venerable partner retain all their faculties and are in vigorous health.

ON Tuesday evening a very pleasant and successful social was held in the Presbyterian Church, Weston; it was specially in connection with the translation of the Rev. R. Pettigrew, M.A., who is terminating a pastorate of eleven years, for Glenmorris in the Presbytery of Paris. Notwithstanding the extreme severity of a blinding snow-storm, the attendance was good—the church being comfortably filled. Suitable addresses were given by the Revs. A. Gilray and J. Hunter who paid a high and well-deserved tribute to the efficacy and character of Mr. Pettigrew's pastorate. The choir of the Methodist church kindly gave their

services which were cordially appreciated. The Weston congregation part from their pastor with much regret and with the earnest prayer that the blessing of the Master may follow him in his new field of labour. Mr. Wallace was absent from the meeting on account of severe indisposition.

THE congregation of College-street Presbyterian Church held their annual meeting on Wednesday evening. The pastor, Rev. Alex. Gilray, presided. The attendance was good. Reports of Sabbath school, Bible class, Missionary Association, the Young Peoples' and the Ladies' societies showed an encouraging increase. The session report showed that the membership now numbers 400. The treasurer stated the total amount contributed for all purposes during the past year to be \$3 344 99, the ordinary income being \$100 in excess of the expenditure. The several reports having been read and adopted, the meeting proceeded to the election of a Board of Managers for the current year. More than ordinary interest characterized the meeting, on account of the enterprise in which the congregation has embarked, viz., the erection of a new church. An Executive Committee has been appointed with full powers, and charged with the oversight of the work. One of its members, Mr. C. R. Peterkin, has been entrusted with the subscription list which he is vigorously pushing.

THE congregation of St. Paul's Church, Middleville, have erected sheds for horses during service, during the past summer. They are 120 x 20 feet. It has also been decided to double this accommodation next summer. Recently a number of young people called at the manse, and Miss M. Guthrie, in behalf of the ladies of the congregation, presented the Rev. Joseph Andrews with an excellent Persian lamb skin cap, and Mrs. Andrews with a beautiful silver pickle-stand. On the 28th ult. a tea-meeting was held, at which there was a Christmas tree. Addresses were given by the Rev. John Curry, Baptist minister, Mr. W. C. Caldwell, M.P.P., and the pastor. The Christmas tree bore presents for every scholar of the Sabbath school, and several special ones, notably for the minister's wife. An overcoat and purse, as a testimonial of their high regard from the congregation, to Mr. Morris, representative elder, and a special present from the choir, to Mr. Blackburn, precentor, who has long and faithfully served the church. The meeting tended to promote harmony and Christian fellowship in the congregation and community. A social was held in the manse on the evening of the Monday following, and now the inquiry is heard, when shall we have another social?

THERE was a grand gathering of Sunday School scholars and teachers in the First Presbyterian Church, Brockville, lately. There were from six to eight hundred present, it was a sight that made joyful all that were present. On the platform, which was decorated with flowers, were the speakers, Rev. Mr. Williams, Methodist, Dr. Jardine, St. John's Church, Judge McDonald, Mr. Hogg, of the Bank of Montreal, Mr. Mansel, superintendent of the Methodist Sunday school, Mr. Bell of the *Recorder*, Mr. R. Gill, superintendent of the first Presbyterian Sunday school, Mr. John Gill and Rev. George Burnfield, pastor, who presided over the meeting. The addresses were brief, pointed, and interesting, and enjoyed by all present. It is almost unnecessary to say the singing was excellent, when five or six hundred young voices blended together to praise God. It was glorious singing, such as only children can offer in thanksgiving for God's mercies. On the whole it was a gathering that gave pleasure and profit to all, and it is hoped will bear good fruit and be one of the pleasant memories to which old and young may look back with feelings of gladness. It is to be hoped that this will not be the last of such meetings, for bringing the children of Christian parents together, to strengthen the bonds of spiritual love. And it may be that, as was suggested by the Rev. Mr. Williams, a large gathering of all the Protestant schools in Brockville might be held every six months in one of the churches.

THE annual meeting of the congregation of the East Presbyterian Church took place last week in the school-room of the church, Mr. Whyte occupied the chair. The Rev. J. M. Cameron opened the meeting with a short prayer, after which the secretary submitted the report of the session for the past year, which shows that there have been forty-five baptisms, including one adult; members to the number of 101 have been added to the communion roll, of which

sixty-two were admitted by certificates, and thirty-nine by confession of faith, besides which, thirty six have received certificates. Four deaths are reported to have occurred in the congregation. The average attendance during the year numbers 352, the total number of members at the close of the year being 406. Four new elders have also been added to the session. The Board of Management submitted the financial report, which shows the amount of the collections for the year to be \$2,757 48, an increase of \$350 over the previous year; and the Sunday collections amounting to \$2,564 43. The expenditure for the year amounts to \$2,813 74. The mission fund amounts to \$340 55, the amount for the preceding year being \$187 13. The Sunday school in connection with the church is in a most flourishing condition, having twenty-four classes, with twenty-seven teachers and four officers. The average attendance at the Sabbath school for the past year was 346, and the receipts from the school amount to nearly \$400, part of which has been expended on new books for the library, which now comprises over 550 volumes, of which 400 have been added during the past year. The singing of a hymn and the benediction brought the meeting to a close.

THE twenty-third annual meeting of the congregation of the West Presbyterian Church was held last week, the pastor, Rev. Robert Wallace, presiding. Mr. Robt. S. Gourlay acted as secretary. The treasurer, Mr. W. B. Saunders read the managers' report for 1883, which shows a decided improvement in revenue for the fiscal year of 1883 as compared with that of 1882, which is attributed to the adoption of the quarterly circulars. The report tenders thanks to the Ladies' Aid for their donation to the revenue and solicits aid of young and old toward removing the floating debt of the church. The financial statement of the treasurer for 1883 showed that the receipts were \$4,365 86 and expenditure \$3 814 76, with a balance of \$551 10, of which \$208 16 was mission cash and \$342 94 was church revenue. The liabilities of the church were \$6 387 50, together with a floating debt of \$2,000, making a total of \$8,387 50. Seventy-nine have been received into membership, and eighty-five have been removed from the roll by death or otherwise during the year. There are now about 450 names on the Communion Roll. There have been forty baptisms and eighteen deaths during 1883. The secretary read the annual report of the Sabbath school, which showed that there are twenty-seven classes in the school divided as follows:—An infant class consisting of those who cannot read, of 130; a young ladies' Bible class of thirty-five; a men's Bible class of twenty-four, and thirteen classes of girls and eleven classes of boys in the advanced department. The attendance of the year has been in excess of the previous one in every detail. The names on the roll for 1883 numbered 515, as compared with 435 for 1882. An excess of eighty. The average attendance for the year for girls was 249, and boys 150, an excess of fifty-two over the average attendance last year. Mr. Robert Gourlay, president of the Young Peoples' Association, read their annual report, which showed the membership to be upwards of 100, with an average attendance of about 50. After the election of managers and the usual votes of thanks, the meeting closed with the benediction.

THE annual meeting of the congregation of St. James' Square Presbyterian Church was held last Wednesday, Mr. Wm. Kerr in the chair. The Managers' report contained references to the appointment of Dr. King to the principalship of Manitoba College, and evidenced the warm and enduring attachment that existed between pastor and people. Reviewing the work of the year just closed in connection with the temporal affairs of the church, the managers desire to recognize with great thankfulness to the Head of the Church the continuance of that harmony and peace which have hitherto characterized the congregation. It was with feelings of deepest concern the congregation learned, towards the end of June last, the General Assembly had appointed our then pastor to be principal and professor of theology in Manitoba College. We have to record with profound regret his acceptance of that. From the treasurer's statement it is learned that the following is the financial position of the congregation. 1883:—Receipts—Weekly collections, \$1,929 85; weekly offerings, \$3,023 59; quarterly offerings, \$293; on account of Building Fund, \$3 755; balance from previous year, \$802 48—total, \$9,804 52. Expenditure—Ordinary expenditure, \$6,026 62; paid