

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

MINISTERS who may receive a parcel of our posters, will confer a favour by handing them to some reliable person for distribution in stores, post offices, etc. We have sent out 6,000 copies of these bills; and, if properly displayed in places of public resort, they will greatly aid agents in their canvass. The fac-similes of Premium Engravings enclosed should be handed to some one willing to act as agent.

If the Rev. Mr. Nelson will send his address to Mr. Forbes of Kinloss, he will receive some pleasing intelligence.

ST. MATTHEW'S Church, Halifax, is about to try the abolition of pew rents. The churches known to us that have abolished pew rents would not revert to the old system. They find the "free-will offering" system very much better.

ON the evening of the 10th inst., in connection with the re-opening of the Orillia Presbyterian Church, the Rev. G. M. Milligan, M.A., of this city, lectured under the auspices of the Presbyterian Young People's Association, on "What the Sunbeams say." A local contemporary speaks of the lecture as "able, eloquent, and impressive." We are pleased to notice that the special contributions at all the services amounted to over one hundred dollars.

THE collection taken up in St. Andrew's Church, Hillsburgh, after the thanksgiving service, on the 6th inst., amounted to \$35, which was appropriated to the Home Mission Fund. This together with what the congregation previously contributed to this scheme makes, for this year, a little over sixty-four and a-half cents per member. We hope to hear of many of our congregations in the country responding as heartily to the circular issued by the Moderator of the Assembly.

THE anniversary services in connection with the College street Presbyterian Church were held on Sabbath, 23rd inst. In the morning Rev. Prof. McLaren preached to a large congregation. In the course of his very eloquent sermon he discussed the very foundation of the Christian religion, and impressed upon his hearers the moral responsibility which rested on them to accept so great salvation. Rev. John Hogg preached in the afternoon, and Rev. G. M. Milligan in the evening. College street Church, situated as it is in a rapidly improving neighbourhood, is well attended, and has in it all the elements that assist in making it an important religious centre.

A MEETING of the French Evangelization Society was held on the 19th inst. in the basement of St. Paul's Church, Montreal. A large number of ladies and gentlemen were present. Rev. Principal McVicar, of the Presbyterian College, submitted for the consideration of the meeting a scheme for the opening of a "Home" in connection with the Society, where assistance might be given to young French-Canadian girls, and employment secured for them. The proposal seemed to meet with the approval of the meeting, and was supported by Rev. Dr. Jenkins and Mr. D. Morrice. Rev. Dr. McVicar gave some account of the progress of the work of the Society, and specially desired the co-operation of the ladies.

A VERY pleasant soiree, in connection with the anniversary services of Cobourg Presbyterian Church, was held in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, on Tuesday, the 18th inst. About 300 people sat down to a most excellent tea, provided by the ladies; after which Rev. Jas. Ballantine, the pastor of the church, took the chair, and conducted the later part of the proceedings. Capital addresses were delivered by Rev. Messrs. Smith, of Grafton; Little, M.A., of Bowmanville; McWilliam, LL.B., of Bomanton; Drummond, of Newcastle; Beattie, M.A., of Baltimore, and Duncan, of Colborne. Interspersed with the addresses was instrumental music by Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. N. F. McNachtan, and Miss King; and vocal music by Miss McNachtan, Miss Stanton, and the Misses Ross. All of these performances were exceedingly well received. The money result of the entertainment was about \$75. Able sermons, in connection with the anniversary, were preached on Sabbath by Rev. J. Little, M.A., of Bowmanville.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.—This Court met on the 18th inst. There were twenty-seven ministers and

nine elders present. The draft minutes of last meeting were confirmed. A call from Elora Knox Church to Rev. S. W. Fisher of Burlington, was accepted and Mr. Fisher's translation was granted. Strong opposition was made by the congregation who are deeply attached to their most efficient and estimable pastor, but Mr. Fisher saw it his duty to make the change. The resignation of Mr. Hancock, of North Pelham, was accepted. Statistical and financial returns were considered, and it was resolved to make another attempt to reduce the arrears of stipend due at Vittoria; as the ministers of other places which are in arrears were not in attendance, action was deferred. The reports on the Appeal for the Home Mission Fund were received, showing that in thirty-four congregations the circular of the Moderator of the General Assembly had been read and arrangements more or less satisfactory had been made by Sessions for a special effort, and already \$1,510 had been sent to the Treasurer; three congregations reported nothing done as yet, but the ministers promised to attend to the matter soon; and the Clerk was instructed to write to ten Sessions which had not reported. Arrangements were made for the supply of vacancies and mission stations. The remit on the Hymn Book was considered. It was resolved to hold a Conference on the State of Religion, at Jarvis, on Tuesday, the 13th day of January. It was resolved that henceforth the Presbytery shall meet at ten a.m. and have recess from half-past twelve till two p.m. A minute of respect for the memory of the late Mr. John Bowman of Dunnville, and condolence with his widow, was adopted.—JOHN LAING, Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF GUELPH.—This Presbytery met in Knox Church, Guelph, on the 18th inst., Rev. W. S. Ball, Moderator. The statistical and financial returns as published in the appendix to the General Assembly's Minutes for 1879 were examined, and the stated Clerk was instructed to write to the congregations that were low in their contributions, or that had omitted all or any of the schemes of the Church. The Presbytery further agreed to express their regret in view of the large number of blanks in the column for Sabbath school and Bible Class contributions to Missions, and instructed their Clerk to write, urging the obligation to foster missionary liberality in connection with the Sabbath school. The report of the Committee to arrange for holding the Presbyterian Sabbath School Conference was submitted, adopted and ordered to be printed. A Committee was appointed to arrange for holding a Conference on the State of Religion in the bounds, with instructions to report at next ordinary meeting. The proposed additions to and changes in the Hymn Book in course of preparation, were referred to the Committee who are to give in their report at an adjourned meeting on the 4th December. Inquiry was made as to the number of congregations that had complied with the instruction of the General Assembly to make special contributions for the Home Mission Fund. After reading the special appeal on the subject, and from the replies, it appeared that the matter had been generally attended to. Notice having been received by telegraph that Mr. Fisher had accepted the call from Elora, and that the Presbytery of Hamilton had agreed to his translation, his induction was fixed to take place on Thursday, the 4th of December, at half-past one o'clock in the afternoon. Arrangements were made for the supply of St. Andrew's Church, Galt, chiefly by members of Presbytery over the 25th January. The Presbytery refused to sustain a call from the congregation of West Puslinch on the ground that there was not sufficient harmony among the people. A suitable minute on the death of the late Rev. Mr. Anderson was laid on the table, adopted and ordered to be engrossed in the records. After some other business, chiefly of a routine character, had been disposed of, the Presbytery adjourned to meet at Elora, in Knox Church there, on the day agreed upon for the induction of Mr. Fisher.

PRESBYTERY OF LONDON.—This Presbytery met in the lecture room of Dr. Proudfoot's Church, on Tuesday the 18th inst. There was a very full attendance. A call from Bear Creek and Bridgen was laid on the table as also the report of the Moderator in the call showing that it was unanimous and that a salary of \$700 with fifty acres of land was promised. On petition, a moderation was granted to Kintyre congregation. Mr. Milloy to act as moderator. The report of the deputation to Aylmer was read by Rev. Mr. Murray, convener, and the parties present

from the congregations were heard, Messrs. Steel and Gordon, from Aylmer, and Dr. Mills from Springfield. A communication from Springfield was also read, asking the Presbytery not to accept the resignation, and expressing confidence in Mr. Beamer. After the parties had been heard on behalf of the congregation, the difficulty appearing to be solely on financial grounds, Mr. Beamer's administration being generally spoken of as acceptable, the Rev. Mr. Beamer said that he thought the difficulties in Aylmer arose from a want of Presbyterianism among the people, the majority of the Presbyterians in Aylmer were so mixed up with the other denominations of Baptist and Methodist. The Rev. Mr. Fraser moved that the resignation be accepted, and that Rev. Messrs. Murray, Paradis and Fraser be a committee to draw up minutes, and report to the Presbytery upon the resignation of Mr. Beamer. Mr. Paradis was appointed to preach and declare the pulpit vacant, and Mr. Fraser was appointed to act as interim moderator. The Rev. J. A. Murray seconded the motion, although it gave him great regret, and in doing so stated that the deputation who went down to Aylmer could not find one single thing which they could lay at Mr. Beamer's door. The motion was then carried. Reports from several congregations on Home Mission Fund were read, when Rev. Mr. McKinnon moved that a committee consisting of the Rev. Messrs. Thompson, Henderson and Geo. Sutherland, and Elder Cameron, be appointed to consider the reports received and also the course advisable to be taken with regard to those who have not reported, and report to the Presbytery. Carried. The report of the delegate to the Delaware congregation with respect to the provision of a manse by the congregation for the pastor was read and agreed to, the congregation agreeing to provide a manse, as requested. A letter was read from Mr. Duff, asking to be relieved from the position of member of the Provisional Session in London East. A letter from Rev. Mr. Donaldson, asking to be transferred from London Presbytery to Guelph Presbytery, as he had removed to Galt, was read and the application granted. Considerable time was spent in discussing the question of the debt on Knox College. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to delinquent congregations asking them to pay up as promised. The Sabbath School Convention was fixed to be held in London, on the 3rd Monday in January, and the Presbytery to meet on the following day. Mr. Cameron, under call to Glencoe, delivered his trial discourses, which were sustained, and his ordination was appointed to take place at Glencoe on the 2nd day of December. The Committee appointed to consider the reports on Home Missions, reported to the effect that three Sessions had reported and that it was to be regretted that so many (more than the half) had neglected to pay regard to the instructions of the General Assembly, in this way helping to bring on the present crisis of the Home Mission Fund. It recommended the Presbytery to enjoin upon Sessions to carry out the instructions of the Assembly and to report. This report was adopted. It was moved and adopted that all congregations within the bounds of the Presbytery hold missionary meetings, and if possible report at the January meeting of Presbytery, if not, at the meeting in March without fail.

WE are all sculptors and painters, and our material is our own flesh and blood and bones. Any nobleness begins at once to refine a man's features; any meanness or sensuality, to imbrute them.—*Thoreau.*

THE Rev. W. M. Statham, of Hare Court Chapel, Canonbury, London, has been preaching on the stage. He considered the relation of the drama to morals, to realism, to religion. He claims that in England the old Stuartism and Puritanism are in conflict in these days, and he is for Puritanism. He makes a good point when he asks: "Is life as it is a fit subject to be represented on the stage? Ought men and women to be portrayed by actors and actresses?" He decides in the negative, and he is right. Few people are found—few people of any moral character and spiritual life—who will defend the drama as it generally is. They speak of some possible reformed, purified drama when they claim that the stage can be made useful. But we have to take things as they are, and not as they may be made or as visionaries imagine they can be made. And, taking the stage as it is—with some rare exceptions, of course—every Christian must heartily condemn it.