

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

In common with the whole country, and the whole civilized world we might say, the St. Martinique and St. Vincent disasters have been read of and watched with the deepest interest. It staggers one and baffles the imagination to take in the fact of a whole city full, comprising thousands of our fellow creatures, being in the space of a few short minutes engulfed in a common tomb. How utterly powerless man is made to feel himself in the presence and in the grasp of these awful forces of nature! Details of the most interesting kind continue to come to hand and are made public of the fierce struggle at Hart's River in South Africa, and of such courage and coolness displayed by our contingent as may well fire with honest pride every Canadian heart.

The final decision respecting the disposal of Knox Church appears to be near at hand. In a vote of 39: out of a membership of 400 or 420, a majority so large has voted in favor of sale, and so many are willing to concur, that it is expected the presbytery at its next meeting will agree to the expressed will of the congregation to dispose of this historic church.

It is gratifying to the whole church, and creditable to those charged with the preparation of our Sunday school publications, that they are meeting with such marked success. American helps for Sunday school work, very excellent as many of them are, are being given up and our own are taking their place. A very successful year's operations was reported by the editor, Rev. R. D. Fraser, to the Assembly's Sabbath School committee at its last meeting a few days ago. It is proposed to enlarge the scope of the church's work for the young, by the publication at the beginning of the year of a weekly paper for young people, to be fully illustrated and up to date in every way. The first number may appear in October. The Y. M. C. A. of this city, it is also gratifying to know, is doing not only good work, but is making most satisfactory financial progress. Ten subscriptions of \$5,000 each, have been pledged, and the remainder it is expected will easily be obtained, to meet the obligation of \$77,000 resting upon the Central and West End branches of the association, and also to extend the work. Reports presented to the last annual meeting lately held, were all of the most encouraging nature. Very interesting are the following facts mentioned by secretary Pratt; that in Toronto more buildings are used for Association work than in any city of its size in America; it has a greater number of association branches than in any city of its size in the world; and it has a larger membership of young men than any city of equal population. Robert Kilgour Esq., has again been elected President for the year 1902-3. The Y. M. C. A. held its 20th annual meeting lately. The receipts and expenditures amounted to \$14,000 and 1400 guests had been accommodated in the boarding home, and the mortgage on the building had been reduced by \$4,500.

The Hon. S. H. Blake, K. C., chairman of the local General Committee of arrangements for the Students' Volunteer Convention, has received from Mr. John R. Mott, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Student Volunteer Movement, the expression by the unanimous vote and wish of the committee, their sincere and hearty appreciation of all that the local committee accomplished to make possible the remarkable success of the convention. It has no hesitation in saying that the local arrangements of the Toronto Convention surpassed those of all the four great conventions which have been previously held, and he adds, "that is saying a great deal." Bravo for Canada! Bravo for Toronto!

The Yonge street mission is one well known in the city and must be to many outside of it. It has already been referred to in this column. It is interdenominational, and we are glad to notice its good work. During the year the aggregate attendance at its meetings has been no fewer than 58,000. About 6000 meals and 200 loaves of bread have been given, 175 nights lodging to the homeless, and 10,000 garments to the poor. Besides this free breakfasts on Sunday morning during winter have been given to thousands, and at the same time spiritual food given as freely. In connection with city prison reform, and aid sought for it, spoken of in a late letter, the General Ministerial Association at its last meeting agreed that the last Sunday in October in each year be known as Prison Sunday, and prison reform and assistance for it will

be brought under the notice of city congregations.

In this letter some time ago a notice was taken up of a correspondent from a Montreal paper giving a very dismal account of a Toronto Sunday, and warning Montreal against such a state of things. We see it noticed that in Montreal, they have precisely what we don't want here. Business places, it is mentioned, to the number of 1,000 are open there on Sunday, and the Lord's Day Alliance is making an effort in which we hope it may succeed, to have all these shut upon that day. In this connection we may notice in a report on Sabbath observance presented to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church, meeting at New York, strong ground is taken, as we would expect, against Sunday golf, Sunday excursions, Sunday traveling, and nearly every form of activity not absolutely necessary. Strange that in Canada, thousands should be found anxious to bring about that very state of things which is found to be a curse in countries in which they prevail.

The W. F. M. S. of that great presbyterian body has just held its annual meeting with about 50 female missionaries present, and reports raised during the year and spent, \$370,479. What a divine force has been brought into service in the church and for the good of mankind and womankind in the work of christian women. In connection with missionary activity, in bodies outside of our own, it is interesting to note that four-fifths of the graduating class of Wycliffe College, Toronto, episcopalian, have volunteered and been accepted for work in the North-West.

Mr. James L. Hughes, the well known Inspector of city schools, addressed the Unitarian Club, the other evening on educational matters. Methods in education, he said, had within the last twenty-five years almost revolutionized. Changes he looked forward to and approved were, much smaller school boards, schools open for the use of the people in the evening, as centres of intellectual and social advancement; two courses of education throughout, both equally honourable, one for mechanics, the other for culture, and much more training of the young than now prevails, through contact with and study of nature. Speaking of education I may also notice that, because of an application of the Technical School Board of the city, doing most excellent work, for an increased grant being refused, Prof. W. Fakenham, the Principal, is out with a statement showing how very moderate is Toronto's expenditure for this class of work, now so loudly called for, compared with many similar institutions in the States. The attendance of students in this city has risen from 203 in 1892 to 1856 this year. In this connection may be noticed the statement made a few evenings ago by Mr. B. E. Walker, Manager of the Bank of Commerce at the meeting of the Canadian Club, that Canadians are the most backward in their knowledge of the resources of their country of any people in the world. We hope that is not so, but he is a man pretty likely to know. The next 25 years of our history, he thinks, will bring problems more difficult to be grappled with than any we have had to deal with in preceding years, because of the great development which they will bring with them. It is well to be forewarned by practical business men of wide outlook, such as Mr. Walker is understood to have. In one of our leading dailies, the Globe, appeared lately a most interesting, and for all our educationists most significant article, on the attitude of business and wealthy men toward the Universities in Britain and the United States. It shewed that, because in the latter country, the universities are in much closer and vital contact with the masses of the people and the every day business than they are in Britain, there is a much greater readiness to aid them with large financial help than is the case in Britain. This is a point that Canadian educationists cannot take too great heed to.

The first sod for the foundation of a monument to Robert Burns was turned in Allan Park a few days ago with all the honours befitting such an occasion. Coming events of interest to be held in the city are the meeting of the Royal Society from the 26th to the 29th inst. The President is Principal London of Toronto University, and the subject of his Presidential address will be "The Universities in Relation to Research." The other is a Board of Trade Banquet to be held on June 5th. Invitations have been issued to all the leading men of the Dominion in the political and commercial world, and very possibly it may be followed by results of the greatest importance in trade and commerce.

Western Ontario.

The revival services in Knox church, Acton, are being continued this week.

In Central Church, Hamilton, Rev. Neil M. Leckie, B. D., preached recently on "Man made in the image of God."

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Capt. Alex. Blake, of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church boys' brigade, Windsor, Ont., has received a cheque for \$150 from Lord Strathcona, Canadian high commissioner to Great Britain, towards the purchase of kilts for the boys.

Owing to the illness of Mrs. Ballantyne, Prof. Ballantyne, of Knox College, was unable to take the reopening services at Knox Church, South London, on Sunday last as previously announced. His place was supplied by the Rev. Mr. Knowles, of Galt.

At the meeting of Stratford Presbytery, Mr. Manthorne, a Baptist divine, made application to be received as a member of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. It was decided to make application at the next General Assembly for Mr. Manthorne's reception.

The chief question before the meeting of Stratford Presbytery was the rearrangement of Milverton and Wellesley, and Millbank and Crosshill churches. There are at present but two churches and it is proposed to form a third. A large representation from the congregations interested is present.

Revs. Mr. Armand, W. H. Madill, J. R. Mann, Robert McDermid, David Cockburn, C. Rutherford, T. L. McKee and T. R. Forbes are the names of those for whom applications are to be made to the General Assembly by the London Presbytery for admission to the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

At the meeting of London Presbytery Rev. Mr. Reede, moderator of Fingal, presented a call from that charge to Rev. R. C. McDermid, a licentiate. It was unanimous, being signed by 73 members and 7 adherents. The stipend is \$800 with manse and a month's holidays. Messrs. Colin Munro, A. R. McDermid, A. McLarty, C. R. Stevenson, W. Waters, D. McCormick and Dr. Smith appeared in support of the call, and indicated the hearty and unanimous desire of the congregation that Mr. McDermid would be their pastor.

The commissioners for the Presbytery of Paris for this year to the General Assembly are, Revs. Alex. Stewart, Verschyle; J. Skinner Scott, Brantford; T. W. Currie, Brantford; W. H. Johnston, Chesterfield; Dr. McMullen, Woodstock; W. H. Martin, Brantford, and elders, Messrs. James Weir, Woodstock; Wm. Forest, Gables, Geo. Aitkin, Glen Morris; Benj. Gray, Ingersoll; E. B. Palmer, Norwich. The next meeting of Paris Presbytery, is to be held in Paris on the second Tuesday in July at 10.15 a. m.

The ordination and induction of Rev. R. C. McDermid, London, to the pastorate of the Fingal church, will take place there on Tuesday, June 3, at 2 o'clock. Rev. Mr. Lawrence, of Cowal, the moderator of presbytery, will preside; Rev. J. W. Rae, of Aylmer, will preach the induction sermon; Rev. Dr. Johnston will deliver the charge to the minister, and Rev. H. W. Reede, M. A., of St. Thomas, will address the congregation. The presbytery will meet at 11 o'clock of the same day to hear Mr. McDermid's ordination trials and transact other business.

The anniversary of Melville church, Fergus, was celebrated on Sunday last week. Rev. Mr. Winchester, of Knox Church, Toronto, preached morning and evening. He is an eloquent, earnest preacher and his sermons were very much appreciated, and none seemed tired if they were long. The congregation was large in the morning, but larger in the evening, as there was no service in St. Andrew's. The music by the choir was good and the whole service enjoyed. The collections were good, about \$340 being put on the plates. Rev. Mr. MacVicar preached for Mr. Winchester, and attended Synod meeting.