

Ministers and Churches.

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

About one out of every nine members of Synod was present at the annual meeting last week. One Presbytery had no representative, another had one or two, and even Toronto Presbytery was far from being fully represented. If travelling expenses were paid to within a radius of one hundred miles of the meeting place there would probably be a better attendance, but the cost of travelling is not the only reason for non-attendance. Some who were within a mile of the place of meeting were not present at a single seditant. The majority of the members seem entirely indifferent whether the Synod meets or not.

Dr. Torrance made a good moderator. He did not discuss the business, but kept it before the court in a business-like manner. At times his voice could not be heard, however, and especially was this true during devotional exercises. After a vain effort to find a hymn that had been inaudibly announced most of those present assumed a look of patient endurance till the Sabbath service of praise ceased. Occasionally others could not be heard, but this was not the fault of the speaker. Several put it the time discussing the war and kindred topics while the business of the Synod was being transacted, and the former discussions occasionally threatened to drown out the latter.

The Synod is appointed to meet in St. Andrew's Church next year. Toronto has been chosen as the meeting place for three years in succession, and will probably become the permanent place of meeting. It is easy of access from all points, and most men wish to visit the city about the middle of May. If the Assembly meet here next year, even Toronto will be taxed to accommodate the members of both courts.

The address of Canon Edmonds at the annual meeting of the Upper Canada Bible Society, on Tuesday evening of last week, was one of the best ever given at a similar gathering. The Canon's fame as a speaker had preceded him and a large audience gathered in Knox Church for the occasion. The Society acted most wisely in securing two notable representatives as Rev. Mr. Thomas and Canon Edmonds. Many of our citizens have been reached and interested who were formerly indifferent and the interest of every friend of the cause has been strengthened, and new information gained by the admirable address given.

The Boys' Brigade movement is making headway. The annual demonstration at the Pavilion on the 8th inst. drew a crowded house, and every one present was satisfied. The spice of military discipline about the movement is attractive, and the training is most helpful. The effects is very marked when a company of Brigade Boys met others in athletic sports. The language used and the general conduct of the two is a remarkable testimony to the good results of Brigade training.

Bonar congregation has had a vigorous and steady growth. Especial attention has always been given to the Sabbath School and this department of the work has outstripped all others in its progress. Anniversary services were held on Wednesday evening of last week, and another very enjoyable evening was spent together. The minister, Rev. Alex. Macgillivray takes the closest interest in the work of the School, and most, if not all, the members of Session are workers in it. The report for the past year is a most encouraging one.

There is one Presbytery not one hundred miles from Toronto that has become somewhat notorious for treating the licensure of Students as a purely formal matter. Any student who is not prepared to undergo a fair examination asks for transference to this Presbytery, and escapes the ordeal. Some good men, who were quite willing to be carefully examined, are also transferred to this Presbytery, but only because they propose accepting work within its

bounds. So notorious has the action of the Presbytery become that the student who has been transferred there has come to be looked upon with a certain amount of suspicion. It is an unenviable reputation.

From time to time rumors have gained currency that the popular minister of Cooke's Church has received a call to an important Church in the United States. In all cases until the present these calls have been declined before they reached the Presbytery. But at last one is being allowed to come up for consideration. Bethany Church, Philadelphia, has given a unanimous call to the Rev. Wm. Patterson and a special meeting of Presbytery has been summoned for the 27th inst to consider it. That is significant, for Mr. Patterson is the last man to allow a call to go on if he were not seriously considering it. His decision will be anxiously awaited.

Rev. Prof. Jordan, D.D., of Queen's University conducted the services in St. James' Square church on Sunday.

Rev. Dr. Warden has received during May over \$7000 for the Indian famine fund. The total received by the Presbyterian Church now amounts to nearly \$15,000. The subscriptions received at the Methodist Book Room for the Indian famine fund now amounts to \$8,901.53.

The deaths announced from London, England, of Rev. G. H. C. Macgregor, pastor of Free East Church, Aberdeen. Mr. Macgregor will be remembered in Toronto on account of his having been tendered a cordial call from the congregation of St. James Square Church shortly after his visit here in 1893 as one of the three delegates from the Keswick Convention. He was a successful pastor and wherever he undertook a pastorate the work prospered.

OTTAWA.

Rev. Dr. Campbell, who was burnt out, may be found at 588 Lisgar street.

Rev. Dr. Armstrong and Rev. Norman MacLeod, B.D., exchanged pulpits last Sunday evening. At the morning service in St. Paul's Dr. Armstrong mentioned that it was the 26th anniversary of his ministry in the church.

The Women's Foreign Missionary Society of St. St. Andrew's Church at its regular monthly meeting, made arrangements to give a garden party sometime in June, for the purpose of augmenting the funds. The subject for the day was China, and an interesting letter from a missionary in that country was read by Mrs. S. B. Kent. Mrs. Herridge presided.

At Knox, in the morning, Rev. D. M. Ramsay, dealt with mission work, making special reference to the recent great missionary conference in New York, which was considered in its various aspects—evangelical, educational, medical and the stand-point of woman's work.

Special collections were taken in many of the Presbyterian churches of the city last Sunday in aid of the fire sufferers. It has been decided to take up a special collection throughout the Presbytery. The fund so raised will not go to the credit of the general relief fund, but will be placed in the hands of the ministers of the church to meet some of the many cases of which they know where very deserving people have lost all they had, and yet do not feel like putting themselves forward for relief from the public fund.

Rev. Dr. Herridge in St. Andrew's Church in his morning sermon last Sunday, said: Faith is a principle of common life, illustrated every day, a confidence in something invisible, which rests upon as firm a basis as that of the senses, though of a different quality. Every time we rely upon a law of nature in argument, or a law of morality in our life, we exercise faith. Faith is the soul of conduct and cannot but develop strength of character, and keep a road open when the profoundest instincts of our na-

ture assert themselves and our souls cry out after God.

EASTERN ONTARIO

Rev. Peter Whybeck of Scotland preached in the First Church, Brockville on Sunday.

The Rev. W. Johnston of Millbrook, conducted services in the First church, Port Hope, on Sunday evening.

The management of the Vankleet Hill church have decided to have the corner stone of their new church laid on May 24th.

The Synod of Montreal and Ottawa will meet next year in St. Gabriel church, Montreal, where the synod was organized 26 years ago.

Rev. W. D. Reid of Montreal lectured in the Vankleet Hill church recently. The programme of the lecture was in aid of the India Famine Fund.

At the meeting of the Presbyterian Synod of Montreal and Ottawa in Perth Mr. John R. Reid of Ottawa read a carefully prepared paper on the work of the board of management in a church. A number of the elders substantiated the things which Mr. Reid enunciated.

Rev. Prof. W. G. Jordan, D.D., of Queen's College gave an interesting lecture recently in Deseronto, on "Briton and Boer." His remarks were listened to attentively by those present. The doctor is well versed in the history of the two peoples, a fact which his hearers appreciated.

WESTERN ONTARIO.

Rev. Dr. Fletcher Hamilton preached in Chalmers church, Guelph, on Sunday.

Knox church, St. Thomas, has been asked to contribute \$900 to the century fund.

Rev. J. A. Radford preached in the Presbyterian Church, Bradford on Sabbath last.

The Huron Presbytery has sustained the call of Seaforth extended to Mr. Larkin of Chatham.

Rev. Dr. Johnson, London, conducted the opening services at the New Melville church, Fergus, on Sunday.

MacNab Street Church Hamilton held its anniversary services on Sunday, R. J. M. Glassford, of Guelph, preached.

The Presbyterians intend holding a grand social and entertainment on the manse grounds St. George, on the Queen's birthday.

Rev. R. J. M. Glassford of Guelph lectured in McNab St. Church Hamilton on Monday evening his subject was "The Church of the Future."

The Rev. William Patterson, of Cooke's church, Toronto will preach anniversary sermons in the Orillia Church on the second Sunday in June.

Rev. A. D. McDonald, D. D., formerly pastor of the Presbyterian church at Seaforth, died in Detroit on Wednesday. Interment at Clinton Saturday.

Rev. W. J. Jamieson has accepted the call from Oil Springs and Oil City, and the Presbytery of Sarina will meet for his induction in the Oil Springs Church on Thursday May 17th.

Rev. J. W. Dey, of Simcoe, occupied the pulpit in the Cayuga Church on Sunday. His discourses were evangelistic and delivered with much force and eloquence. Rev. J. D. Edgar filled Rev. Dey's appointments at Simcoe.

Rev. R. Martin of Markham was the unanimous choice of Erskine Church congregation, Hamilton as Rev. J. S. Shearer's successor as pastor of the Church. Rev. Mr. Martin received so large a vote at the outset (the vote being taken standing) that it was plain that he was the almost unanimous choice of the congregation and after two votes had been taken he was unanimously given the call. His stipend was fixed at \$1,600, the same as has been paid to the previous pastor and he is to be given a