

## Church News

[All communications to this column ought to be sent to the Editor immediately after the occurrence to which they refer have taken place.]

### Montreal Notes.

On Tuesday evening last a public meeting was held in the lecture-room of the American Presbyterian Church to organize a Lord's Day Alliance for the Province of Quebec, similar to that already existing in Ontario, for the purpose of protecting the observance of the day from the growing encroachments on its sanctity as a day of rest and worship. There was a fair attendance of both clergy and laity representing the different sections of the English Protestant community. The chair was occupied by George Hague, Esq., General Manager of the Merchants' Bank. Addresses were given by Dr. Scrimger, Rev. R. J. Hewton of Lacine, Rev. Prof. Warriner and Dr. Manly Benson, after which the organization was resolved on and officers appointed. It is hoped that branches may be formed at different points throughout the Province, and that something may be done to influence public opinion in the right direction for the preservation of an institution of unspeakable value to the whole community and vital to our Christian civilization. Happily the condition of things is still far from being as bad as in many other countries, including even most portions of the United States. With one insignificant exception we have no Sunday newspapers; no games or sports are held in public places, the saloons are closed by law and liquor can be sold only at the risk of a heavy penalty which is often enforced. Theatres and other places of amusement that keep open on Sunday are few in number. But owing to the greater laxity of views held on the question by the Roman Catholic Churches as compared with most Protestant Churches the Province of Quebec has always been considerably behind Ontario both in its Sabbath laws and its Sabbath practices. The post offices have always been open during a portion of the day everywhere. The street cars have been run in Montreal throughout the whole day ever since their introduction and have always been better patronized by the public than on other days. Sunday local passenger trains, both regular and special, were run on the Quebec railways long before they were known in the sister Province. In many districts it has been the favorite day for holding political meetings. For years back hundreds of the smaller shops have been open in this city on Sunday evening as well as a few places of amusement, with the full knowledge and avowed consent of the authorities. While the cheese and butter factories of Ontario are practically all closed on Sunday those of Quebec are as universally kept open. At all times there is a vast deal of mere pleasure driving and at the suburban summer resorts there are many who spend the day in boating or sailing. The sentiment, even among Protestants, is not so high as one would like to see it, and is being gradually lowered with the rise of new conditions and the increased facilities for travel that are being offered. The churches in the past have been neither silent nor inactive. On more than one occasion even the Roman Catholic authorities have intervened to check growing abuses, especially Sunday excursions and Sunday political meetings. The Protestant churches have frequently approached the authorities to secure a better enforcement of the law. But it was felt that if the latter were to accomplish anything they would have to act together. Hence this society in which they are all represented. The lines of its activity are not as yet very clearly defined, but from the necessity of the case its work will be very largely educational, and mainly directed towards the Protestant minority of the population. Whatever Sunday labor is done is mainly under their control and if a higher standard of observance can be secured on their part there will be some hope of a more earnest administration of the law against other encroachments on its sanctity. There are some indications of awakening conscience already. Among others present at the meeting on Tuesday evening was the proprietor of a butter factory in the Eastern townships who, after much difficulty, per-

suaded his patrons to allow him to close his factory on Sunday, and all are now better satisfied with the arrangement. There seems to be no good reason why his example should not be followed throughout the Province.

Some of the Chinese Sunday schools received a visit last week from Mr. Hamilton Cassels, the Conventer of the Foreign Mission Committee. He expressed his satisfaction at what he saw, especially at the large attendance of both pupils and teachers in Knox church on Sunday evening. There were 113 Chinamen present and almost as many teachers.

A well attended missionary meeting in St. Paul's church on Wednesday evening last was addressed by the Rev. Dr. Thomson of the Chinese mission in the city, the Rev. Murdoch MacKenzie of Honan, and the Rev. Dr. A. B. MacKay.

It is announced that the Rev. Malcolm MacLennan, of Kirkhill, in the Presbytery of Glenargy, who is now on a visit to Scotland, has been called to St. Columbia church in Edinburgh. Rumor has it that he is likely to accept. If his departure from Canada will be regretted by his many friends here.

### General.

Mr. S. O. Nixon was ordained and inducted at Cheltenham on Tuesday 8th inst. at 2 p.m.

Rev. Mr. McKenzie of Orangeville delivered an exceedingly interesting lecture on "Jerusalem" in the Presbyterian Church, Alton, on Thanksgiving night. A large audience greeted him.

Rev. W. M. Roger, who is visiting various points, giving evangelistic addresses, is spending this week in special work with Rev. R. M. Hamilton, of Brantford. Mr. Roger reports a wide spread desire for more and more earnest work for the extension of Christ's kingdom and the ingathering of souls. This is an encouraging feature in this age of intense activity. Peterboro will henceforth be his permanent address.

The ladies of the Presbyterian Church, Mimico, have formed themselves into a Ladies' Aid Society—their object being to reduce the debt on the church. They decided to hold a series of social meetings during the winter, and the first one was held on Friday evening, Nov. 27th, in the church. A very interesting programme was prepared, and at intermission refreshments were served, during which time the ladies availed themselves of the opportunity to welcome and introduce all strangers, and thus a very pleasant and sociable evening was spent. Rev. Mr. Hamilton occupied the chair.

The third anniversary of the opening of the Glastonbury Presbyterian Church, was observed on Sabbath, Nov. 15. The Rev. Principal King, of Manitoba College, conducted worship morning and evening. In spite of the stormy weather large congregations assembled at both services. In the morning Principal King preached from the words, "In me . . . peace;" and in the evening from the words, "The Gospel of the grace of God." Both sermons were deeply spiritual and were listened to with interest and profit. The collections for the day were \$362.55. On Monday evening the anniversary tea-meeting was held, at which there was a large gathering. After tea was served, the Rev. C. B. Fitzladd, of Westminster Church, Winnipeg, lectured on "Barnes and MacLaren." The proceeds were \$62, making a total for the two days of \$424.55. This amount is to be devoted to the reduction of the debt on the church.

### Presbytery of Kamloops.

Rev. J. C. Herdman, of Calgary, has been nominated by the Presbytery of Kamloops for the Moderatorship of the General Assembly at Winnipeg. Kamloops approves of reducing representation in the Assembly from one-fourth to one-sixth. It also approves of one central place of meeting, that place to be Toronto, —the bulleting system to be abolished. The remit re the reception of ministers being regarded as very important to this

Presbytery, was considered with special care. The following resolution was unanimously agreed to: "That in view of the extreme difficulty experienced by the large missionary Presbyteries of the Church in securing adequate supply for the mission fields, especially during the winter months, it was agreed to approve of the remit and in addition to recommend that the General Assembly require from all students one year's continuous service in the mission field either before or after graduation; and Presbyteries be instructed to refuse to ordain and induct graduates over self sustaining or augmented congregations until a certificate be presented from the Home Mission Committee that such service has been given, and that no graduate be eligible for a call until these conditions have been complied with.

### Presbytery of Maitland

Met at Wingham Nov. 17th, Rev. R. McLeod, Moderator, *pro tem*. A special meeting of Presbytery was appointed to be held in Ashfield church on Monday, Nov. 30th at 1 p.m. for the induction of Rev. Alexander Miller.

The clerk was instructed to certify Mr. J. Lovell Murray, B.A., student in theology to the Senate of Knox College, Toronto. Some of the remits of Assembly were considered. It was agreed that the Assembly should decide on a central permanent place of meeting, and that Toronto should be the place selected. The Presbytery is in favor of appointing a Union Mission Board. Communications from the Foreign and Home Mission Committees were received stating that for the former \$1,200 and for the latter \$1,400 are allocated to this Presbytery as the amounts required from it for the current year. The Presbytery resolved upon a general exchange of pulpits by the ministers within its bounds on Sabbath, Dec. 13th, for the purpose of bringing prominently before the congregations the claims of the various Schemes of our Church for liberal contributions by our people. The attention of the congregations is earnestly called to the urgent needs of the missionary, educational and benevolent Schemes of the Church. A special collection for these objects will be taken in each congregation on the aforesaid Sabbath. Notice of this resolution will be sent to each congregation by the clerk in the name of the Presbytery.

The Assembly's plan of study is recommended to all the Young People's Societies within the bounds of the Presbytery. The Assembly's S.S. Publications were brought to the favorable notice of the Presbytery. Leave was granted to moderate in a call in Bluevale. A Convention of all the Young People's Societies in the bounds of the Presbytery will be held at Wingham on Monday, January 18th at 10 a.m.

Next regular meeting of Presbytery will be held at Wingham Tuesday, January 19th, at 9 a.m. John MacNabb, Clerk.

Lucknow.

### Presbytery of Pictou

Met in the Hall of James Church, New Glasgow. Rev. R. Cumming was appointed Moderator *pro tem*, and there was a large attendance of ministers and elders. Revs. A. Robertson, J. McG. MacKay and Penman were associated with the Presbytery. Messrs. J. Ferguson, R. Fraser and M. Mackenzie were heard as Commissioners from the congregation of Little Harbor and Fisher's Grant, asking for moderation in a call to a minister. The Presbytery were satisfied with the representations made, and deputed the interim Moderator of Session, Rev. A. Bowman, to moderate in a call on the 16th inst. Arrangements were also made, in response to a cheerful communication from the congregation, and the pleading in their behalf of Rev. J. McG. MacKay and Mr. Bain, for the regular supply of Gospel ordinances at Mulgrave by an ordained missionary in the meantime; with a view, if warranted by circumstances, to the erection of the station into a congregation, in the near future. A letter was read from Dr. Morrison, the Agent of the Church, calling attention to congregations within the bounds, which failed to contribute to certain Schemes of the Church, during the