

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

REV. JAMES STEWART, of Pakenham, has accepted the call to Prescott.

THE Young People's Association of Knox Church, Galt, are holding a series of socials in the rural districts.

THE Rev. J. F. Dickie, of Berlin, has accepted the call to Detroit. It is reported that the salary offered is \$2,000.

AT the Presbytery of Paris, on Tuesday, Dr. Cochran, of Brantford, was unanimously nominated for Moderator at the next General Assembly.

THE congregation of Chalmers' Church, Quebec, have extended a cordial call to the Rev. D. Ross of Lancaster. The call which is signed by nearly all the members has been sustained by the Presbytery of Quebec, and will be laid before the Presbytery of Glengarry at its first meeting.

THE Rev. Rev. D. D. McLeod of Paris delivered a lecture in Stanley street Church, Ayr, on Monday evening, the 24th ult., the subject being "Anything will do."

A SERIES of entertainments, consisting of the exhibition of stereopticon views, is in progress in the school room of McNab street Presbyterian Church, Hamilton. The fourth of the series was given on the evening of Friday, the 28th ult.

THE congregation of Knox Church, Stratford, held their annual soiree on the evening of Monday, the 10th ult. Addresses were given by the pastor Rev. P. McF. McLeod, Rev. T. McPherson, Rev. C. Walker, and Rev. D. D. McLeod of Paris.

REV. MR. KAY, of Milverton, was recently presented with a silver watch and an address by members and adherents belonging to the Poole district of his charge. At the same time a handsome silver casket was presented to Mrs. Kay by the ladies of the same district.

MRS. W. SOMERVILLE, organist of St. Andrew's church, Markham, was lately presented by the Congregation with a valuable and beautiful tea-service and salver. The presentation was made because of the gratuitous services of Mrs. Somerville, as organist for the past six years.

REV. MR. KIPPEN was inducted into the pastoral charge of the congregations of Crumlin and Dorchester on Tuesday, the 25th ult. In the evening a pleasant tea-meeting was held at the Dorchester manse. The newly inducted minister occupied the chair, and addresses were given by members of Presbytery.

MR. JOHN LANDBOROUGH, JR., who has filled the position of precentor in Union Church, Brucefield, with great acceptance since the organization of the congregation, was waited on some time ago by a large deputation from the congregation and presented with a Bible, album, and writing-desk, accompanied by an address.

A MISSIONARY meeting was held in the Presbyterian Church, Picton, on the evening of Tuesday, the 25th ult. Rev. W. Coulthard, pastor of the congregation, occupied the chair, and delivered an address. Rev. John Burton, of Belleville, and Rev. J. Young of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Picton, also addressed the meeting.

THE congregation of the First Presbyterian Church, Port Hope, held their annual missionary meeting on the evening of Tuesday, the 18th ult. The pastor, Rev. J. R. Beattie, opened the meeting with devotional exercises, and read a short report of the work that had been done during the year. An address was delivered by Rev. G. M. Milligan, M.A., pastor of Old St. Andrew's Church, Toronto.

ON the evening of Tuesday, the 18th ult., a social was held in Dickie Settlement school house, near Galt, to aid the funds of the Young People's Christian Association of Knox Church in that town. Rev. J. K. Smith occupied the chair; the ladies of the neighbourhood provided an ample supply of eatables; and the members of the Association carried out an excellent musical and literary programme.

ON the eve of his departure from Whitby, the Rev. R. Chambers was presented by the Young People's Christian Association of St. Andrew's Church with a gold chain and shield, accompanied by an address expressing their affection and esteem, and their deep gratitude for the instruction imparted to them in the

Bible class. Mr. Chambers preached his farewell sermon to a crowded congregation on Sabbath, the 23rd ult.

AT the anniversary services of Guthrie Church, Harrison, on the 2nd ult., (February) the Rev. Dr. Gregg, Professor of Knox College, Toronto, preached morning and evening to large congregations. Collections were taken up in aid of the Building Fund of the Church, which amounted to over \$80. On Monday evening the 3rd inst, a soiree was held, at which the Rev. John Smith of Bay street church, Toronto, delivered to a large audience a lecture on "Sacred Song." Proceeds of soiree about \$110.

THE first anniversary services in commemoration of the opening of the Presbyterian church, Gravenhurst, were observed on Sabbath the 23rd ult. The Rev. James Carmichael, M. A. of King, preached in the morning and evening (in English) and in the afternoon (in Gaelic). His sermons were very eloquent and impressive, and much appreciated by a large audience. On Friday evening the annual tea-meeting was held in the Town Hall at which Mr. Carmichael delivered his celebrated lecture on "Ossian and his poetry." A considerable sum was realized from the Sabbath collections and proceeds of the tea-meeting which will be devoted to the liquidation of the church debt.

FROM the annual report of Chalmers' Church, Kingston, for the year ending 3rd Feb., 1879, it appears that the congregation is in a good position and making progress. There is a net increase of eighteen in the membership, which now numbers 206. The pastor's Bible class and the Sabbath School are well attended, as is also the monthly missionary prayer meeting. Much interest is taken in the Young People's Association. A handsome and commodious manse has been erected in the course of the year, chiefly through the exertions of the Ladies' Aid Society, at a cost of \$3,212.07, which has been all paid with the exception of about \$400, and the greater part of this balance is covered by subscriptions. In addition to this the congregation contributed \$3,140.03 whereof \$410 was given to the schemes of the Church.

THE annual meeting of the congregation of Knox Church, Stratford, was held on Monday evening, 24th ult. The pastor, Rev. P. McF. McLeod, presided. The reports read indicate prosperity. There is a large increase in the membership and in Sabbath school attendance. The Sabbath collections were about \$1,000 in excess of those of the previous year; and there was also an increase in the amount received for pew rents. The congregation contributed during the year \$4,372.98, besides the special collections for various schemes, which amounted to \$316.50. This does not include the amount contributed by the Sabbath school which was close upon \$400; nor the amount subscribed towards the liquidation of the debt on the church, that amount being nearly \$4,000, of which one-fourth was paid up.

THE anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church Sabbath School, Brockville, was held on the 18th ult., in the basement of the new church there. The attendance of scholars was large and without doubt they enjoyed themselves thoroughly. The ladies of the congregation made ample provision for the tables. The lecture room was decorated with good taste, and in it the tables were placed extending the whole length of the room. On them was everything that could be wished by young or old. After sufficient time had been spent at the tables, the scholars and many of their parents and the teachers assembled in the main room in the basement which was comfortably filled. Addresses were given by Rev. Mr. Ross, Col. Wylie, and Rev. Geo. Burnfield, pastor of the church. A beautiful solo was sung by Mr. Haywood accompanied on the organ by Miss Eliza Dowsley; a sweet little song was sung by Miss Annie Babcock. A very important part of the programme was the distribution of prizes given by the teachers to the two scholars who could repeat the whole of the Shorter Catechism together with proofs with the fewest mistakes. The successful scholars were Master John Muirhead, who repeated all the Catechism and all the proofs with only eight mistakes, most of them being of a very insignificant nature. As for example, the use of "to" instead of "into" and "heart" instead of "hearts." Miss Langskail was the other successful competitor, she made only ten mistakes, most of them being of a very insignificant kind also. Suitable and valuable prizes were given

to both these pupils. And we have no doubt a stimulus was given to the determination of all the scholars to try for these prizes next year. Prizes were given to other pupils. The distribution was made by Rev. Geo. Burnfield, pastor, in appropriate terms. It was unanimously agreed that the sum of \$58.58 be devoted to the French Evangelization Scheme of the Church. The chair was well filled by the active and successful superintendent, Mr. John M. Gill, who read the Sabbath School Report for the year, and gave a very practical address at the opening of the proceedings. To the superintendent and his able staff of teachers is largely due the success of the meeting. At half-past nine the proceedings closed with the benediction, all well satisfied and no doubt instructed by the evening's programme.

CHURCH-GOING AND NON-CHURCH-GOING.

Not only in England, but in America, has the subject of church and non-church-going been engaging the attention of leaders intent on the temporal and spiritual welfare of the people. In England it seems that of the working classes the proportion not attending any religious place of worship is very large. In the United States, too, if we are to credit the statements recently made by reliable journals, the number from all classes who habitually absent themselves from the churches is truly alarming. And in Canada, while this question has not, so far as we are aware, been noticed in a public way, yet it will appear to every close observer that here, also, is rising a spirit of indifference to the public observance of the religion of Jesus.

I propose to notice in the following article, not all the reasons for this neglect, but a few of the stronger and more prominent.

First, *a life so false that it fears exposure by the truth.* Men generally know when their life is false, and they have an idea that in the church is more of truth and purity and light that penetrates the soul and brings to view its iniquity, than in the world. Hence they remain away. Our Lord said to the Jews: "Ye will not come unto me." They were afraid to come. They knew that to come into His presence, so long as they continued in wickedness, was to be rebuked not only by His words but by the purity of His life.

Again, *an unwillingness to give to the support of the Church.* A man is earning sufficient to support himself and family comfortably. Indeed, his wardrobe and table border on the luxurious. He would like to attend some place of worship, but in that case he must give something to the church. This he is unwilling to do. So he either stays at home every Sunday, or goes to one church this week, and to a different church the next week, spending the other Sundays of the month away from any place of worship, and thus by going only occasionally, manages to avoid contributing to any.

Further, *a false estimate of the value of the body as compared with the soul.* How often do we hear it said: "The Sabbath was given for rest. And as I am wearied with labour during the week, it is my duty to invigorate my body every seventh day. So I must needs lie in bed long in the morning; then walk or drive into the country where the air is purer, or go by boat for a sail over the cool lake." Now, all this proceeds from an improper estimate of the physical nature, and too low an estimate of the spiritual part of us. The body has need of care. But has not the soul also need of attention? The soul lives for ever. It has capacities larger, higher, grander in every way than the body. Why neglect it then? Why not give it your thought for one day in the seven? Why not place it in the midst of such exercises as prayer and praise, intended for it by its Maker? In doing so, the body will get its proper rest, and the whole man will be invigorated, and Monday morning will find one ready for new toils.

Still further, *certain things within the church.* There is the bazaar, under whose wing is the fish-pond, post-office, chance throws for choice goods, exorbitant charges for everything. Now, men of the world, calmly looking on, conclude that the leaders (church members, of course) have set up a gambling institution, and that the patrons thereof are patrons of a demoralizing organization. Their judgment may be called severe, but is it after all very far from the truth? There are expensive pews. These are all comfortable, and would be unobjectionable were all men rich in this world's goods. But only the few belong to this