

## Ministers and Churches.

### Our Toronto Letter.

One of the recent graduates of Knox College was placed in rather a perplexing position last Tuesday, at the Toronto Presbytery. Two charges had set their hearts upon him as their minister. Both came up to the Presbytery with their calls to him. The first call was presented, the commissioners presented their plea, and made a strong case, and the Moderator was about to put the call into the hands of Mr. McKerrill, the licentiate in question. Suddenly he drew back his hand, and announced that there was another call to be presented. It was agreed to hear this second call, and it was also presented, and sustained. Then both calls were placed in his hands, and he was asked for his decision. He very wisely decided to take a week to consider the complicated question, and will give his decision on Tuesday.

There was a third call presented, this one from the Queensville charge. It was addressed to Mr. M. MacArthur, Licentiate, one of the members of the last graduating class in Knox College. Mr. MacArthur was not present, and the call was forwarded to him. In the hope that he would accept, however, provisional arrangement was made for his induction, and the Presbytery will meet on the 21st instant for his induction, should he not decline the call. He also will give his answer on Tuesday next.

On that evening the Rev. Alex. Esler will be inducted as pastor of Cooke's Church, Toronto. Good expectations are awakened in Mr. Esler, and he will get a real hearty Irish-Canadian welcome to his new field. The congregation is practically intact, and that says much for the work of those within the congregation who have been looking after its affairs since the translation of their former pastor about a year ago.

Preparations are already being made for the Assembly meetings. Commissioners were skirmishing about at the end of last week, looking for some one who would supply for them on the 16th instant. The commissioner must pay his own way to Ottawa, and in the majority of cases has also to pay for the supply of his pulpit on the Assembly Sabbath. Of course this is not right. The Church should meet all these expenses, for these men are about the Church's business. But it will take some years yet to educate the Church up to the point of doing all she ought to do in that respect.

There are at present, in the Presbytery of Toronto, sixty-two charges, fifty-two of these are self-sustaining, six are augmented, and four are mission charges. There are altogether eighty-two congregations within the Presbytery. Seven of these charges are at present vacant, but three of them have called, and two of them will probably be settled during the present month. There are sixty-one ministers upon the Roll, and forty-seven ministers upon the Appendix to the Roll, seventeen of whom have retired from the active duties of the ministry and nine are engaged in other duties, most of them cognate to the duties of the ministry.

The congregations of the Presbytery paid \$88,693 for stipend during the past year, and raised \$171,719 for ordinary revenue. They sent into the Treasurer for missionary and benevolent purposes \$38,175. The total value of the church property within the Presbytery is given at \$1,190,101, on which there is a debt of \$466,167.

The resignation of the Rev. Peter E. Nichol, of St. Mark's, Toronto, was accepted at the last Presbytery meeting, and will take effect after the sixteenth day of this month. Mr. Nichol has done excellent service during the years of his ministry in St. Mark's. He has stayed with the congregation during the most trying time in its history, and leaves it with the goodwill and affection of every member and adherent. The addresses of the two young men who represented the congregation when the resignation was considered were the best we have ever listened to in this Court. They were earnest, giving credit to the minister for his work, speaking in the highest terms of his self-sacrifice and devotion, and there was not a word in them that Mr. Nichol or anyone could have wished unsaid. Their testimony was an admirable commendation of the pastor who was leaving them, whom they frankly said they would have liked to keep, but whose wish to enter upon evangelistic work they felt that they must respect. There is a field here for a man who wishes to do earnest work and who has the courage to work on and not grow discouraged.

The report of the Forward Movement Committee indicated that there is a desire to begin aggressive work at an early date. So far the work has been preparatory. Members who are interested in the movement have met for prayer and counsel, but have not entered upon any organized effort in evangelistic work. We have the greatest sympathy for the spirit that hesitates to shackle spiritual movements and direct such movements within human lines of action. But the majority of the members of Presbytery seem to ask for more definite action, and so an organized evangelistic effort will begin in the early autumn.

The Rev. R. C. Tibb, the Clerk of the Toronto Presbytery, is continuing the Ministerial Bureau he began last summer. The object is to obtain the names of all ministers available for supply and the dates when they are available, and so be prepared to send temporary supply to any congregation in an emergency, or tell them where supply may be secured. This, of course, does not concern itself with vacancies, but only with settled charges when the minister is absent for some reason. Most of the applications come from men who wish supply during their holidays.

### Ottawa.

At the Communion service in Erskine church last Sunday, 30 new members were added to the church, 20 by certificate and 10 on Profession of faith—making 52 since Mr. Mitchell's induction in February.

### Quebec.

The induction of Rev. J. Byrnes into the charge of Poltimore, Glen Almond and Wakefield took place under most favorable auspices. The services were held at Poltimore, the central station of the field. There is a good sized church there which was filled to overflowing. The steamer Agnes took up a goodly crowd of Buckingham well wishers, as well as the members of the Ottawa Presbytery who were to take part in the induction. Rev. Wm. Patterson, of Buckingham, had the oversight of that field for the last two years; and by his many kind offices and thoughtful services in behalf of the united congregations earned the grateful thanks of the people.

### Northern Ontario.

Revs. Graham, of Dornoch, and Leslie, of Crawford, had an exchange of pulpits on the 26th ult.

The Berkley congregation recently gave their organist, Mrs. Duff, a pleasant surprise by presenting her with a well-filled purse as a token of their appreciation of her faithful services.

The Ladies' Aid Society of the Maxwell congregation held a garden party at Mr. E. McCallum's last Friday week which was a pleasant affair, though somewhat marred by a shower of rain.

Rev. M. H. Scott, Zion Church, Hull, visited Shawville Monday of last week on Presbytery business. The Shawville congregation and connected charges have called Rev. N. Vaddell, B. D., lately of Lachute.

Sabbath last was Communion day in the congregations of the Flesherston and Dundalk charges. At preparatory services on the Friday previous Rev. J. A. Matheson, of Priceville, preached at Flesherston, Eugenia and Proton Station and Rev. W. P. Anderson, of Shelburne, at Dundalk and Ventry.

Rev. Mr. Russell, Missionary in Central India for eleven years, was with Rev. Matheson and Thom on the Priceville and Flesherston fields last Sabbath week, and gave excellent addresses on Foreign Mission work. Mr. Russell addressed the Priceville congregation in the morning, the Associate charge in the afternoon and reached Flesherston at 7 p. m., when he addressed the C. E. Society, who were a unit in their expression of appreciation of Mr. Russell's interesting and inspiring address.

Mr. R. M. Hobson, of Guelph, a representative of the Lord's Day Alliance, preached on a recent Sabbath in the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches, Dundalk, and on evenings following delivered interesting addresses in the former church, Dundalk, and the Presbyterian Church, Proton Station. At the former place Messrs. H. Abott, W. Hames and C. A. Lamon and at the latter place Messrs. A. Sherson and D. Blair, (elders) were appointed Committees to correspond with the Alliance in matters relative to its work in guarding the Sabbath.

### Jubilee of Rev. John Grey, D. D.

For the past two Sabbaths Orillia Presbyterians have been keeping jubilee. An interesting monograph has been published giving a history of the congregation there since its organization in 1851. Dr. Burns, Dr. Ure and Dr. Gray are the three names associated with its early history, but the first and second are only associated with it incidentally. Dr. Gray has been always with it, and has given his life to building up the cause of Christ there. He was ordained there on the twenty-first day of May, 1851.

Beginning with a membership of twenty-nine, accessions have been constantly received, and there are now seven hundred members upon the roll. A very large number have, of course, been received into the membership of the Church during these fifty years, and have removed elsewhere. Of the original members three are still upon the roll—Mrs. Adam Patterson, who was also one of the first Sabbath school teachers, Mrs. Thos. Dunn, Sr., and Mrs. J. P. Henderson.

It is remarkable that the congregation has had but two pastors, and two Sabbath school superintendents. The Rev. John Gray, D. D., the first minister, is still a hale old man, as quick to see a point as the best still, in his duty as Synod Clerk. Since 1881, when he retired because of ill-health he has held the position of pastor emeritus of the congregation, gladly giving all the assistance in his power to the Rev. R. N. Grant, D. D., the present minister in charge.

Dr. Grant is widely known by his writings under the pseudonym—"Knexonian." He wields a ready pen, which has occasionally a barbed point, but not often. It was feared some time ago that his health was seriously impaired, but that fear is gradually passing, and the hope is awakened that he may for many years yet minister to the people between whom and himself there is a mutual love.

Special jubilee services have been conducted on the 26th of May and on the 2nd of June. Rev. Robert Johnston, D. D., of London, preached on the 26th May, and Rev. J. A. MacDonald, of Toronto, last Sabbath. In spite of the unpropitious weather large congregations gathered, many of the old members who have moved to a distance and are now connected with other congregations, having come to unite once more with the old congregation.

The following sentence from the historical sketch that has been prepared indicates pretty clearly the attitude of the congregation in its work. "The general policy of the congregation in its life and work has been in the main conservative, and while not unwilling to consider and adopt changes in non-essentials, that may have seemed useful, the main reliance has been on the preaching of the Gospel, and wise and effective administration by the office-bearers of the Church."

Dr. Grant and his co-workers have succeeded in enlisting the active sympathies of the young people of the congregation. A large proportion of the membership is made up of the younger members of the families, and the problem of interesting the young in Church work is said to be comparatively unknown in this congregation. Among those who are active in the work of the congregation are many who made their first profession of faith within its walls.

No less than six who afterwards entered the ministry, five of whom are still in active service, made profession of their faith in Christ here. These are Revs. C. H. Cooke, of Smith's Falls; J. A. Claxton, B. D., of Eldorado; Rev. A. Graham, B. A., of Lancaster; Rev. W. H. Farner, B. A., of Breadview; Rev. W. D. McPhail, who has recently gone to the North-West; and Rev. Alex. MacNabb, recently deceased. Many others have been at one time connected with the congregation.—Presbyterian Review.

### Western Ontario.

The members of the C. O. E. Court at Berkley attended the Presbyterian church in a body last Sabbath week when an appropriate sermon was preached by the pastor, Rev. John Hunter, of Marsdale.

A wheeling party from the city visited the manse at Milton Grove recently. The party consisted of Rev. Dr. Johnston, Rev. W. J. Clark and Mrs. Clark, and Rev. Messrs. Stuart, Moffat and Wilson, all of London. After partaking of the hospitality of Dr. and Mrs. McCrea, the party returned to the city, having enjoyed a delightful day.