

Ministers and Churches.

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

Many of the Toronto ministers have been laid aside with the prevalent malady. Rev. S. R. Enos, Clergyman of Chalmers Church, and Rev. J. A. Turnbull of West Church, are out again, though still somewhat under the weather. Rev. John Neil, of Westminster, has had the most severe attack, but is improving. Almost all will occupy their own pulpits again next Sabbath.

Congregations are jubilant. Most of them report a surplus, in some instances reaching into the hundreds, and propositions to increase the pastor's stipend and "to maintain our own missionary," and "to redecorate and improve the church" are heard in some quarters. All of which goes to show that in the coming year the church will share in the general prosperity. Our church financiers who prepare the estimates should bear this in mind.

The "we too" malady seems to have struck several Presbyterians. In our last letter we noted Toronto's nomination of its eminent preacher and pastor for the Moderator's chair. Now Barrie rises to remark that it too has its distinguished preacher, who is worthy of all honor and should be honored. Doubtless each week will add another. It is a harmless pastime and gives a man a chance to say what he thinks of some other man. If only it were true!

One of the startling items of the news of the past week was the announcement that Knox Church contemplates moving to an uptown location. It has been under discussion for some time, but the members of Knox Church are of that race who know how to keep their own counsel. It will be some time yet ere the matter reaches a practical issue. After permission to dispose of the property is received from the Legislature, the sanction of Presbytery must be secured to sell and locate elsewhere.

Rev. James Murray is coming from St. Catharines to Toronto, with a hope to secure him here for some years. He has been restless since leaving Toronto Presbytery, but will now settle down to the strong work he is capable of doing. He comes to a church comparatively free from debt, to a people noted for loyalty to their pastor, and to a locality where there is abundant room for the activities of a good man. He will probably be inducted on the evening of the seventh of February.

The Knox men are making ready this week. Next Monday at 2 o'clock the annual post-graduate conference opens. Many enquiries are coming in, and the Conference promises to be the most successful of the series. Prof. Houston's papers upon Tennyson's "Idylls of the King" are being looked forward to with interest, and Prof. Godd's paper upon "Monasticism." Social questions are naturally discussed by the younger Alumni, in whose intellectual life the strong currents of the day were readily intermingled. Upon all these papers there is likely to be spirited debate, as the ground covered is still debatable.

The coming of Chas. M. Sheldon is causing a sensation among the floating members of congregations in Toronto, and we presume many of them will be seen at the doors of Bond Street Church to-morrow morning. The versatile pastor of Bond Street congregation announces this as Mr. Sheldon's "Only Canadian Engagement." We presume we shall have "the last" and "positively the last engagement" in Canada announced in due time. No entrance fee is charged, however, neither on Sunday nor Monday. By the way it was kind of Rev. Morgan Wood to arrange for the Monday afternoon conference for the benefit of the ministers of Toronto. We presume several of them will take advantage of it.

Almost every minister of the Toronto Presbytery who knew of the hour was present at the funeral of the late Prof. Thos. MacAdam on Friday afternoon last. It was infinitely sad to look upon lips that last Sabbath proclaimed the message of life, now themselves forever sealed in death. The Rev. Louis H. Jordan, of St. James' Square Church, conducted the service, and the Rev. J. C. Tibb, an intimate friend of Prof. MacAdam, and Rev. Dr. MacTavish, the Moderator of the Presbytery, also took part. Reference was made to a very touching message received that morning from North Bay, where Mr. MacAdam had till recently labored, speaking of the personal obligation of the writer to his late pastor, and of the influence for good the

words spoken to him had done. This gave the keynote to Mr. Jordan's brief but exceedingly helpful and comforting address. The body will be taken to St. John, N.B., for burial.

WINNIPEG AND WEST.

Rev. A. Chisholm, of Rapid City, is ill with a very severe cold.

The Rev. Dr. Bryce has been nominated for the Moderatorship of the General Assembly by the Presbytery of Winnipeg.

In the Winnipeg Presbytery a proposal for changes and improvements in the forms used for statistical reports was referred to a committee consisting of Prof. Baird, Dr. King, Dr. DuVal and Dr. Bryce.

News received by the Presbyterian home mission committee states that Rev. J. N. Cleland, in charge of the miner's mission at Sanden, B. C., has collected \$1,100 towards the outfitting of a church there.

At the last meeting of Winnipeg Presbytery the remit on examination of Students was considered, and the members decided that there is no good reason for departing from the present system of examination.

Dr. Gillies, the efficient and popular medical superintendent of the Asylum for the insane, Brandon, was recently presented by his staff with an easy chair and a kindly worded address.

Rev. Mr. Yule, Presbyterian minister, has moved to North Porta, and intends remaining at that end of the mission field. The Presbyterian Church was formally opened on Sunday, the 22nd inst., by Rev. G. Roddick, of Brandon Hills, who preached at 11 a.m., and Rev. G. Yule at 1 p.m.

On a recent Sabbath the new church at Soisgirth, Man., was formally opened by the Rev. Joseph Hogg, of Winnipeg, who preached appropriate sermons to large congregations. The Rev. H. T. Murray, pastor of the congregation, assisted. Mr. Hogg will always be welcome to Soisgirth.

The remit from the General Assembly on the advisability of the appointment of synodical home mission committees for the carrying on of the home mission work of the church was heartily approved by the members of the Presbytery of Winnipeg who spoke upon it, and was finally referred to the following committee to frame a suitable deliverance on the subject: Dr. King, Dr. Bryce, Rev. J. H. Cameron, and Mr. J. G. Mitchell.

St. Andrew's Church has had a prosperous year. The receipts from all sources footed up the handsome sum of \$11,736.64. The communion roll numbers 924, a net increase of 26. The Chinese Sunday-school has a membership of 40, and the work done among these foreigners is of a very interesting character. A vigorous address by Dr. Robertson, superintendent of missions, was a feature of the gathering. The pastor of this large church, Rev. Joseph Hogg, has reason to feel encouraged in his work.

At the annual meeting of Knox Church, the pastor, Rev. Dr. Duval, delivered a stirring address on Home Missions. The session report the harmony and success that had attended the labors of the year. The membership was now 758. The election and induction of Messrs. Frederick Clark, James Long, Alexander McIntyre, and Edward McKay gives a session of fifteen active members. The receipts aggregated \$11,335.03. The Ladies' Aid had raised \$160.84; and the Missionary Societies for the schemes of the church, \$1,153; \$700 was collected to reduce the debt on the church. This now stands at \$29,500 and it was suggested that an effort be made to raise \$25,000 and wipe out the entire indebtedness.

St. Stephen's, under the pastorate of the Rev. C. W. Gordon, is making steady progress. At the annual meeting, it was announced that the church stood free of debt. All the activities of the congregation are in a healthy condition. The Sunday-school has a membership of 277 and an average attendance of 173. For all purposes there was raised the sum of \$5,639.56; the schemes of the church elicited the generous sum of \$1,856.65. The minister's stipend was increased to \$1,800. The election of managers resulted in the following gentlemen being chosen: Mr. R. M. Thomson, Mr. W. E. James, Mr. Bignall, Mr. George Murray. The board of managers, according to the constitution, named Mr. E. J. Ramsey and Mr. R. M. Thomson as trustees for the coming year.

Mr. E. F. Hutchings took the chair at the annual meeting of Westminster Church. The membership is now 262. The Sunday-school, under the direction of Mr. Isaac Pitblado, assisted by a competent staff of workers, has made satisfactory progress. The school is equipped with a good library, an abundance of wholesome periodicals and necessary helps. The collection of the Sunday of our month is devoted to missions. The treasurer's report was presented by Mr. W. J. Ptolemy and showed receipts amounting to \$8,115.32, and expenditures amounting to \$7,901.27, leaving a balance of \$214.05. The sum of \$1,255.02 was raised by the Ladies' Aid Society; and the W. F. M. S. collected \$125.63. The total receipts from all sources during the year amounted to \$8,825.68, representing a contribution of \$2.92 per member on a membership of 262. This is certainly very creditable to the members and adherents of Westminster, and the Rev. C. B. Pitblado, the hard-working and faithful pastor, should feel encouraged in his work.

The annual meeting of Augustine Church, Winnipeg, was held Jan. 17th, and was largely attended. The pastor, Rev. G. MacBeth, opened the meeting, after which ex-Aid. D. W. Bole was elected chairman. This church has had no debt of any kind for some years past, and still maintains that record. The reports presented were of a most encouraging character. All the departments of the work are flourishing. The amount given for missions, \$704.81, is a handsome increase over last year, and is an exceedingly liberal contribution in proportion to the membership. The church is in a residential district, which is only just now taking a decided move forward. Twenty new members were received during 1898, so that the membership is now 135, with the best outlook for years as to increase. The session consists of Rev. R. G. MacBeth, Rev. Professor Baird (clerk), John McKinnon, E. F. Stephenson. The Board of Management, W. A. Jackson, chairman, A. C. Archibald, secretary-treasurer, D. W. Bole, George H. Greig, C. H. Steele, Andrew Curle. The trustees are J. G. Griffin and E. F. Stephenson. The pastor's salary is \$2,000.

LONDON.

The Advertiser, after giving a summary of the Rev. W. G. Jordan's lecture on Glasgow, says: The address was not only a stimulating appreciation of the loftier elements of the great statesman's character, but was brightened by many passing allusions to Dr. and Faculty. The speaker and the audience were in close touch and sympathy from the start to the finish.

The Rev. Walter Moffat presided at the annual meeting of Chalmers' Church, the youngest congregation in the city. The reports were encouraging. In all \$2,000 had been raised, and the debt on the building considerably reduced. The membership had been increased by 26, making a total of 28. The Sunday-school is in a flourishing condition, and the same may be said of the various societies connected with the church. Miss Head, on behalf of the Bible class, presented the congregation with fifty new hymn books. The Managers are: Isaac Sijohn, H. Chase, B. Spindle, and — Forsythe.

At the annual meeting of St. Andrew's Church there was a large attendance, and a hearty feeling manifested. A resolution increasing the pastor's salary by \$500, and also containing a warmly worded appreciation of his faithful services, was enthusiastically passed. The total receipts amounted to \$5,736.55. The membership is now 900, a net increase of 49 during the year. To provide increased sitting accommodation and better facilities for the Sunday-school, several plans for enlarging the church were discussed, and finally left to the Managers to report on at a special meeting to be held for that purpose.

At the annual meeting of St. James Church, London, the keynote of the proceedings was given by a resolution from the Board of Managers stating that "the time had arrived when it was advisable to dispose of the property, and build a new church in the northern part of the city if we receive the hearty assistance and co-operation of the Presbyterians of the city of London." An amendment to the effect "that the congregation meet, providing the pastor go with them," was carried by acclamation. Rev. D. C. Johnson, clerk of Session, and others, spoke in favor of moving. All the reports submitted were of an encouraging character, showing a large increase since the Rev. Mr. McGillivray's induction. The total receipts were \$4,862; the disbursements amounted to \$4,830.83. A resolution expressive of the congregation's high appreciation of their pastor's services was