

## Church News.

THE Rev. C. Chiquy, who is at present labouring in New Brunswick, is expected shortly in P. E. Island.

THE next meeting of the Presbytery of Quebec will take place in Sherbrooke on Tuesday, Sept. 21st, at 4 p.m.

THE proceeds of the garden party under the auspices of the ladies of Knox church, Cannington, amounted to over \$30.

ALL communications to the clerk of the Presbytery of Quebec should be addressed to the Rev. J. R. McLeod, Kingsbury, Que.

MR. R. MACLENNAN, of Alexandria, Glengarry, has given a scholarship of \$50.00 to the Gaelic department of the Presbyterian College, Montreal.

ALL communications to the Home Mission convener of the Presbytery of Quebec should be addressed to the Rev. J. O. Pritchard, of Danville, Que.

THE Rev. Mr. Murray, of Sydney, having declined the call from Summerside, that congregation is now seeking to obtain the Rev. Mr. McGregor, of Amherst, as pastor.

By appointment of the P. M. Board, the Rev. Mr. McRae, missionary elect to Trinidad, will visit several of the Presbyterian congregations in P. E. Island before leaving for his field of labour.

THE Rev. Mr. Chase, pastor of the church of Onslow, N.S., has recently returned from his wedding trip, and his congregation improved the occasion by presenting him with an address and a set of beautiful, silver mounted harness.

THE Presbyterian congregation at Providence, R.I., which has among its members a goodly number of Prince Edward Islanders, has given a unanimous call to Rev. J. A. McLain, of the Presbytery of Montreal. Mr. McLain is an excellent preacher.

KNOX church, Kincardine, has secured the services of Prof. Jones, one of the ablest and best known preachers in the Dominion. Salary, \$300. At the same congregational meeting Rev. J. L. Murray, pastor of the church, was granted two months of holidays.

On the evening of Mr. McLennan's leaving Lion's Head mission he was presented with a purse of \$70 and an address. The various Christian congregations of the village and adjoining county vied with each other in paying a parting expression of good will and esteem to the rev. gentleman and his family.

A NEW church was opened July 4th on Sea Island, British Columbia. Rev. Mr. Jamieson conducted service both morning and evening. The church, which is situated a short distance from the Gulf of Georgia, is said to be one of the finest and best finished in the Province. The building and furnishings, which cost about \$2,000, was opened entirely free from debt.

REV. DR. ARCHIBALD, pastor of Knox church, St. Thomas, and bride, received a most cordial welcome from his congregation on their return from their wedding trip. Mr. D. McLewis delivered an address of welcome. During the evening Mr. John McLean presented an address and a cheque for \$200 to Mr. Gaudier, who has solely filled the pulpit of Knox church during the absence of the pastor.

THE congregation of Bathurst, N.B., has unanimously called Rev. A. F. Thompson, of Economy, N.S. The call was signed by eighty-six members and fifty-four adherents, and accompanied by a guarantee of \$750 per annum, with manse and glebe. Mr. Thompson having signified his acceptance of the same, his induction was appointed to take place in St. Luke's church, Bathurst, on Wednesday, 11th August, at 10 a.m.

THE induction services at Belmont took place Wednesday, July 28th, when the Rev. James A. Brown, B.A., of Beaverton, was ordained and inducted to the pastoral care and oversight of the Belmont and Yarmouth congregations. The Rev. John Robbins, of Glencoe, preached from the text Matt. 28:18-20. During the sermon Mr. Robbins said, "I congratulate this minister on being ordained at a time when the Church seems to be entering on an era of great activity in the evangelization of the world." Rev. Neil McKinnon, a former pastor, presided at the ordination and addressed the people, and Rev. G. Sutherland, of Fingal, the minister. Mr. Brown was escorted to the church door by Mr. Robbins, and received a most cordial welcome from the very large congregation present. Mr. Brown enters upon his work under most auspicious circumstances. The managers at the close handed the pastor a quarter's salary in advance.

On Wednesday, July 21st, the Rev. A. K. McLeod, B.A., was inducted into the charge of St. Andrew's church, Brighton, Ont. A large congregation was present to witness the services. After the usual formalities the Rev. W. A. McKenzie, of Grafton, delivered an able discourse from Rom. i. 16. The Rev. W. J. Smith, Grafton, addressed the minister, and the Rev. W. T. Wilkins, of Trenton, the people. After the close of the services the presbytery and friends were entertained at a sumptuous tea by the ladies of the congregation in the lecture room of the church. An adjournment was then made to the main part of the building, which was well filled, and the Rev. Mr. McCrae having taken the chair, prayer was offered by the Rev. T. Alexander, of Mount Pleasant, after which short and eloquent addresses of welcome were made by the chairman, the Rev. J. J. Leach, of the Methodist church, Brighton, and the Revs. McKenzie and Smith, of Grafton, and W. A. Johnson, elder, also of Grafton. Not the least interesting part of the proceedings was the presentation of an address and well-filled purse to Rev. Mr. McCrae as an expression of the gratitude of the congregation for his services during the vacancy.

### MANITOBA ITEMS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

SEVERAL new mission fields have been organized during the summer.

Harvest has already begun, and the farmers are in high spirits over their glowing prospects.

Rev. Mr. Wellwood has so far improved in health as to be able to take pulpit supply occasionally.

All the Commissioners at the Assembly from our synod except Prof. Bryce and Mr. Pibbado have returned strengthened for their work.

Parliamentary candidates are now stumping the Province in their several interests. The Presbyterians are largely represented in the political field.

The new Presbyterian church in Portage la Prairie is nearing completion. It is a beautiful edifice, and will be opened some time in September.

The crops generally within the Province of Manitoba are good, but the continued drought has damaged the crops somewhat in the North-west Territories.

Rev. Mr. Pringle, of Kildonan, has accepted the call to Port Arthur, and leaves for his new field on August 12th. This will leave vacant two of the best country charges within our synod.

The Indian school at Portage la Prairie is a grand success. The ladies of Knox church, with Miss Sebastian, the teacher, are indefatigable in their good work for the poor heathen. They believe, however, that the school would be more efficient if it could be opened on the industrial school method.

The Rev. Mr. Todd preached his farewell sermon to the Burnside congregation last Sabbath. The church was crowded, and many were visibly affected with his parting exhortation. Mr. T. has been pastor of Burnside for two years, during which time the congregation has been greatly strengthened, while two new preaching stations have been added to it, and the third has received regularly fortnightly supply. The membership has been nearly doubled, a good manse and sheds for the teams have been built, two-thirds of their cost having been paid. Mr. Todd leaves for his new charge in Minnedosa with the prayers and best wishes of his former flock for his success.

### OBITUARY.

REV. LACHLIN MACPHERSON.

THE late Rev. Lachlin Macpherson, of West Williams, Ont., is worthy of a place on the roll of Canada's noble band of pioneer missionaries. These were men of courage and sterling worth, men who laid foundations on which we now build. They sowed seed for others to reap. God called and prepared them for a great work, and nobly they did it. Mr. Macpherson during the early period of his ministry supplied not only Williams with the means of grace, but many other settlements far and near. As a preacher of the Word he was faithful, declaring the whole counsel of God, and was influenced by neither the fear nor favour of man. He was not what some would call in these days a popular preacher, but he was what is far better—a faithful, God-fearing preacher of the Word, and wherever we find those who were brought up under his ministry we find a people who have the deepest respect for Divine ordinances. Mr. Macpherson's anti-union attitude had no doubt a tendency to lessen his influence as a minister among his people. Yet no one doubted but he was conscientious in the stand which he took on that question. The closing years of his life were characterized by much bodily suffering and weakness. Two of these years were spent in Scotland in quest of health, but that failing him he returned to Canada to end his days among his own people. He passed away in peace in the early part of the spring of 1886. Mr. Macpherson was born in Glasgow about the year 1813, and was therefore seventy-three years of age when he died. He was ordained in 1849 and laboured in the same field, Williams, for the long period of 33 years.

MR. JAMES LAIDLAW.

It was mentioned recently in the REVIEW that Mr. James Laidlaw, of Georgetown, had passed his 90th birthday. Shortly afterwards the venerable gentleman, who had enjoyed uninterrupted health during his long life, was taken ill, and after being confined to bed about four weeks passed peacefully away. The deceased gentleman was the last survivor of those who settled in the Scotch Block of Esquimaux in 1819. Mr. Laidlaw left Scotland in 1817, two years earlier than the other members of his family, but spent three years at Economy, Nova Scotia. A letter he wrote from Economy to his father and brothers in Scotland, on the 5th December, 1817, advising them to come to Western Canada and offering to join them there, is still in the possession of members of his family. In 1819, his father, James Laidlaw, and two brothers, Andrew and Walter, came and settled in the township of Esquimaux, where James joined them in 1820. Boston church, Esquimaux, beneath whose shadow Mr. Laidlaw's remains lie interred beside the graves of his father and brothers, was built on the farm of Mr. Andrew Laidlaw in the heart of the settlement, and was named after Thomas Boston, the far-famed minister of the parish of Ettrick from which the Laidlaw family emigrated. James Hogg, the Ettrick shepherd, was a full cousin of Mr. Laidlaw's father. Like his father and brothers—two of whom never visited Canada—James Laidlaw was a man of rare integrity. He was also endowed with a mind and memory of remarkable clearness, which remained bright to the last, showing no signs of weakness or decay in any particular, though his physical strength was completely wasted by a disease of several weeks' duration. His only daughter, his only surviving son (Rev. R. J. Laidlaw, of Hamilton) and other friends and acquaintances from far and near, watched with him during his last days, which, owing to the clearness of his richly-stored mind, the extraordinary retentiveness of his memory and the strength and clearness of his faith, were days of unusual privilege. His wide and accurate information, which increased to the last through his life-long habit of reading and reflection; his pure and exemplary life, coupled with his kind, amiable and cheerful disposition, endeared him to all, old and young, who came within the circle of his acquaintance, and gave him an influence for good which only those who are possessed of his meek and quiet spirit and are spared, as he was, to become fully ripe, are ever privileged to exert.

### STATE OF RELIGION—BRUCE PRESBYTERY.

REPORT of the committee appointed to prepare a Minutes of the subjects considered at the conference of the Presbytery of Bruce on the State of Religion, held at Paisley on the 12th day of July. Members—J. C. Eckford, convener; Rev. Messrs. D. McMillan and J. B. Duncan. Report as follows.

On all the various topics under discussion during the conference very substantial and highly satisfactory agreement was found to exist amongst the brethren. Much valuable information was elicited, and many practical suggestions made which your committee think can be utilized with great advantage. We briefly summarize a few of the more prominent of the suggestions made on the various subjects.

1. *Visiting the sick.*—Before visiting the sick preparation by way of meditation is desirable, and that particular consideration should be given to the character and circumstances of the person or persons to be visited, and that the selections of Scripture read and the accompanying exercises should be chosen and made carefully in accordance with the results of this previous careful reflection.

2. *Funerals.*—The conference disapproves of Sabbath funerals unless in cases of absolute necessity. Also deprecates undue parade on funeral occasions, but commends due sympathy with the bereaved, and recommends the improvement of these solemn occasions of God's providence by such public and private exercises as the special circumstances may claim, reminding each other that the end of these services is not the undue laudation of the dead, but are to be prized as a way to reach the souls of the living by the faithful presentation of the truth.

3. *Baptism.*—This ordinance should in no case be given to non-professors. It may in the discretion of sessions be administered to the children of those who are non-communicants. At the same time in any such case it is expected that the session will instruct and expect the professing parent or parents to communicate at the first possible opportunity. The ordinance should be administered publicly whenever practicable, but may by permission of the session be given privately when circumstances so require.

4. *Prayer meetings.*—The conference strongly emphasizes the importance of making these meetings as popular as possible, endeavouring to enlist young and old in the work, either by taking part in the meeting or for it. "Bringing another with you to the prayer meeting." The services might profitably be modelled like a family gathering for worship, those who cannot pray might repeat a text or answer a question. The importance of having the subject for study and prayer at these meetings duly intimated to the people beforehand from the pulpit or otherwise was also recommended.

5. *Pastoral visitation.*—Such visitations should be systematized and regular, with due notice as far as possible given from the pulpit. They should be conducted with reading the Word, prayer and such intercourse should be had with the family (both old and young) as may ascertain their real spiritual condition—saved or unsaved.

6. *Presbyterial visitation.*—The conference expressed an entire unanimity in regard to the desirability and practicability of exercising a wise and kindly supervision over the congregations of the presbytery. Your committee feel warranted in recommending the appointment and instruction of a committee to prepare and mature a scheme of presbyterial visitation for this presbytery, to show the sections to be grouped for this purpose, and to give directions for procedure and practice in such visitation, and would suggest that the said committee may find the Scheme of Presbyterial Visitation of the Presbytery of Toronto worthy of being copied in most respects. We think that elders should be associated with ministers in the work of presbyterial visitation.

7. The conference expressed strong faith in the steady, faithful use of the ordinary means of grace as the most effectual way of adding to and keeping in the Church "such as should be saved." The importance of bringing the young into closer relation with the Church was strongly insisted on. It was thought the Bible class and Sabbath school should be the peculiar care of the Church, and that services might be held occasionally in the churches on the Sabbath when the children and their teachers would have a prominent place and special attention in the service which would tend to show our children the value of their souls, and to awaken in them an early personal attention to the Gospel. Your committee repeat there is great need to bring in the young. It may be allowed us to recommend that the children may be visited specially in each congregation under the arrangement of the Visitation Committee in order to assist in this noble cause.—J. C. ECKFORD, Convener.

### MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERY.

LONDON.—Met in London 13th July. The following items form a part of the business transacted:—Calls from Belmont, North and South Westminster, and Dorchester and Crumlin were laid on the table and read by the respective moderators of these congregations. The call from Belmont was in favour of Mr. J. A. Brown, licentiate, and was quite unanimous. They promise \$500 stipend and manse. The call was sustained, and Mr. Brown in answer to a telegram accepted, the ordination and induction were appointed for the 28th July. The call from North and South Westminster in favour of Mr. Sawers, of Chicago, was duly sustained and transmitted to Mr. Sawers for consideration. The call from Dorchester and Crumlin in favour of Mr. William Galloway (minister without charge) was also sustained. Mr. Galloway being present had the call put into his hands for acceptance. On Mr. Galloway's acceptance, the induction was appointed to take place at Crumlin on the 27th July, at 11 o'clock, Mr. Cameron to preside and address the minister, Mr. Hamilton to preach and Mr. J. M. Munro to address the people. Dr. McIntyre, principal of the Young Ladies' College, Brantford, was present and addressed the presbytery in the interests of that institution. A resolution was passed by the presbytery expressive of sympathy and support. Mr. Hugh McKay, one of the Church's missionaries to the Indians in the North-west, also addressed the presbytery, giving some stirring information relative to the degradation, misery and positive want of many of the Indian tribes. A vote of thanks was given Mr. McKay for his address, and the presbytery pledged itself to increased interest and support in aid of the mission. Mr. Sutherland read the report of the commission on the Glencoe case. The report stated that the commission after duly meeting with the congregation and the petitioners for a new congregation, and carefully consulting the interests of all parties concerned, have unanimously arrived at the following finding:—That Mr. Robbins be, and hereby is, exonerated from all blame in the matter of the troubles of the congregation; that, inasmuch as Mr. Robbins has signified to the commission his willingness to resign his charge in the interests of peace, the commission express their admiration of the spirit Mr. Robbins has shown in the whole matter; and, believing that his resignation is the best solution of the difficulty, consent to accept his offer, and resolve that the pastoral tie be dissolved on the 13th of March, 1887; and that the petitioners meanwhile avail themselves of such services as are within their reach. In this finding the petitioners acquiesced at the time, and Mr. Robbins and the congregation subsequently. The presbytery, on motion duly made and seconded, received and adopted the report.—GEORGE SUTHERLAND, Clerk.

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