

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

The departure from this life of the late Sir Oliver Mowat, and his funeral obsequies have largely absorbed public interest in the city since the sad event took place. It was made known throughout the city immediately, and as there was time for the news to be conveyed to the city churches either before, or immediately after divine service began, appropriate and sympathetic reference was made to the life-long services, the eminent character and ability of the deceased, especially to the fact of his being pronouncedly a Christian, and his life being throughout from beginning to end worthy of that high profession. It is very rare indeed, that in the public estimates of a public man's career, there has been such a universal chorus of unstinted praise and admiration. It is worth a great deal to any country, but especially a new one, comparatively speaking, like ours, to have such an example of long, upright, wise and strenuous service for the public good, based upon and regulated by avowed Christian character and principle. In every reference to him in private conversation and on the street, and among people of all classes, creeds and professions, this was very often the first, and always the unchallenged testimony that, "he was a good man." Surely for many a generation to come, the example left by Sir Oliver Mowat of sterling Christian character, of patriotism, and honourable public service, will be felt as an inspiration and stimulus to high endeavour. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. Alfred Gaudier B.D., pastor of St. James Square congregation, of which the late Lieutenant-Governor had for many years been an honoured member, Rev. Principal Caven D.D., Rev. Prof. MacLaren D.D., and Rev. Armstrong Black D.D. The whole service was such as we could well believe the departed would have desired, simple, appropriate, reverent, devout. A great multitude gathered in the neighbourhood of Government House, or found places inside, where at the foot of the coffin stood Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir William Mulock, Hon. G. W. Ross, Senator Cox, and other well-known men in every department of public life. The streets along which the cortege proceeded were deeply lined with subdued, quiet, orderly, onlookers and the procession and numbers who accompanied or followed the remains to their last resting place, were probably greater than any that has ever been seen in the city. It was a worthy tribute to a life well spent for his country's good, where noblest, most enduring record and fame will after all, and above all ever be, character based and built upon the fear of God. It is a coincidence which cannot but be noticed, that the gentleman chosen to succeed Sir Oliver as Lieutenant-Governor is one who possesses some, at least, of the features of character which marked the departed, and lay at the foundation of his whole life work. The appointment to the high office of Mr. Mortimer Clark K.C., is well received in this city by those who know him, and confidence is expressed that he will worthily fill the eminent place which death has made vacant.

Not a nine days', but at least a wonder of some hours duration, was the sudden and at the time inexplicable disappearance at a very inopportune time, of the redoubtable Mr. Gamey. He has of course turned up again, and the trial in which he is figuring so prominently and unenviably is being pushed on to what appears, as yet to be a somewhat distant termination.

The Foreign Mission Committee of the Church has been in session here lately, and some new appointments have been made, two out of four new missionaries asked for Honan, and two more, are we understand, under consideration. The work and prospects there are reported to be in the most hopeful state.

An association has been formed of Presbyterians in the city to be called "The Presbyterian Union of Toronto." It has been felt that the interests and labors of the Presbytery of Toronto cover a sphere, very much wider than the city, something should be done to concentrate effort needed within the city distinct from, yet within the jurisdiction of the Presbytery. The object of the Union is described to be, "to unite Presbyterians in strengthening and extending the work of our Church in the city of Toronto and suburbs, and shall include (1) The better equipment of congregations in populous districts;

(2) The planting of new Churches as these may be needed; (3) Aggressive mission and evangelistic work, and such other effort as may seem necessary from time to time." "The Union shall work under the authority of the Presbytery, and shall report annually to that Court. Membership is to consist of all members and adherents of our Church within the Presbytery who are willing to unite with the Union, and contribute not less than fifty cents per annum to its funds." It is hoped that this new association may in future become most useful in extending and building up not only Presbyterianism, but evangelical religion in the city.

Chalmers' church in the north-western part of the city which has been vacant some months, has united in calling Rev. H. A. Macpherson of Acton, to be its minister, in succession to Rev. R. G. Davey who removed to Union Congregational church, Montclair, N.J., in the United States. The pastor-elect is a graduate both of Toronto University and Knox College, and has been in Acton, his first pastorate, since 1896. He is also a brother of the member of the House of Commons for Burrard, B.C.

The Christian Endeavour Union of the city held its last monthly rally in Dovercourt church, at which the chief feature was an able address by Rev. S. J. Duncan Clark.

The choir of St. James Square church, last Thursday evening, under the leadership of the organist, Mr. T. A. Davies, Musc. D., gave an impressive rendering of "Stainer's Crucifixion, A Meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer." The choir numbered twenty-eight voices, the rendering of the whole was good in a musical sense, and its spirit religiously considered was both devout and uplifting. In the necessary absence of the pastor, Rev. Alex. MacMillan presided, and gave a brief but interesting account of Stainer's career and work.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt has introduced a bill to amend the Education Act so far as affects this city which will amount to quite a revolution in school management. In brief it is to consolidate the Public, High and Technical School Boards which now together consist of 65 members, into one Board to number 13 members, to be elected by the electors of the city, each elector to have only one vote, and one to be elected by the Separate School Board. The members are to be elected for two years, six to retire each year. This course is in a line with that of many large cities in the United States, is new to this country, and no doubt if found to work successfully here will be adopted in other cities as simplifying our educational machinery.

Ottawa.

The Ladies' Aid society of Stewarton church gave a pleasant social on Thursday evening of last week.

At the Glebe church Rev. W. Back conducted the services while the pastor, Rev. J. W. H. Milne preached in Bank street church.

The last of three congregational socials, in St. Paul's church, was held last Thursday evening, under the auspices of the Westminster Guild, and was very enjoyable and successful in every way.

Rev. Dr. Wardrope, of Guelph, former pastor of Knox church, preached at the morning service in McKay church. The pastor, Rev. Norman McLeod, preached in the evening. Mr. W. Wilfrid Campbell delivered a lecture before the Young People's society on Monday night.

Rev. A. H. Scott of Perth gave a very interesting lecture, to the students of the Ladies College on "The Land of the Midnight Sun" on Friday evening. He and Dr. Jordan were delegates to the V. M. C. A. conference, which was held in Stockholm, Sweden. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

At St. Andrew's church in the evening Rev. Dr. Herridge continued his subject of the previous Sunday, "Social Life." He pointed out that people could not live entirely to themselves. We are so bound up in our fellowmen that we cannot stand alone. Speaking of some of the particular faults, Dr. Herridge specified extravagance, artificiality, insincerity and tale-bearing. He referred only to the first two and said he would continue on the others next Sunday.

Last week Rev. D. M. Ramsay completed six years of service as pastor of Knox Presbyterian church. During those years he has done faithful work and enjoys the knowledge and satisfaction that he ministers to a loyal, devoted

and growing congregation. In order to commemorate the close of these six years of service he and Mrs. Ramsay stepped out of the beaten path and marked a "new departure" by inviting the congregation to a social in the school room of the church. The people responded in generous fashion and attended in large numbers at the church where they were received by the pastor and his estimable wife. The social was unique in that there was no elaborate programme to render it stiff and formal. It was a free and easy affair. The people sat around in little groups and had a good old fashioned talk, or moved to and fro renewing old acquaintanceships or making new acquaintances, and the pleasure of the occasion was enhanced by excellent music furnished by the Berry orchestra. There were no formal speeches and no votes of thanks, but there were refreshments and ice cream in abundance, served by the young people of the church, who discharged the pleasant duty in a very satisfactory manner. It was an exceedingly sociable social and the people not only enjoyed it immensely, but voted it a "howling success"—if the scribe may be permitted to characterise it by a rather old-fashioned journalistic phrase. Socials without programmes may now be expected to come into vogue, and Mr. and Mrs. Ramsay will be entitled to the credit of having popularized the new departure. That dear old Scotchman whose name need not be mentioned declared that "the meenister's party was a bonnie affair." And so it was. Among those present from outside the congregation were Rev. Dr. Wardrope, the first pastor of the congregation, Rev. Joseph White, Rev. Mr. Milne of the Glebe church, Rev. Mr. McLeod of McKay church, New Edinburgh, Rev. Mr. Scott of Hull, Rev. Mr. McIntosh of the Congregational church, Rev. Mr. Wood, and Mr. John Charlton M.P. The numerous guests without formal resolution, voted Mr. and Mrs. Ramsay excellent entertainers, and wish them many years of faithful and appreciated service in Knox church, where they are surrounded and supported by a loyal and devoted people.

Northern Ontario.

Rev. Jas. Borland of Collingwood preached in Elmvalde, on Sunday.

The Rev. Mr. Davidson, of Knox College, Toronto, occupied the pulpit of Knox church, Canmington, the 19th.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed in the Orillia church last Sunday. The preparatory sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Campbell, of Penetanguishene, on Friday evening.

The 25th Anniversary services will be held on May 24th in Knox church, Beaverton. They will be conducted by Rev. Prof. Ballantyne of Knox College, who will preach morning and evening.

Eastern Ontario.

Rev. Dr. Crombie, of Smith's Falls, will leave for a visit to Scotland about the end of the month.

In St. John's Church, Cornwall, on Sunday morning the Rev. Dr. MacNish preached a sermon especially for the children.

St. Andrew's church, Arnprior, is to have a pipe-organ which will cost \$8,000. It will be in place early in October next.

Anniversary services were held on Sunday last in the church at Braeside, and many from Arnprior attended. Rev. D. J. McLean of Arnprior, preached in the evening.

Rev. Murdoch Mackenzie returned missionary from China gave an interesting and profitable address on mission work in the province of Honan in China, at Sundridge last week.

Much sympathy is felt for Rev. James Rattray, pastor of Melville church, Eganville, in the death of his beloved wife, who died early Sunday morning, the 19th instant. During the ten years of Mr. Rattray's pastorate, she always took an active part in all work connected with the congregation, and will be sadly missed by all.

The annual convention of the Young People and Sunday School Workers, in connection with the Lanark and Renfrew Presbytery, was held this year in Carleton Place, meeting on Monday in St. Andrew's church. The chair was occupied by the president, Rev. G. A. Woodside. Miss B. V. McEwen read an interesting paper on "How to Improve the Teaching in our Sunday Schools." It was a practical paper, and was given a half hour's discussion. Rev. J. A. MacFarlane, of the Canadian Bible Institution, spoke on the necessity of graded lessons. Miss Beattie