

Church News

[All communications to this column ought to be sent to the Editor immediately after the occurrences to which they refer have taken place.]

MONTREAL NOTES.

The religious interest of this city during the week has largely centred in the conference of the Reformed Jews which has been in session in the Temple Emanuel. The Reformed Jews are not numerous in Canada, the great majority belonging to the conservative or orthodox order who are somewhat disposed to regard their more liberal brethren as renegades. But they control about one hundred and forty congregations in the United States, and some of these congregations are both large and wealthy. They have discarded the ritual and many of the peculiar customs as well as the doctrines and ideals of the older Judaism. They have no desire for restoration to their ancestral home in Palestine, have no expectation of a personal Messiah, and endeavor to identify themselves as much as possible with the Christian populations around them. They are perfectly familiar with the New Testament, and heartily accept its ethical teaching. They have in fact adopted Christianity without Christ. Their attitude is a good deal like that of many Unitarians, but with this important difference that they are moving forward towards the Christian standpoint, while the Unitarians have moved backward from it. Their position is therefore by far the more hopeful one of the two. Their polemic is not with Christianity, but with the old fashioned Judaism, from which alone they seek for fresh adherents. They are anxious especially to be on good terms with Protestant Christianity, and fraternize freely with Christian churches of the more liberal school. As an intellectual movement in Judaism, it is certain to grow, but as a spiritual force it has no hope any more than Unitarianism have by the acceptance of Jesus Christ as a divine redeemer. When by experience they find this out, there will be opened up an inviting field for Christian evangelism. The success of the conference was somewhat interfered with by the severity of the heated term, but the leaders kept it well to its work and a rather ambitious programme of papers was gone through with commendable vigor. The conference has no legislative authority, each synagogue being apparently independent in the management of its own affairs, and no provision is made for concerted propaganda either at home or abroad.

Recent letters from Dr. Chiniquy indicate that he is now on his way home after an absence of about ten months in Europe. During that period he has addressed over a hundred meetings, some of them of immense size in Britain, France, Holland and Germany. For about four months he was laid aside by a severe cold so as to be scarcely able to speak, but during the greater portion of the time he spoke at least once a day. For a man eighty-eight years of age, such a feat is little short of miraculous and has rarely been equalled in history. Though his death under various horrible circumstances has so frequently been announced by those who wished him dead, he has lived to see most of his detractors in their graves and bids fair to round out the century. If one is sometimes tempted to wish that he had been wiser and more statesmanlike in his methods of attack on Rome, we cannot but be grateful that he has been spared to do so much and see such large results from the movement in which he has had so great a place.

The change which has come about among the French Canadians within recent years is shown by a report received a few days ago from Mr. E. Curdy, a French student missionary at Ste. Sophie, in Megantic County. The congregations of Kionard's Mills and Leeds, of which the Rev. J. M. Whitelaw is pastor, celebrated the Queen's Jubilee with a grand picnic, to which Mr. Curdy was invited, and they took advantage of his presence to arrange for a French evangelistic meeting at Robertson Station in the open air. Considerable interest was awakened, and there were rumors that the priests would procure a disturbance at the meeting. But if any

such intention was cherished it was not carried out, and probably would not have succeeded had it been attempted. There was a large assembly that listened with the utmost respect to Mr. Curdy's address as he unfolded the Gospel for upwards of an hour. It was in all probability the first Protestant sermon that most of them had heard, but it is not likely to be the last if one may judge from the appreciation with which it was received. Ten years ago he would undoubtedly have been stoned out of the place.

GENERAL.

The ladies' of Colquhoun congregation gave a very successful lawn social on Wednesday evening, July 7th, at the residence of Mr. Thomas Black. Music for the evening was supplied by the Chesterville Silver Band and by the local talent. The whole affair was very successful, and the ladies are worthy of great praise for the deep interest manifested by them in endeavoring to place the finances of the congregation on a firmer basis.

The Rev. W. A. Wyllie, of Waubesahe, has received an unanimous call from the Presbyterians of Hyde Park, and notified Barrie Presbytery that he would probably accept it.

The Presbyterian Church at Centre Bruce was reopened on July 11th, after having been thoroughly renovated. Appropriate services were conducted by Rev. A. H. Drumm, Port Elgin. Mr. Drumm also gave a lecture Monday evening.

The annual meeting of the First Presbyterian Church, Eramosa; was held on Dominion Day, in Capt. Johnson's grove. There was a large crowd. The day was fine and everything went off very pleasantly.

At a meeting of the Presbytery of Chatham, July 13th, leave was granted the congregations of Dawn Centre and North Dawn to extend a call to a minister. These congregations intend giving a call to Rev. Mr. Cowan, who is at present laboring on the field. The call will be presented at an adjourned meeting of Presbytery, to be held at First Presbyterian Church, Chatham, Tuesday, August 3rd.

Rev. Thomas Wilson concluded his first year's pastorate at the King Street Presbyterian Church, London, on July 11th. The year has been a very successful one. No fewer than 112 souls have been added to the church membership, and the Sunday school has fully doubled. At the time of Mr. Wilson's induction there was a floating debt of \$600, which has nearly been wiped out. Since then the church has also cut loose from the augmentation fund, and is now wholly self-sustaining. The pastor's salary has been increased by \$200.

Rev. Dr. Milligan of Old St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Toronto, left last week for the old country on a two month's visit. He will sail by the steamship Scotsman, of the Dominion Line, from Montreal. Dr. Milligan will spend his time while away principally in England and Scotland, but will probably also visit Belgium. While in London he will on Sundays occupy the pulpit of Marlborough Place Presbyterian Church, of which Rev. Dr. Monro Gibson is the minister. He will be back to assist, on September 19th, in opening the handsome new Presbyterian church in Woodstock, of which Rev. Dr. McMullen is the pastor.

The St. John Presbyterial of the W.F. M.B. met in annual Session on July 7th in St. Paul's Church Fredericton N.B. The President, Mrs. Robinson of Moncton, occupied the chair. There was a good number of delegates from the different auxiliaries present. Mrs. George McFarlane President of St. Paul's Auxiliary gave the address of welcome which was replied to by Mrs. E. A. Smith of St. John. Mrs. Melrose of St. John read a good paper on Corea which called forth some discussion and practical suggestions. After the delegates had registered their names the Executive Committee met to appoint a nominating committee. The afternoon Session was occupied by the Secretary and Treasurer's report, and papers by Mrs. Main of St. Stephen and Mrs. Younger of Moncton. A public meeting addressed by

Rev. Mr. Morton, son of the missionary in Trinidad, was held in the evening in the new church.

PETERBORO PRESBYTERY.

This Presbytery met in Peterboro on the 6th July. There were thirteen ministers and six elders present. Sympathy was expressed with Hastings in the loss of the Church by five on the previous evening and help was promised to the people of Apsley in the erection of a new Church. Arrangements were made for the induction of Mr. J. W. McIntosh a licentiate of Queen's College into the congregation of Centreville at an adjourned meeting on the 26th August at 2.30 o'clock.

The Rev. J. R. Gilchrist tendered the resignation of the pastoral charge and a committee was appointed to visit the congregation. The resignation will be disposed of at Centreville on the 26th Aug.

Mr. Thomson was appointed Moderator of Campbellford Session until Mr. Laird's return.

Delegates were appointed to visit his several mission fields and Augmented congregations before next meeting which is to be held on the 3rd Tuesday of Sept. at 2 o'clock in the Mill St. Church Port Hope. Wm. Bennett, Pres. Clerk.

BRANDON PRESBYTERY.

This Presbytery met in Brandon on Tuesday July 13th at 10 a.m. the Moderator Mr. Allan Moore presiding. A call from Douglas congregation to Rev. E. Mason was laid on the table by Mr. D. Carawell. Commissioners from the congregation testified to the cordiality and unanimity of the Douglas congregation in calling. The call was sustained and accepted by Mr. Mason. Arrangements were made for the ordination and induction of Mr. Mason on Tuesday 27th inst., at 2 p.m. Mr. J. Carawell to preside Mr. J. Ferry to preach, Mr. Carawell to address the minister and Mr. W. A. McLean the people.

Standing Committees were selected with Conveners as follows:—Home Mission and Augmentation Committee, Mr. E. A. Henry; Sabbath school Committee, E. Mason; Finance and Statistics, F. R. Shearer; Foreign Missions, W. A. McLean; Maintenance of Theological Department of Manitoba College, T. C. Court; Church Law and Property, J. Elder; Allocations for Church Schemes, J. Ferry; Young People's Societies, J. Hood; Church Life and Work, D. Carawell.

Resolutions of condolence were passed with regard to the death of Rev. W. K. McCulloch and the bereavement of Rev. D. Carawell in the death of an infant child. F. R. Shearer, Clerk.

QUEBEC PRESBYTERY.

This Presbytery met in Sherbrooke on the 6th July, Rev. D. Pugh, Moderator. Elder's Commissions in favor of Messrs. A. McLean, Jas. Dunbar, J. Macdonald and J. O. Thompson were submitted and accepted. Rev. Jno. McClung was appointed Moderator for the ensuing twelve months. The committee appointed to confer with Melbourne as to the supply of that field reported through Rev. A. Stevenson that Melbourne was receiving supply from Richmond according to arrangements entered into by the two congregations. The Presbytery approved the arrangements made. Standing Committees were appointed of which the following are the conveners, viz., Augmentation, Dr. Kellock; Church Life and Work, Rev. J. M. Whitelaw; Statistics, Rev. J. R. McLeod; Young People's Societies, Rev. W. Shearer; Sabbath Schools, Rev. A. Stevenson; Home Mission, Rev. A. T. Love; French Missions, Rev. D. Tait; Church Property, Rev. N. Mackay. Home and French Mission Reports were given by Revs. A. T. Love and D. Tait respectively. Rev. N. Mackay was instructed to administer the ordinance of the Lord's Supper at Lake Megantic, and Rev. W. Shearer at Massawippi. The Clerk and the Moderator were appointed a committee to consider the mode of securing a portion of the guarantee fund for the Presbyterian Ladies' College, Ottawa. The Presbytery having been formally notified of Dr. Lamont's death appointed a commit-