

Ministers and Churches.

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

The ministers and elders throughout the Presbytery are looking forward with considerable interest to the Conference that has been appointed for Monday afternoon and evening next. It will be held in Knox church, and will be entirely devoted to prayer and conference respecting the need for spiritual awakening and the necessary preparation for it. It is expected that there will be a large attendance from all parts of the Presbytery. Preparations have been made to entertain those who come from outside the city.

Parkdale church was again well filled on Friday evening last, when the congregation met to welcome their new minister. Parkdale has certainly given the Rev. A. L. Geggie a cordial home-coming, for it has become his home now, and if numbers and enthusiasm count for anything, this settlement is one of the most satisfactory the Presbytery has seen. We believe Mr. Geggie will meet all the expectations his people cherish concerning him.

An unfortunate rumor gained currency by appearing in one of the daily papers last week. It was stated that East Church had declined to such an extent that it was obliged to come to the Presbytery asking assistance, and that were this assistance not given, the doors must be closed. Of course there was no truth in the statement. An enterprising reporter had learned that East Church had asked for an advisory committee from the Presbytery, and that the congregation desired a readjustment of its mortgage indebtedness. He had gathered sundry other items, and read this conclusion out of the various shreds of information thus gathered. Other congregations, Mimico, Weston, and Woodbridge, were also included in this doleful statement, because they too had asked for advisory committees. Those who had much to do with Presbytery matters will know that it is not at all uncommon for congregations to ask for such a committee when difficult questions crop up. It will be long ere the doors of these churches are closed, and only when better churches replace them, we trust.

Toronto Junction is likely to have a struggle to introduce Sunday street cars in the near future. The Toronto cars now run into the town, and these cars have the privilege of running on the Sabbath within the city limits. It would be in direct contravention of the Act of the Ontario Legislature passed in 1897 should the company attempt to run its cars on the Sabbath in the Junction, but this company cares less for acts of the Legislature than it does for revenue, and will likely put on its cars on the Sabbath. In this way dividend seeking corporations all over the province are trying to break down the Lord's Day Act.

Two of the wealthy congregations of Toronto have planned liberal things for the Century Fund. Bloor Street has announced its intention to contribute \$25,000, half to the Common Fund and half to the Debt Fund. This is not in accord with the recommendation, but the congregation pleads its very heavy debt. St. James Square promises \$25,000 and has over \$8,000 of that amount already promised. The minister of St. James Square is confident, and anticipates that \$30,000 will be reached ere the two years close. At this rate Toronto will reach the amount asked of her, and pass it.

The appointment of the Rev. Alex. Macgillivray as sub-agent for the Presbytery of Toronto will commend itself as a wise step. It is folly to attempt to carry out this canvass with the ordinary machinery of the church. Of course, there will be some who cannot see the need of special agents, who perhaps do not see the need of appointing a general agent for this great work, but these are not numerous, and, as the immensity of the work dawn upon them, and its far reaching effects become apparent, light will break in upon these, and they will yet be the most ardent supporters of a generous policy. All honor to the men who, in addition to giving a handsome personal subscription to the fund, give unstintingly of their time and energy to further it. But the busy pastor should not be asked to neglect his congregation to do this kind of work.

A novel method for suppressing crime was recommended by the Grand Jury recently. Believing that a great portion of the crime committed is directly attributable to strong drink, it was proposed that, having divided the city into equal districts, the cost of the suppression of crime directly traceable to drink within each district should be borne by the liquor-sellers of that district. This would make them more careful in the indiscriminate sale of liquor, and would tend to lessen drunkenness and crime. The proposition is worth considering.

Of the two who presented themselves to the Toronto Presbytery for reception from other churches,

one, the Rev. E. W. Watson, from the English Congregational church, has been appointed to the Northern Ontario Mission Field and will leave shortly for the Algoma District. Mr. Watson has done good work in his native land, and was selected to do educational work in India, returning only when the college work there was abandoned. He will do good work, should he be received by our church.

Rev. Dr. Warden has gone to Halifax in the interest of the century fund.

At the Dominion Convention of the W.C.T.U., which is in session at Halifax, N.S., Mrs. A. O. Rutherford of this city was elected president.

Rev. Dr. Morrison, formerly of East Presbyterian Church, occupied the Knox Church pulpit last Sabbath, Rev. Dr. Parsons being at Clifton Springs.

The Deer Park Church held its anniversary gathering on Nov. 13; the pastor, Rev. John Kay presided, and addresses were given by Rev. Dr. Milligan and Rev. Robert Atkinson.

A valuable course of free lectures, to which all ladies are invited is being given at Knox College, under the auspices of the Ewart Missionary Training Home. Every Monday from 8 to 4, during the session, Rev. Prof. MacLaren lectures on "Christian Doctrine"; on Tuesday, from 3 to 4, Rev. Principal Caven on "The New Testament"; on Thursday, from 3 to 4, Rev. Dr. Turnbull on "The Old Testament," and on the same day, from 4 to 5, Rev. J. W. Rae on "Sabbath School Work and Practical Training"; on Friday, from 3 to 4, Rev. Prof. Ballantyne on "Church History," and from 4 to 5 Rev. Wm. MacWilliam on "Evidences of Christianity."

NORTHERN ONTARIO.

Rev. S. H. Eastman, B.A., of Menford, conducted anniversary services in Dr. Somerville's Church, Owen Sound, on Sabbath last.

Rev. R. B. Smith, of Elmsdale and Nov., has tendered his resignation. He has been transferred to the Orville station for the winter.

Rev. G. L. Johnston, B.A., of the Presbyterian Church, North Bay, last week brought his bride home. Mr. and Mrs. Johnston were tendered a reception by the congregation.

A new furnace has been put into the Manse at Dornoch and Rev. Mr. Graham and family appreciate the many kindnesses shown them by the congregations in connection therewith.

The thanks offering of the W.F.M. Society of Division Street Church, Owen Sound, at the recent annual meeting amounted to \$82.83 and that of the Daywood and Johnson auxiliary \$13.

A new organ is being placed in the Church at Ventry. Some time ago the Christian Endeavor Society undertook the task of raising funds to pay cash for an instrument, and their efforts have been so successful that there is now in hand a snug sum over the amount required.

Rev. Robert Rodgers, of Owen Sound, although advanced in years, can still preach with much of his old time vigor yet. On Sabbath week last he occupied the Methodist pulpit at Brooke and preached an edifying sermon on "following holiness," at the conclusion of which the Lord's Supper was dispensed.

On Sabbath, November 5, Rev. Dr. Waits, of Knox Church, Owen Sound, chose for his text Matt. 19: 30 and preached to a very large congregation on "The use of reverses, or how disaster may be turned into blessing," making special reference to the war in South Africa and the reverse met with by the British troops at Ladysmith. The music was of a martial strain and a special prayer was added to the service in behalf of the wounded soldiers and mourning relatives of the killed.

The attendance at the Lord's Supper in the Presbyterian Church, Orillia, on Sunday last, says "The Packet," was one of the largest in the history of the congregation. The body of the edifice was almost entirely filled with members. The pastor was assisted by the Rev. Dr. Gray. Dr. Grant expressed the wish that those who did not partake of the sacrament should remain in the church, and his appeal was so effectual that no one left at the close of the regular service.

On Sabbath evening, Nov. 5, Rev. Dr. Somerville, of Owen Sound, selected for his Scripture lesson and text the 21st chapter of Isaiah and preached to a very attentive audience a sermon of much thought and convincing argument on the principles

involved in the present South African struggle, and justifying Great Britain in her attitude on that question, contending as she does for equal rights in justice and liberty, which are the foundations of a righteous nation. Dr. Somerville referred feelingly to our gracious Queen and her sadness of heart at the thought of bloodshed. The choir appropriately rendered "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" and the music throughout was in keeping with the sermon.

Sabbath November 5 will be an anniversary day long memorable in the Chatsworth Presbyterian congregation both for the eloquent and edifying sermons preached to crowded congregations by the pastor, Rev. John Little, and the gratifying financial results of the day. In response to an appeal from the pastor to wipe out a long standing debt on the church parties on Sabbath. Later \$21 more was handed in, making in all the handsome sum of \$1,496, being \$220 more than required to cover the Church debt. Pastor and people are to be congratulated and their example could well be followed by many debt-carrying congregations.

EASTERN ONTARIO.

Rev. J. P. McInnes, of Puce, is visiting friends and about Vankleek Hill.

The congregation of Manotick has extended a call to Rev. Mr. Moor, late graduate of Knox College.

Rev. R. P. McKay occupied the pulpit of St. Andrew's Church, Williamstown, last Sunday afternoon.

The next meeting of the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew was appointed to be held, January 13, in Zion Church, Carleton Place.

Rev. J. Cameron, of Athens, Ont., had charge of the services in the second consecration of Lancaster and Carry Hill on November 5.

At the thank-offering meeting of Brockville's Young Women's Mission Band a good programme was provided and ably carried out.

On November 1 a successful Box Social was held under the auspices of the Young People's Society of the Presbyterian Church, Stittsville.

Rev. W. T. Wilkins, of Trenton, preached in the Presbyterian church, Wellington, on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 5, and at Hillier in the morning.

The anniversary services of St. Andrew's Church, Brighton, were held on November 5, Rev. James Hodges, B. A., of Oshawa, occupying the pulpit.

Rev. A. S. Ross, of Cobourg, has accepted a call to the church at Merivale and will be inducted as soon as arrangements can be completed for that event.

Mr. John Maclean, son of Rev. M. W. Maclean, M.A., of Belleville, who has been in Wyoma for a short time for the sake of his health, is improving very much.

As the students at Casselman and South Indian cannot celebrate communion, Rev. T. A. Sadler of Russell was appointed moderator by the Ottawa Presbytery.

On Sunday evening, November 12, Rev. Robt. Laird of First Presbyterian Church, Brockville, and Rev. D. Strachan, of St. John's Church, Brockville, exchanged pulpits.

Rev. Dr. Armstrong, of Ottawa, lectured under the auspices of the W.F.M.S. of Vankleek Hill Monday evening. He dealt with his subject: "We and Our Fathers," in a happy and instructive manner.

The Picton Times says: The annual bale of goods for the Northwest mission from the Presbyterian church here was considered excellent by the re-packing committee in Belleville. Nothing had to be discarded.

Arrangements are being made for the students to meet Principal Grant of Kingston on his arrival home this week. It is the intention that the students assemble in a body at the railway station in academic costume, accompany the Principal to his residence, and there present him with an address.

The Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew has rearranged the congregations of the Colden district. Colden and Osceola were organized into a charge under Rev. G. E. Loughheed; Ross was made a separate charge with Rev. Robert McNab as interim moderator; Scotland and Stafford were associated for future work and an ordained missionary will minister to them.