

Ministers and Churches.

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

Already rumors of the holiday season are being heard, mostly among parishioners. The hard working minister will toil on, in some instances to an ever-decreasing congregation, for some months yet, ere he thinks of his summer's rest. Some more fortunate ones, who have denied themselves for some seasons in order that they may take a lengthened voyage, are preparing to cross the ocean, or the prairies to the western coast. Some less fortunate, whom overwork or overwork too often compels to lay aside care for a time, are seeking such arrangement as may permit a longer absence from their pulpits. It is a pleasant feature of ministerial brotherhood, that the pulpit is often supplied by the neighboring ministers during the entire period of absence. There could be no better tonic for the sick minister than such a practical expression of interest on the part of his brethren.

The matter of the summer holiday is a necessity. The demand upon the minister of even a small charge is so incessant and exhaustive that he cannot, without injury to himself, meet it month after month continuously. Some cannot afford to rest. A change, even of locality, is restful. Is it not possible to arrange that some minister in a rural charge may exchange with one in a city or town for two or three Sabbaths during the summer? The change would be of service, both to minister and people, enlarging the outlook of the preacher, stimulating the flagging energies of the congregation.

The meeting of the Assembly's Foreign Mission Committee in this city during the past week, was one of unusual interest. The session lasted 3 days, and the matter discussed will be found, when the report appears to have a most important bearing upon that branch of the work of the Church. The response of the Church for Foreign Missions this year has been liberal, but the estimates prepared by the missionaries were so much in excess of former years, that it was found impossible to make any additional appointments to the mission staff this year. The decision was reached with great regret, for the calls from the Foreign Field are incessant. The fields are white to harvest, but supplies are wanting, and the Committee will be upheld in its determination not to exceed in liability the amount provided by the Church.

The returned missionaries who were present, and others, pleaded that more might be sent, and finally it was agreed to recommend that the salaries of missionaries now in the field be reduced, and that the amount so obtained should be utilized to send three additional missionaries out this year. It was on this ground that Dr. Nugent and Messrs. J. J. Taylor and T. C. Hood received appointment. Mr. J. R. Harcourt was appointed on condition that he secure the promise of a sufficient sum to pay his salary apart from the amount estimated for the Foreign Mission.

We hope the Church will remedy this step. It was the only alternative open to the committee, if they departed from their first decision. Is it right that the missionaries themselves should be asked to bear the burden of the support of the three men who are being sent out, ostensibly by the Church of Canada, this year. We do not wonder that the Committee responded to the appeals from the Foreign Field. It would be almost blameable if they did not. The Church is able to support those three men, and we hope will do it, without drawing upon the already meagre salary of those in the foreign fields.

Messrs. Taylor, Hood and Harcourt, whose appointment to the Foreign field has been recommended by the Assembly's Committee, are members of this year's graduating class in Knox College. Dr. Nugent is a full-fledged graduate in medicine, and will be a decided acquisition to the foreign staff. Prof. Iverach, who has been lecturing in Winnipeg, and whose services have been in such demand, that he reached the ear of the alert reporter, to the effect that the Assembly's Committee on the Twentieth Century Fund had completed the draft of its report and recommendations. The reporter proceeded to give an outline of the said recommendations. The statement was promptly denied in one of the morning pa-

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pers, but the committee will shortly meet, and will decide upon the character of its report. What its character will be, is, so far, purely conjecture as no statement has been authorized by the committee.

OTTAWA AND VICINITY.

Rev. Dr. Armstrong will preach anniversary sermons in St. Elmo next Sunday.

Rev. Dr. Campbell, of Ebrakein Church, and J. Milne, B.A., of the Glebe, exchanged pulpits last Sunday morning.

Rev. Dr. Robertson, Superintendent of Home Missions, will preach in St. Andrew's Church next Sunday morning.

The annual mission meeting of the Carp, Kirkburn and Lowry Presbyterian Churches will be held in the Lowry Presbyterian Church, June 15th.

Mr. Low, a divinity student, conducted the evening service in Stewarton Church last Sunday night. The pastor, Rev. R. Herbison, preached in the morning.

The New Edinburgh Y. P. A. connected with the Presbyterian Church, have invited Miss MacLean, a returned missionary from Persia, to lecture before the Society on the 29th inst.

Mrs. John Ross, for two years the very efficient Superintendent of the Bwart Missionary Training School, has resigned to take an important position in the Ottawa Ladies' College.

Rev. J. A. McFarhan, M.A., will hold special meetings for the purpose of studying the Bible, in the Carp Presbyterian Church. The meetings commenced yesterday and will continue for two weeks.

Rev. Dr. Armstrong, preaching in St. Paul's Church last Sunday morning from the text "Not because I desire a gift, but because I desire fruit," referred to the kindness of the congregation to himself. He drew a distinction between the gift and the motive of the gift. A man may have a trinket not worth a quarter, and because it is a gift of love he would not part with it. A gift prompted by selfish motives is hateful rather than acceptable. "Your gift to your pastor is valued because of the good will in it; because you seemed to enjoy the opportunity of giving."

MARITIME PROVINCES.

Rev. J. M. Allan preached in St. John's church, Chatham, last Sabbath.

The Oddfellows presented Rev. G. C. Robertson with an address on his leaving Cavendish.

There was an exchange of pulpits amongst the Presbyterian churches of St. John last Sabbath.

Rev. L. A. McLean, B.A., will be ordained as missionary at Louisburg, C. B., on May 25th.

Rev. Adams Archibald assisted at the communion at Gordon Memorial church, Bridgetown, N.S., last Sabbath.

Rev. Wm. Grant, of Port Morien, has accepted a call to Grand River, C.B., and his translation takes place on June 1st.

The congregation of Shubenacadie have succeeded in inducing their minister, Rev. John Murray, to withdraw his resignation.

St. John's Church, Yarmouth, is undergoing repairs and the minister, Rev. E. D. Millar, takes a six weeks' holiday while they are going on.

Rev. D. J. Fraser has gone to lecture in the "Old Kirk," Pictou, and his pulpit is supplied next Sabbath by Rev. J. D. Stewart, of St. Philip's church, Westville, N.B., one of the "Anti-Union," but thoroughly friendly congregations.

The Presbytery of Truro has accepted with deep regret the resignation of Rev. J. H. Chase, of Onslow. The pulpit will be declared vacant on July 2nd. Rev. J. W. Falconer, of Truro, will be moderator of session during the vacancy.

The Presbytery of Sydney has made a new departure in the mode of conferring license. Messrs. McOdum, B.A., and Deonon, B.A., passed their trials in the usual way at an ordinary session of presbytery, but the actual conferring of the license was reserved for a public session in the evening in the presence of a large congregation. A very impressive service was conducted by Rev. T. C. Jack, M.A., the moderator pro tem. At the same meeting the report on church life and work was presented.

Mr. A. F. Fisher, B.A., will be ordained as missionary at Mosher River on May 31st.

Messrs. Wm. Forbes, B.A., and Wm. Dakin, B.A., were licensed by the Presbytery of Truro. Mr. Forbes is about to be called to Noel, N.S.

Rev. Evan Gillies, Murray Harbor, South, P.E.I., preached at Orwell last Sabbath. Rev. J. R. McKay officiated at the preceding Sabbath and made a good impression.

Mrs. Robertson, the wife of Rev. H. A. Robertson, our missionary in Eromanga, with her two children is returning for a visit on account of her health. She has suffered severely from fever.

The Presbytery of Truro has taken hold systematically of the Sunday school work within its bounds. In this department of church work the Maritime Provinces are far ahead of Ontario and the West.

The sudden death of Rev. Dr. Carey, late pastor of the Brussels street Baptist Church, was a shock to his many friends of all denominations in St. John where he spent 21 years of his ministerial life. A memorial service was held in his late charge last Sabbath.

At its adjourned meeting last Tuesday the Presbytery of St. John licensed Messrs. J. C. Robertson, B.A., and R. J. Douglas, B.A. Mr. Robertson was appointed missionary at Nashwaak on Monday last. The Presbytery of Wallace was requested to ordain Mr. Douglas at Springhill, which congregation contributes \$150 towards his support as missionary at Hampton, N.B. The Presbytery of Pictou was requested to ordain Mr. Arthur Ross, B.A., in United Church, New Glasgow, which contributes \$300 towards his support as missionary at Andover, N.B. Rev. J. S. Mullen asked for his presbyterial certificate as he wished to withdraw from connection with the Presbytery of St. John. The request was laid on the table inasmuch as Mr. Mullen has appealed from the decision of the Commission of Synod to the General Assembly regarding the action of the Presbytery in severing his connection with Stanley and Nashwaak. There was a whisper that he contemplates organizing an independent congregation of sympathizers, the once gets free from Presbyterial oversight.

The London Presbyterian Council.

The Council met on Monday evening, the 15th, in St. Andrew's Church. Mr. A. S. McGregor in the chair. A special committee was appointed, with the Rev. J. G. Stuart, B.A., as Convener, to: 1st. Arrange a plan for an exchange of pulpits so that each Presbyterian minister should conduct at least one service in every city Presbyterian Church (7) during the year. 2nd. To map out the into parity into parishes, so that each church could make a thorough canvass and attend to new comers to the city. Three papers read at the previous meeting were discussed, the subject being "How to make public services attractive to non-church attenders and spiritually beneficial to all." The discussion grew in interest and warmth as it progressed and stimulated zeal and Christian energy. The thanks of the Council were given to the Advertiser Printing Company for their enterprise in giving a verbatim report of the famous Cromwellian sermon, by Dr. Joseph Parker, thus giving the people an opportunity of judging the opinions he so strongly expressed.

Geo. W. Armstrong, Sec.

The Methodist Magazine for May opens with a poem on Victoria by Alfred Austin, Poet Laureate, and an illustrated article on "The Private Life of the Queen," by one of Her Majesty's servants. Two other illustrated articles are "Andrew Hofer: The Tyrolean Patriot," by the Rev. H. H. Farrall, M.A., and "Sir John Franklin," by E. Sanderson. "Christian Life in Germany," by the Rev. Chas. Huestis, M.A., is an interesting paper on the distinctive peculiarities of domestic and Christian life in the German Empire, also a description of some of the educational and benevolent work carried on in that land. A number of short articles and a short story, "Dumb Fox Glove," by Annie Turnbull Slosson, give a large quantity of good reading matter for the month. William Briggs, Toronto, and W. C. Coates, Montreal.

Rev. C. W. Gordon, pastor of St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Winnipeg, leaves on Monday on an extended holiday. He will be absent two or three months on his tour, which will include a canoe trip to James Bay.