

Church News.

ON Monday evening, Dec. 20th, a deputation from Hillsburg congregation waited upon the pastor, Rev. W. C. Armstrong, and presented him with a valuable gold watch.

The anniversary meeting in the First Presbyterian church, Port Hope, (Rev. D. Mitchell, pastor) 21st inst., was a brilliant success. The spacious building was crowded, and numbers turned away unable to gain entrance. After opening exercises by the pastor, the young ladies of the school rendered a concert exercise entitled "The Heavenly City," with complete success. The secretary's report was given by the superintendent of the school, Mr. W. Williamson. It indicates a healthy and prosperous condition of the school. There has been a considerable increase in the average attendance of scholars and teachers. The largest attendance in the history of the school has fallen within the present year. The pastor's bible class during the early months of the year increased in attendance to such an extent, as to make it unmanageable in the church. It has recently been separated and now meets in the Presbyterian Hall, Walton street, at 2.30 every Sunday afternoon. The average attendance of the school during the past year was 156, as compared with 131 in 1885. The teaching staff numbers 21. The number of scholars on the roll is 227. The treasurer's report was read by Mr. James Craik. It shows a balance in his hands of \$54.83 for ordinary purposes; of \$69.19 for missionary schemes, and of \$367.47 for S. S. building. The expenses of the school during the past year amounted to \$144.25—\$60 of which was given toward the payment of a cabinet organ recently purchased for the use of the school. The reading of the treasurer's report was followed by an address by the Rev. H. M. Parsons, of Toronto. His subject was, "The presence and power of the spirit by which S. S. teaching is made effective." He held the overflowing audience of old and young riveted while he unfolded the truth that the letter of scripture is in itself dead—its power lies in the present spirit speaking through it to the hearts and consciences of those who are taught. It is possible to master the letter of the word as a merely intellectual exercise. In that, little is accomplished. It is the privilege of the S. S. teachers to know that the spirit is present to make instruction effective—not merely to lodge it in the head, but in the heart and make it the moulding power of the life. This is the second visit of Mr. Parsons to Port Hope within a few months, and we are sure that any future visit will be greeted with a warm welcome, not only by the Presbyterians of the town but by the whole Christian community. His warm strong words have awakened a response in many hearts. A number of prizes were presented. The collections at the Sabbath service were much in advance of those of any former year. The collection last night amounted to \$31.84, and will be devoted to the organ fund.—Times.

MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERIES.

PICTOU.—Met at New Glasgow, on the 7th inst. A call from the congregation of Prince St., Pictou, addressed to Rev. A. Falconer, was sustained and accepted. Arrangements were made for the induction on the 28th inst. Several matters of not much public interest were attended to and the presbytery adjourned to meet at Pictou on the 28th inst., at 9 o'clock a.m.—E. A. MCCURDY, Clerk.

SAUEREN.—Met in Mount Forest on the 14th December. Mr. Niven read a very carefully prepared statistical report, which was received, and ordered to be printed for distribution. Mr. Baikie was appointed convener of the committee on the state of religion. Mr. Young obtained leave to moderate in a call in Knox Church, Harrison, as soon as the people are prepared. Messrs. Bickell Stewart and Strath, ministers, and Mr. Thompson, elder, were appointed a Foreign Mission Committee. They were instructed to correspond with Dr. Wardrop in regard to the organization of Women's Foreign Missionary Societies in the presbytery. The presbytery unanimously adopted a minute expressing sympathy with the Rev. John Macmillan and family in the affliction with which they have been visited by the death of Mrs. Macmillan. Mr. Baikie, in accordance with notice previously given, moved, which was adopted, that the ordinary meetings of presbytery be held in Palmerston in March, Harrison in July, and Mount Forest in September and December. Mr. Strath gave in the Home Mission report, which was adopted. Mr. Bickell was appointed a member of the Home Mission Committee in place of Dr. Campbell.—S. Young, Clerk.

KINGSTON.—Held its quarterly meeting at Belleville, on the 20th and 21st days of December. Mr. Gallaher was appointed moderator for the ensuing six months. Mr. McAulay, recently settled, obtained leave of absence for three months. From the report of the H. M. Committee it appeared that steps had been taken in the matter of securing supply for vacancies, that Mr. McElroy was laboring in the Poland mission field, and that increased liberality would be required on behalf of the augmentation fund. Mr. Maclean was authorized to prepare a circular on the subject to be read to all the congregations within the bounds, so as to secure (if possible) a larger amount than the sum assessed (\$1,200). Congregations receiving special services by appointment of presbytery will hereafter be expected to pay the travelling expenses incurred. The presbytery is assessed \$24 for synodical purposes. Messrs. O. Bennett, B. A.; J. McKinnon, B. A.; R. Whiteman, B. A.; J. J. Wright, B. A.; D. Fleming, and J. Potter were certified as entrants into the Divinity Hall of Queen's College. The congregation of St. John's Church, Pittsburgh, was restored to the status of a supplemented charge. The rate of assessment on behalf of the presbytery fund for the current year, is 15 cents per family. Mr. McCuaig asked to be released from his charge to accept an appointment from the Assembly's H. M. Committee to go to British Columbia. An adjourned meeting will be held in Chalmers' Church, Kingston, on Tuesday, 4th day of January ensuing, at 3 o'clock p.m., for the purpose (inter alia) of issuing the matter.—THOMAS S. CHAMBERS, Clerk.

QUEBEC.—Met in Sherbrooke on the 14th December. A call from Richmond and Melbourne in favour of the Rev. Jno. MacLeod was submitted. The call was unanimous and accompanied by a guarantee for stipend to the amount of \$900 with manse and glebe, and four weeks' vacation. The call was laid on the table. The Presbytery gave much and serious consideration to the work of French evangelization within the bounds. The Board of French

mission day school in the city of Quebec, and to appoint a bible woman or co-pastor to that field. A committee, consisting of Drs. Weir, Cook, Mathews, and Messrs. Love, Clark, Tanner, Lee, Pritchard, J. G. Ross and J. H. Clint, was appointed to carry on and supervise French mission work within the bounds, said committee to put itself in communication with the Board of French Evangelization. Mr. Charonell gave a report of his work in the French field for the last quarter. The report set forth fully the present condition and prospects of the work; and contained some interesting instances in which Roman Catholics had received copies of the Word of God with blessed results following. The presbytery expressed its gratification with the encouraging report. A committee, consisting of Dr. Mathews, Messrs. MacLeod, C. Charonell and Major McLinn, was appointed to prospect property under the presbytery's care. Mr. Jas. D. Ferguson's induction to Windsor Mills and Lower Windsor was appointed to take place on the 17th, Mr. J. R. MacLeod to preside and induct, Mr. O. Kinnear to preach, Mr. Lee to address the minister, and Mr. J. G. Pritchard the people. Mr. Pritchard reported upon the grants paid for the last half year. Dr. Mathews reported having visited Inverness and Kinnear's Mills in the interests of the augmentation scheme. Provision was made for the visitation of all the augmented congregations within the bounds. An interesting report from Metis was read. The presbytery pressed its gratification with the report and Mr. MacKay's labours there. Mr. Tanner gave notice that he would, at a subsequent meeting, move that application be made to the General Assembly for leave to place Mr. D. Anderson's name upon the presbytery roll. Mr. Johnson was appointed to Kennebec Road district till the end of March. In terms of a recommendation from the synod's committee on Sabbath observance the presbytery agreed to enjoin ministers within the bounds to preach an annual sermon on the perpetual obligation of the Christian Sabbath. The presbytery took into consideration the remit on the marriage question sent down to presbyteries by the last General Assembly and agreed to approve of the same, viz., that "the discipline of the church shall not be exercised in regard to marriage with a deceased wife's sister, deceased wife's aunt or deceased wife's niece."—J. R. MACLEOD, Clerk.

WINNIPEG.—Met in Knox church, Winnipeg November 29th. There were present Revs. D. M. Gordon (convener), Principal King, Dr. Bryce, Prof. Hart, and Messrs. Quinn, Douglas, Laurence, Brydon, McLaren, Piblad, Whimster and Robertson. (Superintendent of Missions) ministers; Hon. Justice Taylor; C. H. Campbell, and R. MacBeth, elders. On motion of Dr. Bryce, Mr. McLaren was authorized to proceed to the election and ordination of elders in Millbrook. Rev. Messrs. Farquharson and Ross being present, were invited to sit as corresponding members. Dr. Bryce reported that he had organized the congregation at Niverville and dispensed the communion there. Rev. Mr. McLaren reported that he dispensed the communion at Clear Spring. He stated further that the people there were anxious to obtain the services of a catechist, and were willing to pay therefor at the rate of \$100 per annum. The Superintendent of Missions reported on his visit to Gretna, as follows: "If at all practicable it is most desirable that a mission school should be secured for Gretna for the future that can speak English and German. There is room for mission work among the Mennonites in the neighbourhood of Gretna. The hamlets on the Mennonite reserve are swarming with children; in many of the villages there are no schools, and where schools do exist the teachers are very inefficient. The young people among the Mennonites are breaking away from the faith and customs of their fathers; and quite a number of Germans of the Lutheran faith are settling among them. For a German speaking missionary of the right kind, there is a good field in the neighbourhood of Gretna. Correspondence has been opened with Dr. Herrick Johnson, Dr. Hitchcock and others, with a view of getting a suitable missionary for the work. The presbytery cordially approved of Mr. Robertson's action and assured him of its hearty co-operation in the matter. The presbytery's home mission committee, in conjunction with the church and manse board, was authorized to take all necessary legal steps, in name and on behalf of the presbytery, for the removal of the church from West Lynne to Gretna. Dr. Bryce's report on his visit to Stonewall, stating that he had succeeded in obtaining subscriptions from Grasmere amounting to \$225, Rockwood \$150, Stonewall \$200, was presented. Dr. King moved, and it was agreed to, that Dr. Bryce's report be received, and he be thanked for his diligence, and that the Presbytery ask the Assembly's Augmentation Committee to increase the grant to this field by \$25 per annum. The Superintendent reported that the executive of the Assembly's home mission committee had declined to pay any sum to wipe out the arrears of Rev. S. Polson. Principal King introduced Mr. Isaac McDonald, a student of Manitoba College, and asked that the presbytery examine him and certify him to the senate of the college as a theological student. The matter was referred to the committee on the examination of students, which, at a later stage, after examination with him, cordially certified him. A petition was presented from the Kildonan congregation requesting that the Rev. W. H. Spence, now in charge of Rat Portage, be placed in charge of Kildonan until the next meeting of the Assembly; and Messrs. Alexander Jaffray and J. H. Gunn were appointed to support said petition. Principal King moved, seconded by Mr. Quinn, that, in view of the fact that Rev. Mr. Spence had been appointed for a term of six months at the special request of the congregation of Rat Portage, the presbytery cannot see its way to remove Mr. Spence until the expiry of his term. Carried. The clerk submitted the report of the presbytery's Home Mission Committee; it was received, and its recommendations were adopted. The superintendent reported that he had secured Rev. James Hamilton and Mr. C. H. Wilson to labour within the bounds of this presbytery. A petition was presented from La Salle asking for moderation in a call to a minister; and also that the name of the congregation be changed to Blythfield. There appeared in support of this petition, Messrs. J. A. McCrae and George Parker who addressed the presbytery, Mr. Piblad then moved and it was seconded and agreed to that the prayer of the petition be granted; that Dr. Bryce be appointed to preach, and moderate in a call at Blythfield, on Monday 27th inst., at 11 a.m. The presbytery also authorized the change of name requested. Rev. James Hamilton was appointed to supply this charge in the meantime; and the presbytery's Home Mission Committee empowered to make

further appointments for him. Prof. Hart submitted and read the following report of the committee appointed to draft a minute expressive of the feelings of the presbytery in regard to the death of Mrs. King:—"The members of the Presbytery of Winnipeg, desire to express their deep sympathy with Principal King, D.D., in the bereavement he had sustained in the death of his beloved wife. Mrs. King's stay in this new land was brief. By those who knew her best, hopes were entertained that she would be able here to resume that life of Christian activity with which she was so closely identified in Toronto; and, during the few months of comparative health that she here enjoyed, her life gave promise of continued devotion to the cause she loved so well. Mainly through her efforts, a branch of the Women's Foreign Mission Society was established in this city; and she was fitly chosen its president. To her fostering hand and wise counsels, much of its vigorous life and good work is due; but the life by which she was here most to glorify the Master whom she loved and served, was to be passed on a bed of sickness; and during the months of confinement to her room, the ripe feelings and beauty of her Christian character shone forth. Her illness was a very trying one; yet no murmur fell from her lips; she endured as seeing him who is invisible; and with confidence and calmness acquiesced in her heavenly Father's will. Her thoughts were but little occupied about herself; they went forth more to others. Her interest in the Master's work in church and college continued unabated to the closing hours of her life. To witness the patience, gentleness and strength that marked her Christian character was a privilege and an inspiration to those around her; it gave a new stimulus to faith in our covenant-keeping God to heal the peace and hope and joy in which she entered upon her rest and reward. May we all be followers of her, as she was of Christ, and may the bereaved husband and his motherless children be supported by the comfort of Him who comforteth us in all our tribulations." Mr. G. R. Lang, missionary in charge of Millbrook last summer, was relieved from further responsibility in regard to an outfit purchased for his use. A circular from the convener and secretary of the Assembly's Augmentation Committee was read, in which it was stated that \$750, was allocated to this presbytery for said fund. It was resolved to divide the above sum among the congregations as last year, and the clerk was instructed to notify each congregation of the amount expected of it. The presbytery instructed its Home Mission Committee to appoint deputations to visit augmented congregations, also to arrange for missionary meetings to be held within the bounds. Hon. Justice Taylor submitted a report from the committee appointed to examine the constitution of the North church, Winnipeg, and laid upon the table of the presbytery the said constitution with certain amendments. The presbytery received the report and resolved to approve of the constitution as thus amended, and to instruct the clerk to certify it and transmit it to the North church. Mr. Whimster tendered his resignation as clerk of the presbytery; the resignation was laid on the table until the next meeting.

OBITUARY.

AFTER an illness of only a few days Mr. Ogo McKenzie, Fisherton, passed away in sweet peace to the rest of the better land, on December 14th, 1886, in the 76th year of his age. Mr. McKenzie was born in Scotland, and came to Canada 30 years ago. After living in Hamilton one year he moved into this township where he has resided since. In early life he gave his heart to God and united with the Presbyterian Church of which he has remained a constant member until the master called him home. Ten years ago he was elected and ordained an elder in Chalmers' church. He took an active interest in the work of the church giving liberally of his time and means for the advancement of the church of God. Every one had confidence in his piety, for he stood spotless and unrebukable before the world. His death was calm and triumphant; he spoke of it as "going home." He leaves an aged partner and family who mourn the loss of an affectionate husband and father. But they mourn not as those who have no hope. On Sabbath the 10th, his pastor the Rev. A. Wilson, delivered a suitable discourse to a large audience addressing many words of comfort to the bereaved from the words of Jesus, "What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter."—COM.

MR. THOMPSON'S CHURCH, VANCOUVER—ITS PROGRESS AND NEEDS.

[To the Editor of the PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW]. Sir,—I am glad to know that my letter from Vancouver after the fire has helped to interest our Church in that far-off spot, and also that many of our congregations have generously given their money to help to rebuild. In a letter written by Mr. Thompson on 18th November he says we still require \$600 or \$700. The church had to be plastered. The wood is so rotten that the gum was dropping from the roof and oozing from the walls, making sad havoc with Sunday clothes; and people refused to come. The cost of labour and material is double what it is in Toronto, and this has added considerably to the expense. Coming back to our Sabbath-keeping city from the scene of Mr. Thompson's labours makes one only more anxious to relieve his mind of all this money anxiety. Think of Christian work in a place of 1500 inhabitants, and fifty saloons, besides several respectable houses. A place where the faint dawn of the Monday morning after the fire saw the first load of "provisions" to starving people come in the shape of a wagon load of liquor. By 8 a.m. of that morning five "saloons" were in full operation while the ground was yet hot, and men were searching for the blackened forms of the dead. These bar-rooms consisted of a plank supported on two barrels with glasses and bottles set on it. Crowds of men were round these places, while chained to a stump (the only prison to be had) were eight victims of the poisonous stuff. A more Godless land than British Columbia can scarcely be imagined. Shops and saloons open on Sunday, while the "respectable" portion indulge in picnics, boating, and parties. Indeed, building and clearing land goes on all Sunday in Vancouver, and this is done even by men who have been members of Toronto Presbyterian churches. The church there will very soon be self-supporting, but the whole burden of debt and building has been incurred personally by Mr. Thompson. At this time, when our city churches and Sunday schools are portioning out their money, I would most earnestly ask them to remember Vancouver. I would also be very much pleased if any Sunday school or individuals having books to spare would be kind enough to send them to 3 Ross street, Toronto, as I will have an opportunity of sending them by a friend in January, and as a help to start their S.S. library. The Methodists have sent a large present of books to their Sunday school in Vancouver, and I see no reason why we could not do the same for ours. Hoping this will help our good minister a little more, I remain, yours etc., ISABELLA ALEXANDER. TORONTO, December 11th, 1886.

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