

Ministers and Churches.

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

A patriotic service in a Presbyterian church on a Sabbath evening, and with the church decorated and draped for the occasion was so unusual a thing that many good Presbyterians left their own pews and filed into St. Andrews last Sabbath evening. There was an attempt to satisfy the Presbyterian conscience an observer would say, by having the special service, and it was quite an hour in length, and then going on with the usual service. Has the lecture on "Ruth" not been exceptionally interesting? The preacher would have learned by many infallible signs that he was keeping the people there an unconscionably long time for a Sabbath evening service.

There was a patriotic service also at the cathedral and at All Saints, but that was somehow expected. The one was the representative Anglican Church of the city, and the rector of the other was a military enthusiast. For the rest, the preachers contented themselves with references to it, often a merely illustrated reference.

It is wise to ignore so completely, so strong a popular sentiment as that of that memorable Thursday? There is a cheap kind of notoriety gained by flying in the face of the public feeling, quite as cheap in its quality as the popularity gained by floating back and forth on the crest of the popular wave. Some are already decrying militarism and bidding the people beware of an idol that may become most cruel. The very excess of the present public sentiment is the best corrective. Already there are some who have grown tired of military display and ere our soldier lads have fairly settled into their accustomed places after their return the pendulum will have swung to the other extreme. Let us hope that the enthusiasm may keep up till the men who have represented Canada so well shall have been welcomed home again.

Many would have been glad to say—God Speed—to Wm. Patterson on Friday evening of last week but, remembering the pain it gave him they sent up the prayer for him and did not come. It was the most kindly of many kindly acts. In his over wrought condition it was well that the leave taking was quiet, and even commonplace. He will be back again, the ties in Toronto are too strong to snap at once, and some of them will speedily bear him to us again if only for a brief visit.

We passed by Knox College the other day and wondered how long the fence that has been for some years tottering to its fall could hold itself upright. It was fortunate that there were no bonfires in the vicinity on Wednesday or Thursday nights. The temptation to the small boy would be irresistible. Surely this could be replaced not by an elaborate iron fence, such as often shut in the academic lawn, but by a simple iron tube running round the plot. It may be that the temptation to the several hundred of small humanity in the near vicinity would be too great were there no semblance of a fence around the College grounds.

Rev. Jas. Watt of Laskey, was released from his charge of Laskey and West King on Tuesday. In this year of rearranging there is room for some change where Mr. Watt has been working, and working well for some years.

The majority of the men into whose hands Principal Caven put diplomas in April last, have been or are about to be settled. Some six of them were licensed by the Presbytery on Tuesday last, and some of these will soon be in settled charge.

Changes are rapid nowadays. On Monday next the Presbytery will at an adjourned meeting consider a call to Rev. Robt. Martin of Markham to Enskine Church, Hamilton. Mr. Martin will probably accept and will be an excellent successor to the Rev. J. C. Shearer. He is a man of kindred spirit. But one wonders who shall be the next to break ranks.

OTTAWA.

In Bethany church, Rev. Robt. Eadie conducted both services last Sunday. Communion will be dispensed on Sunday, June 17.

There was a large attendance at the Communion Service in Bank Street Church, last Sabbath morning. The same remark applies to a similar service in Knox Church.

The Sunday School Singing class of Knox church, will give an evening of song next Friday under the direction of their instructor, Mr. J. Edgar Birch. A silver collection will be taken up to buy music for the class.

Rev. A. B. Winchester, of Victoria, B. C., will occupy the pulpit of Knox Church next Sabbath morning. Mr. Winchester has been a successful worker among the Chinese of the Pacific coast for several years; and is a preacher of more than ordinary power.

Rev. Dr. Campbell preached last Sabbath morning in the Concession Street Mission Hall on Christ's agony in the garden, taking his text from Luke 22:39-46. He said that nothing could account for this mysterious agony, but the old-fashioned doctrine of substitution. The Saviour was suffering for the sins of the world.

A situation in the present war furnished an excellent illustration in yesterday morning's sermon by Rev. Mr. Ramsay, of Knox. He spoke of the supreme effort that is made by the British to keep their line of communication open with the base of supplies. If we would fight the good fight of faith successfully, he said, we must put on the whole armour of God, and ever keep open the communication with Jesus Christ, who supplies our spiritual need.

History is being made every day in South Africa, remarked Dr. Herridge in St. Andrew's, last Sabbath, and we should be proud Canadians that out own soldiers are taking such a prominent part in history. The heroic defence of Mafeking and the bloodless march of Lord Roberts almost to the gates of Pretoria will live in history and among the great deeds of the British army. There will arise from the war a new Imperialism that will make its influence world-wide.

Rev. Mr. Milne, of the Glebe Church, on Sabbath morning, preached on the anointing of Jesus by Mary. He said that a great many people of the present day, joined with those of that time, who looked upon the act as one of extravagance. We must recollect, he said, that it was her way of expressing her love, and that this more than counterbalanced extravagance in the purchase of the ointment. He thought that we should be slower to judge others by our own standard, and to accuse them of poor judgement if they did not do things just as we would do them ourselves.

Rev. Dr. Armstrong, in St. Paul's, referred to the near ending of the conflict in South Africa, and said: The war has taught not a few wholesome lessons both to Britain and to Boer. War is a terrible judgement, and the development of militarism is a national evil, but there are also beneficent results. We rejoice to feel ourselves nearer to the heart of the empire and to feel stronger than ever the mighty heart throb of Empire. Moreover, this war will tend to bring in the universal peace we sigh for. Africa will become a missionary centre. Christian missions alone can bring in the fulfilment of the prophecy of earth-wide peace.

WINNIPEG AND WEST

Rev. Dr. Bryce has returned from Emerson, where he presented the claims of the Century Fund, and succeeded in getting \$1,100.

Rev. S. W. Thomson, B.A., of Qu'Appelle, preached morning and evening in Augustine Church, Winnipeg, last Sunday.

Rev. Robt. Knowles, of Toronto, is visiting his son, Rev. R. E. Knowles in Galt.

EASTERN ONTARIO.

The collections of the Everett Church Anniversary Services amounted to \$96.

Prof. Scrimger of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, preached in the Brick Church, St. Elmo, Sunday evening.

Rev. W. S. Smith, of Middleville, filled the pulpits for Rev. J. A. Leitch of Watson's Corners on a recent Sunday.

Rev. Alex. McAuley of Pickering, formerly of Woodville, has received and accepted a call to Mitchell, Ontario.

Communion was dispensed in Knox Church, Cornwall, on Sunday, June 3. Rev. W. D. Reid, B.D., of Montreal, preached. Preparatory service was conducted by J. U. Tanner, of Lancaster.

The annual picnic of Knox, Ottawa Sunday school will be held at Gilmour's grove, near Chelsea, on Saturday June 10th. All who are privileged to attend, are sure of an afternoon of unmixed enjoyment.

Rev. Colin Campbell, of Rossland, B. C., occupied the pulpit of St. Paul's Church, last Sabbath evening, preaching a thoroughly evangelical sermon from the text, 1st Peter, 2 and 7: "Unto you therefore that believe, He is precious."

Rev. J. McLaren, of Ottawa, who has charge of the Presbyterian Mission at Plantagenet, has filled the pulpit for the last two Sabbaths. On Friday evening he gave a very interesting talk on Music—principally the music of the hymns of the Presbyterian Book of Praise.

The building committee of the Presbyterian Church, Vankleet Hill, have had the plans of the church altered somewhat. The church when completed will have a much higher tower than was at first intended. This will not mean much of an increased cost.

Rev. Mr. Bennett of Almonte preached in the Presbyterian Church, Bradford, last Sabbath evening to a good congregation. He gave an excellent discourse from the words "For all things are yours; and ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's." Rev. Mr. Bennett remained in town over Monday, visited a few families in the congregation and attended the Endeavor meeting in the evening.

The Perth Courier says: Rev. W. J. McDonald, who not many years ago, officiated as temporary pastor of Calvin Church, Bathurst, has been appointed minister of the First Presbyterian Church, Hyde Park, Massachusetts, at a salary of \$2,500 a year. The reverend gentlemen is a son of the late Mr. W. J. McDonald, P. L. S., Annapolis and grandson of the late Mr. Duncan McDonald, of this town.

The Presbyterian S. S., Greenbank, preserved its reputation for successful anniversaries on Thursday last. A large crowd partook of tea served in the basement. The concert was listened to by a full house and consisted of short addresses by Rev. Mr. Macfarlane of Port Perry, J. A. Miller and Geo. Miller, solos by Miss Carrie Scenes and J. Balfour of Prince Albert, recitations by Miss T. Scenes and anthems by St. John's Presbyterian choir of Port Perry. The patriotic sentiment largely predominated. The proceeds of tea and social were about \$90.

The anniversary services in connection with the Presbyterian church, Prescott, were held on Sunday last, when Rev. Robt. Laird, M.A., of the First Presbyterian church, Brockville, preached two very eloquent sermons. The evening sermon was of a patriotic nature and was much appreciated by a very large congregation, the beautiful church being crowded to the doors. The musical services were very fine. On Monday evening the anniversary services were continued, when the Rev. D. Strachan, of St. John's church, Brockville, lectured on a tour through Italy. The able lecturer held the attention of his hearers throughout the whole of the lecture. A social was also given by the ladies of the church and after the lecture refreshments were served in the dining-room of the church.