

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.

At the quarterly communion in Eskine church, last Sunday, forty-one new members were received, three of whom were also baptized. Every department of the work in this church shows signs of prosperity. The Christian Endeavor Society is active, the Sunday School is growing, the membership is increasing and the session is asking for the election of seven new elders.

On Thursday evening last the quarterly meeting of the Local Christian Endeavor Union was held in Eskine church and they had the treat of an excellent address from Dr. F. E. Clark, the founder of the Society. As might be expected the meeting was a large one and the occasion one of much spiritual power and profit.

A few evenings ago the choir of the Taylor church assisted by a number of well known soloists of the city gave an excellent rendering of the cantata of "Ruth" in aid of the choir fund. This cantata is composed by Dean Carmichael, rector of St. George's church and Mr. T. Halsey, organist of the same church. There was a good attendance and all were delighted with the evening's entertainment.

The congregation of St. Andrew's church, Huntingdon, and the community generally has suffered a severe loss by the death of the late Dr. Allen Cameron. Dr. Cameron represented the County for several terms in the Local Legislature and for a number of years past has been a member of the Council of Public Instruction. The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. T. H. Hutchison and the Rev. Dr. Muir. The procession was the largest ever seen in the district though the roads were in a most unfavourable condition, showing the high respect in which he was held, both for his private virtues and his public services.

The Rev. John Matheson, for the past eighteen years pastor of Burn's church, Martintown, in the Presbytery of Glengarry, has resigned his charge mainly for personal reasons. As an expression of the feeling of the members of his congregation towards him they have presented him, before leaving, with a complimentary address couched in the warmest terms and accompanied it by a purse of over a hundred dollars. This is the only charge Mr. Matheson has ever served and he retires from it holding the respect and affection of his people in the highest degree.

GENERAL.

Burntown Presbyterians have presented their pastor, Rev. Mr. Graham with a fur overcoat.

The Whitby Presbyterial of the W.F.M.S., will hold their anniversary at Picketing Jan. 15th.

The Presbytery of Toronto has nominated the Rev. James Carmichael, D.D., of St. Andrew's, King, as Moderator of the next General Assembly.

Morningside congregation was separated from the charge of Fern Ave. and Morningside, on Tuesday last, and placed under the care of the Home Mission Committee.

The congregation of the Oshawa Presbyterian Church has extended a unanimous call to Rev. James B. Hodges, B.A., of Tilbury. The stipend offered is \$1,100 per annum.

The annual "At Home" of the Literary and Theological Society of Knox College Toronto was held on Friday evening. About eight hundred guests were present and the affair was a great success.

Permission has been given St. Paul's congregation, Toronto, to remove their church building from its present site from the corner of Bathurst St. and Barton Ave., and to mortgage the new church property to the amount of \$25,000.

Rev. Neil Currie was inducted into the pastoral charge of East Lake, Ainslie, in the Presbytery of Inverness, N.S., on the 16th ult. The congregation of Middle River is still vacant and looking for an acceptable

preacher in English and Gaelic. The mission station of Baddeck Forks is a similar field, but not able to support a minister without considerable help from the Augmentation Fund. Both fields are supplied at present by Rev. M. A. McKenzie, lately of Grand River, C.B., which is also vacant.

The resignation of Rev. R. C. Tibb was accepted by the Toronto Presbytery, and Rev. Wm. Meikle will declare the pulpit of Fern Ave. vacant on the first Sabbath of the new year. Rev. A. MacGillivray is interim Moderator of Session.

Chalmers' Church, Toronto, was crowded at both services last Sabbath. Rev. Mr. MacClements chose as his subject for the morning sermon "The Burning Bush," and for the evening "Christ wounded in the house of His Friends."

At the communion services recently held by Mr. Crozier at Grand Valley and South Luther thirty four were received into church fellowship, viz.,—six at Grand Valley and twenty eight at South Luther. All but two of these were received on profession of faith.

On Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 24th, Rev. Mr. Strange was ordained and inducted into the pastoral charge of Virden congregation. Rev. Mr. Mason, Douglas, presided, Rev. Mr. McLean, Oak Lake, addressed the congregation and Rev. Mr. Ferry, Chater, addressed the minister.

After hearing the representations of the Commissioners from St. Andrew's and St. Paul's, Vaughan, the Presbytery of Toronto unanimously decided not to release Rev. Chas. A. Campbell from that charge. The congregations made very strong representations of loyalty and affection.

At the last meeting of the Toronto Presbytery the recommendation of a Committee, that the Presbytery simply note the reception of the document purporting to be the final decision of the Synodical Commission in the matter of the Cowan Ave. church site, but take no action upon it meantime, was adopted.

St. James' church, Stouffville, and Melville church, Markham, united in a very unanimous call to Mr. J. C. Wilson, B.A., licentiate, who has been supplying the pulpit for some months. Mr. Wilson, however, declined the call, and leave was given the congregation to again seek moderation when they are prepared to go forward.

On Sabbath, Dec. 5th the Presbyterian Church at Union Point, Man., was reopened, Rev. Dr. Bryce of Winnipeg conducting the services. During the last few months the church has been rebuilt, the total cost of the work having been contributed by the people of the settlement and the congregation hope shortly to have a settled pastor.

The anniversary services held at Rothsay on Sunday and Monday Dec. 5th and 6th were very successful. Rev. J. M. Aull of Palmerston preached on Sunday to large audiences. On Monday evening a social was held when a good programme was presented. The proceeds amounting to over one hundred dollars, will go towards paying off the church debt.

On Thursday, Dec. 2nd, Rev. J. Matheson who has resigned the charge of Martintown and Williamstown after eighteen years of faithful service, was presented with an address and a purse containing \$105 by the members of the Martintown congregation and on the following Tuesday evening the Williamstown congregation also presented a well filled purse as a token of their esteem.

Appointments of Rev. D. MacGillivray B. A., of Homan during the month of January 1898, in the Presbytery of Huron:—Jan. 2nd, Thames Road and Kirkton; Jan. 3rd, Hensal; Jan. 4th, Chieflhurst; Jan. 5th, Rippen; Jan. 6th, Hills Green; Jan. 7th, Bayfield Road and Blake; Jan. 8th, Bayfield and Bethany; Jan. 10th, Edmondville; Jan. 11th, Duff's Church, etc.; Killop; Jan. 12th, Talvin Church, Winthrop; Jan. 13th, Clinton; Jan. 14th, Lonsdale and Hull-itt; Jan. 16th, Knox Church, Goderich; Jan. 18th, W.F.M.S. Presbytery and Goderich; Jan. 19th, Smith Hill and Manchester; Jan. 20th, Mitchell.

Rev. Wm. Scott died at his residence Charlottetown, P.E.I., after a brief illness on Saturday, Dec. 4th, aged 73 years. Deceased was a native of Ireland and was

educated in the Belfast Presbyterian College. In 1853, Mr. Scott was ordained minister of St. Eustache, near Montreal where he remained for some years, going from there to St. Sylvester, Que. His subsequent pastorates were Bay Chaleur, N.B., Bedeque and St. Peter's Road, P.E.I. Failing health compelled him to relinquish active service eight years ago, and since that time he has resided in Charlottetown. He leaves one son and two daughters.

SARNIA PRESBYTERY.

This Presbytery held the quarterly meeting in Strathroy on Tuesday, 7th Dec., at 9 a.m., Mr. Livingston, Moderator, in the chair. The minutes were read and sustained.

A communication was read from the Agent of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, asking the Presbytery's co-operation to advance its interests. It was agreed on motion of Dr. Thompson to present the claims of the Fund to the various congregations along with the other schemes of the church.

An interesting circular from Mr. Robertson, Supt. of the Missions in the Northwest, was read stating the increasing claims and the present duties of the Home Mission Committee and urging the Presbytery to largely increase financially the operations during the present year. The Presbytery agreed on motion of Mr. Haddow, seconded by Mr. Jordan that the members of the Presbytery be instructed to urge upon their congregations the pressing claims of this Fund.

A communication was read from the Presbytery of Kamloops intimating that the Presbytery, acting upon his own confession, has suspended the Rev. Peter Scott from exercising the offices of the Christian ministry or any parts thereof until such time as the Presbytery deems it wise to remove the suspension.

The Presbytery then took up consideration of Mr. Cuthbertson's resignation of his charge of Wyoming and Plympton laid on the table at last ordinary meeting. Resolutions were read:

From the Wyoming congregation passed at a congregational meeting held Nov. 25th, 1897; and from the Plympton congregation, South Plympton, passed Nov. 25th, 1897.

The following delegates presented themselves; Mr. John Dewar, representing the session of Plympton and Mr. James McEwen the congregation of Plympton, and Mr. Robt. Rae, the congregation and session of Wyoming. These were heard in reference to the resignation and expressed their esteem for Mr. Cuthbertson.

The following motion was submitted by Dr. Thompson and ordered to be entered on the records:

"In receiving the resignation of the Rev. Geo. Cuthbertson, so long a minister of this church and a member of this court, this Presbytery desires to put on record its sense of his high personal character as a Christian minister, his long and able services rendered so ungrudgingly to the church whose interests he had deeply at heart. In addition to his pastoral labors he has acted as Clerk of Presbytery for thirty-four years, first in the undivided London Presbytery and afterwards in the Presbytery of Sarnia since its foundation. These duties he has discharged with fidelity and to the full satisfaction of all his brethren. We regret that now the weight of years and consideration of physical health render his retirement from active work a necessity. We, his brethren in the work of the Lord, gladly bear witness to his fidelity and zeal, his ability as a preacher of the Word, the appreciation in which his pastoral labors have been held by the people among whom he ministered, the value of his counsel in all our church courts and more especially in our own Presbytery. His geniality of manner and loving disposition have helped his brethren through the tedium of many a weary hour. During all these years he has maintained the most intimate and kindly relations to all his brethren, who now deeply regret the necessity of his removal from among them. They thank the head of the church for all his works of faith and labors of love and pray that his remaining days may be passed in the happy serenity of the evening, full of years and of honor, and