

Ministers and Churches.

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

Dr. Talmage was the Sunday attraction in Toronto this week. He preached in the Metropolitan Church on Sabbath afternoon, and drew as large a crowd as the most popular theatre on its most popular night. Somehow the crowd left the impression upon us that they came for the same purpose that drew them to the theatre—they wished an hour's entertainment. And we believe they were not disappointed.

There was a counter attraction at Massey Hall the same afternoon. The Gospel Temperance people had, with consid- rable trouble, we were assured, secured the services of Mr. Watkin Mills, and a noted orator for the occasion. Here also, the great auditorium was packed, and the audience were delighted with the singing of the great English baritone. We hope there were some better results than the pleasing of the audience. Those who are engaged in this work are thoroughly in earnest. They do not go about their work according to our ideas, but that does not invalidate their method. And they are doing good.

Services are being conducted in Cook's Church this week by the pastor, assisted by the Rev. Willard F. Chapman, D.D. The object of these services is the old one of reaching the careless and the godless. There will be afternoon and evening meetings, and it is expected that the latter, especially, will be well attended. There has been no attempt to "boom" these meetings, and they will be all the more permanently effective on that account.

Sabbath School pupils are hard at work preparing for the annual Christmas entertainment. Would it not be possible to connect the annual Christmas gathering in our Toronto Sabbath Schools with one of our most deserving Charities—the Sick Children's Hospital? Why should not the money that parents gladly pay to hear their children sing and recite, go to maintain several cots in that institution for the next year? We believe the children of the City would fall in with the scheme heartily if it were proposed to make it apply to all Sabbath Schools. It would give a new meaning to Christmas, a more correct meaning we venture to suggest, than is at present entertained, through no fault of the children.

The Presbytery of Toronto has tackled the matter of a satisfactory method of supplying vacant charges on its own account. It has devised a simple scheme for caring for the vacant charges within its own bounds by the appointment of a Standing Committee that shall act for the Presbytery as soon as a charge becomes vacant. To this Committee all applications for a hearing shall be made, and by it all appointments shall be made, or ratified, and full reports of all who have given supply shall be made at each stated meeting of the Presbytery. This is the first step towards a satisfactory solution of this vexed question. Let each Presbytery undertake the supply of the vacancies within its bounds, thus regaining control of this important function, and by the time the new century is well under way, the best in each of these Presbyterian schemes may be crystallized into an Assembly Scheme.

The Rev. R. Pogue, of Stayner, who is under call to the congregation at Hespeler, preached, with much acceptance, in Central Presbyterian Church last Sabbath. Mr. Pogue is thoroughly evangelistic in his preaching, and has developed a somewhat vigorous manner. He has done excellent work in his present charge, partly by his vigorous handling of the possibilities within the congregation. When they thought of calling in outside assistance he sturdily declined to have any part in it, and the people followed his call, and amazed themselves by the amount of work they accomplished. It would be a good idea to itinerate a few of such men. There are about a hundred more congregations that need to learn just what it is possible for them to do by their own unaided effort.

The Rev. Alex. Gilray will shortly conclude a quarter of a century of service in his present charge. It is an admirable record, and will be very quietly, but fittingly recognized. The Presbytery has appointed its Moderator and its oldest member, that is, oldest in service given within the Presbytery, to represent it on the occasion. The actual date of the completed period is, we believe, the fifth day of January next.

Rev. Dr. Talmage delivered a short address at the meeting of the Toronto Ministerial Association this week.

The choir of St. Enoch's Church are to give a sacred concert on Friday evening in aid of the organ fund of the Church.

Rev. Dr. McTavish will, on Thursday evening,

address the Y.P.S.C.E. of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, East Toronto.

The Presbyterian Mission executive met Tuesday afternoon and discussed the advisability of organizing a relief fund for the famine sufferers in India. A committee was appointed to further the project.

Rev. Alex. McMillan, of St. Enoch's Church, gave a lecture entitled "The Scottish Highlands in the Literature of Sir Walter Scott" in the school room of Old St. Andrew's Church on Tuesday evening for the benefit of the Young Women's Mission Band.

A committee of the board and senate of Knox College met on Dec. 7 to discuss the subject of the establishment of a new chair, that of apologetics, in the college. It was agreed that the chair should be established as soon as the funds of the institution permit, which, it is expected, will be by next June, and a sub-committee was struck to consider the question of a suitable nominee for the position.

EASTERN ONTARIO.

Rev. Alex. Rainnie, of Roslin, has declined the call to the church at Bishop's Mills.

Rev. J. D. Morrison of Billing's Bridge has received a call from the congregation at Bristol.

Rev. Robert Eadie, of Hintonburg, exchanged pulpits with Rev. J. Bryant, of Richmond, last Sabbath.

Rev. A. A. Scott, of Carleton Place, has been speaking on "Some favorite hymns and their origin."

On Dec. 17 Rev. W. H. Milne, of Glebe Presbyterian church, will preach the anniversary services in South Mountain church.

The pulpit of Bethany Presbyterian Church, Hintonburg, was occupied last Sabbath by Rev. Jas. Bryant of Richmond.

Rev. Wm. Patterson, of Cook's Church, Toronto, delivered a lecture in Brockville on Dec. 1, under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid of St. John's Church.

Rev. Principal MacVicar of Montreal Presbyterian College is to preach the anniversary sermons in St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Ottawa, next Sabbath.

Rev. A. S. Grant preached in St. Andrew's Church, Carleton Place, last Sunday morning, and in Zion Church in the evening. He also lectured on the Klondike in the former church on Friday evening.

A new church at Hopston was recently opened by Rev. D. J. MacLean, M.A., of Amory, who, twenty years ago, while in charge of Middleville, preached in the old church.

Arrangements have been made for the induction of Rev. Chas. H. Daly, of Old Springs, as pastor of the congregations of Lyn, Mallorytown and Caintown. It will take place on Thursday, Jan. 4, at 2 o'clock.

Rev. Jas. Rollins, of Elmvale, conducted services on Sabbath in the several churches constituting the Bradford Presbyterian charge, and presented the Century Fund movement to the consideration of the congregations.

The Thanksgiving service of the W. F. M. S. was held on the evening of Dec. 7 in the Morewood church. Mrs. David Craig, missionary from Casselman, gave an inspiring address. The offering amounted to \$32.76.

At the last meeting of Brockville Presbytery, the resignation of Rev. Duncan McEachron, of North Williamsburg was accepted. Mr. McEachron has decided to accept an appointment to the Home Mission field in Algoma.

On the evening of Dec. 8 an enjoyable entertainment was given in the First Presbyterian church, Brockville, under the auspices of the Young Ladies' Mission Band. Rev. Robert Laird delivered an address on "Mohammedanism."

Dec. 17 Rev. D. Currie, of Perth, will preach the annual Missionary sermons in the Presbyterian churches of Middleville and Darling. On the following evening he will deliver his famous lecture on "A Trip Through Britain," at a social to be held in the new town hall.

The annual thank-offering meeting of the Mission Band of St. John's Church, Almonte, was held December 6. A most interesting address was given by Rev. A. S. Grant, on his work in Dawson City during the past two years, for which work the Mission Band had contributed the sum of \$53. The thankoffering amounted to \$41.70.

The convention held on Monday afternoon and evening in the Presbyterian Church, Nanawee, was very helpful and profitable. Rev. M. W. MacLean,

M. A., Moderator of Presbytery, occupied the chair, and addresses were given by Rev. T. J. Thompson, Rev. D. G. MacLellan, and others. It was essentially a convention to discuss the work of young people, and it was considered a great success.

The Lanark Church will be re-opened on Sunday next, with Rev. Prof. Ross of Montreal College, as the preacher of the day. During the past few months the building has been completely renovated new heating, flooring, seating, lighting and a gallery placed across the end. With the addition of the stained glass windows, which are in excellent taste, the church is one of the most complete and comfortable to be found in the province. Rev. D. M. Buchanan is to be congratulated upon the success of his work and the loyalty and liberality of his congregation in the matter of these improvements, which have involved an outlay of upwards of \$2,800. About \$1,500 of this amount is already in hand.

WESTERN ONTARIO.

Rev. B. B. Williams, of Guelph, occupied the pulpit of Knox Church, Elora, last Sabbath.

Rev. O. S. Nixon, of Cheltenham, has received a unanimous call to the Presbyterian Church, Ayr.

Rev. Dr. McKay, of Woodstock, and Rev. Dr. Dickson, of Galt, exchanged pulpits last Sunday.

Rev. R. Burton conducted services in the basement of St. Andrew's Church, Strathroy, last Sunday.

Twenty three new members joined Wentworth Church, Hamilton, at the communion held last Sabbath.

Rev. A. S. Grant is to preach next Sabbath in St. Andrew's Church, Amory, in the interests of the Century Fund.

Rev. Mr. Wilkie, of India, preached in Zion Church, Brantford, last Sunday evening. On Monday afternoon he addressed the members of the Ladies' Auxiliary.

The anniversary services of the Aylmer Presbyterian Church were held last Sabbath, when Rev. J. B. McLaren, the former pastor, preached. On Monday evening Mr. McLaren gave a lecture on "Spiders."

Rev. David Y. Ross, M.A., of St. George, is now preaching a series of sermons on Old Testament subjects of an historical and prophetic character. Having made a special study of information obtained from recent oriental discoveries that bear with historical statements of the Bible, Mr. Ross is well qualified to make this series of discourses both useful and interesting to his people.

NORTHERN ONTARIO.

Rev. D. C. Hossack, of Toronto, preached anniversary services in Collingwood Presbyterian Church on Dec. 10th.

Mrs. Scott-Raff gave a successful recital in the Church at Kemble on Nov. 24th. This congregation has advertised for tenders for the erection of their Church.

Mr. Geo. McKenzie, retiring organist of the Presbyterian Church, Kemble, was recently presented by the congregation with a beautiful piece of furniture as a token of their appreciation of his services.

Rev. K. J. McDonald, Knox Church, Beaverton, preached in Eldon on Sabbath Dec. 10, declaring the pulpit of that congregation vacant. His own pulpit was filled by Mr. Archibald Currie, student, who preached two good sermons.

Quarterly communion services were held at Flesherton and Eugenia on Sabbath last. Rev. Jas. Ward, a Methodist minister, preached at the preparatory service in Flesherton on Friday, when a little girl eight years of age, close in her experience and personal knowledge of the Saviour was received as one of the Lord's lambs into the fold.

The Ladies' Aid Society of Chalmers Church, Flesherton, held their last regular meeting for 1899 in the Manse on Dec. 6, when, at the close of general business, officers were elected for the ensuing year as follows: President, Mrs. James Dyce; Vice-Pres., Mrs. A. S. VanDusen. The Society has had a prosperous year; has now a membership of thirty-six and looks hopefully forward to reaching the half hundred mark in the coming year.

On the afternoon of Dec. 5 Erskine Church, Dundalk, was filled with an interested congregation assembled to witness the induction of Rev. Jas. Buchanan to the pastorate of Dundalk and Ventry Churches. Rev. J. A. Matheson, of Pricville, presided and the sermon was preached by Rev. Mr. Anderson of Shelburne. The usual questions having