

## Ministers and Churches.

### OUR TORONTO LETTER.

Fifteen years ago on Sabbath next the Rev. John Neil preached his first sermon as minister of the old Charles Street, now Westminster, Church. It must be a pleasure for ministers and for people to look back over those years. They form a decade and a half of steady progress, not only in membership and in material progress, but in real spiritual strength. In the fine new church building on floor street the congregation has already taken its place among the foremost of the city congregations in aggressive Christian work. Nowhere is the gospel preached with greater simplicity and directness, and the result is seen in an active Christian spirit pervading every department of the work there. Pastor and people are at one, more closely knit than ever in loving and earnest service.

The Sabbath evening service is scarcely a problem in Toronto yet, though in some congregations there is a little uneasiness over the meagre attendance, of the membership of the church. When Rev. Geo. Cuthbertson, in a paper read before the Ministerial Association on Monday last, proposed to abolish the Sabbath evening service, there was a general protest. Some took very strong ground in support of the regular evening service. It should not be a service for sinners as distinguished from a morning service for saints, the terms being, of course, used in their limited sense. Some would make the evening service quite as didactic, though not as formal, as the morning service. We presume the kind of service would change somewhat, according to the class attending service.

The minister of St. Ench's, Rev. Alex. MacMillan, is much in demand as a popular lecturer. Few can better present the inner life of the Scottish Presbyterian, or make one feel the strength of the Scottish religious character. As one listens, the angularities that are so evident to the casual eye, are rounded off and one sees something of the beauty of the lives of those stern, silent men. This season Mr. MacMillan is turning his attention to an interpretation of the characters portrayed by Sir Walter Scott.

Dr. Milligan has long been known as a lecturer, and still holds his place at the head. Oakville people heard him with pleasure on Monday evening last, when the Literary Society of that town held one of its open meetings.

The Rev. Armstrong Black is steadily gaining the strong affection of his people, and the esteem of the community. Many of the old St. Andrew's people are going back to the church, for they love its associations. Forty five have been added to the roll since the new minister came, and almost all have come from their congregations. Some have come back to their old church home. We shall soon have the St. Andrew's of old, giving as liberally to causes outside their own congregation as they give to themselves "dollar for dollar," as D. J. Macdonnell used to urge.

Rev. Dr. McTavish has been temporarily laid aside with la grippe. He does not know what it is to spare himself, and should his hands be full to overflowing with earnest work, he could not refuse the appeal of a brother minister to come over and help him. Such men are rare, and are too often the victims of their own kind heart.

Forecasts are already being made of the financial statements for the year. "We are clear at both places, and do not need to appeal for a dollar!" was the cheering comment by the minister of Eglington and Bethesda. And Mr. Tibb has been doing double duty, carrying on the correspondence department of the Provincial Sabbath School Association, as well as attending to his pastoral duties. Now that a permanent appointment is to be made, he will be able to devote his full time to the work of his pastorate again.

The minister of Queen Street East, Rev. W. Frizzell, was able to resume his duties on Sabbath last, after being laid aside for a few days by an unfortunate accident.

Many who heard the Mayor of Toledo at Bond Street Church last Sabbath, received quite as much gospel as they are accustomed to hear in the prelections from that pulpit. He varied the general theme somewhat by a brief interlude on "How I became Mayor of Toledo" that was interesting, and the crowd showed their interest by hearty applause. After the service the Mayor (of Toledo) held a reception, and, among others, ex-Mayor Clarke was presented.

We felt like protesting against a Sunday show held in the Armories on a previous Sabbath, when an admission fee of ten cents was charged, and, to save prosecution, a minister was secured to conduct an apology of a service. Afterwards the officers of

the regiments held a reception, and in the morning papers of the next day the dresses the ladies wore on the occasion were fully described. But who break the Sabbath more flagrantly than some of our Christian congregations? The flavor of Christianity is a little stronger—that is all. The reality is as far away in the one case as the other. We would as soon attend a Sunday reception as a Sunday concert, and would rather see a military officer in the chair than a Christian Minister.

Knox College At Home on Tuesday evening was a great success. About 700 guests were present and the sedate appearance of the interior was transformed into one of brilliance. Corridors, staircases and halls were draped in bunting, and distributed here and there were huge palms and other potted plants. The guests on arrival were received in the library by the patronesses, Miss Mowat, Mrs. W. Mortimer Clark, Mrs. J. K. Macdonald, Mrs. Caven, Mrs. MacLaren, Mrs. Ballantyne and Mrs. McFadyen. The evening was spent in promenading through the corridors or in listening to the numbers in the excellent concert programme. Two concerts were given in the convocation hall, the accommodation being too limited to provide seats for all the guests at the same time.

### WESTERN ONTARIO.

Rev. R. Pogue, of Stayner, has accepted the call to Hespeler and will be inducted Jan. 4.

Rev. W. K. McIntosh of Allandale has accepted the call to Elora and will be inducted on Jan. 3.

Knox Church, Galt, recently elected several new elders. There are now twenty-nine elders on the session.

At the last meeting of Barrie Presbytery the resignation of Rev. F. Smith, of Bradford, was accepted.

Rev. Dr. Waits, of Owen Sound, and Rev. E. A. MacKenzie, of Chesley, exchanged pulpits last Sabbath.

The congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Glenora, have extended a unanimous call to Rev. Jas. Wilson of Niagara Falls.

Last Sabbath evening Rev. J. G. Shucart, of Erskine Church, Hamilton, preached a special sermon on the Lord's Day Alliance work.

Rev. Alex. Leslie, of Wales, pressed his resignation for the fourth time, at the last meeting of the Paris Presbytery. The resignation was accepted.

Rev. W. J. Clark, of First Presbyterian Church, London, announced to his congregation that their voluntary offering to the Century Fund was over \$6,000.

Rev. Jas. Rollins, of Elmvalle, met with a large measure of success in his visits in the interest of the Century Fund to the congregations under the pastorate of Rev. F. Smith, of Bradford.

Rev. Mr. Scott, of St. Andrew's Church, Bradford, gave an interesting lecture on "Palestine," in the First Presbyterian Church on Dec. 14. The lecture was under the auspices of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.

Last Sabbath Rev. R. P. McKay, Foreign Mission Secretary, preached in Stratford; in the morning in St. Andrew's, and in the evening in Knox. Both sermons were on behalf of missions and were listened to with great interest and by large congregations.

The musical services of Central Church, Galt, on Sunday last partook of the character of a choir reunion, several former members attending and taking part. Among the number were William McIlroy, of St. Thomas, and James Spalding, of Paris.

Rev. J. G. Shearer of Erskine Church, Hamilton, has been offered the position of Field Secretary of the Lord's Day Alliance and has decided to accept the offer. Mr. Shearer is much loved by his congregation and his removal will be a source of sorrow to them.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed in the three Presbyterian Churches of Guelph last Sabbath. In the evening there was an exchange of pulpits, Rev. T. Eakin preaching in Knox Church, Rev. W. Ross in Chalmers, and Rev. R. J. M. Glassford in St. Andrew's.

The school room of the new St. James' church, London, was used for the first time last Sunday. The building is of the most modern style and is very complete and comfortable. The pastor, Rev. A. J. McGillivray preached in the morning, and Rev. W. J. Clark in the evening.

The Rev. D. D. Macdonald, late of Lorneville, was inducted on Dec. 14 into the charge at Caledonia. The Rev. Neil McPherson, B.D., of St. Paul's Church, Hamilton, presided; Rev. Dr. Smith, of St. Catharines, preached; Rev. J. G. Shearer, of Hamilton, addressed the minister, and Rev. E. B. Chestnut, of Carleton Place, the people.

Sunday, December 10, was a notable day in the history of the Presbyterians of Arthur, for on that day they dedicated their new and beautiful church to the service of God. Rev. Wylie Clarke, Brampton, assisted by the pastor, Rev. J. J. Patterson, and by the Methodist minister, Rev. K. W. Wright, conducted services in the morning and evening, while the afternoon service was conducted by Rev. T. R. Fasken, of St. Paul's church, Toronto. The church is a very fine one of white brick with a large tower and is heated with hot air and lighted with acetylene gas.

### EASTERN ONTARIO.

Rev. Alexander Laird, of Port Hope, preached in Cooke's Church, Kingston, last Sunday.

Rev. K. A. Gollan, of Dunreagan, has been made the recipient of a handsome cutter by the local L.O.L.

Rev. Hugh D. Leitch, of St. Elmo, and Rev. J. L. Alexander, of Middleville, exchanged pulpits on Dec. 10.

Rev. Jas. Simpson occupied the pulpit of the Presbyterian Church, Vankleek Hill, on the evening of Dec. 10.

Rev. F. W. MacLean, of Kirkhill, after an absence of twelve years, has gone on a visit to relatives in Scotland.

Rev. John Day, of Cobourg, has accepted a call to the Renfrew Presbyterian Church, as successor to Rev. Dr. Campbell.

Permission has been granted the people of North Williamsburg by the Brockville Presbytery to sell a portion of their glebe.

The annual thank-offering for 1899 of the W. F. M. S. of Zion church, Carleton Place, including the mission band and junior society, amounts to \$140.

Elaborate arrangements have been made for the annual entertainment in Maxville church on Christmas evening and a most attractive programme will be submitted.

Rev. A. S. Grant, agent for the Century Fund, began work at Carleton Place, this week, and received \$500 for his first subscription, from a member of St. Andrew's Church.

In the absence of Rev. Norman MacLeod, the pastor, Mr. R. J. Farrell of the Y.M.C.A. occupied the pulpit of the New Edinburgh Presbyterian Church last Sabbath evening.

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Societies of two Ottawa churches (Bank Street and Knox) held their annual meetings on December 12, when the officers for the ensuing year were elected.

The death is announced of Rev. Mark Turnbull, formerly minister of Des Joachim and Alice, at his home, Victoria Harbor, B.C. He was in his seventy-fourth year, and was greatly esteemed.

The reopening of Knox Church, Sydenham, took place on Sunday, Dec. 17th, when services were conducted at 11 o'clock in the morning and at 7 in the evening. A special collection was taken up at both services.

Rev. Principal Grant preached on the text: "And there was war in Heaven" last Sunday afternoon, in Convocation Hall at Queen's. Dr. Grant showed what he considered to be the duty of Canadians in the present war.

The congregation of St. John's church, Brockville, expect to open their new church about the middle of January. It was thought that the ceremony would take place this month, but there has been some delay in the installing of the organ.

The members of the Glebe Presbyterian Church, Ottawa, are considering the advisability of erecting an addition to the Church. The present edifice seats 350, but the growth of the congregation has been so great during the last year that more room is imperative.

The anniversary services of St. Andrew's Church, Pakenham, are to take place on Jan. 7. The morning and evening services will be conducted by Rev. D. M. Ramsay, of Knox Church, Ottawa, and Rev. E. S. Logie, of Winchester, will preach in the afternoon.