

Ministers and Churches.

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

The keen frosty air did not keep the members of the Toronto Presbyterian Association at home on Monday last. The topic for the day was a practical one, and was suggestively handled by Rev. Jas. Murray. Some discussion arose in connection with the positions taken as to what constitutes a "Working Church," but there was a very general appreciation and endorsement.

The Knox College Literary Society made a departure from the usual routine at its last public meeting. The Glee Club was assisted in the musical part by other singers, and the other parts of the programme considerably varied. Altogether the evening partook more of the character of an evening's entertainment than an academic function. The change was thoroughly enjoyed by the many friends present.

Already there are rumors floating about that a well-known wire-puller has been canvassing on behalf of a conference for the highest position the church has to bestow, the Moderatorship of the General Assembly. We think there are few men who would stoop to this method of securing a position, either for himself or for another. The person of whom this rumor is spoken is one, we really could not name another. It is an unenviable reputation.

The Toronto Presbytery faces a heavy docket on Tuesday next, according to the printed schedule. No less than three resignations appear on the docket—that of Rev. A. L. Macfadyen, of Mt. Albert; that of Rev. Louis H. Jordan, of St. James Square, and that of Rev. Dr. Parsons, of Knox Church. The two former will be issued, the last named tabled in order that the congregation may be cited. The Commissioners to the General Assembly will be chosen at the next meeting.

Rev. Dr. Milligan has returned from Queen's College, and reports an excellent conference. One characteristic feature was the unity given to the programme by a series of lectures given, one each day by a College professor. Another, and most pleasing feature, was the noonday luncheon at which all met and recalled old days, and cracked old jokes and retold old stories, and generally enjoyed themselves. From these meetings every man goes back with another strand in the bond that binds him to his Alma Mater and to each other.

At the last meeting of the Presbytery it was proposed to hold a half-hour's meeting for prayer on one of the days of the week and in one of the downtown churches. The Presbytery referred the matter to the Ministerial Association. After mature consideration it has been decided to begin a series of noonday prayer meetings. Thursday has been chosen as the most appropriate day, and the meetings will begin at 12:30 and close at 12:55. The first of the series will be held on Thursday, 8th March next and, in all probability in the schoolroom of Knox Church.

The Patriotic Fund has all but smothered the Century and other funds. At times one becomes conscious of a faint movement showing that there is life in the Century fund yet. It will revive. The popular fever will die out, though it is running at a high temperature just now. And even it will not exhaust the strength of the people. Great sums have been subscribed, but great numbers also have participated in the movement. The people have yet to be heard from in connection with the Century fund and we shall be disappointed if the result be not quite as satisfactory as is shown by the fund that takes the popular fancy to-day.

EASTERN ONTARIO.

Rev. Jno. Hay, of Renfrew, has a growing Bible class. The attendance now aggregates 100.

Rev. D. Currie, B.D., of Perth, has been visiting Kemptville in the interest of the Century Fund.

In place of the regular services in St. Marks, Wales, last Sabbath evening, there was a service of song.

On Sunday, March 11, Rev. Dr. Grant, of Queen's University, Kingston, will address the Presbyterian congregation of Brockville on the century fund.

Rev. John Chisholm of Kemptville, held a memorial service for the late Samuel Martin, for thirty five years an esteemed elder of the congregation.

At a recent meeting of Knox Church, Roxborough, (Rev. H. D. Leitch, presiding) it was agreed to extend an unanimous call to Rev. R. McLeod, of Ripley, Ont.

The Sunday School of Knox church Cornwall, made an offering last Sunday for the Famine in Central India which amounted to the handsome sum of \$192. This was sent to Dr. Warden.

On a recent Sabbath Rev. Dr. MacNish of St. John's Church, Cornwall, in the course of a highly patriotic sermon, said: The provocation which Britain received from the "ransaual government was such as no nation could honorably overlook, and the present war was only undertaken when all means of amicable settlement had been exhausted.

The Hull Presbyterians held an enjoyable social under the genial auspices of the Ladies' Aid Society who entertained in their usual happy style. A meritorious musical programme was in good hands. Rev. D. M. Ramsay was the principal speaker, and the pastor, Rev. M. H. Scott, genially discharged the duties of chairman. The proceeds were in aid of the church building fund.

OTTAWA.

Many of the City ministers made reference to the Canadian losses in South Africa. Rev. Dr. Armstrong, in alluding to the fact that the war was coming close to Canada, earnestly prayed for a speedy termination of the conflict.

The Ladies' Aid Society of Knox Church, Ottawa, under the presidency of Mrs. Robertson, presents an encouraging statement for 1899. The receipts, including balance from previous year, were \$409.26. The object of the society, however, is not financial, but rather to help the pastor in his work; to visit the sick and strangers in the congregation; to comfort and cheer them in trouble; and to make all feel that, "though living in different homes, we are one family with our church home." Most laudable objects, and well carried out by this society.

Rev. Norman McLeod in the New Edinburgh church, referred to the deep sorrow occasioned in Canadian homes, by the sad intelligence of Canadian losses, but said that such deaths bound together in an indissoluble tie Great Britain and Canada. The nation that insulted Britain insulted Canada; her successes were our successes; her victories our triumphs. Such work was not in vain, but rather the boys that were giving their lives on the battle ground were aiding to send the gospel of Christ to an unenlightened people.

At St. Andrew's, Rev. Dr. Herridge in the course of his morning's sermon, made the following reference to what should be one of the influences resulting from the spilling of Canadian blood in Britain's battles in South Africa: "And surely we shall feel, too, the unifying power of a common sorrow. Our differences may well be buried in those graves by the Modder river, and the voices of captious criticism and scornful apathy hushed in perpetual silence. We are a mixed people in this Dominion, of varying creeds and lineage. We cannot be asked to forget historic memories or religious associations. But our dead comrades will rebuke us if we allow any narrower or more selfish aims to check our zeal for the furtherance of the principles of justice, for the accomplishment of our destiny in the rank of progress, and for the welfare of that glorious heritage which belongs to us all."

The 55th annual report of Knox Church has just been issued. The pages contain a fair resume of the numerous activities of this progressive congregation. There were 32 additions to the membership; 24 by certificate, and 8 in profession of faith; 18 names were removed from the roll, showing a net gain of

14. Twelve children were baptized. Four additional elders were chosen, ordained and inducted, viz.: Messrs. H. L. Wood, Chas. Ogilvie and H. S. Campbell. In addition to these the following elders compose the session; Geo. Hay, J. MacMillan, (session clerk) Hiram Robinson, Samuel Savage, M. MacKinnon, John McJanet, John Kennedy, Arthur Chisholm, Thomas McJanet and B. M. Northrup, with the pastor, Rev. D. M. Ramsay, B.D., moderator. There is also a strong committee of management, with the following officers: H. S. Campbell, chairman; J. C. Tully, secretary; B. M. Northrup, treasurer. The Sabbath School is most efficiently carried on under the superintendency of Mr. J. MacMillan, M.A., with 273 names on the roll. There is also an interesting Chinese school with a gratifying attendance. Mr. MacMillan has recently resigned after 15 years service as assistant superintendent and 20 years as superintendent—35 years in all. Mr. S. J. Jarvis is now superintendent, with Mr. John Eagleson, as assistant. The total receipts were \$4,988.87; the total expenditure, \$4,986.34.

WESTERN ONTARIO.

Mr. Vincent Green of Lindsay has been appointed organist of Central Church, Hamilton.

Rev. Neil McPherson will deliver a special address to men in Association hall, Hamilton, Sunday afternoon.

The Rev. R. E. Knowles of Knox church, Galt, will be absent in the South next Sunday. The Rev. R. P. McKay of Toronto will fill his pulpit.

Rev. Dr. Hamilton of Motherwell preached at the Central church, Galt, on Sunday and Rev. Dr. Dickson of Galt preached anniversary services at Motherwell.

The Presbyterian Church, Churchill, has just completed its canvass for the Century Fund, subscribing upwards of \$600. This sum more than clears off the debt on the new church.

Rev. J. A. Ross of Churchill has just completed a series of sermons on the ten commandments. Members of his congregation frequently expressed their qualification for the instruction imparted.

A lecture will be delivered on Africa and the Boers in MacNab Street Church, Hamilton, by the Rev. William Patterson of Cook's Church, Toronto, on Monday evening, the 12th of March.

Rev. W. G. Wallace, B.D., of Toronto, delivered a strong and instructive address at the annual Sabbath School convention held at Churchill recently. His subject, "Some characteristics of the church of the 20th century."

Rev. A. McAuley, B.A., of Pickering, who so acceptably preached in Knox Church, Mitchell, some time ago, will again occupy the pulpit on Sabbath next. A meeting of the congregation is to be held on March 5th to consider the tendering of a call.

Sunday last was the anniversary of the present Church, erected by the congregation at Avonbank in 1890. The services were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Dickson of Galt. This event is of special interest because of the history of this pastorate—a history of which the congregation may well be proud. A small log meeting house was erected in Avonbank—then known as Downie—in the year 1847. This was one of the first churches in these parts, indeed it is probable that there was no church in St. Marys at that time. Rev. Mr. Proudfoot was the first pastor. Four years after his ordination he withdrew from his charge, being called to London to succeed his father. The vacancy was filled by Mr. Caven, who some years afterwards became the well-known principal of Knox College, and who is the recently appointed president of the Pan-Presbyterian council. In 1868 Mr. Caven took charge of the congregation at St. Marys. Rev. R. Hamilton received and accepted the call that was presented and has ever since then occupied the pulpit. This is, therefore, his 42nd year as pastor of the congregation at Avonbank, and he still preaches the gospel with vim and earnestness, and is loved by all his people.