

## Ministers and Churches.

### Our Toronto Letter.

Not only very deep interest, but anxiety has been felt in the city, as in the country at large, on account of the state of health of Principal Grant. Sympathy is all the more deep because of the special and interesting ceremonies which have been taking place in connection with Queen's University, so dear to the Principal's heart and for which he has done so much.

Very general and sincere sympathy is also felt both in the city and country for the Bishop of Toronto and his family, because of the sad death of his eldest son, and the most painful circumstances connected with it.

As it must pre-eminently be with every such life, our late Superintendent of Missions in the Northwest, Dr. Robertson, though dead yet speaketh. His Life and Work was the subject before the Young People of Knox church at their last regular meeting. Several papers were read and Rev. Dr. Parsons gave an address taking Dr. Robertson for his theme.

It has been found difficult to find one in every way qualified to take up and continue the work among the Chinese in British Columbia given up by Rev. Mr. Winchester when he became the pastor of Knox church. Rev. Arch. Ewing, who has had many years' experience in China, has now been appointed to that important sphere of labor, and the good wishes and prayers of the church will go with him to it.

Your correspondent was delighted to meet a few evenings ago with Rev. Murdoch Mackenzie, our well-known Honan missionary. He has just returned from Central India and mission work there before going back to Honan. Before leaving India he spent some time visiting as many mission fields as he could overtake, and a number of the large cities in Northern and North-Eastern India. Asked about his impressions of mission work generally in India, he answered, that first, everywhere the famine and problems arising out of it on the mission fields and to the missionaries, met him and deeply impressed him. Hundreds of orphans, up to as many as a thousand in some cases, had been cast upon the missionaries and the churches. In his opinion they were dealing with this difficult state of things with great wisdom and good judgment, but he added, the church at home will need to have patience with our missionaries and their work out there. The importance attached on all the fields, and among all the missions to educational mission work, also very forcibly struck Mr. Mackenzie. He found this feeling very general. The patience, courage and devotion of the missionaries was a thing of great interest and satisfaction to him, and he knows well what estimate to put upon such qualities on the mission field. He also noticed the great change going on in India by agencies not definitely Christian, the multiplication of railways for example, and from sheer necessity, owing to this and the introduction of similar western institutions, the breaking down of caste everywhere is going on and must go on until India in that respect as in several others is revolutionized. Everywhere, also, he found glowing in the hearts of the missionaries the hope and expectation that they were on the eve of a great religious upheaval. When precisely or how it may come, no one could say, but that is a prevailing feeling and expectation in the minds of the missionaries. All this is most hopeful and encouraging, and we value these opinions of Mr. Mackenzie gathered in the way they have been, on the field, and by one so competent to judge as we think all who know him will admit him to be. There were many other points which the brevity of our interview did not admit of being touched upon. Mr. Mackenzie is in the best of health and looks in splendid condition in every way to return to his work in Honan.

A series of pulpit exchanges among the ministers of the city has been arranged for Sunday the 18th, and on this day there will be a general shaking up in the city pulpits. Rev. John Neil, of Westminster church, has just finished a short course of sermons on "The Confession of Faith." In his last he shewed what Calvinism has done for Civil and Religious liberty; for education; for the home and for the spread of the gospel.

At the last meeting of the General Ministerial Association, a deputation from "The Prisoners' Aid Society" was present to urge upon the Association having in all the churches a Prison Sunday, at which a collection would be taken up in aid of the objects of the society. A resolution of sympathy with its work was passed and

a committee appointed to consider the matter and report to a subsequent meeting.

On Tuesday evening of last week the sixty-second annual meeting of the Upper Canada Bible Society was held in the Sherbourne street Methodist church. The weather unfortunately was unfavourable, but a fair number was present. To old members especially, the absence was very much felt, of the late Hon. G. W. Allan, D. C. L., who for the long period of forty-two years had been president of the Society. N. W. Hoyle Esq., K. C., L. L. D., who has long been one of the vice-presidents, has been appointed in his place, and under his presidency the society will no doubt continue to flourish as it has in the past. He gave a stirring and interesting address, and besides him the speakers were Rev. W. W. Weeks D. D., of the Baptist church, and Rev. Professor Cody M. A., of the Anglican church, whose address though lengthy was interesting throughout. This year the report mentions that new fields for active work are opening up in Mongolia, Bolivia, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru in connection with the parent society. A very interesting and important department of home work is that of Colportage. Among different classes and in the newer parts of the country particularly, nine Colporteurs are doing good service. One especially we may name, Mr. Hellyer, a young Russian who speaks English, as well as several other languages has been sent out to work among Doukhobors, Galicians, etc., in Assiniboia, and the North-West Territories.

The Canadian Temperance League, we may just note in closing, has last year had the most successful in its past history of fourteen years. Its meetings have been largely attended and it has a balance of \$157.00 in its favor. Mr. J. S. Robertson, who for seven years has so ably filled the place of president was though wishing to resign, again elected by acclamation to that important post.

### Ottawa.

Rev. Dr. Moore is still up the Gatineau.

Rev. R. Herbison has resumed work with wonted vigor after his few weeks' rest.

Ottawa presbytery has approved of the removal of the Glebe church to the corner of Carling avenue and Lyon street. The site is said to be an excellent one; and on it at an early date a \$20,000 church will be erected.

The annual report of Stewerton church has been received. It contains much valuable matter pertaining to congregational life and work, and bears evidence of careful editing by Mr. J. B. Halkett, the efficient Clerk of Session. A truthful likeness of Rev. Robert Herbison, M. A., the minister of the church, adds value to the publication.

Rev. T. Saddler, the moderator, read an able and exhaustive paper on Church Life and Work at the last meeting of Ottawa Presbytery. The paper touched upon the temperance question and recommended that the churches should all organize and work to have prohibitory laws passed and enforced. He pointed out that the referendum if passed would give them what they had long worked for and stated that he hoped the Presbyterian congregations would work to have the referendum passed.

The London Presbyterian, of 1st May, just received, contains the following relative to the call to the pastor of St. Andrews: We understand that Dr. Herridge, of Ottawa, whom the congregation at Frogmal have pledged themselves to call, has written to Dr. Morris Gibson, Moderator of the vacancy, to the effect that, although greatly touched by the unanimity and cordiality of the invitation, he is not at present in a position to give a definite answer. As Dr. Herridge is a minister of the Canadian Presbyterian Church, he would require to be received by the Synod before he could be inducted at Frogmal (as Dr. Gibson and Dr. Pentecost were before they were inducted at St. John's Wood and Marylebone respectively.) The time being too short for the Synod to deal with the matter, the congregation will probably ask for the appointment of a commission, in the hope that Dr. Herridge will accept the proposed call.

A correspondent of the London Presbyterian refers to what he styles the "Swaddling clothes of passed generations," in connection with the call to Rev. Dr. Herridge as follows: I notice that the Frogmal congregation intend presenting a call to Dr. Herridge, of Ottawa, expecting to get his decision before the meeting of Synod, so that its sanction can be procured for his admission to our church. Supposing, however, Dr.

Herridge refuses the call, but in a month or two the Frogmal friends decide to renew the call, and he is willing to accept it, I presume he could not be inducted till after the meeting of the following Synod? Or if this congregation might set its affections on a minister similarly situated, the same delay would have to take place? Is it likely that any minister of Dr. Herridge's standing would care to entertain a call under such invidious conditions? I think not. If so, do we not suffer a loss as a Church, as well as lowering of our system in the estimation of other Free Churches?

### Western Ontario.

Rev. Dr. Mungo Fraser has resigned the pastorate of Knox church, Hamilton.

Rev. John Bailey, of Toronto, preached in the Melbourne Church last Sunday morning and evening.

Anniversary services were conducted in the Embro church, by Rev. Prof. Ballantyne of Knox College, Toronto.

Mr. Farrar who has been in charge of the Sombra Church for the past month, has returned to Toronto. Mr. Carlyle, of Knox College, will preach next Sunday evening.

Rev. Dr. Stewart, pastor of Willis church, Clinton, has been presented with a handsome gown by the members of his congregation, on his receiving the degree of D. D. from Knox College.

Rev. Mr. Carriere, of Grand Bend, last Sabbath took the service in St. Andrew's church, morning and evening. Rev. Mr. McLennan was at Grand Bend conducting anniversary services for Mr. Carriere.

A reception recently tendered Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson by the London King street congregation showed the happy and cordial relations subsisting between pastor and people. In the course of the evening an affectionately worded address was presented.

The Bradford congregation has just sent Rev. J. T. Hall, late of Bond Head, and who was recently inducted over Rockwood and Eden Mills, a cheque for \$40 in slight acknowledgment of his services as moderator during the vacancy.

Mr. John Pennan the wealthy manufacturer of Paris, Ont., has given \$6,000 towards the erection of a Y. M. C. A. building to cost \$12,000, on condition the balance be raised by public or private subscription, and the work of the institution may be carried on for five years.

The Acton Free Press speaks in high terms of the special services recently held in that place by Rev. M. N. Bethune, formerly of Beaverton, styling him "one of the ablest preachers in the ranks of Canada's evangelists."

The Globe of Saturday contains a good likeness of Rev. Alexander MacKay, D. D., who is styled "the Gaelic preacher of Toronto." His is more than that; Dr. MacKay, who has just completed his 42nd year in the ministry is an excellent preacher in English. He is now living retired in Toronto, and expects to have his name entered on the list of beneficiaries from the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, when the General Assembly meets next June.

Brampton Conservator: Rev. R. J. M. Glasford, of Guelph, exchanged pulpits with Rev. R. N. Burns, pastor of Grace church, here, on Sunday last. Mr. Glasford has many friends in Brampton and surrounding country and his visits are always a source of great pleasure. His sermons on Sunday last were both eloquent and helpful and were much appreciated by all.

Another of Oxford's sturdy pioneers passed away on April 27th, in the person of William Weir, of Lot 2, con. 1, Blandford. Mr. Weir has enjoyed remarkable health, throughout his long life, it being his boast that until Friday night, when he was taken with a stroke of apoplexy, he had never missed a meal. Deceased was a native of Aberdeenshire, having come to Canada in 1856, and was a man of noble character, and, as was stated by the pastor of Chalmers Church in making the announcement of Mr. Weir's death last night, gave liberally to the Presbyterian church. He himself was an elder; two sons, Messrs. John and James, are elders of Chalmers Church; one son, Rev. George is pastor of the Presbyterian Church, Avonmore, and a daughter Miss Jessie, is a missionary in India. The other members are William (also an elder of St. Andrew's East Oxford), and Alfred at home; Mrs. Adam Kennedy Burford; Miss Aggie in Denver; and Mrs.