

Ministers and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

The event of chief interest this week in Presbyterian circles in Toronto, has been the visit to the city and to his old congregation, of Rev. Wm. Patterson. Nothing could show more clearly the strong affection cherished for him in the city, than the crowds which, in spite of a very stormy Sunday, flocked to hear him wherever he appeared. He preached to his old congregation morning and evening, and addressed the Temperance League meeting in Massey Hall in the afternoon, and gave several other talks of a less formal kind. Cooke's is the largest Presbyterian church in the city, but it was quite filled in the morning. In the evening it was packed to the door, and many had to go away unable to get in at all. His preaching was of his own well-known kind, the gospel, the "old old story," declared in his powerful way. It was not only a great day for Cooke's church, it was, we have no doubt, a decisive day for many souls. His sermon in the evening was a most powerful and convincing appeal to all in the audience who had not yet accepted Christ as their Saviour to do so there and then. A large after-meeting was held and a deep impression was visibly made upon many. Massey Hall, despite the storm, was filled in the afternoon to hear his temperance address. Argument, appeal, ridicule, Irish wit and humour and Christian feeling were all blended in a most forcible address which, on a threadbare subject, held his great audience from beginning to end in close attention.

On the 30 day he appeared at the afternoon meeting of the annual Convention of the Young People's Union of the Presbytery of Toronto, held in Knox church, and took charge of the "Round Table Conference." In the evening, he was the chief speaker and had for his subject, "The Need of the Age and the Need of the Church." In the morning of that day, he was present at the regular meeting of the Presbyterian Ministerial Association, welcomed warmly by his brethren and told them in an informal way of his work and his encouragements in it in Philadelphia. On Tuesday evening in Cook's church, he addressed a mass meeting of the city's Christian Endeavourers, and on Wednesday, gladdened with so much happy, faithful work, by the cordiality of his reception, and at meeting with so many old and warm friends, he left for Philadelphia.

Notwithstanding the difficulty, owing to the snow-blockade, of those at a distance getting to the city, the Convention of the Young People's Union of the Presbytery of Toronto held on Monday was well attended, and much interest was taken in the proceedings. Apart from the addresses of Mr. Patterson, the topic of chief interest, was the consideration of the "Proposed New Construction of the Assembly's Committee." The point on which the greatest interest centered was the change of the name from Christian Endeavour to Westminster Guild. A preference was expressed and was shown by many for the retention of the old, familiar and expressive name.

At the regular Presbytery meeting on Tuesday, Rev. J. W. McRae, of Toronto Junction, presided. At that meeting the name "Guild," was preferred, though why one so little associated in its original meaning with Christian work, should be preferred to the happily descriptive one of "Christian Endeavour," is not very clear. The subject of the sale of Knox church to rebuild in some less crowded part of the city, and where it must be nearer than it is now to other Presbyterian churches, has again been before the Presbytery and laid over until next meeting. Should this removal take place, it will to the regret of many, leave a place vacant which has long been held by a historic church in the city, and where, in the opinion of a large number, good work may yet be done and needs to be done.

The Rev. J. W. McRae, of Toronto Junction, whose call to Aylmer in the London Presbytery was noticed in a former letter, has decided to accept the call, and that Presbytery will gain what Toronto Presbytery will lose, an active and useful member, and a good preacher.

As the time draws nearer for the Legislature of Ontario taking action on Prohibition, interest grows keener. The Baptists in their Ministerial Association have taken wise and carefully considered action in favor of restriction of the liquor traffic to the extent of the government's power, and assuring it of their hearty support in such legislation, also asking that it take all

proper steps to make any act effective. On Friday a large, and very influential deputation of business men interviewed the government, and strongly presented some aspects of the question as they appeared to them as business men. It appears to be agreed that any act passed should be referred to the decision of the electorate, and that any legislation on this subject, to have a beneficial effect, must have the support of a large majority of the voters. The crucial point of the whole matter, it is clear, will be the question of compensation.

The approaching meeting of the Student's Volunteer Missionary Conference is beginning to noticeably attract public attention. Great expectations of good are centered in it, and it is the earnest hope of all interested in it, that they be realized to the fullest extent.

The annual meeting of the McAll mission was held during the week, and a favorable report presented of work done, and respecting the state of the funds for the year. Subscriptions to the amount of \$169.00 have been reported so far, in aid of the church to be erected at Landour, India, in memory of the late Rev. Dr. Kellogg so well known there, in the United States and in our Church in Canada. It is hoped that the whole of the \$1000 asked from this country may be made up. Owing to the great urgency of the claims of our Home Missions in the Northwest, four congregations in the city have agreed, over and above their ordinary contributions, to support twelve missionaries in that great region. Let the memory of our late noble leader in this great Christian and patriotic enterprise, stimulate all our churches to keep up and push on the work for which he lived and died, and above all let us do it for our country's sake and for Christ's sake.

Western Ontario.

The Chatham Presbytery has approved of the proposed constitution for Y. P. S.

Rev. Mr. Bradley, of Berlin, has been preaching anniversary sermons at Hawkesville.

Rev. M. Leitch, of Stratford, has been conducting anniversary services at Osborne.

The next meeting of Chatham Presbytery will be held at Windsor on March 4th, to a. m.

The total amount raised for missions last year by McNab street, church, Hamilton, was \$1,270.

At the last meeting of Chatham Presbytery all the remits from Assembly, except that on Term Service were approved of.

Rev. J. M. Millar is acting as ordained missionary at Morpeth, O., in place of Rev. A. A. Laing, who has accepted a call.

At a recent meeting of the London Presbytery council an instructive paper on "The Young Man and the Church" was read by Mr. W. C. Ferguson, B. A.

Florence has been separated from Bothwell and is now connected with Grove Mills as a mission. An augmentation grant of \$150 will be asked for Bothwell and Sutherland's Corners.

In the absence of the pastor, Rev. R. W. Ross, through illness, the pulpit of Knox church, Guelph, was occupied by Rev. B. B. Williams, who preached two thoughtful and eloquent sermons.

The anniversary services of Carmel Presbyterian church were held on Sabbath, February 9th. On the following Monday evening, Rev. Mr. Rae, of Toronto Junction, delivered one of his popular lectures.

Rev. R. W. Dickie, of Orangeville, has declined the call to Knox church, Owen Sound. The Advertiser says that "it will be required that none shall preach trial sermons, but those who are willing to accept a call to the pastorate."

The services connected with the 15th anniversary of Burns church took place on a recent Sabbath, when suitable sermons were preached by Rev. G. C. Patterson, of Embro. The Monday evening social was quite a success realizing \$75.

The past year has been a prosperous one in all departments of the work for Knox church, Stratford. The total receipts amounted to \$6,813.80. After all payments had been made there remained a balance of \$236.12 to the credit of the congregation.

The total receipts of St. Andrew's church, Guelph, for the past year, were \$7,289.96, being considerably larger than in any previous year. A good deal of credit for this state of affairs was awarded the pastor, Rev. Thomas Eskin, whose

salary was unacceptably increased to \$1,800. During the year 59 members had been added to the roll, which now numbers 403.

Central church, Galt, has closed a satisfactory year. At the annual meeting the reports read and adopted were gratifying, showing an increased membership and other evidence of progress. The membership is now about 750. The expenditure was slightly over the receipts, owing to the unforeseen outlay for repairs to the church.

Wentworth church, Hamilton, (Rev. A. Mac Williams, pastor,) reports a membership of 498. The receipts amounted to \$2,820.71 and the expenditure to within \$20.77 of the same amount. The mortgage debt was reported as \$8,000 with nine years to renew; and a suggestion was made for the raising of a sinking fund to wipe it out in that time.

A number of the members and adherents of Caven church, Exeter, met at the manse, recently, to express their esteem for Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Ross, who have left Exeter to reside in Chatham. An address was read, appreciative of their work in the congregation, and two upholstered oak chairs and a hand-some mantle clock accompanied the address.

The Session of Knox church, Hamilton, report 55 additions to the roll during the past year, making the total membership 994. The receipts amounted to \$6,012.38; disbursements were \$3,693.76. Assets are placed at \$40,978.57; and liabilities at \$4,000. A resolution of sympathy with Rev. Dr. Fraser in his illness was unanimously passed; and he was thanked for a donation of \$300.

St. Giles Church, Toronto, of which Rev. R. Atkinson is pastor, held its annual meeting recently. Membership 355; additions 41; Sunday school and bible class 380. Chinese Sunday school 45 scholars, 45 teachers. Revenue from all sources, \$4031; received on the plate, etc., \$3165; missionary receipts, \$340; the Chinese school gave \$93 to support a catechist on the Pacific Coast. Managers closed the year with a balance of \$339 on hand.

The annual report of the Belgrave church shows the finances to be in a most satisfactory condition under the pastoral care of Rev. J. J. Hastie. The receipts are \$1,100.29, balance on hand, \$152.78; the Ladies' Aid spent \$22.30 in church vestry furnishing. The receipts of the building committee are \$747.50, most of which has been expended; \$187.18 was collected for schemes. The Women's Foreign Missionary Society sent clothing to the Northwest to the value of \$27, and have a balance in cash of \$25.10.

The annual meeting of Knox church, Galt, was held on the evening of the 17th inst. The reports showed a prosperous year; the number of communicants at present on the roll is 1210. Rev. Dr. J. K. Smith, who resigned the pastorate of Knox church in 1898, has voted an annuity of \$200 for life. The new pipe organ completed at a cost of \$5000 was to be opened by Dr. Davies last Friday evening. The annual vacation of the minister, Rev. R. E. Knowles, was fixed at two months instead of one as formerly.

At the annual meeting of Chalmers church, Guelph, there were indications of harmony, unanimity and material prosperity. There was a net gain of 70 members during the year, bringing the total up to 730. Mr. Wm. Tytler presented the Report of the Managers, which showed that the amounts contributed by the congregation for all purposes in 1901 was \$6,758.04. He was glad to present the statement of the congregation's contributions to the Century Fund. In 1900 these amounted to \$3,698; they had now been increased to \$4,393.50, of which \$3,067, or 70 per cent., was applied to the common fund, and \$1,726.50, or 30 per cent., to the debt of the church. Only the small balance of \$170 remained unpaid.

At the annual meeting of McNab street, church, Hamilton, the reports presented were most satisfactory, and must have been gratifying to the congregation and to Rev. Dr. Fletcher, who has been the pastor of this church for the last 30 years. The financial statement presented by the Board of Managers showed receipts of \$5,391.50. The receipts for the Century Fund were \$5,362.50. In the report from the Session, as well as in the Sabbath School report sympathetic reference was made to the death of Dr. Macdonald, for so many years a faithful worker in the church, and for eleven years the efficient superintendent of the Sabbath school. A strong missionary committee was appointed with Dr. Fletcher as convener.