

Ministres and Churches.

Our Toronto Letter.

There has long been a movement among some of the ministers of Toronto, and the number has gradually grown larger, having for its object the strengthening of the spiritual life of the minister, and through him the building up of the spiritual life of the people. It has not been a desire for individual advantage, but has grown out of a longing after the lifting up of the people committed to the charge of the several ministers. It has been carried on very quietly, too quietly indeed, some would say, for there are some who would have liked to attend the quiet meetings for prayer that have been held, but who did not know of them. Now the movement has taken such hold upon the life of the ministers that it can no longer be hid. It was never the wish to conceal it, rather was it the purpose not to parade it. But semi-public meetings are being held now, and a more general meeting is projected.

It must not be supposed that the men who promoted the Forward Movement, for by that name it is now being called, are men of sentiment rather than of action. They are the most devoted and energetic ministers of our church. To often so-called spiritual movements have been connected with more or less of mysticism and separateness. These men are the men who go down among their fellows, and mingle with them. They do not stand aloof, and while their nature may shrink from some practices that to more rugged workmen seem harmless, they never assume the role of judge, but simply act for themselves in their abstinence from such practices. Their separateness has been spiritual rather than outward, a distinctiveness of character rather than aloofness of person.

There have been meetings for prayer among men of like mind for some weeks past. There have been one or two meetings of a more general nature, when plans have been suggested. There was a general meeting of ministers of all denominations in the Methodist Book Rooms last Monday morning, when plans were more openly discussed. What form the movement will take place later is not announced, nor indeed is it known. It is the belief of those who are prominent in this movement that it is of the Lord, and that his plans are laid. The more nearly we shall conform to these plans the better shall be the results obtained. And the desire is to learn what is the mind of the Spirit in this matter.

At the Presbytery of Toronto last Tuesday the calls from Knox church and St. James Square church were reported upon. In both cases the men called accepted, but will not come till the beginning of the New Year. In all probability both Mr. Winchester and Mr. Gandier will be settled during the first or second week in January. This will fill two most important pulpits in the city, in each of which there will be a call for a man of more than ordinary talent, and for considerable versatility. The morning and evening congregations will, in each case, differ very widely, and the mode of presentation that will reach the hearts of the morning hearers will not touch those of the evening. It is the same message that is needed for each, but clothed in different form, so that in each congregation it may win some. Will the preacher be able to adapt himself to two widely different audiences? It will be a severe test, and should not discredit either if he fail in some particular.

There is disquiet in higher educational circles in this city. The address of Mr. S. H. Blake when he dealt with University matters, has ruffled the composure that usually broods over the hills of learning. It is more than hinted that matters might be more energetically handled at our provincial seat of learning. It is even hinted that there is incompetency in the management of affairs, and that what is wanted above everything else at the University is a man who has the ability to direct a great institution such as it is. Some years ago the students revolted and made certain demands. They were promptly sat upon and so effectively was this flattening process carried out that nothing came of the rebellion. Now one of the flattened men has got rounded out again and has found a newspaper through which to present his views of matters in general and of Toronto University in particular. The former views are crude, the latter are entertaining, but scarcely weighty enough to disturb the deep-seated calm of the University authorities. But the utterances of one who has hitherto been their defender have greatly disturbed that repose, and we outside people are watching to see what is going to be done about it.

Matters are running along smoothly in Knox College. There are no signs as yet of the rapidly approaching annual Alumni meeting, and the Conference of Graduates that is held at that time. Usually these two items are reversed, and the Alumni meeting is made an appendage to the Conference. It is time that the Alumni Association began to take itself seriously. There is room for some good work that only the graduates can do, that the Alumni Association offers an admirable channel for doing, and that ought to be done. There is an impression that when the graduate receives his diploma from the hands of Principi I Cayen he is quit of the College. It may sink or swim afterwards so far as he is concerned. He has done with it. That may be true of one in one hundred of the graduates. It is not true of all. It is not true of them as a class. Were there one man to lead them the graduates would put Knox in the forefront of Canadian colleges within a twelvemonth. While we wait for the man suppose every Alumnus steps into working line.

Eastern Ontario.

Rev. R. A. Gollan, of Dunvegan, occupied the pulpit of Knox church, Vankleek Hill, on Nov. 25th.

Rev. J. Matthews, of Summerstown, occupied the pulpit of St. Andrew's church, Williamstown, on Sunday, Nov. 25th.

Rev. J. Goforth is continuing his good work in Eastern Ontario, giving interesting addresses in many of the towns.

On Sunday last Rev. A. A. Bowers, B. A., conducted the evening service at Cayuga, and Rev. J. Gourlay the evening service.

Rev. Dr. Stewart, of Prescott, will conduct anniversary services in St. Paul's Presbyterian church h. Athens, on Sunday, Dec. 9th.

The Ladies' Aid Society of the Avonmore Presbyterian church, are to hold an entertainment on Thursday of this week, when a good programme will be rendered.

The W. F. M. S. of St. Andrew's church, Appleton, held a public meeting in the church on Wednesday, Nov. the 28th, when an address was given by Rev. J. Goforth.

Rev. James Cornack, of Maxville, conducted the communion service in Knox church, Vankleek Hill, last Sunday morning. The Gaelic service was taken by Rev. H. D. Leitch.

Applications for a hearing for the vacancy in Knox church, Vankleek Hill, have been received from Boston, California, New York and several other American cities, as well as many from various parts of Canada.

Rev. N. Waddell, Lachute, occupied the pulpit of St. Paul's church Hawkesbury on the 25th, Rev. D. D. Millar preached on Dec. 2nd, and Rev. Jas. Binaey, McDonald's Corners, is to preach on Dec. 9th.

The Newtonington Sunday school's annual entertainment will be held on Christmas eve. Great pains are being taken in training the children and there is every reason to believe the entertainment will be very successful.

The Vankleek Hill Reviewer says: There are six churches in this district that are now without pastors. There are two in Hawkesbury, three in Vankleek Hill and one in Beadabane. It seems that there must be a demand for the clergymen of Eastern Ontario.

A social was held at Knox church, Stratford, on November 29th, under the auspices of the King's Daughters and Sons, and young people of the church. The attendance was exceptionally large, and all present enjoyed themselves thoroughly. The pastor, Rev. M. L. Leitch, was in the chair.

Rev. J. A. Sinclair delivered a most interesting address in Zion church, Carleton Place, on Sunday evening November 25th reviewing the mission work in the Yukon, from which field he has recently returned. He paid a very high tribute to Rev. Mr. Grant, the pioneer missionary, who has done untold good in that district.

The entertainment given in the parlors of the First church, Brockville, on Nov. 29th, under the auspices of the Christian Endeavor Society of that church was largely attended. The entertainment was voted one of the most successful in the history of the society. The pastor, Rev. Robert Laird, M. A., was in the chair.

The annual meeting of the Cornwall branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society was held in Knox church on Sunday evening, November 25th, after the regular service. Rev. James Hastie was elected president; Rev. E. Tennant and Sheriff McNab, vice-presidents, and J. P. Watson, secretary-treasurer. All the reports for the past year were very satisfactory.

Western Ontario.

Rev. Mr. McKay, of Goderich, preached in the Bayfield church last Sabbath.

Rev. W. K. McIntosh of Elora, preached anniversary services at Allandale on the 25th.

The pulpit at Woodville was filled on November the 25th by Rev. Mr. Sinclair, of Tonia.

Rev. J. McD. Duncan, of Woodville, preached at Sonya on Nov. 25th in behalf of the Century Fund.

In Christmas week the church at Linwood is to give a Christmas tree, which will mean a good time for the children.

London promised \$35,000 to the Century Fund and has raised \$200 above that sum. \$19,000 has been paid in already.

The "pie social" gotten up by the Ladies' Aid Society of the Wroxeter church, on Friday, the 30th, was an entertaining affair.

In the absence of the pastor, the Rev. D. Strachan, of Guelph, occupied the pulpit of Duff's and Knox church, Crief, last Sabbath.

Rev. H. A. Macpherson, Acton, preached an able sermon before St. Andrew's Society in St. Andrew's church, Guelph, last Sunday evening.

Last Sabbath evening Mrs. Watt, president of the Guelph Presbyterial W. F. M. S., gave her address on the New York Missionary Council in Duff's church. A large attendance was present.

An organ recital and service of praise was held in Knox church, Stratford, on the evening of Nov. 27th, when the choir was assisted by Mr. Barron, of the Conservatory of Music, London.

A recent service, preparatory to the communion was held at St. Andrew's, London, on Friday night. Rev. Dr. Johnston preached on "The Growth of the Christian Church." At the close of the sermon 40 new members were received.

The Rev. W. A. MacKay, D. D., of Chalmers' church, Woodstock, will conduct the anniversary services of Zion congregation, preaching twice at Wellesley. He will also conduct his popular lecture on Monday night on "How and what to read."

The anniversary services in connection with the church, Varna, were held on Sunday, Dec. 2nd, when Rev. Mr. Martin, of Exeter preached morning and evening. On the following Monday evening a supper was held in the temperance hall.

Owing to the opening of the new Trinity church, Bradford, there was no service in the Presbyterian church Sabbath morning, thus giving the Presbyterians an opportunity of joining with their Church of England friends in their opening services.

Preparatory services were held in King street church, London, Friday evening, conducted by Rev. John Curry, of Belmont, the congregation being unusually large. Twenty-eight new members were received—twenty by confession of faith and eight by certificate.

Rev. Thos. Paton, of Midhurst, preached morning and evening in the Bradford church and delivered two excellent sermons. His evening discourse was along missionary lines, a subject dear to the heart of Mr. Paton as he spent a number of years in mission work in China.

The annual thank-offering meeting of the Missionary Society, in connection with the Bluevale church, held last Tuesday evening, took the form of an illustrated lecture, by Rev. R. S. G. Anderson, of Wroxeter, on "Dr. Mackay and his work in Formosa." The choir sang a few selections, and Miss Ada Cline, of Wingham, sang a couple of solos.

The anniversary services held on November the 25th at Brucefield were very successful. Rev. T. G. Thomson preached on Sunday, while on Monday evening addresses were given by Rev. F. Andrews, of Varna; Rev. F. H. Larkin, of Seaforth; Rev. T. G. Thomson, with Rev. E. H. Sowers as chairman. A good musical programme was much enjoyed also.

Rev. Mr. Larkin, of Seaforth, preached an ab' sermon last Sunday evening on the subject of temperance, in which he emphasized the necessity, even from a pecuniary standpoint, of men, and especially young men who wish to make their way in the world, abstaining from intoxicating liquors, as in these days of commercial activity and keen competition, none but those of the clearest intellects and most exemplary habits can hope to succeed.

After a vacancy extending over ten months the Presbyterians of Bradford and the Scotch Settlement have decided to extend a call to the Rev. Dr. J. Fraser Smith, returned missionary from