

Thorne of Mimico, returning missionaries, and the following young ladies, who are going out for the first time:—Miss R. McKenzie of Galt; Miss M. Standen, Minesing, Ont.; Miss N. MacPherson of Philadelphia; Miss L. Webster of Buffalo, and Miss Lizzie Tilley, Miss Margaret McDonald and Miss Lizzie Bennet of Toronto. The leaving-taking was quiet but affecting. The hymns sung as the group stood on the railway platform were symbolic of the hopes and dangers ahead, and of the trust with which the new scenes were looked forward to.

LATE REV. WM. BURNS.

THE death of Rev. Wm. Burns, the Agent of the Aged and Infirm Minister's Fund came with startling suddenness. Stricken down under circumstances of peculiar



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sadness, the shock which the tragic event has brought upon the Church has been very severe. Mr. Burns left his home in the best of spirits and apparent health on Saturday to preach in Knox church Galt. He officiated in the forenoon and proceeded in the afternoon to conduct a funeral service at the residence of a member. He arrived, and began the service when he reeled and fell down dead—a sudden, unexpected call.

The news was wired to Rev. Principal Caven, who with Rev. Dr. Gregg and Rev. W. G. Wallace, notified the bereaved family. On Tuesday the funeral took place at Toronto, and the large attendance of the public as well as of the ministerial brethren, showed the high esteem in which the deceased was held in the community.

Mr. Burns became known early in his career, as an able preacher and an energetic worker in church circles. He was associated as assistant minister with Rev. Dr. Jennings and Rev. Dr. Topp, and then settled at Perth. His pulpit and pastoral ministrations were greatly valued and his name was often mentioned as that of a leading minister of the church. But besides, he was possessed of more than average business capacity, which with the interest he had manifested in the welfare of his Alma Mater, pointed to him as a most suitable agent for Knox College when the Endowment Fund for that institution was to be vigorously pushed. In that capacity he rendered invaluable service to the College and therefore to the Church. His name will in this connection be indissolubly joined with the College and no Alumnus will be remembered by those who knew of his arduous labor, with more respect.

But it was as agent for the Aged and Infirm Minister's Fund that Mr. Burns' name will live in the annals of the Church. This important fund owes much to the devotion of some leading ministers and laymen, especially to men such as Mr. Macdonald, the lawyer, Rev. Dr. Fletcher, Rev. Dr. Parsons etc., but Mr. Burns, as the Agent, was in the full current of the work, which he conducted most satisfactorily and successfully. He had given the entire thought of his later years to the interests of the beneficiaries of the fund, with what success is known to the Church. It

has been well remarked in the daily press that he overcame difficulties which would daunt a man of less perseverance, and turned to a successful issue cases well nigh impossible of such an ending. This was because of his shrewd knowledge of human nature combined with an amiable disposition and a never failing courtesy of manner. His position, it will be difficult to fill, for he knew the men he had to deal with intimately and his knowledge of the Church in Ontario was minute and comprehensive.

He will be missed by the members of the Toronto daily press. Without making distinctions he was a prime favourite with the busy reporters, who were never turned empty away while any item worth chronicling was within his ken. And he will be missed by a circle of very warm personal friends whose estimate of his character was based on an intimate knowledge of his motives and aspirations.

To his widow and family sincere sympathy will go forth in the hour of their tragic bereavement.

SCHEMES OF THE CHURCH.

The Rev. Dr. Warden has issued the following Comparative Statement of Receipts, for the Schemes of the Church, from the beginning of the ecclesiastical year, 1st May, to 31st Dec. 1896 and 1897.

Scheme.	1896.	1897.
Home Missions.....	\$21,358.47	\$19,730.85
Augmentation.....	2,665.49	2,986.23
Foreign Missions.....	38,922.11	33,472.93
French Evangelization.....	7,431.37	5,914.42
Pointe aux Trembles.....	2,048.37	2,233.71
Widows' and Orphans' Fund.....	1,225.85	1,047.92
Aged and Infirm Ministers Fund..	1,047.22	1,363.04
Assembly Fund.....	2,205.43	1,773.60
Knox College.....	1,271.11	1,393.19
Queen's College.....	208.57	228.70
Presbyterian College, Montreal....	195.75	228.63
Manitoba College.....	1,150.18	958.47

Special attention is called to the fact that the Church year now terminates on the 31st March, a month earlier than formerly.

FOREIGN MISSION FUNDS.

THE Secretary of Foreign Missions has issued a Leaflet that is worthy of special notice. It has the merit of being unmistakeable in two fundamental points:—The lost condition of the heathen and the individual responsibility of the membership of the Church. The heathen are sunk in sin—they are the enemies of God, and are without hope and without God in the world. On the other hand the Apostles and Primitive Church understood the Great Commission to be a personal injunction, and they acted upon it. To them "the field was the world" and they went into all lands preaching the Gospel. All can do this, the Leaflet says "As all can fight their country's battles either by enlisting or by supporting those who are enlisted."

We endorse this as the Scriptural and therefore the proper and most effective method of presenting the case. There is no comparison instituted or attempted depreciation of any other scheme—it is a brief statement of what is unquestionably the supreme duty of the church. Any Christian who will not be moved by the appalling need of millions of his fellows or by the direct command of the Saviour whom he professes to follow, may reasonably be asked to reconsider his profession—especially in this age, when the hand of God is so manifestly leading on His Church to the conquest of the world, all narrowness is rebuked by the abundant tokens of divine approval. That the field is the world is seen, and felt and believed as never before since Apostolic times.

On the second page of the Leaflet are given three or four encouraging facts—a few out of many—chiefly indicating how liberally the native converts give of their