

Ministers and Churches.

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

The centre of interest this week is Knox College. The annual Alumni conference is in progress, and the sons of Knox have been coming in from all parts to talk over old times, the interval between, and present prospects. Incidentally they listen to the papers presented, and discuss those of them that time and inclination give opportunity to discuss.

They are quiet fellows, these sons of Knox. The atmosphere of the College in the crescent is not healthy for sensationalism, and the men whose forte lies in that direction seek another locality. Those who come to the annual gathering are of two classes, the studious and the social. In some of them both qualities are blended, and these are the men upon whom the college builds her house. She is not demonstrative, and makes no special preparation for the home-coming. Many of the men come and go, and she never seeks them out or goes at all out of her way to make them glad they have come. But beneath the reserve she is glad to see them, and will greet them with the utmost cordiality if they seek her out. There are times when we wish she would make the advance.

The opening paper this year was characteristic of the college life. It was assigned to Professor MacLaren, and the subject was—"The Atonement, A Fact and a Theory." Upon that great central truth Knox stands where she has always stood. She speaks in no uncertain note, and close her spokes-man well to voice her sentiment this year.—This was on Monday afternoon.

On the evening of the same day Rev. Armstrong Black read a paper upon Shakespeare's Tempest, under the sub title of "An ethical and theological study." Mr. Black would give this drama the first place among all the works of the great master. It is the culmination of his great life work, in which he sums up, not, as some would have us believe, his personal experiences, but his personal convictions and faith, his thought upon eternal things and upon the Eternal One. It was a masterly analysis, and while many might hesitate to give up their preference for "King Lear" or "Hamlet", or some other to which they have accorded first place in their personal judgement, there were none who did not thoroughly enjoy the treatment by one who loved it, of this great work.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday the conference will go on, broken on Tuesday evening by the annual business meeting of the Alumni Association, on Wednesday evening by the mid-week prayer-meeting, and on Friday evening closing with a dinner given by the Alumni resident in and around Toronto to their fellow alumni from other parts and to some of the friends of Knox in Toronto. It is only possible to invite a limited number of the latter each year, as the accommodation is limited, but the invited guests are varied from year to year. The presence of the ladies, the wives of the resident ministers and of other invited guests of the City adds to the charm of the gathering.

The published docket of the Presbytery meeting next Tuesday indicates a busy day for the Toronto Presbytery. The minister of St. James' Square tables his resignation, but the consideration of it will not come up till the month of March. Our Presbyterian congregations do not believe in doing such things as the severance of a pastoral tie in a hurry and will take the matter into serious consideration for a month. There will be sincere regret that Mr. Jordan feels impelled to take this step, though when he accepted the charge he plainly intimated that it was his intention to return to the study of the department to which he has given so much of his life.

The Presbytery will have another resignation to deal with. Rev. A. L. Macfadyen of Mt. Albert and Ballantrae has also tendered the resignation of his charge and the preliminary state of its consideration

will also come on Tuesday. The charge is a difficult one, and Mr. Macfadyen has done hard work there. It is likely that the main charge, Mt. Albert, will make a strong effort to retain his services, but the smaller congregation seems disheartened. This, too, will come up for final hearing at the March meeting.

At the March meeting there will be, in all probability, the tabling of the resignation of the venerated minister of Knox Church. Though this might be expected in the ordinary course of nature, for Dr. Parsons is past the threescore and ten, it will strike a chord of genuine regret in the heart of every member of Presbytery, when the words are read. He has been twenty years among them, and there are none that do not feel that in losing him, a man of might has been lost. He will still be with them for he retains his standing as pastor emeritus, but his resignation will be regretted.

The financial statement presented at the meeting of Southside Presbyterian church, showed gross receipts of \$2,685, including Sunday collections of \$1,083.15. Expenditure, \$2,269.97.

Fern Avenue Presbyterian Church reports receipts from collections during the year about \$51,700 and there was a favorable balance. The officers' and societies' reports showed that progress had been made in all branches of the church's work.

The annual meeting of St. Enoch's Presbyterian church, showed the congregation to be in a very satisfactory state. It was reported that the expenditure amounted to \$2,229.81, including salaries \$1,518 and interest \$751.30. During the year a floating debt of \$1,800 was reduced by \$100. It was decided to raise for the century fund about \$2,900, which would wipe off the floating debt and leave \$500 for the general fund.

WESTERN ONTARIO.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Windsor, has raised the salary of its pastor, Rev. J. C. Tolmie, by \$200.

At the last meeting of Hamilton Presbytery a call from Bridgeburg to Mr. P. Sinclair, licentiate, was sustained.

On Jan. 21 Rev. D. Strachan, of St. John's Church, Brackville, exchanged pulpits with Rev. Dr. Stewart, of Prescott.

Rev. A. MacWilliams, of Wentworth Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, conducted anniversary services at Norval, Jan. 28.

On Friday, Jan. 21 Rev. Dr. Campbell delivered an interesting address in the Presbyterian Church, Grimsby, on the subject of the Century Fund.

Rev. Dr. Campbell preached in Chalmers' Church, Guelph, on Sunday morning, Jan. 21, in the interest of the Century Fund, and in the evening he spoke in Knox Church.

Rev. Alex. Grant, St. Mary's, occupied the pulpit of Chalmers' Church, Guelph, on the evening of Jan. 21. In the morning he gave an able sermon in St. Andrew's Church, on the Century Fund.

The annual meeting of St. John's Church, Hamilton shows that last year was the best in the Church's history. Receipts amounted to \$1,895.57, and there is a small balance on hand.

The annual meeting of St. Andrew's Church, London, was held Jan. 21 in the newly renovated lecture hall of the church. The meeting was a most satisfactory one in every respect.

The annual meeting of Knox Church, Guelph, was held Jan. 29. The treasurer's report showed the finances to be in a healthy condition. Plans were discussed for the improvement of the church. It is intended to put in a new pipe organ as soon as the repairs are made.

The fourth annual convention of the Young People's Societies of the Presbytery of Guelph opened in Chalmers Church, Guelph, on Jan. 29. At the evening session an address was given by Rev. W. P. McIntosh, the new minister of Knox Church, Elora. On Tuesday the officers were elected, and a number of good addresses were delivered.

The services in connection with the re-opening of St. Andrew's Church, London, will be of an interesting character, and will extend over three Sabbath and two Monday evenings. On Feb. 4 Rev. Dr. Burrell, of Marble Collegiate Church, New York, will preach both morning and evening. On Monday night Dr. Burrell will deliver his absorbing lecture on "Oliver Cromwell." On Sunday, Feb. 11,

Rev. Dr. Warden will occupy the pulpit in the morning, and Rev. W. J. Clark in the evening. On Sunday, Feb. 18, Rev. Dr. Smith, of the first Methodist Church, will preach in the morning, and the pastor will conduct the evening service. On Monday evening a service of praise will be given by the choir, assisted by Miss Jeannette Grant, of Toronto, and Master Kenzie Rutenberg.

The annual meeting of the Smithville Presbyterian Church was held Jan. 23, the pastor, Rev. A. McD. Haig, in the chair. The reports from the different committees showed the church to be in the most prosperous condition that it has been in for some years, past, both as regards church membership and finances.

Reopening services were held in St. Andrew's Church, London, last Sunday and the severe weather did not prevent the attendance of immense congregations. In the morning every pew was filled, and many chairs were brought into use; in the evening seating accommodation could not be provided for all who sought admission. The quiet, artistic beauty of the interior, the material increase in the seating capacity, and the various other improvements which have taken some time past to accomplish, were highly satisfactory. The services were most interesting. Dr. Burrell, of New York, the pastor of Marble Collegiate Church, and one of the leading divines in the Presbyterian denomination in the United States, preached morning and evening, and special music was furnished by the choir.

EASTERN ONTARIO.

The pulpit of Knox Church, Acton, was occupied Jan. 21 by Rev. Dr. McKay, of Toronto.

Rev. W. T. B. Crombie has accepted a call to Oliver's Ferry. He is to be inducted Feb. 7.

We regret to learn that Rev. Jas. Cornack, the pastor of the Presbyterian Church, Maxville, is seriously ill.

The congregation of Cooke's Church, Kingston, is to meet on Feb. 7, to extend a call to Rev. A. Laird of Port Hope.

On Thursday, January 18th, the Rev. A. C. Reeves was inducted as pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Campbellford.

Rev. A. S. Grant, B.D., late of the Klondike, addressed the congregation in St. Andrew's Church, Pakenham, last Sunday evening.

Rev. E. Scott, editor of the Presbyterian Record, Montreal, occupied the pulpit in the new Presbyterian Church at Maxville, on Jan. 21.

The anniversary services in connection with Melville Presbyterian Church at Ashton were held Jan. 21, when Rev. A. E. Mitchell preached at both services to large congregations.

On Monday, Jan. 22, the Ladies' Aid Society of St. Andrew's Church, Belleville, gave an enjoyable entertainment, which took the form of a musical programme and interesting debate.

Rev. Mr. Young, of St. Andrew's, Pakenham, preached at the anniversary services in Blakeney, Jan. 21, and Rev. Mr. Conn, of Blakeney and Clayton, preached in Pakenham in exchange.

The annual meeting of the Presbyterian Church at Woodville was held on Jan. 17. The various reports were encouraging and the affairs of the congregation shown to be in a flourishing condition.

The annual meeting of St. Andrew's Church, Almonte, held Jan. 18 was well attended. The finances of this congregation are in a good condition as is shown by the fact that they close the year with a balance on hand.

St. Andrew's Church, Williamson, held its annual business meeting last week. The reports handed in show that good work has been done during the past year. The treasurers of the different funds report a balance on hand to start the new year.

The annual meeting of Knox Church, Lancaster, was held on Jan. 18. The reports of the session, managers and treasurer fully demonstrated the fact that the spiritual and temporal condition of the congregation was in a healthy and progressive state.

The annual meeting of St. Andrew's Church, Lanark, was held on Jan. 22. The treasurer's report showed a balance on hand of \$103.96, and also that the Stipend Fund during the past year was the largest in the history of the Church. The Ladies Aid Society did good work during the year in taking in hand the expenses of refitting the Church, etc.

The Presbytery of Glengarry held its annual