

cant fact, as showing how little the Christian population is regarded as a part of the people, that their dealings with the government are transacted through the foreign offices, in the same way as those of England or America. Owing to these disabilities, there has always been a struggle, sometimes open, sometimes not, between the Christians and the ruling body.

But besides this false political principle, there is another cause of the present difficulties in the corrupt administration of the Turkish Empire. Offices are obtained by gold, and the average governor of a province carries on the government as a commercial speculation. Exactions in connection with the taxation in Herzegovina and Bosnia, led to a revolt, which opened the present war. The revenue is not collected directly by the government, but the taxes of a district are put up at auction and sold to the highest bidder, whose main object is then to get his own, and as much more as possible out of the province. The grinding rapacity of these tax-gathers is the source of a great deal of trouble.

Another reason for the want of harmony among the elements of the Turkish nation, is, the juxtaposition of a higher with a lower civilization. Polygamy and slavery are tolerated among the Mahometans; it is a scandal for one of their ladies to lunch even with the British Ambassador; and, when an eclipse of the sun occurred a short time ago, the cannon were ordered out, even in the imperial city, to belch forth their thunders against the great dragon who was devouring the luminary of the day.

The Christians, on the other hand, may not be as highly civilized as those of the west, but by sending their children away from home to schools in Europe, they have become much more intelligent and civilized in late years, and they find the ignorance and tyranny of their political masters particularly galling.

All Europe has combined to bring this state of things to an end. Russia has taken the lead, as she was entitled to, on account of her kinship to the Servians, Montenegrins, and Bulgarians, as well as on account of their relationship as members of the Greek Church. If it were certain that Russia is fighting with a view wholly and solely to the good of her oppressed fellow believers, and that when she gets to Constantinople, she will be generous enough to give it up to the native Christians, approval of her action would be hearty, but there is a suspicion that since it would certainly be for her advantage, she wants Constantinople for herself. This being the case, Britain is surely justified in taking care of her interest that Russia does not get Constantinople, it being distinctly understood that Britain is watching for the protection of her trade and colonies, and not because she would rather see Turks in Constantinople than Christians.

The address was enlivened with illustrations and anecdotes, and was highly appreciated. Principal Caven and Professor Gregg in tendering Mr. Millingen a vote of thanks, hoped to hear him soon on the state of missionary affairs in Constantinople.

HOME MISSIONS.—LAKE SUPERIOR.

LETTER FROM MR. MCKERCHER.

REV WM. COCHRANE, D.D.—DEAR SIR,—It is now some time since you heard from me, but the fact is that I had nothing of special interest to communicate. Our Sabbath attendance here is much the same as it was all summer; at Fort William it is somewhat less since the close of navigation.

My last trip along the line of railway was about the middle of November. Since that time it has been exceedingly difficult to travel to where the works are in progress. There is not sufficient snow for sleighing, and for wagons it is very rough, especially when the ground is hard with frost. The nearest point at which there is a considerable number of men working is about eighty miles from here. From there to English River, a distance of from thirty to forty miles, the men are camped in groups of various sizes. With the present mode of travelling it will require from two to three weeks to make a somewhat complete tour of the whole distance. I intend to make the trip towards the end of the month, and will write you after my return. I think the Students' Missionary Society should send one of their number to labor among these men next summer. I think it could be done without its being any burden to the Society.

The people at Silver Islet are without any religious service whatever this winter. The Methodists among

them applied to their Secretary for a young man who would preach to them during the winter, but failed. There are about sixty men at work there besides their families. I visited them twice last summer, the last time spending a Sabbath there. I preached three times, the afternoon service being for the children. All the services were very well attended. The other time I only held a week evening service, which was fairly attended. Mr. Livingston expects to move with his family to Fort William next spring, where we need him very much. Taking the whole field together, it will certainly require two missionaries for the coming year. Wishing you health and much prosperity in your arduous work for the year, I remain, yours, etc.,

D. MCKERCHER.

Prince Arthur's Landing, Jan. 11, 1878.

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.

THE anniversary missionary services of Gould-street Church will be held next Sabbath, when Rev. Dr. James, of Hamilton, will preach, morning and evening.

THE Rev. Mr. McLeod, M.A., who has accepted the call to Knox Church, Stratford, has arrived safely with his family. His induction took place last Wednesday, 30th inst.

REV. MR. LOCHHEAD, of Valleyfield, Quebec, received a unanimous call to Hullett and Londesboro. The congregation will do well if Mr. Lochhead can be induced to accept.

THE soiree held in the Presbyterian Church, Port Elgin, on the 28th ult., was quite a success considering the weather. Rev. Mr. Milligan's lecture was well received. Proceeds, \$50.

THE Rev. John Smith, of this city, is announced to lecture in Chalmers' Church, Woodstock, on 15th Feb. Subject, "Church Song." Our readers in that neighborhood may anticipate a treat.

WE understand that the Rev. W. A. McKay, M.A., of Baltimore, has been unanimously called to Chalmers' Church, Woodstock. If he sees his way to accept, the people of that church are to be congratulated.

ON New Year's eve the Rev. J. L. Murray, of Woodville, was presented by members of his congregation with a fur coat, cap and gauntlets. Mrs. Murray, who has endeared herself to the people in no ordinary degree, at the same time received a valuable fur jacket. An affectionately worded address accompanied the gifts.

AT the farewell social to Rev. T. Goldsmith he was presented by the congregation with a purse containing \$150, and by the Bible class with a valuable silver tea service. His esteemed wife was also the recipient of a silver fruit-stand. The rev. gentleman and family carry with them the cordial regard and best wishes of the people of Seaforth in all denominations.

THE children of the Millbank Presbyterian Sabbath school presented their late superintendent, Mr. Andrew Mundell, with an address and a handsome buffalo robe on the 17th inst., on the occasion of their annual sleigh-drive and social. Addresses were delivered by the pastor, Rev. J. E. Croly, Mr. Mundell, Rev. R. Phillips, and Rev. D. J. Caswell.

THE tea-meeting in connection with the Presbyterian Church, Newmarket, was held on Tuesday evening of last week. Mr. McLean, of Toronto, was called to the chair, when speeches were made by Rev. Mr. Ainos, Aurora; Rev. Mr. Gilray, Toronto; and Rev. Mr. Battisby, Chatham. Choice music gave a pleasing variety to the proceedings. The proceeds amounted to over \$100.

KNOX CHURCH, Gravenhurst, will (D.V.), be opened for public worship on Sabbath the 3rd instant. The morning service to be conducted by the Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, B.D., of New St. Andrew's, Toronto. The afternoon by the Rev. J. Leiper of Barrie, and the evening by Rev. T. W. Glover of the Canada Methodist Church. An account of the opening services will appear in a future issue.

THE annual missionary meeting of the West Winchester congregation was held on Tuesday evening, the 14th inst., the Rev. A. Rowat in the chair. The claims of the different schemes of our Church were ably presented to the meeting by Messrs. Clarke of Kemptville, and Calder of Osgoode, after which a collection and subscription were taken up, amounting to \$96. A large addition to this amount is expected from those who were not present.

WE understand that the Rev. D. J. Macdonnell of this city, and the Rev. J. Carmichael of King, are off a visit this week to our important mission field in Muskoka. A very full programme consisting of church opening services, lectures, tea-meetings, and missionary meetings have been prepared for them, so that a busy time may be expected by them. Mr. Macdonnell will spend Sabbath next at Gravenhurst and Bracebridge. Mr. Carmichael will be in the north end of the field at Huntsville and associate stations.

THE anniversary social of St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, took place on Friday evening last, and was a grand success. Readings, with vocal and instrumental music, made up an attractive programme. Great credit is due the managing committee—Messdames Gordon, Jennings, Larmonth, and Misses Orme, Drummond, Stewart and Skeed—for excellent arrangements; and to Miss Katie Drummond who so efficiently presided at the piano.

THE annual social in connection with Daly Street Presbyterian Church, Ottawa, was held last Friday evening, and was a most enjoyable affair. Useful and appropriate speeches were made by Rev. Messrs. Farries, Moore, Stewart of Pakenham, and Wood of the Congregationalist Church. Not the least interesting feature of the evening's proceedings was the presentation to Mr. Mullans, leader of the choir, of a silver inkstand, in grateful recognition of valued services, heartily rendered, for many years. This congregation, under the pastorate of Rev. Mr. Armstrong, is making substantial progress.

THE tea-meeting held in the Presbyterian Church, Wroxeter, on the 17th inst., for the benefit of the Sabbath school, was in every respect a successful one. The weather being favorable a large number turned out, and no pains were spared by the promoters in making the evening as agreeable as possible. Amongst the speakers on the platform were the Rev. Mr. Baikie, of Harriston, Rev. Mr. Stewart, of Carrick, and D. D. Wilson, of Seaforth. The musical part was supplied by an efficient choir, under the leadership of Mrs. Brown, who enlivened the entertainment with some very fine selections. The proceeds of the evening amounted to \$28.

THE Presbyterian congregation under the pastoral care of the Rev. J. M. Boyd, held a tea meeting in the Town Hall, Demorestville, on Wednesday night, the 16th inst. Owing to the lack of snow and sleighing the attendance was but moderate. After the company had done justice to the good fare, E. Doney, Esq., of Northport, was called by acclamation to the chair, which he filled in a happy and successful manner. Speeches, pleasant and instructive, were delivered by the Rev. Messrs. Hill and Pearen, of Demorestville, and McMechan, of Picton. The speeches were interspersed with excellent vocal and instrumental music furnished by the church choir. Good recitations were given by Master A. M. McMechan and Mr. Whitney, P.S.T. The meeting was very orderly and appreciative of the efforts made for its entertainment, the chairman declaring that he had never presided over, or been present at so well-conducted an assemblage. The proceeds amounted to \$35.

THE annual congregational meeting of St. Paul's Church, Peterborough, was held in the basement of the church on the 23rd of January, at which there was a large number of members present. The session report showed that after the roll had been carefully purged, the membership of the church was for the year ending Nov. 30th, 1877, 442; a net increase of 44 over the preceding year. The Sabbath school report showed that the average attendance for the year was 214, being an increase of 43 over the average attendance last year. Besides the church school there is a mission school in the south part of the town with an average attendance of ninety scholars, and there are several schools in the country parts with as many more. The report of the Missionary Society showed that there had been raised for strictly missionary purposes \$1,115.36, \$150 of which had been raised by the Sunday school. In the report of the Deacons' court it was recommended that something should be done to increase the sitting accommodation of the church, as there were a large number of applicants for pews. It was decided to take a vote of the congregation with respect to the introduction of an organ into the church. The congregation have had to mourn the death of Rev. J. M. Roger, who labored among them for more than forty years, and they resolved to erect a monumental tablet as a token of their esteem.