

Ministers and Churches.

OUR TORONTO LETTER.

Thursday evening last Chalmers church welcomed its new minister, and so numerous were the brother ministers who were present to say a word of welcome that the chairman allowed each but three minutes to say it. The utmost harmony prevails, and an eagerness to be at work is evident among the members.

Large congregations greeted the new minister on Sabbath. In the morning he spoke of the "Ministry of Christ on Earth," and in the evening, to an overflowing congregation, upon the ministry of man. The church is situated in a district where good work is possible, the congregation is well equipped, and already they have confidence in the man whom they have chosen to lead them.

Rev. Louis H. Jordan said farewell to St. James Square congregation last Sabbath evening. The occasion marked the closing of a six years' ministry there, and, to many, these have been most profitable years. Mr. Jordan's address was a resume of the work of the past years, a statement of his belief that this work though checked for a time by the withdrawal of their minister, would soon go on as before, and a brief, frank statement of his own future intentions. As already stated to his Presbytery, Mr. Jordan intends to devote his time to the study of Comparative Religions, to the arrangement of the materials already in hand, and to search for new material. He will carry with him into his future work the hearty goodwill not only of his congregation but of all who have come to know him well.

Some things in connection with the report of the annual meeting of the Home Mission committee are worthy of an hour's careful thought. It is stated that there is a deficit of \$9000. It is also stated that, in the belief that the church would meet this within the next month, the committee did not include this deficit in the estimates for the next year, and that these estimates total up to \$100,000. These two items should be well noted. Then when one glances over the list of appointees, students still predominate, though there are unemployed ministers in plenty. We do not say that the committee are to blame for the non-employment of these ministers without charge. We should not be surprised to learn that every ordained man who offered himself was chosen. If therefore a man did not send in his name, he has no ground for complaint though students in the relation of 20 to 1 were chosen.

The Augmentation committee appointed by the Synod to revise the applications of Presbyteries met on Monday afternoon last. If all Presbyteries act in the irresponsible way that a certain metropolitan Presbytery has done, the lot of the Synodical committee will not be a happy one. The said Presbytery calmly rode down its own committee, that had given thought to the affairs of the congregations applying for grants, and made its own recommendations, at least, in two instances, in defiance of its committee's recommendation. What plea the representative of the Presbytery could honestly put forward in support of these applications we fail to see except that his Presbytery has asked for it.

It is said that Mr. Morgan Wood (he declines to be called Reverend, is about to leave Toronto. He has said many things since coming here and some of them have been wise. He has dabbled considerably in social problems, more, it would seem for the purpose of finding something out, than for the purpose of carrying out any definite plan. He is one of the men whose voice can fill Massey Hall and to whom many flock to hear what he will say. Undoubtedly he will be much missed in Toronto.

It has been decided to continue the Thursday mid-day meetings in Knox and the body of the auditorium looks fairly well-filled. Evidently this half-hour is appreciated and we have seen the same faces at each meeting. Many have not learned to set aside the half hour as yet, but will, we presume,

before the month of April is out. Rev. Armstrong Black will be the speaker this week.

At the closing of Knox College on Thursday next, the Rev. Dr. Johnson, of St. Andrew's, London, will deliver an address. Those upon whom are conferred degrees, and those who receive diplomas will be presented by Revs. Dr. R. N. Grant, J. McD. Duncan and Prof. MacFadyen. Members of the college glee club are expected to help the service of praise, and members of the faculties of sister institutions will occupy seats upon the platform. We expect the evening will abundantly demonstrate the necessity for a convocation hall with accommodation for 80 instead of 400.

The leaders in the great Home Missionary movements of the Church are seen about town these days. Dr. Robertson has wintered it well, and grips one's hand with the same insistence as of yore. Rev. A. T. Love is here from the seats of the mighty. Rev. Alex. Henderson peers at one with half-shut, but most observant eyes, from some unexpected corner. Dr. Somerville looms up as one breasts the throng on Yonge St. Dr. Hamilton, the ideal of the genial, scholarly Scotch minister, smiles benignantly out of the crowd upon one. Rev. A. Finlay, of Barrie, who if service counts for anything, ought to be Dr. Findlay, glowers dourly at the unaccustomed throng, and pushes his way through it as if he was up against a Muskoka snow-storm. These, and a score of others, all more or less well known, give the streets an assembly appearance these days. But they are busy men, and the scribe sees little of them, unless it be at the lunch hour.

On Saturday afternoon last the death occurred of Rev. Walter Coulthard, who was stricken about two weeks ago with paralysis, and with the exception of a few moments was unconscious until the end came. Rev. Mr. Coulthard was born at Greta Green, Scotland, in April 1829, and came to Canada as a young man. He was educated at Knox college and graduated in 1859. Mr. Coulthard occupied charges at Valleyfield, St. Louis de Gonzac, Quebec; Gananoque and Picton. He came to Toronto in 1892, and resided here continuously until his death.

OTTAWA.

The board of management of Erskine Presbyterian church, is arranging for a concert to include a chorus, patriotic drills and other special features.

Rev. Mr. Eadie of Bethany Church, is down with an attack of grippie. There appears to be an epidemic of this disease in Ottawa just now.

Mrs. Alex. Lumsden has donated a gold medal to the educational committee of the Young Women's Christian Association to be given at the end of the present course.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Miller, organist of Stewarston church, entertained the choir at their home on a recent evening. A pleasant gathering was held, and during the evening games, singing and refreshments helped to pass the time away.

The sudden death of Mrs. John Carruthers, came as a sad surprise to her many friends in Stewarston church, and throughout the city. She took a lively and intelligent interest in all church work, and her womanly sympathetic nature made her a welcome visitor in homes invaded by sickness or sorrow. The family bereaved of an affectionate wife and loving mother, have the sympathy of many friends in their sad bereavement.

NORTHERN ONTARIO.

The presbytery of Owen Sound approved of the overture for term service of five years in the eldership and deaconate and forwarded it to the synod for approval and transmission to the General Assembly.

The following were appointed by the presbytery of Owen Sound commissioners to the General Assembly: Messrs. Hunter, McLaren, Somerville, Thompson, Waits ministers; Messrs. J. Armstrong, Jas. Gardiner, Dr. Henry, Wm. Robson and A. Pringle, elders.

WESTERN ONTARIO.

Rev. M. McGregor has resigned the pastorate of Tilsonburg.

Rev. Dr. Mungo Fraser, of Hamilton, occupied the pulpit of St. Andrew's Church, London, at both services last Sunday, and lectured on Egypt on Monday evening in the same church.

St. Andrew's congregation, London, in response to an appeal by Dr. Johnson contributed \$1,000 last Sabbath for the India Famine Fund. The amount has since been considerably supplemented.

The following were appointed by Chatham Presbytery as commissioners to the General Assembly, Rev. Messrs. Keith, McGregor, Munro, Battersby, Larkin and McInnis, ministers, and Currie, Stewart, Trotter, Bartlett, Law and Laird, elders.

Guelph presbytery has elected the following as commissioners to the General Assembly: Dr. Wardrope, by acclamation; Dr. Middlemiss, Wm. Milligan, E. Strachan, Dr. Torrance, A. M. Hamilton and W. Robertson, ministers; with Richard Hanna, Charles Hay, D. M. Allan, James Chambers, John Rutherford, David Russell, and Wm. Weir.

The Rev. Mr. McMillan, of St. Enoch's Church, Toronto, delivered his lecture on "The Homes and Haunts of Sir Walter Scott," in Guelph on the 27th inst. The body of the church was well filled with an interested audience. The lecturer was introduced by Lieut.-Col. McCrae, and for an hour and a half held his audience in touch with the life work of the great Wizard of the North.

A call from the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Strathroy, accompanied with the usual relative papers, to Mr. Macpherson of Knox Church, Acton, was laid on the table at last meeting of Guelph Presbytery. At his request consideration was delayed till the meeting in May, at which his congregation is to be cited to appear in their interests.

Commissioners to the General Assembly appointed by presbytery of Barrie. By rotation: Messrs. J. A. Ross, N. Campbell, G. Crow, J. Skene, P. Nicol, J. E. Smith. By ballot—Messrs. McLeod, Findlay and D. L. McCrae. Elders—Messrs. W. Dampbell, Dantoon; G. Grant, M.A., Orilla; C. Cameron, Allandale; Thos. Stott, Wyevale; E. Garrett, Bradford; W. Wright, Bondhead; John Rogerson, Barrie; W. M. Lawrence, Collingwood; Samuel Jacobs, Minesing.

At a meeting of the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, London, the building committee presented a report, showing the total cost of the church renovation to have been \$12,500. The need of a Sabbath school was urged, and a committee consisting of Messrs. Alex. Fraser, Angus Gunn, C. R. Somerville, John Lochad, John Marr, H. G. Hopkirk, M. H. Rowland and R. Ironside was appointed to secure plans, etc., and report at the next annual meeting, January, 1901.

The many friends of Mrs. Blair, wife of James Blair, 50 Alma street, London, were greatly shocked to hear of her most unexpected death on March 14. Mrs. Blair came to London at the time of her marriage, fifteen years ago, and from training and association, as well as principle, as a daughter of the manse—one of the family of the late Rev. Dr. George, formerly of Kingston and later of Scarborough—almost immediately entered upon all the Christian activities of St. Andrew's congregation, with which she associated herself, notably the W.F.M.S. in which she was a valued and most helpful worker.

Chatham Presbytery met in Windsor on March 18th. Mr. Tolmie was elected moderator for six months. A deputation of Presbytery was appointed to visit South Bush Mission to determine a site for a new church building. It was agreed to recommend Mr. S. T. Martin to the H. M. Committee for work in Home Mission field. The translation of Mr. Lindsay having been granted by London Presbytery, arrangements were made for his induction on April 17th. A call from Dawn in favor of Mr. R. J. Ross, of Tamarek, was reported by Mr. Brown. The call having been sustained, was accepted by Mr. Ross and arrangements were made for his induction on April 11th.