

Barron, and report at the evening sederunt. The committee reporting favourably, and pieces for public trial having been heard in the open court, it was agreed to license both candidates, and also to ordain Mr. Court. In accordance therewith, Messrs. Barron and Court were solemnly set apart to the office of the Gospel ministry as above indicated. Extract minutes of the Assembly Records were read, granting leave to Rev. Alexander Smith to retire from the active duties of the ministry, also a minute granting leave to Presbytery to receive Mr. J. M. Wilson as a licentiate of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. An application from Mr. George Ambler for the position of teacher of the Okanese School accompanied by letters of accommodation, was read and referred to the Foreign Mission Committee. Applications for aid for Churches from the Church and Manse Board were read and recommended to the favourable consideration of the Board from Chateau, Monticelli and Torbult. A deputation from Rose Dale was heard and future supply, whereupon it was agreed that Dr. Robertson visit the field and report to the next meeting of the Presbytery. Mr. McTavish tendered his resignation of the Moderatorship of the interim Session of Brandon congregation, which was accepted. Other members wishing to be relieved, a new Session was organized, consisting of Rev. S. C. Fraser, M.A., Moderator; Robertson, Bell, Rowland and Anderson, ministers; Richards, McCaul and Nicol, elders. It was agreed that Mr. Stalker preach in Brandon next Sabbath, and state the action of the Presbytery on the call to Mr. Dastan. Mr. McTavish presented claim for \$16 which he had paid for service in his own congregation while doing work in Brandon, which claim was referred to the Home Mission Committee. By previous agreement, the order for Wednesday evening was the hearing of the report of the Presbyterial Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. The society reported eleven auxiliaries, five of which had been added during the year. The sum of \$369 had been raised by the society during the year, an increase of \$274 over last year. The officers for the ensuing year are: Mrs. McTavish, Charter, president; Mrs. Murray, Neepawa, first vice president; Mrs. Bell, Portage, second vice president; Mrs. Haig, Cypress, third vice president; Mrs. Murray, Brandon, corresponding secretary; Mrs. H. M. Campbell, Portage, recording secretary; Mrs. Dr. McDiarmid, treasurer. Missionary addresses were delivered by Messrs. Murray and Wilson, also by Mrs. Cuthbertson, a returned Foreign Missionary of the American Presbyterian Church. It was agreed that the next regular meeting of the Presbytery be held in Minnedosa, Tuesday, September 4, at half-past seven o'clock p.m. Mr. Hodges reported that he had dispensed the Lord's supper at two stations in the Pipestone district, and that he also ordained and inducted elders in and for said field. The following Presbytery elders were reported: W. W. Miller, Portage; James Scott, Oak Lake; Thomas Bullock, Pipestone; R. S. Thompson, Cypress, and James Cummings, Charter. The Home Mission report was presented by Mr. Todd, received and adopted. The substance of the report is as follows: Ministers were appointed to dispense ordinances in the various mission fields within the bounds. Supply of vacancies was left in the hands of the Convener and the superintendent. In future Alexander station with Dunn and Roseland constitute a field and the mouth of the Saskatchewan be united to Torbult Field. Presbytery was recommended to take action on the reduction of the grant to Birtle from \$300 to \$250. The Foreign Mission Committee also reported, and the report was received and adopted. A committee was appointed to draft resolutions of sympathy with Mr. Haig, who, during the meeting of the Presbytery received intelligence of his father's sudden death. Also with Mr. Stalker, had lately been similarly bereaved. The Presbytery adjourned to meet at Minnedosa on Tuesday, Sept. 4, at half past seven p.m.—S. C. MURRAY, Pres. Clerk.

MONTREAL NOTES.

The Rev. J. McCaul, formerly of Stanley Street Church, Montreal, was inducted pastor of the Broad Street Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, England, on the 10th of July. This congregation has at present a membership of about 100. The Church accommodates 850 and the adjoining school room 600. The English Presbyterian Church has four congregations in Birmingham, the Broad Street one being the most important, as well as the oldest, the church having been erected about fifty years ago. The Sabbath school has an average attendance of 225. This argues well for the future of the congregation under Mr. McCaul. At a welcome social on the 13th July, a large congregation was present, including eight non-conformist ministers, who extended the right hand of fellowship to the new pastor. On Sabbath the 15th, Mr. McCaul was introduced by the Rev. William Ross, of Glasgow, who preached in the morning and evening. The Rev. Dr. Warden, of Montreal, was to have taken one of these services, but was prevented because of the miscarriage of a letter Mr. McCaul's many friends here will be glad to learn of his happy settlement in England, and the hopeful prospect of success before him.

Mr. John Stirling, the well known merchant and active officebearer of Crescent Street Church here, met this week with a very severe loss in the death, by drowning, of his only son, a promising young man of twenty seven years of age. The general respect in which he was held was evidenced by the very large attendance and by the numerous floral offerings at the funeral on Thursday. Mr. Stirling has the warm sympathy of a large circle of friends in his great sorrow.

The corner stone of the new St. Matthew's Presbyterian Church, Point St. Charles, was laid in the presence of a large congregation on Saturday afternoon by the Rev. Dr. Warden, who was presented with a handsome silver trowel with a suitable inscription. A short religious service was conducted by the pastor, the Rev. W. R. Cruikshank, and addresses were delivered by the Rev. Professor Shaw, of the Methodist Church, Rev. Dr. Fraser, of Hamilton, and Mr. Colin McArthur. The new church will accommodate about

900 comfortably. The style of architecture will be Romanesque, built with Montreal stone, in treble work, with dressed facings. Interiorly the conformation will be that of a Greek cross, with a large dome in the centre. The ceiling will be vaulted. Four large piers will support it. A handsome gallery will extend across the front. Then entrances will be spacious. When completed St. Matthew's congregation will have one of the handsomest and most modern churches in the city to worship in. At present it is only intended to complete the basement, which will be roofed over, and in which the congregation will worship during the winter. The congregation has adopted the wise resolution not to go into debt. The ground cost \$3,100 and has been paid for. The work at present in progress will be paid for also; and the building will be gradually completed as the funds come in. The church will cost \$30,000. Messrs. Hutchison & Steel are the architects. The congregation now numbers 440 members, representing 220 families with 500 children and teachers in the Sunday school. Great credit is due to the Rev. W. R. Cruikshank for the success of the enterprise thus far. He has personally collected upwards of \$5,000 from friends in other Presbyterian congregations of the city; his own people have already contributed \$3,000 for the building and \$7,000 are expected from the sale of the old church, making \$15,000 for the new building in addition to the \$3,100 raised for the purchase of the site.

The Rev. Dr. Wells, of the American Presbyterian Church, went to England a month ago to consult an eminent physician for his health. He cables this week that he is much better, and hopes to return in September quite restored.

The Rev. C. Chiniquy is at present on a visit to Montreal. He conducted service last Sabbath evening and again on Wednesday evening in Russell Hall, which was filled on both occasions by a large and deeply attentive congregation. Mr. Chiniquy expects to remain in the city for another two or three weeks, and is to preach every Sabbath evening and, on Wednesday, in Russell Hall (St. John's Church).

Mr. Black, Manager of the Presbyterian Board of Publication, Philadelphia, was in Montreal on business this week. He hopes to make such arrangements as largely to increase the sale of the Board's publications in Canada.

Rev. Hudson Taylor, of the China Inland Mission, and Mr. Reginald Ratcliffe, of Liverpool, are to be in the city on Sabbath, 19th inst., when they occupy several pulpits. They are on their way home from Mr. Moody's conference at Northfield.

OBITUARY.

ARCHIBALD M'CLACHLIN.

On the 10th inst., the long and severe but patiently borne sufferings of Mr. Archibald McLachlin, of St. Thomas, Registrar of Elgin County, closed in death. He was a man held in high esteem while he lived, and his worth will be held in loving remembrance by all who knew him. For a life time he was a resident of the county in which he died. In his early days he knew by experience the hardships of the pioneer's lot. Being a capable and energetic man he did not long remain on what was then a backwoods farm but joined the teaching profession doing good and faithful work, as his manner was through life. His next endeavour was in the book and stationery business, which he carried on in the town of St. Thomas, in those days though the county seat, but a limited sphere for an extensive business. On his book shelves was to be found a surprising assortment of standard works in literature, philosophy, science and theology. He founded the *Canadian Home Journal* which, from its general excellence and the ability with which it was conducted, soon rose to be one of the most influential journals in the west. He held for a considerable time the position of county school superintendent, and was deeply interested in educational advancement. He also held the office of mayor for a term. He was one of the most disinterested and public spirited of citizens, with no selfish ends to serve. Whatever movement promised to advance the prosperity of the town or the welfare of the people found in Mr. McLachlin a zealous and influential promoter. The Canada Southern Railway owed much to his energetic advocacy. Alma Ladies' College is also deeply indebted to him for the generous support he extended to that now flourishing institution, and it has recognized its obligation by naming the new addition McLachlin Hall.

His religious convictions were deep and sincere. His attachment to the Presbyterian Church was evidenced in many ways. While the town was small, and the Presbyterian cause not so strong as it is now, it always found in Mr. McLachlin a warm friend and an indefatigable supporter. He has been known to undertake burdens from which others would shrink. When there was a hitch in the building of the church that was discarded for the present handsome edifice, he manfully and hopefully came forward and undertook the difficult task of completing the work, in which he was, without unnecessary delay, successful.

Mr. McLachlin was a man of upright character and undeviating regard for all that was lovely, true and of good report. In every relation of life he was exemplary, and his removal leaves an unfilled blank. His is a record that all who know it will hold in deepest respect. His loss is deeply mourned, his strong personality will long be felt as an influence for good, and his memory lovingly cherished.

ALMA LADIES' COLLEGE.

ST. THOMAS, ONTARIO.

Nearly 200 students in 1888, sixteen graduates and certificated teachers in the faculty. Total expenses from \$40 to \$60 per term, or from \$150 to \$200 per year in advance, including music and fine arts.

Half the music and art graduates of this school are now employed as teachers in other colleges. Address, B. F. Austin, Principal.

Sabbath School Teacher.

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS

Sept. 2. } THE SPIES SENT INTO CANAAN. { Num. 13
1888. } 27-31.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.—Numbers xiii. 30

SHORTER CATECHISM.

Question 91.—This question brings out the radical difference between the teaching of the Church of Rome and the doctrines of the Evangelical Church, which are the doctrines taught in the Word of God. In relation to the sacraments, Rome claims that it administered by a priest, whatever his character, they are efficacious, and that the sacraments themselves are of necessary means of grace. The question clearly shows that in the water of baptism and the bread and wine of the Lord's supper there is no essential virtue. The minister who baptizes, and who dispenses the communion has no power, either personally or officially, to make the sacraments effective. What makes them means of grace is the blessing of Christ the King and Head of the Church, who instituted them, the working of the Holy Spirit, and the faith of those who receive them.

INTRODUCTORY.

After remaining in the encampment near Mount Sinai, the children of Israel made a three days' march into the wilderness of Paran, and encamped at Kadesh Barnea.

I. Spies Sent Out.—The divine command was that the people should go up and possess the promised land. They had never suffered by obeying God's command. He had miraculously shielded them and provided for their wants, from the time they had left Egypt; yet the evil heart of unbelief was strong in them. It was their desire that messengers should be sent to ascertain the state of the land to which they were journeying. They had more faith in the exercise of ordinary prudence than in the extraordinary providence of God. Leading men from each of the tribes were selected, for the purpose of ascertaining by personal observation the condition of the country. They received their instructions from Moses. They were to "go up this way southward," that is, through the southern region of Canaan, which was the least fertile portion of the land, extending northward from where they were encamped to near Hebron, and from the Dead Sea on the east to the Mediterranean on the West. These messengers were to learn all they could about the country, the nature of the soil, and its capabilities, the number and character of the inhabitants, their means of defence, and all information they could possibly glean. They were instructed to bring specimens of the fruits of the land. It was the time of the first ripe grapes, the latter part of July and beginning of August.

II. The Expedition of the Spies.—They set out on their adventurous journey, and probably traversed the whole of Palestine, from south to north, as the words "they searched the land from the wilderness of Zion unto Rehob, as men come to Hamath," seem to indicate. It is likely that they did not all travel together, but separately, both to obtain as much information as possible, and also for their safety, as they would be less likely to be objects of suspicion travelling singly than in company. In due course the town of Hebron was reached, where they found the warlike tribes of Abimelech, Sheshai and Talmi, children of Anak, renowned for their stature and valour. To the north of Hebron in the valley of Eschol, fruits in great abundance and perfection were found. Modern travellers bear witness that it still yields plentifully the same kind of fruits that delighted the spies sent out by Moses. The spies cut down a large cluster of grapes, and "they bare it between two upon a staff" not necessarily because the cluster was so heavy, but it could thus be the more easily carried without injury. Figs and pomegranates were also taken as specimens of what the country could produce. The pomegranate was a dark red coloured fruit, luscious and grateful to the taste, about the size of an ordinary apple. After forty days' exploration, the spies safely returned to the camp at Kadesh Barnea, and delivered their report to Moses, Aaron, and the whole congregation.

III. The Spies' Report.—As to the excellence of the country the report was entirely favourable. The fruits exhibited to the people would tell their own tale as to the productiveness of the land and the geniality of the climate. The messengers said, "Surely it floweth with milk and honey," the very terms in which God had described the land to them, expressive of the richness and excellence of the natural advantages of the country. But the majority of the spies were discouraged by what they had seen of the inhabitants of Canaan. They were dismayed by the number of the warlike tribes that were to be found there. The people were strong. They had strongly-fortified towns. There were children of Anak, men of great strength and stature. The Amalekites, whom they had already encountered, dwelt in the south, the Hittites, the Jebusites, who held Jerusalem as to the days of King David, and the Ammonites, who dwelt in the mountains, and the Canaanites, who lived near the sea. Caleb, one of the most courageous of the spies, was not so easily depressed. He suggested that they should go at once and possess the land. But the more timid counsels prevailed, and they had to wander for many years in the wilderness. "So we see they could not enter in because of unbelief."

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

The two spies who brought the good report were men of undaunted courage and strong faith. They were the only two of all the vast multitude who were permitted to settle in the promised land.

Faith does not shut her eyes to dangers and difficulties, but she trusts in the Power that is able to conquer them all. The lesson re-enforces the warning, "Beware of unbelief."