

remit on the marriage with a deceased wife's sister, and recommended it be approved simpliciter. This was carried, Revs. Messrs. Crombie and Ballantyne dissenting. That on denominational co-operation was also approved of. A motion by Rev. Dr. Campbell, to reconsider the decision come to at last meeting to divide the Presbytery, was carried. A committee having been appointed on this subject, with leave to retire and subsequently report, the scheme recommended by this committee to avoid division, after full discussion, was approved of, and the Presbytery decided accordingly not to divide. The report on Sabbath Schools was presented by the Rev. J. S. Stuart, and, after discussion upon various points referred to in the report, was adopted. A very elaborate and vigorous report on Temperance was presented by Rev. D. McDonald, which, after brief but earnest discussion, was with some amendment of its recommendation adopted. On the evening of Tuesday the annual Presbyterial meeting of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society was held. An interesting report was read by the secretary, Miss Wylie, also a report of the treasurer, Miss Stark, from which it appeared that all the auxiliaries and mission bands were in good working order, and that a large increase had been made over the contributions of last year, which amounted in all to \$1,701. The Rev. Dr. Campbell, in an interesting and instructive address, moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by the Rev. Neil Campbell.

MONTREAL NOTES.

The eleventh annual meeting of the Montreal Presbyterian Sabbath School Association was held in the lecture room of Knox Church on Tuesday evening, and was well attended. Mr. J. Murray Smith occupied the chair. The annual report was read by Lieut. Col. Fraser, the secretary of the association. There are seventeen schools, with 379 teachers and 3,645 scholars enrolled, with an average attendance of 2,368. This is an increase over the preceding year of twenty-four teachers and 473 scholars. The contributions of the schools amounted to \$3,416, an increase of \$598 over the year preceding. On motion of Rev. Mr. Fleck, seconded by Mr. Paul, the report was adopted. The following office-bearers were elected for the year:—J. Murray Smith, president; Walter Paul and John Larmouth, vice-presidents; James T. McCall, corresponding secretary; L. Torrance Fraser, recording secretary and treasurer; J. Ross, W. Nisbett and A. C. Hutchison, committee on property; executive committee, the officebearers, with the superintendents, assistant-superintendents, and one representative from each school. After addresses from the president, Rev. Messrs. Fleck, Scrimger, R. Campbell and Mr. W. Paul, refreshments were served, and a pleasant half-hour spent in social intercourse.

An evening school for Italians has recently been opened in Russell Hall school room, by our Church's Italian missionary, Rev. A. Internoscia. The attendance has been very encouraging, as many as twenty-four adult Italians being present at one time. Steps are being taken to open a mission day school for the children of the Italian families, many of whom understand neither English nor French.

The Rev. Dr. Barbour, of Yale, has received and accepted the appointment of principal of the Congregational College here, and enters upon the duties of his position next fall. He is spoken of as an accomplished scholar. Dr. Stevenson held both the principalship of the college and the pastorate of Emmanuel Church. Dr. Barbour's labours are to be confined to the college, and the congregation of Emmanuel Church are now on the outlook for a minister.

The Students' Missionary Society of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, has heretofore worked a number of Home Mission fields in the summer months—as is done by similar societies in the other Colleges of the Church—sending out missionaries to these, and assuming the responsibility of their support. The society is now taking a new departure, and has resolved to confine its labour to fields which can be worked by it both winter and summer. Besides conducting services in the Mackay Institute, the House of Industry and other institutions in Montreal, the society has resolved to carry on a City Mission effort among the English-speaking people and another among the French. For the latter a suitable site is to be purchased in St. Jean Baptiste, and mission premises erected. It is contemplated, in addition to the services of a French missionary for this work, to employ a teacher to conduct a day and night school, and to open a reading room, etc., for the benefit of the district. To meet the cost of the site and buildings, the members of the society are this summer to put forth a special effort to secure funds. The society has also resolved to establish English services at Ste. Anne, Point Claire and Valois, three districts contiguous to the city, where there is a considerable population, especially during the summer months.

On Sabbath last the Rev. R. H. Warden visited the congregation of English River and Howick, in the interest of Augmentation. At a meeting of the congregation on the following day it was agreed to increase the salary of the Rev. C. M. Mackerracher by \$100 per annum. Few ministers more heartily deserve such a mark of appreciation from their people.

The ladies of Calvin Church (Rev. Dr. Smyth, pastor,) are to give a social in the school room on Thursday next from three to ten o'clock p.m. Music, etc., will be provided, together with refreshments, and a table of useful articles will be on sale. The ladies of this congregation upheld the church last summer, and have just refurnished and decorated the vestry.

The annual report for 1886 of Erskine Church—Rev. I. H. Jordan, B.D.,—is just published. It is a goodly-sized pamphlet of seventy-four pages, neatly and systematically arranged. First comes the pastor's greeting, in which reference is made to the chief incidents of interest in the congregation's history during the year. This is followed by much interesting information regarding the congregation and its earlier office-bearers. Then comes a

brief statement of the method of finance in vogue in the congregation, viz., weekly envelopes and plate collections for ordinary and special Sabbath collections, and contributions by lady collectors monthly for missionary purposes. There are fifteen elders, five trustees, seventeen managers and 515 communicants. During the year forty were admitted by certificate and thirty-three on profession of faith, the net increase being forty. The attendance at the prayer meeting, excepting the summer months, ranges from 120 to 160, and the Sabbath attendance is larger than for some years past. The pastor's Bible class has an average attendance of sixty-eight. Of this class eighteen were received into the fellowship of the church during the year. The Sabbath school has twenty-three teachers and 191 scholars. The total revenue of Erskine Church for 1886 was \$13,221, viz., for congregational purposes, \$6,272, or \$28.90 per family for missionary and benevolent objects, \$6,950, or \$32.03 per family, the average contribution per family for all purposes being \$60.03. Included in these receipts are \$698 raised by the Juvenile Missionary Society, and \$746 by the Woman's Working Society. There are eleven different organizations in the congregation, the office-bearers and workers connected with which number 253. Appended to the report are the names and addresses of all communicants, with the date of their uniting with the congregation, also the names and addresses of all heads of families, whether communicants or adherents. The congregation was organized in June, 1833, fifty-four years ago. The name of one of the original members—Mr. David Brown, sen.—is still on the communion roll.

The Rev. A. B. McKay, of Crescent Street Church, has gone to Hamilton to conduct the anniversary services on Sabbath in the Central Presbyterian Church.

Mr. James Croil has been heard from. In the last week of February he was at Sorrento, in the Bay of Naples. He is expected to return to Montreal in May or June.

LONDON PRESBYTERIAL WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSION SOCIETY.

This society, organized September 6, 1884, held its third annual conference in St. Andrew's Church, Queen's Avenue, on Thursday, the 3rd inst. Weather fine, and a large number of delegates forward to take part in the business of the day. There were also delegates from the various sister societies of the city—Mrs. Tilley, representing the Church of England ladies present, Mr. John McMechan, the Canada Methodist, and Mrs. Thornhill, the Baptist denomination—all of whom were glad to be with us, and take part in the proceedings, speaking with the most affectionate sympathy and earnestness on behalf of our common work for women in heathen lands. Among our own people we were glad to welcome Mrs. Archibald, of St. Thomas, and Mrs. Sawers, of Westminster, both young wives of prominent ministers only recently come to labour in this part of our country. There was a freedom from restraint experienced from the very beginning of this meeting—a deliverance from the fear of man, including woman,—which let loose the sympathies of members, and caused their reading and speaking to be audible, free and happy throughout; even the presence of reporters was ignored.

Some valuable papers were read, one on the "New Hebrides," by Miss M'Adam, of St. Thomas. A very original, pointed and instructive one on "Missions," by Miss McColl, of Westminster, and another on "Formosa," by Miss Hickox, of St. Thomas Mission Band. Questions were ably answered by Mrs. Ball. "How to Make Auxiliaries Interesting," brought a reason from one lady which is worthy of note and thought. She said: "There is no particular one in our auxiliary to take the lead; consequently (?) the responsibility is thrown upon all, each one feeling it her duty to bring something, or take part." The one alluded to is avowedly lively, self-instructing and prayerful.

Another question showed plainly that the sense of the meeting was opposed to speculation or worldly entertainments as a means of money-making for the promotion of the cause of Christ—meetings for the spread of information, missionary intelligence, and missionary music, with collections of voluntary contributions being recommended. Sales of work were considered a lawful and honourable business, and useful for mission bands. The society has advanced rapidly during the year, six new auxiliaries and two mission bands having been added to our organizations, which now number seventeen, with an aggregate membership of 545, as against nine last year with a membership of 303.

The money results are perhaps more in proportion than the membership. An extra effort was made toward autumn, in providing a box of clothing and goods of various sorts, for the use of our missionaries. Mr. and Mrs. Annand, on Espirito Santo, New Hebrides, which was united in throughout the Presbytery to the approximate value in cash and goods of \$366. Notwithstanding which, there is given to the General Fund \$790.41, as against \$467 last year; while the spiritual outcome of the work among our women at home, as well as abroad, can scarcely be estimated.

Tea from six to eight, for all who would stay, was followed by the public meeting in the evening, which was very well attended, presided over by the pastor (Rev. J. A. Murray), and addressed by Rev. Mr. Sawers, of Westminster, who read the statistical report, and the Rev. Patrick McF. McLeod, of Toronto, whose earnest words, we trust, may result in practical benefit to the cause we have at heart.

The people of St. Andrew's had arranged with the choir for the rendering of some excellent music, especially a missionary dialogue quartette, "Evangel and Dulcitas," obtained from Boston, and were much disappointed to find that, expecting to return from fulfilling an engagement in Forrest, Mr. Marshall and Miss McNeil, the leaders, were prevented by a broken bridge from getting home.

The officers elected at the morning business session are as follows: Mrs. W. M. Rogers, London East, president; Mrs. W. T. Ball, Vanneck, Mrs. J. A. Murray, London, vice presidents; Mrs. A. Thompson, London, treasurer; Mrs. Chisholm, London, corresponding secretary; Miss Ball, Vanneck, recording secretary.

Sabbath School Teacher.

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

April 2, 1887.

JOSEPH SOLD INTO EGYPT.

Gen. 37: 23-36.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"But the Lord was with Joseph, and showed him mercy."—Gen. xxxix. 21.

SHORTER CATECHISM.

Question 15.—Satan skilfully adapted his temptation to our first parents. The forbidden fruit they were persuaded was good for food, fair and pleasant to the sight, and it was fitted "to make one wise." Thus Eve was persuaded to believe Satan's misrepresentation when she ought to have obeyed God's command. There was both unbelief and disobedience in the sin of our first parents. As by unbelief man departed from God, so by simple faith in the Second Adam, the Lord from heaven, can we find acceptance with God.

INTRODUCTORY.

Jacob had only one son, Benjamin, younger than Joseph. Rachel, their mother, was dead, and at the time of the incidents recorded in the lesson Joseph was about seventeen years old. He was his father's favourite son. The partiality with which he was treated, the coat of many colours and the dreams of his future elevation, filled his brethren with envy. These brethren were absent from Hebron, their home, tending their flocks. Jacob sends Joseph to see how they are getting along. He found them at Dothan, about seventy miles distant. The reception given him begins the lesson.

I. The Envious Brothers.—Joseph differed in character from his brethren. He appears mild, gentle and guileless; they were as evidently envious, crafty and cruel even their natural affection was distorted by the feelings of hate they entertained toward their young brother. When they saw him approaching they resolved to kill him, and cast his body into a pit, but Reuben was more merciful, and he suggested putting him in the pit, hoping for an opportunity of sending him home in safety. To this proposal the rest consented, and, stripping him of the handsome garment that had caused them so much jealousy, they cast him into a dry empty pit. This was the welcome their young brother met with when he arrived after his long journeying. When they had just disposed of Joseph they sat down to eat bread. It is not said that they gave their captive brother anything to eat. It shows how hardened by cruelty they were when they could contentedly sit down to their meal as if no evil deed had been committed by them. While thus occupied they see in the distance a caravan of Midianitish merchants on their way to Egypt to dispose of their precious wares: spicery, resinous gums from India, balm of Gilead, the juice of the balsam tree, myrrh, a resin from the cistus-rose of Arabia. All these were much used by the Egyptians in the temples, at funerals, etc.

II. Sold into Slavery.—Everywhere and in every age slavery is one of the cruellest of crimes. When brothers are ready to discuss the proposal to sell their own brother into what they would suppose was a life servitude, never expecting to hear from or of him again, how cruel-hearted they were! Judah is not so cruel apparently as the others. To bring them to his way of thinking he makes an appeal to their pity. "Let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother and our flesh." These men were sordid as well as cruel. These bad qualities generally go together. To kill Joseph and conceal his blood would not pay them. When the trading caravan comes in sight a vision of gain is presented to them. They could get quit of their hated brother, and at the same time make a little money out of him. The inspired narrative adds the simple but most significant words: "And his brethren were content." Content!

III.—The Plot Carried Out.—The usual route from Damascus to Egypt lay near Dothan. When these early traders approached, Joseph is drawn out of the pit, and brought to them. Imagine the scene. Joseph with tearful entreaty urging his hard-hearted brethren to spare him. These same brethren, indifferent to his cries, holding out for the highest price they can get for Joseph. The bargain is at last completed, and they receive twenty pieces of silver, about \$15 of our money, as his price. Reuben, the eldest of the brothers, who seemed the kindest of them all, returns, and, to his consternation, discovers that the pit is empty. He was truly sorry for his brother's fate, and also for his father's sake. These merciless brothers are as crafty as they are cruel. They now hit upon a device to deceive their father and screen themselves. A kid is killed, and Joseph's coat dipped in the blood. They do not tell a lie about it, but, what is equally as bad, they act true. When they see their father, with hypocritical concern they hold up the coat before him saying, "This have we found; know now whether it be thy son's coat or no." The device succeeded according to their liking. It was probably not the first time they had deceived their father. But why was he so easily deceived? In his earlier days Jacob had been a deceiver, and now he is permitted to feel its bitterness himself. Jacob's grief for the loss of his favourite son was great. He never expected to see him again in this world. And his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him. Poor comfort they could offer. Meanwhile Joseph had reached Egypt; probably had been exposed for sale in the slave-market in the royal city. At last he found a purchaser in Potiphar, the captain of Pharaoh's guard. God's ways are not as man's ways. God had a great work to do by means of Joseph, and in His mysterious providence He is fitting His servant for the task assigned him.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

Partiality is a bad thing anywhere, but especially in the home.

Envy is a vile sin, and is certain to lead to other sins. A poet says: "Envy is a coal comes hissing hot from hell." God always protects His own.