

be asked from the congregations of the Presbytery for Home Missions, and \$800 for the Augmentation Fund, and these sums were apportioned among the congregations of the Presbytery. It was agreed that the matter of making the best arrangements possible for the supply of Clearsprings and Radford be remitted to the Home Mission Committee. Thanks were given to the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Railway for the facilities offered to ministers and students by the granting of reduced rates. The Presbytery then adjourned to meet again in Knox Church on the 11th December. —ANDREW B. BAIRD, Pres. Clerk.

**PRESBYTERY OF ORANGEVILLE.**—This Presbytery met November 13, in Orangeville. There was a large attendance of ministers and a moderate attendance of elders. The Clerk read an extract minute of the Presbytery of Toronto to the effect that the congregation of Streetsville had extended a call to the Rev. T. J. McClelland, of Shelburne and Primrose in this Presbytery. The call was signed by 157 members and twelve adherents. There was also a guarantee for \$1,000 per annum stipend, to be paid quarterly and free manse. A special meeting of Presbytery was appointed to be held in St. Andrew's Church, Orangeville, on Tuesday, December 11, at eleven a.m., to consider said call, and the Clerk was instructed to cite all parties interested to appear for their interests at said meeting. Rev. D. McLeod reported that he had moderated in a call in St. Andrew's Church, Proton, and Proton Station, in favour of Rev. D. McColl, B.A., at present ordained missionary in these stations. The call was signed by fifty-two members and fifty-one adherents. There was also a guarantee for \$500 stipend and free manse. Mr. Neilson from Proton Station and Mr. Aldcorn from St. Andrew's Church were heard in support of the call. They stated that the congregation would not be able to pay more until the debt on the manse would be paid, and asked the Presbytery for a supplement of \$250 per annum from the Augmentation Fund. Moved by Mr. Dubbin, duly seconded, and agreed, That on account of the peculiar relation which these congregations sustain to the Home Mission Committee the call lie on the table for future consideration. Rev. T. J. McClelland, the Presbytery's Home Mission Convener, submitted a very full and satisfactory report of the state of the mission fields within the bounds during the past summer. The committee was instructed to provide supply for Knox Church, Caledon, and Vanatter, and also for Hornings Hills and Honeywood. Mr. Ross submitted a minute anent Rev. J. A. McDonald's resignation of the pastoral charge of Hornings Mills and Honeywood, as follows: As a Presbytery we reluctantly accept the resignation of Mr. McDonald, and regret that we are called upon to lose such a valuable member from our court. In Mr. McDonald we ever found a man who was kind and obliging, and ever faithful in the performance of any work assigned him by the Presbytery. As a pastor he did faithful work in building up and consolidating the congregations to which he ministered. As a temperance worker he was indefatigable in his endeavours to instil temperance principles into the minds of all under his influence. In Sabbath school work he held a first place. In his post graduate course on which he enters we wish him every success, and trust that, at the completion of said course, the Master of the vineyard may open a field of labour in which he may engage in similar earnest and faithful work as was carried on by him in his late field. Our prayer is that he may long be spared to blend physical and spiritual strength in the prosecution of the Lord's work. Mr. McMichael, from Blocks Corners, Mr. Buckham, of Laurel, and Mr. McFadyen, of Waldemar, stated that the stations which they represented could unitedly raise \$600, and asked the Presbytery to apply for \$150 in view of having a pastor settled, or that they would be satisfied with having an ordained missionary. The Clerk was instructed to advertise for an ordained missionary for this field. The Presbytery appointed a committee composed of Messrs. Ballantyne, Convener; Orr and Wallace to visit Rosemont and Mansfield to confer with these stations anent the amount of stipend they pay to their pastor. A call, with relative papers, from the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Orangeville, in favour of Rev. E. Cockburn, of Uxbridge, in the Lindsay Presbytery, was submitted to the Presbytery. It was accompanied with a guarantee of stipend for \$1,200 per annum to be paid monthly, together with house rent and four weeks' holidays each year. The call, which was signed before being forwarded by 130 members and about forty adherents, was sustained, and ordered to be transmitted to the Presbytery of Lindsay, and Messrs. R. Fowle and S. J. McClelland were appointed to prosecute the call before said Presbytery. The next regular meeting of Presbytery was appointed to be held in St. Andrew's Church, Orangeville on Tuesday, January 8, at half past ten a.m. —H. CROZIER, Pres. Clerk.

#### OBITUARY.

WILLIAM GOWANLOCK.

A Patriarchal Presbyterian Pioneer has gone to rest. Mr. William Gowanlock, whose death occurred a short time since, was born at "The Chesters," in the parish of South Dean, Roxburghshire, Scotland, April 21, 1798, and was therefore ninety years and six months of age. He was a man of marked force of character, perseverance, and indomitable courage. He left his native land to which he was much attached, in 1842, bringing a family of five sons and three daughters, all of whom, with one son born in Canada, survive him. His strong, manly, qualities of heart and head, enabled him to gain for himself a reputation of which any man might well be proud, for honour, honesty, and truthfulness. On his arrival, he took up his abode in Chingacousy. About 1851, he removed to the township of Sauguen, and settled not far from where the town of Port Elgin now stands. He was a man of strong intellect, sterling integrity, solid worth, and a Christian character, one of the kind of men needed for new countries. In Christina Laidlaw, of Wensmore, Roxburghshire, married on the 25th June, 1824, Mr. Gowanlock found a true help-

meet, who by her rare tact, judicious counsel, and steady industry did much to make his life the success it was. On coming to Canada, he found that it was difficult to obtain a missionary, and although the nearest service was a distance of ten or twelve miles from their home, the family went to church on foot, good or bad roads, rather than lose the privilege of joining in the public worship of God, they were the best attenders at the Port Elgin Church, being in their places with scrupulous regularity. Presbyterianism in this neighbourhood owes more to Mr. Gowanlock than the present generation has any idea of. In July last he met with an accident by which his leg was broken and he was rendered helpless and on Wednesday last he passed away from the toils, and cares, and joys of this life, to enter, as we believe, on the rest and blessedness of heaven. Of him it may be said "he gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people and his sons buried him." May his God be ours, and then, kept by the power of God, through faith unto salvation, we may may hope to meet in glory hereafter.

#### MONTREAL NOTES.

The Rev. M. L. Leitch, of Valleyfield, has received a call from the congregation of Knox Church, Elora. Mr. Leitch was asked more than once to preach in Elora, but declined. Notwithstanding this call has come, and in his favour, and is signed by 167 communicants and seventy adherents. The stipend offered is \$1,000 and a manse. Mr. Leitch has only been in Valleyfield for about three years, during which time the congregation has largely increased in numbers. A special meeting of the Presbytery of Montreal will be held soon to take action in regard to the call.

The Rev. John Turnbull, of St. Louis de Gonzague has just lost his second eldest daughter by death. She came to Montreal two months ago to attend college, and soon afterwards took ill and died here last week. Though but eighteen years of age, her Christian character was well matured, and during her illness she gave most striking evidence of her faith in Christ and her readiness to depart. The family have the sympathy of many friends in their bereavement.

On the evening of Friday last, a public meeting, under the auspices of the Philosophical and Literary Society of the Presbytery in College, was held in the Convocation Hall. Rev. Principal Barbour, of the Congregational College, presided. There was a large attendance. Mr. P. N. Cayer gave a French recitation, and Mr. J. H. Stevenson an English one. There was a quartette by students of the Presbytery in College, and a duet by two congregational students. The event of the evening was an Intercollegiate debate on the question "Should the immigration of the Chinese to America be restricted?" The speakers on the affirmative were Messrs. R. Johnston, of the Presbyterian College, and F. W. McCallum, of the Congregational College; and on the negative, Messrs. J. H. MacVicar, of the Presbyterian College, and C. E. Manning, of the Methodist College. The subject was discussed in an able and instructive manner and to the evident enjoyment of the large audience.

The Rev. Dr. T. G. Smith, of Kingston, is at present in the city in the interest of the Endowment Fund of Queen's College. He preached in St. Andrew's Church in the morning, and in St. Gabriel Church, in the evening of Sabbath last.

A feeling of gloom has been thrown over the city by the terribly sudden death of Mr. Samuel Greenshields, of the well-known wholesale firm Messrs S. Greenshields, Son & Co. Mr. Greenshields was at business in the best of health and spirits during the day of Wednesday last, and met his death by accident in his own house that evening. He was most genial in disposition and highly esteemed by all who knew him. Cut down in the prime of life, his tall, manly figure will be much missed in business and social circles. The funeral on Saturday afternoon was one of the largest ever seen in Montreal, indicating the general esteem in which he was held and the sympathy of the community with the family of the deceased. Mr. Greenshields was a member of St. Paul's Church.

The Sabbath school teachers' class conducted on Saturday afternoons by the Rev. A. B. Mackay is increasing in number, almost every seat in the large lecture hall of the American Presbyterian Church being filled last Saturday. The class is conducted largely by means of questions and answers, and must prove helpful to the teachers attending, and its influence be felt in the several schools of the city. It meets at a quarter to five, p.m., every Saturday, for one hour, and is open to Sabbath school teachers and workers of all denominations.

The anniversaries of the several religious societies have been fixed for the week beginning January 20. Committees are now at work securing speakers for the respective meetings.

At present the number of pupils at the Pointe-aux-Trembles Schools is 145, by far the largest attendance in their history. This means a greatly increased expenditure this year for the maintenance of the schools, in addition to the cost of the enlargement of the boys' building, of which there still remains to be raised about \$6,500. Several of the Sabbath schools supporting pupils have in addition to their annual contributions sent money to provide bed, bedding and other necessary furnishing for their pupil, and it is hoped that many others may do so. The average expense of the furnishings for each pupil is \$15, a small sum for each Sabbath school to raise in addition to their annual scholarship, yet amounting in the aggregate to a large sum.

Canon Taylor's article on "The Failure of Foreign Missions," in the October number of the *Fortnightly Review* is attracting considerable attention here, and in the interest of the cause of missions should be promptly replied to by those in possession of the facts, and in a position to refute his conclusions. He evidently presents a one sided and greatly exaggerated view of the question, and he does not impress one as animated by a spirit either impartial or friendly to foreign mission work.

## Sabbath School Teacher

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

Dec. 9, 1888.

GIDEON'S ARMY.

Judges 7.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.—Zech. iv. 6.

#### SHORTER CATECHISM.

**Question 105.**—The fifth petition in the Lord's prayer sets forth the truth concerning the forgiveness of sins. Here they are spoken of as debts. We owe to God's righteous law a perfect obedience, but in all things we offend and come short. We are therefore under a load of obligation we can never pay. Christ has died for our offences and was raised again for our justification. His death atones for our sins. In His life He obeyed God's law perfectly for us; therefore for Christ's sake God is ready and willing to pardon every repenting sinner that seeks God's mercy. It is not an easy thing to forgive a wrong done to us. We resent it naturally. That is why we need God's grace to enable us from the heart to forgive others. If we don't forgive those who injure us, how can we expect forgiveness? Both are debts but here the comparison ends. The offences that one mortal can inflict upon another cannot be compared with our transgression of the laws of a righteous God.

#### INTRODUCTORY.

Of the fifteen successive judges who ruled in Israel, Gideon was the fifth. He was born in Ophrah, on the east side of the Jordan, and became a great and a good man. He was brave, courageous and devout. He lived two hundred years after Joshua's death. The people had sunk into idolatry and had been twice delivered by judges, whom God had raised up. Yet again they had forsaken the service of God, and now Gideon comes divinely commissioned to be their deliverer.

**I. The People Oppressed.**—The Midianites were descendants of Moab, one of Abraham's sons. They were a numerous and wandering people, on the east of the Jordan. For several years they had made plundering raids into Palestine, and grievously oppressed and robbed the people. The Midianites in large numbers were encamped near Mount Gilboa, called here Moreh, in the plain of Esdraelon, the scene of several subsequent conflicts. Gideon and his army had taken up their position near the fountain of Harod, now known as Ain Jalud. The two hosts confronted each other, and while matters are in suspense, a significant and illustrative lesson is taught that God is a very present help in time of trouble.

**II. Deliverance of the Oppressed.**—While the people were groaning under the tyranny of the Midianites God raised up for them a mighty deliverer. Gideon, living retired, is visited by an angel of God, who summons him to the task of delivering Israel, and at his solicitation receives proofs that he is called by God. In the lesson he is also named Jerubbaal, one who contends against Baal, a follower of the God of Israel. In the deliverance about to be vouchsafed, God wants the people to see clearly whence their help comes. If they have a large and powerful army they would naturally think that their own courage and skill had gained the victory. Gideon is directed to make a proclamation that all who were afraid of the enemy should withdraw. As many as twenty-two thousand departed, leaving Gideon's little army only 10,000 strong to face the Midianitish host numbering 135,000. Still God tells Gideon that his army is yet too large. This would greatly try the leader's faith and the faith of his men. They are willing to trust in God, for the lesson does not say that they complained. The next test applied was at the stream near their encampment. Those who could lap the water with the readiness and ease which dogs pursuing often use, were to be separated from the rest who knelt down and drank leisurely from the stream. This test would end in the selection of the most alert and dexterous of the army. They might be few in number, but they would certainly be the best adapted to meet the foe. They were picked men. The result was that only three hundred out of the ten thousand could actually stand the test. If Gideon's faith had been tried, he is now assured of coming victory. "By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand." God's promise was fulfilled. The famous three hundred were each man provided with a pitcher, a trumpet and a lamp. The pitchers were used to conceal the lights till the proper moment came. At the head of each fighting company the leader carried a trumpet and beside him at night was a torch-bearer. The three hundred surrounded the camp of the sleeping Midianites, and at the signal the pitchers were broken, displaying the lamps each man carried. The surprised Midianites would naturally suppose that they were encompassed by a mighty host. They were thrown into confusion and panic, and struck out against each other and fled in terror. The victory was complete, for the Israelites seized the flocks of the Jordan, so that they could not escape. This was their last attempt to plunder the Israelites.

#### PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

God can at all times raise up and qualify agents for the accomplishment of his purposes.

God's service requires courage as well as devotion.

God can work out His plans by few as well by many, and to Him alone the glory is due.

PROFESSOR DRUMMOND, speaking along with Lady Aberdeen at a social meeting of the Peterhead branch of the Haddow House Young Women's Association, expressed his belief that the movement would spread not only over the whole of Scotland, but to the colonies, and would become a powerful lever for good throughout the world.