

St. Peter's for four Sabbaths. Mr. Bernard was appointed to the Magdalen Islands for four weeks, and the H. M. Board were requested to meet the liabilities. Rev. Mr. Crawford was authorized to secure the whole right to the Union Church, at Souris, as it appears that others are anxious to dispose of their claim.

The Presbytery resolved to hold the next meeting in Charlottetown, on the second Wednesday of June, in Queen Square Church; and then adjourned to meet at West Cape on Wednesday the 17th May, at 11 a. m.

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## The Sabbath School.

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### Sabbath School Lessons for July, and the first week of August.

#### FIRST SABBATH.

**SUBJECT:** *The call of Abraham.* Gen. xi. 27-32; and xii. 1-20.

"Ur of the Chaldeans" was ABRAHAM'S native place. He had two brothers, Nahor and Haran. The latter, Lot's father, died before his father Terah. The whole family, in obedience to a divine call, removed from Ur, intending to go to CANAAN, but they stopped at Haran. Abraham married Sarah, who is supposed to have been the daughter of Haran. Her first name was SARAI, which means "contentious;" her new name, SARAH, means "Princess." ABRAHAM, means "father of elevation;" ABRAHAM, father of a multitude." Sarah is supposed to have been the same as *Iscah*, mentioned in v. 29.

XII. 1, 2.—Abraham was 75 years old, and was, no doubt, much attached to his kindred and his dwelling place. God designs to make him the "Father of the Faithful." The blessing given to Shem (ch. IX. 26) is taken up, enlarged and pronounced on Abraham. He is now the representative of the chosen race through whom salvation is to come to all nations. When Abraham, in obedience to God, commenced his wanderings from his fatherland, he knew not whither he was going. God shewed him but a step at a time. HE knows the end from the beginning; but HE leads His people step by step.

V. 3.—*I will bless, &c.* God promises to bless those who sympathise with His servant,—who have the same hope and faith. HE will curse those who hate Abraham and Abraham's God—who reject his faith and despise the promise. Abraham and his seed are blessed, not to keep the blessing

selfishly to themselves, but that it may embrace all nations. In regard to covenant blessings SHEM was chosen out of the family of Noah, and ABRAHAM out of the family of Shem. The call is made particular that in due time it may become universal, "In thee." Christ was of Abraham's seed, and all believers may be called children of Abraham. Beginning with one the blessing widens in ever-spreading circles till it includes the world. "All the true blessedness the world is now or ever shall be possessed of is owing to Abraham and his posterity. Through them we have the Bible, the Saviour, the Gospel. They are the stock on which the Christian Church is grafted. Their very dispersions have proved the riches of the world."—(Fuller.)

Vv. 4, 5.—Mark the prompt obedience to God's call. Lot was not called. They were separated by and by.

V. 6.—The "land" belonged first to the descendants of Shem, but the "Canaanite" occupied it now.

V. 7.—Canaan was very fertile and beautiful. No sooner did Abraham enter it than the LORD promised it to his seed. He made an open profession of his religion in a land full of idolatry.

Vv. 8, 9.—The route traversed by Abraham is still remarkable for varied loveliness. He went "unto a mountain" probably for defence. He constantly attended to the duty of public worship.

V. 10.—God does not direct him to go to Egypt. Canaan is subject to famines occasioned by want of rain. Egypt has for ages been the granary of surrounding countries.

Vv. 11-20.—In escaping one danger—famine—he falls into the awful peril of losing the promised seed. Abraham is guilty here of deceit. The "father of the faithful" doubts Providence and has recourse to an unmanly device. (Till CALVIN'S time commentators were wont to justify Abraham's conduct; but Calvin made the matter so plain that he has been universally followed.) Sarah was more than 60 years old, but still very beautiful. Abraham's object was to gain time. Regarded as his sister, the suitor would ask her for her, and so there would be time to escape. But she was violently seized and taken to Pharaoh's harem. God then proved to Abraham that in every trial HE could save. The most powerful monarch then in the world is made to yield to a defenceless wanderer. Pharaoh is a title always given to the monarchs of Egypt,—it means "King." The king dealt honourably with Abraham; but the latter was made so bluish for his departure from truth.