

ance given by the lady district visitors from St. James' Square Congregation. Of Mr. Scott's kindly, thoughtful, and unwearied services, alike to the embryo church and to the Sabbath-school, it is not possible to speak too highly.

PRESBYTERY OF GLENGARRY.—This Presbytery met *pro re nata* on Tuesday week, Feb. 5, in Knox Church, Lancaster. A call from Lake Megantic, Presbytery of Quebec, to the Rev. John Matheson, of Martintown and Williamstown, was presented and read. The Clerk stated that he had duly cited Mr. Matheson's Session and congregation. The Rev. A. Lee, of Sherbrooke, appeared as commissioner from the congregation of Lake Megantic and Presbytery of Quebec, and was heard in support of the call. Messrs. George Elder, F. D. McLennan and J. McIntyre, commissioners from Martintown and Williamstown, earnestly opposed the translation, testifying to Mr. Matheson's success in his present charge and to the unanimous desire of the congregation to retain him as their pastor. Mr. Lee having been heard in reply, Mr. Matheson was asked to state his mind in reference to the case. After explaining that he had in no way sought the present call, he expressed his desire to remain in his present charge. It was then unanimously agreed to refuse the translation. A communication was received from the Rev. Mr. Stewart, of Finch Station, that he had declined the call from the congregation of Manotick and South Gloucester. The Presbytery accordingly agreed to set aside the call, and the Clerk was instructed to intimate the same to the Presbytery of Ottawa. There was presented through the Session of Gravel Hill a petition from the members and adherents of that station asking to be erected along with Apple Hill Station into a congregation, with the view of having a minister settled over them. It was agreed that the petition should lie on the table till next regular meeting, and that meanwhile the Clerk should give due intimation to the contiguous Sessions.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS.

FROM the reports submitted at the annual congregational meeting of the Collingwood Church, we glean the following items, which show the congregation to be in a very prosperous condition: Children's Mission Band contributed \$22; Willing Workers \$30; Auxiliary to the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society \$80; Sabbath school \$150; Session Fund for Schemes \$132; Session Charity Fund \$52; Contributions to the Building Debt \$1,478; total contributed for all purposes \$3,300. The Sabbath school agreed to support a pupil at Pointe-aux-Trembles school. The communion roll numbers 279 members, fifty-one having been added during the year. The Sabbath school and Bible class have a roll of 495 pupils, the Bible class having an average attendance of eighty-six. The congregation unanimously agreed to increase their pastor's salary, Rev. J. Campbell, M.A., Ph.D., by \$200. The Sabbath school is under the efficient management of W. A. Copeland, assisted by an excellent staff of teachers, and increasing to such dimensions that the congregation must soon provide additional accommodation.

THE annual congregational meeting of Willis Church, Clinton, Rev. A. Stewart, pastor, was held on Thursday evening the 14th inst. There was a large attendance of members and adherents, and the following interesting facts from the various reports amply warrant the conclusion that the congregation is in a flourishing condition. There are upon the membership roll 254 names; number admitted during the year, thirty-eight; number of Sabbath school scholars who became communicants, ten; total number of Sabbath school scholars who are members, twenty-nine; number of baptisms during the year, twenty-one. The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society and mission band are doing well, and their respective contributions are \$135 and \$60. There is also a juvenile band which raised \$20 for missions, and a flourishing Young Peoples Christian Association which holds fortnightly meetings for business, and a Sabbath evening prayer meeting. The Sabbath school numbers 317 scholars and thirty-one teachers and officers, and there are 950 volumes in the library, 250 of which have just been added. The treasurer's books show a balance of \$227.20 after an expenditure of \$2,343.67. Total contributions for missionary and college purposes \$788.05, \$261 of which was contributed to the Knox College Endowment Fund.

THE third annual meeting of the congregation of Knox Church, London South, was held in the new Lecture Hall last week, when there was a good attendance of members and adherents. Rev. Mr. Ballantyne presided, and Mr. James Stewart acted as Secretary. From the report submitted by the session it appears that the increased attendance in the Sabbath school is very encouraging. The number of pupils now on the roll is 163; a year ago there were 142. The average attendance during 1888 was 111; during 1887 it was ninety-six. The collections for the year have risen from \$90.17, in 1887, to \$113.33. The Superintendent, Mr. A. McQueen, is assisted in this work by twenty-four teachers and officers. In addition to this a Bible class is conducted by the pastor on Sabbath afternoons. The Ladies' Aid Society have continued the work of collecting monthly subscriptions for the reduction of the church debt, and have also superintended several social gatherings. The Auxiliary of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, established about a year ago, has had marked prosperity. The membership is now thirty-two, and the monthly meetings for devotion and the hearing of missionary intelligence have been well attended. Besides sending a valuable box of clothing to the North-West Indians, \$36.57 have been directly given for Foreign Missions. During the past year twenty-nine members have been added to the church by certificate and by profession of faith; ten names have been removed from the roll, three of these being struck off on a revision, the rest by death, removal and withdrawal. The net increase is nineteen. There are now on the roll 131 members. The average attendance at the different communions was ninety-four. The number of families connected with the congregation is nine more than it was at the corresponding date last year. It is matter for special thankfulness that the mission schemes of the church have been more liberally supported than ever before, and for the first time the average contribution through the whole church has almost been reached by this congregation, \$213.55 have been contributed for missions; last year the amount was \$126.26. The treasurer's report shows that the aggregate contributions for the year were \$3,118.64, leaving a balance on hand of \$114.64. The retiring managers, Messrs. D. Macfie, John Ferguson and John Macpherson, were on motion re-elected, and Mr. Thomas Alexander, in place of Mr. E. R. Cameron, resigned.

THE well-attended annual meeting of Knox Church, Harriston, was held a short time since. Proceedings opened with a social tea provided by the ladies of the congregation. The meeting was called to order for business at eight o'clock. After religious exercises and prayer by the pastor, Mr. A. G. Campbell was moved to the chair. The treasurer's report was a very satisfactory one, the amount subscribed during the year being, for general purposes \$1,918.36. To Building Fund \$2,142.97 (leaving a balance remaining unpaid of \$2,000, which has been provided for by subscriptions); to missions 145.36, total \$4,206.69. The Session reported favourably on the state of the congregation; forty-two members had been received during the year. Under the pastorate of the Rev. M. C. Cameron, the spiritual interest is deepening all along the line, and the future prospects of this congregation are very encouraging.

THE annual meeting of Knox Church, Stratford, was held on Tuesday of last week in the lecture room of the church. After opening exercises by the pastor, Mr. Wright, Mr. George Hunter was called to the chair. Mr. Wright read the report of the Session, the tone of which was very encouraging and fitted to inspire all with fervent gratitude. It spoke of the Session's anxiety with regard to the question of accommodation, expressed the hope that suitable provision would be made for increase of population, and commended to

the thoughtful kindness of the people the strangers who from Sabbath to Sabbath drop in to worship. There are now 664 members on the roll; sixty-four have been added during the year, and thirty-two have been removed, six of them by the hand of death. The Sabbath school report was read by Mr. Hunter, superintendent. It showed a roll of over 400 pupils, with thirty-five teachers and officers. The Sabbath school finances of the year amounted to \$549.75, of which \$152 are to be expended on a new library. The report on Missions showed that the Congregational Missionary Society have collected \$482.45; the Woman's Auxiliary of Foreign Missions, \$72.53; Band of Willing Workers, \$59; Sabbath School, \$150; and the Young People's Association, \$30 for Manitoba College. The financial statement of the Board of Managers was said to be the most encouraging for many years. The floating debt had been reduced from \$1,500 to \$375 within the last two years. The total ordinary revenue is \$4,444.09, derived as follows: Pew rents, \$2,202.47; supplementary subscriptions, \$375; envelopes, \$315.99; Sabbath collections, \$1,257.87, and from other sources, \$291.76. This is some \$400 in excess of the revenue of 1887. Young men were appointed to act as ushers at the Sabbath services, namely: Messrs. A. T. Macdonald, W. C. Orr, Alex. Gourlay, W. J. Elliott, Angus Cassels, Thomas Kyle and I. C. McLennan.

THE annual meeting of St. Andrew's Church, Stratford, was held Monday week. After a very pleasant hour was spent in social intercourse, Rev. E. W. Pantou took the chair. Reports were read from the Woman's Foreign Mission Society, the Mission band, the Sabbath school, and Session, when it was found that in all departments of Church work very satisfactory progress had been made. The prosperity of the congregation was made especially manifest in the good fruits of the Sabbath school, the deepening interest in the prayer meetings, and the steady increase in the membership and attendance. A very pleasing feature of the evening's meeting was the voting of an additional \$200 to the minister's stipend. The general outlook of the congregation is very hopeful and encouraging, as the above facts testify.

MONTREAL NOTES.

The annual festival of the Italian Presbyterian Mission was held in Russell Hall on Monday evening, and proved most successful. About 300 were present. Mr. J. W. Major presided. The entertainment consisted of music, recitations, etc., in five different languages, and addresses by the chairman, and Rev. Dr. Warden and Rev. Mr. Dewey.

On Tuesday, the Rev. Jas. Bennett, formerly of Cote des Neiges, was inducted by the Presbytery of Ottawa into the pastorate of the L'Original congregation. L'Original and Hawkesbury have hitherto formed one charge. They were recently separated and each is now to contribute \$500 a manse, and to have a minister of its own.

The congregation of Lindsay this week decided to extend a call to Mr. R. Johnston, B.A., of the graduating class of the college here. As stated last week, the Chalmers Church congregation, Quebec, have also agreed to call Mr. Johnston. St. Andrew's Church, Almonte, have also their eye upon him.

Of the thirteen students who graduate from the Presbyterian College, Montreal, this spring, three—Messrs. MacVicar, McKenzie and McDougall—are going to the foreign field; three—Messrs. Lods, Cote and Cayer—are to labour under the French Evangelization Board. Some of the others are to settle in districts where both Gaelic and English are required, and one at least purposes going to the Northwest.

An inter-seminary debate was held on Friday evening, in the James Ferrier Hall (Wesleyan College), the subject being the relative influence for good of the pulpit and press. The speakers in favour of the pulpit were Messrs. Tory, of the Methodist, and McKenzie of the Presbyterian College, and on behalf of the press, Messrs. Pedley of the Congregational, and Judge of the Episcopal College. There was a large and appreciative audience who evidently enjoyed the interesting discussion.

The Rev. Dr. Pierson, of Philadelphia, had a large audience at his missionary lecture here on Monday evening, in the American Presbyterian Church. Sir Wm. Dawson presided. The collection on behalf of the funds of the Students' Missionary Society was upwards of one hundred dollars.

The Rev. Dr. Robertson, Superintendent of Northwest Missions, and Rev. J. Wilkie, from India, are both in the city at present. Dr. Robertson preaches to-morrow in Knox Church in the morning, and in Crescent Street Church in the evening. Mr. Wilkie preaches in the morning in Erskine Church, and addresses a gathering of Sabbath school children in Knox Church in the afternoon.

The congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Sherbrooke, are at present erecting a handsome new church edifice, the lecture hall of which was opened for service on Sabbath last; the pastor, Rev. A. Lee, B.A., preaching both morning and evening. It is expected that the church proper will be completed in a few months. The present membership of the congregation is 202, a net increase of sixteen during the past year. The families number 123. The average attendance at the Bible class and Sabbath school for 1888 was 150, the largest in the history of the congregation. The revenue of the congregation last year was, for ordinary purposes, \$1,527; for new church building, \$5,258, and for missionary objects, \$660. For the new church the Ladies' Aid Society raised \$526, and the Young Ladies' Aid Society \$103. One member of the congregation gave \$25 for missions. The future prospects of St. Andrew's Church, Sherbrooke, are most encouraging, and the opening of their beautiful new church is expected to give a decided impetus to the congregation.

The Rev. D. W. Morrison of Ormston is laid aside from active duty by an attack of typhoid fever. It is hoped, however, that he may be able soon to resume work.

The Rev. Mr. Beat and his family arrived here from England last week. Mr. Beat, who has resided in Liverpool for the past six or seven years, purposes settling in Canada in connection with our church.

The annual printed report of Crescent Street Church, Rev. A. B. Mackay, has just been issued. The congregation has thirteen elders, twelve deacons and 521 communicants. The income from pew rents in 1888 was \$4,223 and from weekly offerings \$9,628. A sexton's house was built at a cost of \$2,230. On the roll of the Sabbath school there are thirty-one teachers and 252 scholars. The Bible class, taught by Mr. R. Johnston B. A., has 113 names on its roll. The missionary contributions of the Sabbath school amounted to \$447, of Mr. Johnston's Bible class to \$88, and of the pastor's Bible class to \$420. The Nazareth Street Sabbath school has 333 pupils and twenty-six teachers enrolled; its collections amounted to \$254. Mission services have been held in Nazareth Street Church every Thursday and Sabbath evenings under the charge of Messrs. Johnston and MacVicar, student missionaries. The total receipts of the congregation for the year were \$18,518, disbursed as follows: current expenses and Building Fund, \$5,812; the ministry of the word, at home and abroad, and benevolent purposes \$12,706.

THE services in St. Andrew's Church, Lindsay, were recently conducted by Mr. Robert Johnston, B.A., of the Presbyterian College, Montreal. On the following Monday evening, at a meeting of the congregation, it was unanimously decided to extend a call to Mr. Johnston, on the completion of his theological course, which will be about a month hence.

Sabbath School Teacher.

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

March 1-4,
1889.]

CHRIST'S LOVE TO THE YOUNG.

[Mark 10:
13, 14.]

GOLDEN TEXT.—Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.—Mark x. 14.

SHORTER CATECHISM.

Question 11. The title Providence includes all God's activities in relation to his creatures of every kind subsequent to their creation. It is exercised in various ways: 1st, His natural Providence over all things and elements embraced in the material universe. 2nd, His moral Providence, or moral government over all his intelligent and moral creatures. 3rd, His supernatural Providence, embracing his entire work of Redemption, embracing the incarnation of God in human nature, the Revelation of truth and the Inspiration of the prophets and apostles, and miracles to authenticate their divine commission, and the gracious work of the Holy Ghost in the hearts of his redeemed people. Nevertheless, this Providence in its widest comprehension is one harmonious system, whereby the natural, the moral, and the supernatural fit and work together; the moral is built upon the natural, and the supernatural built upon the moral. This Providence, in its general sense, includes a plan. This plan is God's all-comprehensive degree. It is one intellectual system, logically coherent in all its parts, comprehending in one system all things and events in all worlds, material and spiritual, natural and supernatural. Providence includes God's preserving all His creatures. This means that as no creature can bring itself into being, so no creature can continue to exist a single moment unless upheld by the almighty power of God. Nothing except God is self-existent. All created existence for ever continues to be dependent existence. "By Him all things consist;" "Upholding all things by the word of His power;" "In Him we live and move and have our being" (Col. 1, 17; Heb. i. 3; Acts xvii. 28.) Lastly, this general Providence of God consists in His governing all His creatures and all their relations.—A. A. Hodge, D.D.

INTRODUCTORY.

Jesus with His disciples is now making His last journey to Jerusalem. He had been in Galilee and went southward through the Jordan valley. The memorable incidents forming the subject of the present lesson took place in Perea, east of the Jordan.

I. **Jesus Blesses little Children.**—While Jesus was addressing the people assembled to hear Him, mothers and relatives brought their little ones to Jesus for His blessing. It was a common custom among the Jews to bring their children to elders and teachers, that they might obtain their blessing. This incident shows that the people had a kindly regard for Jesus. His blessing in their estimation was one to be desired. They understood Him better in this instance than did His disciples, for they seemed annoyed at the interruption. They thought that the depth of mother-love was a thing too trivial for His notice. They immediately discovered their mistake. They rebuked those that brought the child; but Jesus was much displeased—the Revised Version makes it stronger still, "He was moved with indignation." Well may the little ones say "What a Friend we have in Jesus!" He says, Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God. Those who hinder the approach of children to Jesus incur His displeasure and rebuke. His invitation to the little ones is one of the most tender and encouraging to be found in the New Testament. The Saviour Himself explains the meaning of His saying, "for of such is the kingdom of God." In an impressive manner He adds "Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child he shall not enter therein." The child is ignorant of the evil that is in the world, the evil latent in the human heart has not had opportunity for development. The child is teachable and trustful. In all simplicity and confidence it can accept Christ's gracious invitation. So we can only enter the kingdom by coming to Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life with the confidence and love which characterize little children. By act, as well as by word, Jesus showed how He loved and welcomed the little ones. He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them and blessed them.

II. **A Young Enquirer.**—When Jesus resumed His journey after blessing the little children, a young man, intent on obtaining eternal life, anxious not to lose so favourable an opportunity, ran after Christ. He had been well trained by his parents; he bore an excellent character and was held in high honour and esteem, for he was a ruler in the synagogue. He had heard Christ's teaching, and had evidently been most favourably impressed. He had great and noble desires. When he came to Jesus he showed Him every mark of respect; he kneeled before Him and addresses Him as Good Master, and asks what he is to do to inherit eternal life. To the sincere truth-seeker Jesus is ever ready to give a gracious response. In His infinite wisdom He can adapt Himself to the requirements of every case. Here He leads this young man to a knowledge of himself, and brings him to that point where he must decide for or against Christ. Jesus does not repudiate the title good Master, but leads the young man to reflect as to who He is. God is the only One to whom the attribute of absolute goodness belongs. Therefore Jesus is not one of the many able teachers, but the very God in whose gift is eternal life. The young man had asked what he should do to inherit eternal life. It was to be obtained by doing, then it must be by an absolutely perfect obedience to the entire law of God. Jesus enumerates the second table of the law, that which relates to man's duty to his fellow men. The young ruler had honestly striven to obey that law from his youth up, but his mind was not yet at rest; he was still in quest of eternal life. Salvation is not by works, but is of grace. Here again the tender and affectionate nature of the Son of Man comes out conspicuously. It is here said that "Jesus, beholding him, loved him." He was an amiable and an attractive youth. He was ingenious and truth-seeking, but Jesus will deceive no one, neither will He encourage self-deception, so He says to the interesting inquirer, "One thing thou lackest; go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give it to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come, take up thy cross and follow Me." He had been seeking salvation by a strictly outward moral life, but he had failed. He lacked the true qualifications for eternal life—faith and love. He was a wealthy young man, and from the result of his interview it is evident that he unduly valued his possessions. They would be a serious hindrance to him in his way to heaven. Was he willing to part from them and devote them to the promotion of God's glory and the benefit of his fellow-men? He was not prepared for this surrender. "He was sad at that saying, and went away grieved." He did value eternal life, he sought it earnestly, and he was sad and downcast when he learned the conditions on which it should be his. But these were conditions with which he was not prepared to comply. The child-like trust in Christ was wanting. He preferred his wealth to following Christ. The choice was presented to him and he chose wrongly. He over-valued what he possessed, and failed to value aright what he renounced. No wonder he went away grieved. It is inexpressibly sad when one is near the kingdom of God, and yet turns his back upon it and wanders farther and farther away from it.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

Christ is always willing to welcome little children. He is still saying, Suffer them to come unto Me.

Child-like humility and trust are conditions for entrance into the kingdom of heaven.

God requires us to keep His law, but the keeping of it does not procure eternal life. It is through faith in Christ's atoning sacrifice that it is secured.