

agreed, That the Presbytery having heard the report of the Committee on Temperance, receive and sustain the report, thank the committee, and especially the Convener, and express thankfulness to God for the manifest improvement in temperance sentiment which the report sets forth. The Presbytery also urges upon all its ministers, elders and members to give their hearty support to the Canada Temperance Act at the forthcoming local contests. The Clerk was instructed to forward the report to the Convener of Synod's Committee on Temperance. The Rev. D. Davidson read the report on the State of Religion. The report was received and sustained, and the thanks of the Presbytery given to the committee, and especially the Convener. The Rev. Mr. Murray read the report of the Woman's Foreign Mission Presbytery Society, in behalf of Miss Anna M. Johnston, of Kincardine, secretary of the society. On motion it was agreed, That having heard the report of the Woman's Foreign Mission Society of the Presbytery of Maitland, this court expresses its great satisfaction with the progress made during the year, as shown in an increase of three auxiliaries and two mission bands, and also an increase of 218 members and \$278 over last year's report. The Presbytery would earnestly hope and pray that the society thus reporting may go on increasing in members, contributions and spiritual year by year. The Rev. Mr. Leask read the report of the committee previously appointed to examine the draft Book of Forms. Certain changes and amendments were recommended. The report was received and its recommendations adopted. The Clerk was instructed to forward the report to the Convener of Assembly's Committee on the Book of Forms. The Rev. A. Sutherland, Convener of the committee previously appointed to consider the remit on the Marriage Question, reported, and submitted the following motion, seconded by Mr. Harrison, That inasmuch as the Westminster Confession of Faith has been solemnly accepted by every minister and elder of this Church, numbering fully 6,000, without reservation or equivocation as "founded on and agreeable to the Word of God," this Presbytery strongly disapproves of the action of last Assembly in entertaining the proposal to strike out the last sentence of the 4th Section of 24th chapter of the said Confession, though no proof has ever been produced to show that it is not "founded on and agreeable to the Word of God," and resolve to abide by the Confession of Faith in its integrity, should that necessitate separation from the majority who may by vote in the Assembly carry out the purpose of the remit. The motion was carried. The next ordinary meeting of Presbytery will be held at Wingham on Tuesday, May 8, at half past twelve p.m.—JOHN MACNAUR, Pres. Clerk

OBITUARY.

MR. EBENEZER BIRRELL.

A prominent elder of the Claremont Presbyterian Church has passed away. Mr. Ebenezer Birrell died at his son's residence, Maple Hall, on the 27th March, in his eighty-eighth year. He was a native of Kinrossire, Scotland, and came to Pickering Township in the year 1835, where he resided until his death. He was ordained to the eldership by Rev. Mr. Peattie, M.A., May, 1870, and was esteemed and beloved by the congregation. On the first Sabbath of February, he worshipped with the congregation for the last time and assisted at the sacramental table. On the following Monday, alarming symptoms indicated that his work for the Church was done. In a few weeks he entered into rest. His memory will be lovingly cherished by friends and acquaintances.

JAMES STALKER.

James Stalker, of Crinan, East Aldbrough, died at his residence there on the 7th ultimo, in the seventy-sixth year of his age. Mr. Stalker was a native of Argyllshire, Scotland, emigrated to Canada in the year 1850, and settled in East Aldbrough, where by his great energy and untiring industry he soon made for himself and young family a comfortable and happy home. He was a man of sterling qualities of character, generous and sympathetic disposition, devout and humble piety, and a very active worker in the Lord's vineyard. He was for about thirty years an office-bearer in the Church, and a liberal contributor to all the Schemes. He took a leading part in the organization of the congregation at Crinan, to which he was very much attached, and was always present at every diet of worship and meeting of the congregation unless detained by sickness. He leaves a widow and nine children to mourn his loss. His eldest son is a minister in our Church in Gladstone, Manitoba, and a daughter is the wife of Rev. N. McDiarmid, of Minnesota.

MONTREAL NOTES.

The regular quarterly meeting of the Montreal Presbytery was held last Tuesday, and was largely attended. The Rev. A. B. McKay presided. Reports were received from deputies appointed to visit the several Augmented congregations and mission stations—French and English—and grants to these were recommended for the ensuing year. The following were elected commissioners to the General Assembly: Ministers, by rotation, Messrs. James Fraser, A. B. Crochet, James Stewart, A. B. McKay, G. C. Heine and Professor Cossirat; by ballot, Principal MacVicar, Messrs R. H. Warden, James Fleck, George Whillans, L. H. Jordan and C. A. Doudiet. The elders elected were Messrs. D. Morrice, J. Croil, A. C. Hutchison, D. Yule, W. Drysdale, J. W. Kigour, P. Nicholson, A. Brodie, W. Paul, W. D. McLaren, A. Wilson and Dr. Christie.

The city mission report was presented by the Rev. Dr. Campbell, who also submitted an overture to the General Assembly emphasizing the importance of the work and its

claims on the Home Mission Fund. This overture was adopted by the Presbytery and ordered to be transmitted to the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa and to the General Assembly.

The deputation appointed to organize a congregation at Lowell, Mass., reported that they had organized the Westminster congregation there on the 26th February, with fifty-eight communicants. The people are nearly all Canadians, brought up in connection with congregations of our own Church in the several Provinces of the Dominion. For upwards of a year, they have worshipped together without having any ecclesiastical connection, finding their own supply and meeting the expense of the same. There are a large number of young men and women connected with the congregation, who are most active and devoted workers, and the future prospects of the Church are most hopeful. The deputation reported the attendance as being from 200 to 250, both morning and evening, the Sabbath they were there. The congregation have secured the services of Mr. F. H. Larkin, who graduates here next week. They agree to give him a salary at the rate of \$875 per annum to begin with. It is hoped that Mr. Larkin may be able to build up a strong congregation, and ere long lead them into the Presbyterian Church of the States, their connection with the Presbytery of Montreal being merely temporary and because of their peculiar circumstances.

Interesting reports were presented by the standing committees of the Presbytery. Mr. J. Nichols submitted that on Sabbath Observance; Mr. L. H. Jordan on the State of Religion; Mr. W. Paul on Temperance, and Mr. F. M. Dewey on Sabbath Schools. Mr. G. C. Heine submitted the French Report and Mr. R. H. Warden that on Home Missions. Special attention was directed to the claims of the Augmentation Fund, and Sessions were urged to see that their congregations responded liberally before the end of April.

The question of beginning mission work in several of the outlying districts of the city was considered, and the following were appointed a committee on Church extension in the city: Revs. R. H. Warden, Convener, Dr. Smyth, J. Barclay, G. C. Heine, T. Bennett, W. R. Cruikshank, J. McGillivray, J. Fleck and L. H. Jordan, and Messrs. Warden King, W. D. McLaren, W. Paul, D. Morrice, D. Yule, J. Murray Smith, C. C. McArthur, P. Nicholson and John Gow, with power to add to their number.

An overture was presented by Professor Scrimger, and adopted, requesting the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa to appoint a committee to confer with that of the Methodist Conference, and take action on the terms of the scheme agreed upon by committees of the two Churches.

The Board of French Evangelization met in the lecture room of Erskine Church on Wednesday last. A large amount of business was transacted. The state of the work in the several fields was discussed. The grants to all the missions and schools were revised and appointments made for the ensuing summer. The ordinary fund was reported as behind, and fears are entertained that unless a very much larger amount is received in April than has been the case in past years, the Board will have to report a deficit of about \$3,000 to the General Assembly. The Pointe-aux-Trembles Fund is in good condition, and the Executive were empowered to proceed with the extension of the schools so as to increase the accommodation from 120 to 200. The General Assembly last June having asked that the Rev. C. A. Doudiet visit a number of the congregations of the Church in the interest of the work, and Mr. Doudiet having visited a few with markedly beneficial results, it was resolved to ask him to devote his whole time for a period to this work, and to visiting the several fields under the Board with a view to encourage the missionaries and people, and especially to open up new stations, etc. A new French church and school building is being built in Hochelaga, toward which about \$2,500 has already been secured.

The following ladies and gentlemen, anxious to help on the extension of the Point aux Trembles Schools, recently got up a concert which was held in Knox Church here and netted \$105.08. Mrs. Campbell, Misses L. Lamb, Cameron, J. H. Ferguson, and Messrs. C. T. Christie, S. S. Bain and H. K. Wright.

On Friday evening, at the close of the preparatory service in St. Gabriel Church, the following new elders were ordained by Rev. Dr. Campbell: Messrs. J. M. Farquhar, George Irving, Robert Stewart and P. M. MacTavish. The congregation is at present making an effort to reduce the debt on their new church property with most encouraging results.

On Sabbath last both the *Star* and *Witness*, independent of each other, had the attendance at all the Protestant Churches of the city counted. The following summary is taken from the *Witness*, showing the capacity of the churches and the attendance morning and evening:

Churches.	Capacity.	Morning.	Evening.
17 Presbyterian	8,754	4,050	3,997
12 Church of England	5,211	4,144	3,871
11 Methodist	5,925	2,463	3,385
3 Baptist	2,000	507	644
3 Congregational	1,350	254	356
1 Church of Scotland	900	494	198
2 American Presbyterian	1,374	984	474
1 Brethren	600	229	155
1 Reformed Episcopal	800	154	217
1 Unitarian	500	177	142
1 New Jerusalem	150	12	—
1 Advent	2,000	—	158
1 Lutheran	200	—	—
2 Salvation Army	2,950	311	700
Total	35,762	13,753	15,606

The closing exercises of the present session of the Presbyterian College take place in the Convocation Hall on Wednesday evening, April 4.

Sabbath School Teacher.

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

April 8, 1888. **CHRIST'S LAST WARNING.** {Matt. 23: 27-39.} GOLDEN TEXT.—Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.—Psa. li. 10.

SHORTER CATECHISM.

Question 69.—The Sixth Commandment expressly forbids suicide. Some people may, in despairing moments, wish to escape from the burdens of life by self-murder, but the Scriptures gave no countenance whatever to such a method of getting quit of the evils of which they complain. Then the lives of others are as sacred as our own. We must avoid whatever is injurious to life. The laws of health, moral and physical, are binding on all men. The murderer, who has taken the life of another, has thereby forfeited his own. To doom him to death is not to take away his life unjustly.

INTRODUCTORY.

The lesson to-day is contained in the closing words of our Lord's earthly ministry. They are awful in their impressiveness. They are quick and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword in their fidelity and earnestness. They were not spoken at random, neither were they prompted by personal resentment. Jesus knew what no man could know, the hearts of the men He addressed. He knew them thoroughly, far better than they could know themselves. How terrible must be the depravity that the meek and lowly Jesus uses such language to rebuke!

I. Hypocrisy Exposed.—Stern and awful is the woe pronounced by the Saviour on the hypocrite. The word signifies one who is acting a part, assuming an apparent character different from his own. The basest of all hypocrisy is to put on the garb of religion when the heart is opposed to all religion. The woe pronounced upon the religious pretender is real. It is the doom that Christ declares is the portion of the hypocrite. The scribes and Pharisees, the religious leaders and exemplars of the people, were spiritually dead; they could not discern the Messiah when He came. They were enraged against Him. They were hastening to their ruin, and dragging the people along with them. The Saviour removes the mask behind which they hid. It was customary before the Passover to improve the roads leading to the city and to enable strangers to escape ceremonial defilement by coming in contact with graves, the stones covering them at that season usually received a coat of whitewash. The Pharisees and scribes were like whitened sepulchres, outwardly clean and beautiful, but within were only decay and corruption. Again the awful woe is denounced upon them. Within view, while the Saviour was speaking, were monuments raised in memory of Zachariah, Absalom and Jehoshaphat. It was customary to erect monuments to the departed prophets, some of whom had been put to death by their enemies. While this practice was a condemnation of the acts of their ancestors, Christ shows them that they continue the evil work their fathers had begun.

II. Prophetic Warnings.—In the rejection and murder of God's messengers in the past, scribe and Pharisee had been adding inquiry to inquiry. That very day on which Jesus spoke these words they had been planning His betrayal. To their faces He says: "Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers." They had become so hardened that no remonstrance would deter them from the awful crime they were meditating. Their guilt culminated in securing the crucifixion of Jesus, and soon afterward they put Stephen and the apostle James to death. Then follow the awful words, "Ye serpents, ye generation [offspring] of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" Could language more clearly reveal the malignant cunning and hate that animated them, or the terrible doom that awaited them? Even yet they should not be left without remonstrance. The door of repentance was not yet closed. Prophets, wise men and scribes were to be sent. Yet these messengers would be subject to the same treatment to which their predecessors had been exposed. On the Jewish nation was to come the punishment which their treatment of God's servants was sure to bring. From the first murder, that of Abel down to Zachariah (2 Chron. xxiv. 20-22), the blood of the righteous who had been slain would be required. On that existing generation of men the terrible doom was to fall. It was clearly foretold in these words spoken by Christ, and history records their literal fulfilment.

III. A Final Expostulation.—How different the tone of the words with which the lesson closes! It opened with appalling denunciation of the scribes and Pharisees, the blind leaders of the blind, it ends with pitying tenderness for the deluded people. Christ's heart yearns for the salvation of sinners. As the mother hen gathers her brood under her wings to shelter and protect them from threatened danger, so Jesus would have shielded them from the coming wrath. "And ye would not." What a pathos in these words and also what a meaning they have for us! The grand Jewish temple, the glory of Israel, had after this no mission. "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate." Henceforth its glory was gone and its services became meaningless. The farewell words were spoken. That blessed ministry here ended, amid darkness and depression. Yet even in that dark hour a ray of light shines, a gleam of hope is given, "Ye shall not see Me henceforth till ye shall say, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord." The nation on whom terrible calamities fell because of their sins is to be restored, and many of the Jewish race will yet say, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

Jesus denounces sin with terrible plainness of speech. Woe is denounced against every sin. The only way to escape the woe is to renounce the sin and obtain its forgiveness.

Let us beware of that meanest of all sins, that of hypocrisy. Hypocrisy may deceive men; it cannot deceive Him, whose eyes are as a flame of fire.