

Then we have a French Canadian Mission Scheme which, if sustained and wrought out according to present expectation, will be an unspeakable blessing to tens of thousands of our fellow-country-men who have hitherto been sitting under the shadow of spiritual death. We could hardly have hoped twenty years ago that at this date thousands of Roman Catholics, including some of the most distinguished of the clergy of the Roman body, would have joined our Church. What has happened within a few years is but a foretaste and pledge of greater things in store for us if we continue true to our high calling.

Opportunities and advantages imply corresponding obligations. The opening up of the country by Railways affords unprecedented facilities for carrying the Gospel with frequency and regularity even to very lonely and distant places. The terrible journeyings of thirty or forty, or even twenty years ago are now almost unknown in the older Provinces. Ministers have more time for the actual work of their calling. There is less of danger to life; and there is fuller appreciation of the work which the messengers of Christ perform.

We need not point out the obvious practical inference from the facts at which we have glanced. Has the Lord answered our prayers, realized our hopes, disappointed our fears, strengthened our hands and cheered our hearts? What then does He expect from us in return? What does He ask us to do for Him now? We hear His voice in the appeals of our missionaries for helpers in their work among the heathen: and we must be willing to give up to this department some of our choicest men—as in the past. As a matter of course we must cheerfully and promptly meet all expenditures involved. In like manner the calls on our Home Mission department are ever increasing—calls for men and for the support which such men require. The support of our colleges is a *sine qua non* to prosperity in every other department of the Church's enterprise whether at home or abroad. Sustentation funds, Supplementing funds,

Home and Foreign Missionary funds will be of no avail if our colleges do not send forth their due proportion of well-equipped young men to undertake the work of the ministry.

We note past progress in order to stimulate future effort. Never was the field more inviting than it is to-day; and never did the Church stand more in need of the united exertions of all her members.

The Sabbath School

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

BY REV. WILLIAM RICE, D. D.

OCT. 7th] (A. D. 60.) [Acts 21: 8-15
PAUL AT CÆSAREA.

GOLDEN TEXT.—“*But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself.*”—Acts 20: 24.

HELPS TO STUDY.

From Miletus the apostle continued his course by sea, visiting several places by the way (vs. 1-7), until he came to Ptolemais, a town on the Mediterranean, about thirty miles south of Tyre and eight miles north of Mount Carmel. Here he remained one day. V. 8. *The next day*—literally, on the morrow. *Cæsarea*—about forty miles from Ptolemais and seventy north-west of Jerusalem; sometimes called *Cæsarea Palestina*, to distinguish it from *Cæsarea Philippi*. *Philip the evangelist*—one of the seven deacons. As an *evangelist*, he had travelled and preached the gospel, as sent forth by the apostles, and seems now to be settled at *Cæsarea* as pastor. V. 9. *Which did prophesy*—taught by divine inspiration. See Joel 2: 28. V. 10. *Agabus*—see ch. 11: 27. V. 11. *Bound his own hands and feet*—thus representing symbolically to the eye what he foretold in words. *So shall the Jews*, etc.—see v. 33; though bound by the Romans, it was at the instigation of the Jews. V. 12. *Both we*—the writer and those who came with him. *Besought*—entreated. The prophet did not say by inspiration that Paul ought not to go; he only foretold the persecution that Paul would suffer, in view of which the brethren besought him to change his plan. V. 13. *What mean ye?*—a tender and affectionate, but firm rebuke. V. 14. *Ceased*—Paul's firm Christian heroism in doing what he felt his duty to Christ required made them acquiesce. V. 15. *Took up our carriages*—made ourselves ready, packed up our baggage.