

during Mr. McLeod's absence, were noted with approval, also the favourable examination of Charles Ragbir.

The Council requested payment of \$198 incurred in providing a teacher for the Prince-stown school, during the past six months. Voted.

Interesting Letters were read from Rev. J. Annand and from Dr. Steel. Rev. Mr. Gray was being settled at Epi. Rev. Mr. McKenzie looked for at Fete, Mr. Roberts on preparing for his return, and Mr. Annand, having returned from Synod and from house-building for Mr. Gray, was at work with encouragement among his own people.

P. G. MCGREGOR.

THE STUDY OF HEBREW.

THE CLAIMS UPON THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS AND CHRISTIAN MINISTERS.

By REV. PROF. CURRIE.

Recent years have witnessed a revival of Hebrew learning. This is a token for good. It proves that Old Testament studies are attracting much attention and that biblical scholars wish to go to the fountain head. The study of Hebrew claims a high place in a theological curriculum. The claim is well founded, and the church should accord it a fitting response.

Every language loses by translation. Hebrew is no exception. The O. T. Scriptures are purest in the original. Even after the revision of our authorized version is completed, and has itself been subjected to a revision, the faithful student will consult his Hebrew Bible. If ministers are expected to be able to read Greek, why not Hebrew also? The prominence assigned the discussion of O. T. Topics at the present day by the new critical school urges upon the defenders of the Bible the study of Hebrew. This school would reconstruct Israelitish history and seriously modify the traditional belief concerning the O. T. Canon, and the generally accepted view of Inspiration. It would have us believe that neither the early history of the chosen people as contained in the historical books nor the writings of the earlier prophets indicate a knowledge of the Levitical law and that therefore the elaborate legislation of the middle books of the Pentateuch are post-exilic in their origin. These doctrines have recently been ventilated in the great Robertson Smith discussion in Scotland and they number a few sympathizers both in Britain and the

United States. Probably they will gain more adherents in British and American churches. A knowledge of Hebrew is necessary to sift these new theories. It possesses the potency of Ithuriel's spear.

As the churches in the Dominion can hardly remain unaffected by such discussions, it is the duty of ministers to be prepared for replying to such questions as: Has the critical school made good its position? If to any extent it has, will the generally accepted view of Inspiration require modification to allow a place for the admitted facts? Heretofore the study of Hebrew outside of Germany has been rather superficial. A knowledge of even the elements has not generally regarded as a requisite for entering Theological Halls. In Germany Hebrew is taught in the Gymnasium, and the candidate for the ministry begins his strictly professional studies with a good knowledge of the language. Among ourselves the churches cannot expect profound Hebraists unless by insisting upon at least a year's work as a pre-requisite for entrance upon the study of theology. Outside of Germany in times past the churches have occasionally produced eminent Hebraists, witness for example John Lightfoot who had the Talmud at his finger ends. The outlook just now is quite hopeful. Britain and America are producing some fine scholars. Driver, Wilkes, Cheyne, Davidson, Green, Curtiss and Briggs, are men to whom even continental Hebraists have accorded high praise. Theological Halls are devoting much time to O. T. literature, and this implies a growing acquaintance with Hebrew. But a knowledge of this language need not be confined to professional theologians. Intelligent laymen, even by private study, could in a year acquire a fair acquaintance with it. Milton and Coleridge read Hebrew. Sir Robert Lowe advocated its introduction into schools. Young ladies of a scholarly turn might add it to their other intellectual accomplishments. Ethridge's daughter when in her teens could read the Hebrew Scriptures with ease. Should the present revival of Hebrew learning fail in largely affecting non-professionals, we may hope that theological students will go on to perfection, and that when they graduate they will give evidence of their scholarship by the high character of their O. T. expositions.

THE TRINIDAD MISSION.

By REV. A. FALCONER. No. 5.

In our last paper we noted the arrival