

\$30 from the Superintendent of Missions toward a fund in the Presbytery for pioneer and exploratory work was announced, and the cordial thanks of Presbytery were transmitted to the donor. Communications were read from several missionaries, giving valuable information as to the progress made by the fields under their charge. The amounts due missionaries from the Augmentation and Home Mission Funds for half year closing Sept. 30 were then made up, amounting in all to \$1,368. Estimates for the ensuing half year were then taken up, and application made for the grants deemed requisite, amounting to \$1,716. A public meeting was held during the Presbytery's stay, the main feature of which was a most interesting address by the Rev. James Herald, on "What I saw in Scotland." There was also a meeting for conference and devotional exercises in connection with the weekly prayer meeting of the congregation in whose church the Presbytery sat. Next regular meeting was appointed to be held in Medicine Hat, first Tuesday in March, 1888, at two p.m., and the Presbytery closed a prolonged session two hours after midnight on the morning of the 15th inst.—J. C. HERDMAN, Pres. Clerk.

MONTREAL NOTES.

The Trafalgar Institute opened on Thursday last with a fair attendance of pupils. The staff is about complete, and promises to be an efficient one. The following are some of its members: Professor Eaton, of McGill, Latin and Greek; Miss Woolan, German and French; Miss MacDonnell, Drawing; Mr. A. T. Taylor, Art; Miss Smiths, Mathematics; Miss Sym, Instrumental Music; Miss Labatt, House keeper. The permanent principal is not expected for a few weeks, her place being temporarily filled. A Scientific Department is to be opened after the Christmas vacation. The site of the institute is a most desirable one, being at the top of Superior Street, on the Mountain slope, the grounds around the house being large, and tastefully laid out.

The regular meeting of the Montreal Presbytery took place in the David Morrice Hall on Tuesday, the 4th inst. A special meeting was held in the Centre Farnham Church on Monday week, in connection with the resignation of the pastor of that congregation, Rev. A. H. Macfarlane. After hearing all parties, the resignation was accepted, and the Rev. J. Patterson appointed to preach the pulpit vacant.

The Rev. George Coull, M.A., formerly of Valleyfield, Ont., has accepted a unanimous call to St. Sylvester and Lower Leeds, in the Presbytery of Quebec. This congregation has been vacant for about five months, its former pastor, Rev. G. R. Maxwell, being translated to Three Rivers. Mr. Coull's induction takes place on Wednesday, the 12th inst.

The Rev. J. Gordon Gray, D.D., minister of the Free Church of Scotland at Rome, Italy, arrived by the *Parman* last week. His object is to raise funds in Canada and the United States to aid in reducing the debt on his church property at Rome. The site, purchased in 1883, cost \$27,500 and the buildings \$40,000. Upward of \$40,000 have already been raised, and Dr. Gray hopes to get a considerable portion of the remaining \$25,000 or \$30,000 in America. His Church is the only Presbyterian one in Rome, and is attended by many visitors from America as well as Europe. The Rev. Dr. Jenkins was a colleague of Dr. Gray's in Rome three years ago for a winter, and warmly commends the effort now being made. Dr. Gray preached on Sabbath morning in Erskine Church, and in Crescent Street in the evening. He goes west next week to visit Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, etc.

On the 15th inst. the next session of the Pointe-aux-Trembles Schools begins. Already nearly 250 applications have been received, and as many admitted as the building will accommodate. It is earnestly hoped that the appeal, sanctioned by the General Assembly, for funds to enlarge the buildings will prove successful, so that the contract may be let this season, and the work completed before the opening of another session. The board have strengthened the staff by the appointment of Miss Vessot, the accomplished French teacher of the High School, Montreal, and an earnest Christian lady. The school commissioners of the city part with Miss Vessot with great regret, as she has proved a most successful teacher and disciplinarian.

The next session of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, opens on the evening of Wednesday, the 5th inst., at eight o'clock, when a lecture will be delivered by the Rev. Prof. Scrimger, M.A., on "The Law of the Sabbath." As this is a subject of more than ordinary interest in the city at the present time, there will doubtless be a large attendance of the friends of the college and others. A special collection is announced on behalf of the Library Fund. The prospects for the ensuing session are exceptionally good, upward of twenty new students being already forward. The staff has been strengthened by the appointment by the Board of the Rev. L. H. Jordan, B.D., as Lecturer in Homiletics. Authority was given by last Assembly for the appointment of a lecturer, and Mr. Jordan has consented to accept the position for this session, giving two hours per week.

The St. Gabriel Church bazaar took place in the new armoury of the Victoria Rifles, on Friday and Saturday last. The hall was tastefully decorated, and the tables abundantly supplied with a great variety of fancy and useful articles. A rustic arbour in the centre, at which bouquets and plants were sold by young ladies in Swiss peasant costume attracted special attention. A furnished drawing room with articles for sale was another unique feature. The bazaar was formally opened on Friday by Sir D. A. Smith in an interesting address. Sir Donald's interest did not confine itself to words, for he privately handed Dr. Campbell a check for \$1,000 on behalf of the church debt. The weather on Saturday was most unfavourable, still the bazaar was quite successful, and must have netted a large sum. To Mrs. Campbell, and to the staff of ladies who so ably aided her, the congregation is very deeply indebted for this successful effort to reduce the debt on the new church.

At the evening service in Chalmers Church addresses were

delivered by Messrs. Redfern and Saunders, missionaries elect to China, under the auspices of the China Inland Mission of London, England.

The Rev. J. S. Black, of Colorado Springs, and recently of Erskine Church, Montreal, is at present on a visit east. He preached to a large congregation in Erskine Church on Sabbath evening.

The Rev. M. McLeod, of Lingwick, in the Presbytery of Quebec, has accepted a call to Loch Lomond, C. B., in the Presbytery of Sydney, N. S. It is hoped that arrangements may now be made to unite Lingwick with Gould. The two congregations lie alongside each other, and together would form a good self-supporting charge of about 115 families.

Mr. D. L. Moody arrived in the city last Saturday morning, and is staying at the Windsor. He began his work here by three services on the following Sunday, viz., nine a.m.; four p.m., for women, only, and half-past eight p.m., for men only. The meetings are to be held in the Crystal Rink, on Dominion Square, which is lighted by electric light. Seats have been placed for upward of 4,050 on the floor of the rink, and a platform has been erected to hold 600 additional. Services are to be held at three and eight p.m. every week day for two weeks at least.

The several congregations of the city are organizing for winter work. On Monday week the annual meeting of St. Paul's Church Young Men's Association was held, and the course of lectures decided on for the season was "Canadian Biographies." The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Rev. James Barclay, M.A., hon. president; Dr. J. C. Cameron, president; Mr. A. T. Drummond, first vice-president; Mr. Alexander McFee, second vice-president; Mr. A. J. McPherson, secretary; Mr. F. E. Jodry, treasurer; Mr. W. A. Doig, secretary of Monday morning meetings, and a full committee of management.

The Rev. Dr. Campbell's book on the history of St. Gabriel Church is just out. Instead of some 300 or 400 pages, as was originally intended, it has grown to an octavo volume of upwards of 800 pages. In a lengthened notice in the *Montreal Gazette* the author is highly commended on the result of his painstaking labours, and on the great value of the book, which is characterized as virtually a history of Presbyterianism in Canada. On a future occasion reference will be made to the contents.

Owing to the breaking up of the schools in June and the absence of so many families from the city, it was resolved to hold, on the 1st of October, a gathering of all the Sabbath school children in the city in honour of the Queen's Jubilee. Extensive preparations were made. The plan contemplated was to have a parade of the scholars from McGill College grounds to the Victoria Skating Rink and an entertainment there. The wet weather interfered with the parade. The meeting, however, took place in the rink, which was crowded to excess by about 10,000 children, with their teachers and friends. Sir J. W. Dawson presided. The programme included singing by the children and by the original Fisk Jubilee singers, an exhibition by a number of deaf mutes and also by several Indians from Algoma. Jubilee mugs from England and medals were to be presented to each scholar. Owing to the dense smoke the steamer bringing the mugs did not reach Montreal in time. These are to be distributed through the respective schools. They cost upwards of \$400, a donation from Sir D. A. Smith to the children.

DISTRIBUTION AND SUPPLY.

The Assembly's Distribution Committee held its third quarterly meeting for 1887 at St. Paul's Church, Hamilton, on Thursday, September 22. There were present with the Rev. Dr. Laidlaw, Convener, Revs. Dr. Torrance, Clerk; Dr. Cochrane, Dr. Laing and Mr. George Rutherford, elder, Revs. Dr. Reid and Mr. Gilray being unavouably absent.

The Clerk submitted the most gratifying report that has been before the committee since the remodelling of the Scheme.

During the past quarter six of those on the committee's list had either been called away and settled or had withdrawn their names owing to being on the eve of settlement. Nine new applicants were placed upon the roll, making the whole number to be distributed for the current quarter twenty-five.

Of the twenty Presbyteries sending in returns fourteen reported vacancies needing supply through the committee. As a number of the thirty-two vacancies asked for only partial supply, the total number of Sabbaths to be filled was only 228. Thus the committee could give each of the twenty-five applicants on the roll only nine Sabbaths' preaching out of the thirteen Sabbaths in the quarter. Had all the Presbyteries in Ontario and Quebec reported their vacancies and asked for either full or partial supply, all the applicants on the roll might have received appointments for the whole quarter.

It is the purpose of the committee to seek to have the Scheme made as perfect and as satisfactory in its working as possible, and Presbyteries are invited to help toward this end by doing what they can to give effect to the provisions of the Scheme as at present in operation, or by suggesting improvements if any may still be found necessary. The committee already see beneficial results from the following additions to the Scheme, which were adopted at last General Assembly:

1. Ministers and licentiates failing to fulfil their appointments without assigning a due cause may be refused further appointments by the committee, notice of their action to be sent to the Presbyteries by whom the parties were certified.

2. That the committee have power to withhold appointments from any to whom objections have been made until such time as the Presbytery recommending him shall show cause for his being given his former position.

3. Presbyteries are instructed to report all vacancies in their bounds prepared to call, and obtain through the committee either full or partial supply.

4. Vacancies reported as requiring supply for a certain number of Sabbaths shall be held responsible for the employment of those sent to them for these Sabbaths either in their own pulpits or elsewhere.

The next meeting of the committee will be held in St. Paul's Church, Hamilton, on Monday, December 19, at ten o'clock a.m.

Sabbath School Teacher.

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

Oct. 16, 1887. **POWER TO FORGIVE SINS.** {Mat. 9: 1-8.

GOLDEN TEXT.—The Son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sins.—Mat. ix. 6.

SHORTER CATECHISM.

Question 43.—When the law was given to Moses it was introduced by a statement that the Lawgiver was God. The Israelites had been under the tyrannical and oppressive laws of the Pharaohs. Now Jehovah, the absolute self-existing One on whom all being depends, declares His law to them. It is not intended for one nation only, but is of universal obligation. The preface to the Ten Commandments gives the reason why they should be obeyed. "I am the Lord thy God." It is God's law, therefore perfect. He is the covenant God, thy God. He is to be trusted and obeyed because He has redeemed His people. They were released from the bitterness of Egyptian bondage. We are redeemed from the slavery of sin, therefore we are bound by gratitude to obey the law of God.

INTRODUCTORY.

After Christ had stilled the tempest on the Lake of Galilee He delivered two men from the awful affliction of demoniac possession. This occurred in the country of the Gadarenes. The people there, because their swine, taken possession of by the evil spirits, had been drowned in the waters of the lake, prayed Jesus to depart from their coasts. They did not know whom they rejected. Jesus complied with their request, and with His disciples re-crossed the lake, and came to Capernaum, where this miracle of healing was wrought.

1. The Paralytic Healed.—The word "palsy" is a contraction for "paralysis," a partial or total loss of sensation and power of motion. It was a prevalent disease in our Saviour's time. The man was unable to come himself. He was carried on his portable bed by friends. They had faith in Christ's power to heal. When they reached the house where Jesus was they found it so crowded with people listening to His teachings that they could not gain an entrance. This did not deter them. They carried the sick man up to the flat roof of the house, made an opening, and gently lowered the patient into the presence of the Great Physician. With a word of power the sufferer is healed. The faith of the man and the faith of his friends is recognized by the Saviour. Wherever faith is He sees it. He speaks words of comfort to the distressed paralytic: "Be of good cheer, and add an assurance of still greater comfort: 'thy sins are forgiven thee.' It is possible that the man's disease was the direct result of his sins; at all events it was sin that brought death into our world, and all our woe. His disease may have pressed heavily on his spirit; his conscience was quickened and he no doubt longed for pardon. Death may have appeared to him as near at hand. How welcome then were the Saviour's cheering words!"

II. Jesus has Power to Forgive Sins.—Several Scribes who were present were offended at Christ's words. They made a great mistake. The poor sufferer recognized His divine power; they failed to see it; they thought of Him only as a man like themselves, and in their hearts they said, This man blasphemeth. If he were only a man they would be right in so thinking, for no man can forgive sins. They erred in denying the divinity of the Son of God, who evidenced that divinity in being able to read their thoughts. They are startled by His question, "Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?" The next question would be no less startling to the Scribes, "Whether is easier to say, Thy sins be forgiven, or to say, Arise and walk?" To man, one was as difficult as the other. To man, both are impossible. The apostles afterward wrought miracles, but never by their own power; the marvellous works were done in the name of Jesus. So miraculous healing and the forgiveness of sins were divine prerogatives. If Jesus possessed these powers, then He was divine. By the actual exercise of that power He leaves the doubting Scribes no alternative but belief in Himself as the Son of God. "But that ye may know that the Son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sins, then saith He to the sick of the palsy, Arise, take up thy bed and go unto thine house." The poor man, who so long had been powerless, is immediately restored to health. He had to be carried to the house where Jesus was; he is able to walk to his home. All Christ's work is complete; whatever He does is perfect. Such an evident manifestation of divine power could not fail to produce a striking impression on all who beheld it. The lesson does not say how the murmuring Scribes were affected by the miracle. We are not told whether they were convinced or not; at all events they were silenced for the moment. The multitudes who witnessed the cure of the sick man by Christ's word marvelled. They were impressed with a feeling of wonder, admiration and awe. They understood aright the source of the power whose exercise they had witnessed. "They glorified God who had given such power unto men."

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

Christ sympathizes with the distressed.

Faith is indispensable, if we would receive blessings from Christ.

Forgiveness of sins is God's gift through the Saviour.

As the palsied man's friends brought him to Jesus, so we ought to bring others to Christ.