

SYNOD OF TORONTO AND KINGSTON.

The Synod of Toronto and Kingston met in the handsome and commodious church at Brampton, on the evening of Monday, the 9th inst. The Rev. William Bennett, of Springville, delivered an able and appropriate discourse on 1 Cor. i. 21. He made reference to the divine appointment of the sacred office of the ministry, and the special requirements for the faithful discharge of the duties it involves. The design of Gospel preaching is the salvation of souls. The Holy Spirit had blessed the preaching of the Gospel in the past, and would continue to bless it until the Gospel was preached to all nations. The discourse contained timely allusions to subjects of important practical interest, and, on motion of Professor MacLaren, the Moderator was cordially and unanimously thanked for his sermon, and for the efficient manner in which he had discharged the duties of his office.

On motion of Rev. A. Gilray, seconded by Rev. J. McAlpine, the Rev. John Somerville, M.A., of Owen Sound, was elected Moderator.

The Synod was opened on Tuesday morning with devotional exercises, during which special prayer was offered for Rev. G. Pringle, the senior minister of Brampton congregation, whose health is in a critical state.

The Clerk presented and laid on the table a summary statement of changes that have taken place since last meeting.

The protest and appeal of the Rev. William Inglis against a decision of the Toronto Presbytery on a memorial presented by him complaining of unqualified aspersions of political writers, published with the sanction of certain members of the Toronto Presbytery, came before the court in connection with a letter addressed to the Synod by the appellant. In that communication Mr Inglis intimated that he did not intend to prosecute his appeal, adding: I do this from the following reason: While still holding strongly that, as a matter of Church law and ordinary justice, the Presbytery of Toronto failed in its duty when it refused even to consider my memorial, though, in the very act of refusing, it judged without considering said memorial, and while convinced that the Presbytery has not even begun to answer my reasons of protest, yet as I am quite satisfied with receiving substantial, if not formal, justice without insisting upon mere points of Church law or ordinary fair play, and as I now believe that I have received such justice and vindication, I beg leave through you to withdraw the appeal.

The letter, on motion of Dr. Wardrope, was accepted as a withdrawal of the appeal.

The Rev. Mr. Jeffrey, of the Methodist Church, Brampton, and Rev. John Burton, of the Northern Congregational Church, Toronto, on motion of Revs. G. M. Milligan and D. J. Macdonnell, were invited to sit and correspond with the Synod.

Rev. Dr. Fraser, on behalf of the committee appointed for the purpose, presented a resolution expressive of the Synod's sympathy with Rev. Mr. Pringle, which, on motion of Rev. Mr. Monteath and Dr. Torrance, was adopted.

On motion of Dr. Fraser, of Leith, seconded by Rev. J. F. McLaren, of Euphrasia, it was agreed to hold the next meeting of Synod in Owen Sound, on the second Tuesday of May, at half-past seven o'clock in the evening, the opening services to be held in Knox Church, and the business meetings in Division Street Church.

The directors of the Brantford Ladies' College presented a memorial in behalf of the institution. Principal McIntyre presented its claims, and the following motion by Rev. D. D. McLeod, seconded by Rev. G. M. Milligan, was adopted: That the Synod receive the memorial, and express satisfaction with the statement of the directors of the Brantford Ladies' College, and is gratified to learn, through Dr. McIntyre, the principal, of the good work which is being done by this institution for the cause of Christian learning, and of its power for good in the Presbyterian Church. That the Synod commend the institution to the members within its bounds, and earnestly urge them to take an active interest in promoting in every way the higher education of our young women. That the Synod has pleasure in granting the petition of the memorial, and would nominate the Rev. H. M. Parsons, of Toronto, as a visitor from the Synod of Toronto and Kingston for the ensuing year.

The Rev. Dr. J. K. Smith presented the report on the State of Religion. Rev. Dr. Wardrope, Messrs. P. McF. McLeod, McCrae, Colbourn, and Grant, Orillia, addressed the Synod. The report, with the following recommendations, was adopted: That in view of the fact that many sessions send meagre answers, and many no answers to these questions, Presbyteries be enjoined to adopt such means as they deem best to procure from all sessions full and careful replies. 2. That the earnest attention of our congregations be called to the great importance of family worship, which, it would appear, is neglected by many families in our Church. 3. That as it appears that the religious instruction of the young is in danger of being left too much to the Sabbath school, the privilege and responsibility of religious teaching in the home be earnestly impressed upon parents. 4. That sessions be instructed to use every effort to render the prayer meetings vigorous and attractive, and to call out the gifts of the membership to aid in this and all other departments of Christ's work. 5. That Presbyteries be recommended to prepare a scheme of special services adapted to reach all congregations, ministers, elders and members to assist in conducting them.

In the absence of the Convener, Rev. S. Houston, Principal Caven presented the report on Sabbath Observance. It concluded with a recommendation that ministers be strongly urged to preach from time to time on the observance of the Lord's Day, and so aim at the creating of a healthy public opinion on this important question. The report was adopted.

On Wednesday morning a dissent and complaint against the Presbytery of Barrie was taken up. The section of Seced. Intellig., meeting at Hunter's Corners, had moved to proceed without the sanction of the Presbytery, who afterward decided that the congregation should meet as formerly at

Hunter's Corners. On reconsideration the decision was reversed by a majority of one, and the minority appealed to the Synod. Rev. Messrs. Acheson, Burnet and Leishman presented the case of the complainants, and Messrs. D. D. McLeod, Stevenson and R. N. Grant appeared on behalf of the Presbytery. After deliberation the motion of Dr. J. K. Smith, seconded by Rev. Hugh Rose, Elora, that a commission be appointed to visit the locality, confer with the parties interested and issue the case, was adopted.

The standing committees, of which the following are Conveners, were appointed: State of Religion, Rev. J. A. R. Dickson; Sabbath Schools, Dr. McTavish; Temperance, Rev. W. G. Wallace; Sabbath Observance, Rev. T. S. Chambers.

Rev. James Cumberland, Amherst Island, reported that the appeal on behalf of the McDowell Memorial Church had met with a large measure of success. Construction was to be begun at once, and only about \$300 more was required for its completion.

In relation to the appeal of Rev. D. McNaughton, the following motion was adopted: That the Synod declines to entertain the protest and appeal of Mr. McNaughton; and that the Synod informs Mr. McNaughton that, should he discover evidence which he deems sufficient to substantiate his claim against the Presbytery of Owen Sound, to which his appeal has reference, he can approach the next Synod by petition, duly transmitted through the Presbytery.

Rev. W. Fitzell presented the report of the Psalmody Committee. The Committee was reappointed, with Rev. P. McF. McLeod as Convener.

Dr. Torrance presented the treasurer's report, which showed a satisfactory financial condition.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, in presenting the claims of the Augmentation Fund, said that at the beginning of the ecclesiastical year there was on hand a reserve of \$6,000. To carry on the work for the year just closed, \$30,000 were required. The amount contributed for the year is \$24,000. From the Synod of Toronto and Kingston, \$12,000 were asked. Nearly \$10,000 have been received.

The Synod adopted the following resolution: The Synod have heard from Rev. Mr. Macdonnell with much interest a statement regarding the present condition of the Augmentation Fund, and are glad to find that about \$1,000 have been contributed in advance of last year. The Synod would, however, very earnestly call the attention of the Presbyteries and congregations within the bounds to the fact that the reserve of \$6,000 which existed at the commencement of the year has been exhausted, and that if the extremely moderate minimum of \$750 aimed at by the Church is to continue to be secured, a very considerable increase of liberality will be requisite. The Synod cannot believe that the Church will fail in so obvious a duty, committed to us by every consideration of justice and Christian love.

Rev. John Smith presented the report of the Committee on Temperance which, together with the following recommendations, on motion of Rev. John Neil, seconded by Rev. R. D. Fraser, Bowmanville, was adopted:

1. That this Synod, whilst it heartily approves of the Assembly's Committee's course in so fully considering the subject of prohibition, which at present so largely claims public attention, urge upon that committee, in framing future questions, to have special regard to the subject of temperance, as it affects the individual life and conduct of the members of our Church. 2. That this Synod, while gladly recognizing the measure of good accomplished by the Canada Temperance Act, wherever faithfully enforced, in diminishing the evils of bar room drinking and treating, and while never forgetting that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the great remedy for the evils of intemperance as well as for all other evils, regards the total prohibition of the liquor traffic as right in principle, and an end to be earnestly sought by all right means. 3. That this Synod earnestly enjoin upon the membership of the Church, while doing all in their power in the way of co-operation in enforcing the C. T. Act, or the restrictive clauses of the License Act, to seek more strenuously than ever, by precept and example, to discourage moderate drinking, and to inculcate the principles of total abstinence. 4. That this Synod respectfully petition the Dominion Parliament, now in session, to amend the Canada Temperance Act in the direction sought by the Dominion Alliance, and not on any consideration whatever consent to the emasculating of the Act by the introduction of a "wine and beer clause," or otherwise.

Rev. A. H. Scott, of Owen Sound, presented the report on Sabbath School Work, and moved, seconded by Rev. G. M. Milligan, its reception, and the adoption of its recommendations, which was agreed to. The recommendations are as follows:

1. That the system of registration sanctioned by the General Assembly be adopted in all the schools of the Synod, with emphasis upon that part which asks from the school a quarterly report to the Presbytery's Sabbath School Convener. 2. That as soon as possible after the meeting of the General Assembly the Presbyteries' Committees on Sabbath Schools be formed, so that they may have abundant opportunity for planning, that the required statistical information may be in the possession of the Presbyteries, and of the Synod's Sabbath School Committee, soon after the close of the calendar year. 3. That the claims of missions be urged strongly upon the schools. 4. That all Sabbath school effort should be focussed on the central thought of bringing the young to Christ, and to a growing interest in His saving grace; and that all methods and machinery in the school should run in the direction of spiritual life and Christian work.

After the customary votes of thanks, and devotional exercises, the Moderator pronounced the benediction, and the Synod adjourned.

DUMFRIES SYNOD ordered the Presbytery to receive the petition from Mr. Gordon, late of Shaghtree, asking that an inquiry be made into the circumstances of his resignation and the refusal of the parish minister to allow him to withdraw it. The Presbytery unanimously decided that it was incompetent for them to grant the prayer of the petition, and an appeal has been taken to the Assembly.

Sabbath School Teacher.

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

May 29, 1887.

THE RED SEA.

Isa. 44: 19:31.

GOLDEN TEXT—"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee." Isa. xlii. 2.

SHORTER CATECHISM.

Christ means the Anointed One. To accomplish the work of redemption, He was anointed by the Prophet, to declare to us the truth of God. As Priest, He was anointed to offer up the one perfect sacrifice of Himself, and to make intercession for us. He is the anointed King, that He might rule over and defend His people, and finally subdue all things to Himself. He is the only infallible Prophet, the Priest who has offered an all-prevailing sacrifice for the sins of men, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

INTRODUCTORY.

After the observance of the Passover, the last and most terrible of the ten plagues fell upon the Egyptians. The first-born in the palace and the first-born of the captive in the dungeon and the first-born throughout the land were stricken with swift death. Overcome by grief and terror, Pharaoh sends to Moses the order for the departure of the Children of Israel. A whole nation begins their memorable march. From Rameses they advance to Succoth, and from Succoth to Etham, on the confines of the desert. By Divine command, they are here told to diverge, and they encamp near Migdol, near Pi-hahiroth, opposite Baalzephon, on the border of the Gulf of Suez. They were hemmed in by mountains on either hand, and before them the waters of the Red Sea. The Egyptians, seeing their supposed opportunity, are pursuing them. Moses asked directions from God, and the answer came: "Speak to the Children of Israel, that they go forward."

I. God Delivers the Israelites.—We have been taught to believe that God is everywhere present, and that He will deliver all who trust in Him. The Bible plainly teaches this, but the Israelites had no Bible. To convince them that they were under the divine guidance, a striking symbol of God's presence was given them. The pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night was ever present to their sight, to remind them that the God of their fathers was their God. When the eventful moment for their advance had arrived, the pillar of cloud moved from the front to the rear of the host. The Angel of God, the Second Person of the Trinity, was there as the deliverer of the Israelites. The cloud came between them and their pursuers, giving light to the Israelites, but enveloping the Egyptians in darkness. Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all the night. The waters were parted, and a way was opened up for the passage of the Israelites. Then the mighty host, numbering about two millions, passed on dry land, where the day before the waters flowed.

II. God Overwhelms the Egyptians.—While the Israelites are crossing the arm of the Red Sea, the Egyptians resolve to continue their pursuit. Pharaoh's six hundred chariots and the horsemen they carried hastened to recapture the people who were escaping. It is not said that Pharaoh himself was with the pursuing army, or that he perished with them. To all appearance, the defenceless multitude were within the grasp of the well equipped and disciplined force. But they could not fight against God. In the morning watch—i.e., toward day break—the Lord looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled them. They could make no progress. Their chariot wheels sank in the yielding sand; they became clogged, and were wrenched off. At last they came to the conclusion that they are engaged in a hopeless enterprise, and propose flight, because they realize that the Lord was fighting for Israel, and against them. But they soon found that, while they could not advance, retreat was equally impossible. The lesson is careful to tell us that, while Moses stretched his hand over the sea, it was at the Lord's command, and that it was the Lord, not Moses, that wrought the miracle. When the morning appeared, the great mass of water that stood on either hand flowed back into its wonted channel, and the entire host of the Egyptians was buried in the depths of the sea. Not a solitary survivor remained to carry back the tidings of the awful disaster that befell them. It goes hard with those against whom God fights.

III. The Israelites Saved.—The Israelites reached the eastern shore in safety. The marvellous events following in swift succession could not fail to fill their minds with awe. The Lord saved Israel that day. On the shore they saw the dead bodies of their pursuers cast up by the waves. They were deeply impressed. Their own deliverance and the overthrow of the Egyptians taught them to fear the Lord. They realized that He had power to save and to destroy. A short time before they distrusted God, and were doubtful whether Moses would prove a wise leader. Now that Moses had obeyed the divine directions, and God had given a singular manifestation of His power on their behalf, they believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

Israel had the pillar of cloud and of fire to guide and protect them: We have God's Word and Spirit.

The path of duty may be dangerous, but God makes it safe. Those that fight against God are overwhelmed in ruin. God's salvation awakens in the soul reverence and trust.

THE London Presbytery hope to prepare a plan for the winter months, whereby several ministers, aided by qualified members, may undertake the work of evangelization.

THE Rev. Andrew Hunter, B.D., U. P. Church, Dalkeith, preached in Newbattle Church on Sabbath evening. This is said to be the first time a dissenter has occupied that pulpit.