

## POINTE-AUX-TREMBLES MISSION SCHOOLS.

The teachers and scholars of the Pointe-aux-Trembles mission schools, unite together to present their supporters with their most hearty thanks for the extension and the renovation of our building during the past summer.

Your indefatigable generosity has given us a more attractive school, with better accommodation and more comfort, and we find that in every respect our work is greatly facilitated. May the blessing of God crown your charity and render the work at our hands more and more fruitful for the conversion of the young souls gathered around us.

The Roman Catholics, who had always entertained the hope to see our school closed and our work come to an end, have experienced no little disappointment when they have seen the restoration and enlargement of our old building, and a new impetus given to our work of education.

Stimulated or frightened by our progress, the priests have put forth more activity than for many years past, in order to prevent their young people coming to our school. In many localities they have succeeded in keeping at home boys and girls who were ready to come to Pointe-aux-Trembles. Through persecution, they have obliged parents who had sent us their children to come and take them away. Many more would have left the school, there is no doubt, if we had not discovered a spy sent to our house by the priest of our parish, who tried to obtain the names of our boys, in order to report where they are to their respective confessors.

We are glad to say, that in spite of all the enemies of the truth, our schools have never sheltered so many young people, and we hope to see their number increase shortly. We have at present ninety-two boys and fifty girls coming from fifty-seven localities.

Sixty-one are children of parents who still adhere to the Church of Rome, seventy-two belong to converted families, and nine have been born in the Protestant Church. Most of these last named are from districts where there is no Protestant school, or where there is danger of their becoming Roman Catholics.

The class of the beginners number sixty pupils, the second class, fifty-five, the third, twenty-one, and the fourth, six.

We have great reason to be thankful for the kind of pupils we have this year. They seem very anxious to learn, and they manifest very good dispositions. As may be expected, however, there are a few exceptions among those who come from Roman Catholic homes, where their first education has distorted their consciences. Scholars of twenty-five years of age sit on the same seat with boys of thirteen, Protestant with Roman Catholics, yet in spite of those heterogeneous elements, peace and harmony reign in our school. This is not surprising, however, for we have always used here the most powerful means of discipline—the Bible—read and explain to all our pupils every day.

During the summer months, ten of our pupils have been employed as missionaries, six as colporteurs and four as teachers. It is a most encouraging feature of our work to see that every year the number of our young people who desire to labour for the Lord is increasing.

Five of our young men have lately entered the college in Montreal, where they are pursuing their studies with a view to the ministry of the Gospel, and one other has entered the medical college.

Friends and supporters of our schools, you find, perhaps, that my letters about your pupils are not very frequent, and that they are short, but I am confident you would excuse me if you knew that I could not write more frequently without neglecting my most pressing duties.

Our time for sowing is very brief, and our field is becoming larger and larger, but we feel that we are working alone, and that our hands are strengthened by the prayers of thousands of Christian friends who shall rejoice with us when the harvest day shall come.

3rd December, 1888, J. BOURGOIN, Principal.

P. S.—We have had the boys' school newly supplied with beds and bedding, etc., and have also provided desks, tables, etc., for the new class rooms. These furnishings cost upon an average \$15 for each pupil. It is pleasant to report that many of our supporters have agreed to send the money to pay the furnishings for their scholar, and it is hoped that others may feel inclined to do likewise. All contributions should be forwarded to the treasurer, Rev. Dr. Warden, 198 St. James Street, Montreal.

## OBITUARY.

MRS. ROXBURGH, NORWOOD.

In a memorial service, the Rev. J. Carmichael, M.A., made the following reference to the memory and worth of an estimable Christian lady: She was long an active, faithful, and exemplary member of this church—always foremost of our sisters in everything undertaken to advance its prosperity and promote its usefulness as an integral part of the church militant. Born in Glasgow, Scotland, she came with her parents to Canada, in the year 1852, and settled with them in Westwood. Shortly after, she identified herself with God's people, becoming a member of the Presbyterian Church there, then as now, under the pastoral care of Rev. F. Andrews. In 1860, she was married to Mr. Roxburgh. Of the children born to them, five are living, four boys and a girl. As husband and wife they were blessed in their bark and store. The whole of her wedded life was spent in Norwood. Immediately on coming among us, she took an active and prominent part in furthering every movement conducive to the welfare of the town and the interest of the Church. She was long a teacher in the Sabbath school, and always a regular member of the choir, until the severe accident that befel her in April of last year. That was the beginning of the affliction which terminated so fatally and carried her away in the meridian of life. It was hoped that her visit last summer to her native land would have restored her to perfect health. But God ruled otherwise. The death of her amiable accomplished daughter Edythe, had, doubtless, much to do with her speedy demise. However this may have been, she has gone from us. But the fragrance of her memory will long linger in our hearts and

homes, and give a tone to our breathings as some sea shell through whose delicate folds the song of the ocean has rolled.

Still pleased remembers its august abode  
And murmurs as the ocean murmurs there.

We as a congregation will miss her much; the poor of the town will miss her, for she cheerfully gave of her abundance to them; all, whether of this Church or the other Churches, will miss her, for she was beloved by all. But incomparably more will she be missed from her once bright and happy home, by her widowed husband and motherless children. But God who took her from them can alone make good their loss. He says: "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee and thou shalt glorify Me." The picture I have drawn in the discourse just delivered was indeed her picture as wife, mother and believer. Active, cheerful and energetic, she exerted much influence for good. Unobtrusive and retiring in her piety, she was earnest and sincere in her efforts to follow in the footsteps of her risen Lord. She was firmly settled in the principles of her own Church. She believed that salvation was wholly by grace, and rested for hers on the finished work of her Saviour. A devout and energetic believer; a faithful and cheerful wife, a vigilant and affectionate mother; an obliging and loving neighbour; and a thoughtful and liberal giver to the poor and all benevolent objects, she has gone from us, gone to be with the redeemed in heaven. For those who are washed in the blood of the Lamb

"There is no death, what seems so is transition,  
This life of mortal breath,  
Is but a suburb of the life elysian,  
Whose portal we call death."

To the loving and gracious care of our heavenly Father who alone can compensate the losses sustained in this vale of tears, we commend the husband and family; He alone can give peace to your troubled hearts, and lift you out of the darkness of bereavement into the glorious light of an assured immortality. "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord, yea, saith the Spirit, for they cease from their labours and their works do follow them."

MRS. HENNING.

Tiding of the sudden death of Mrs. Thomas Henning, which occurred at Florence, Italy, on Tuesday the 11th, will be received with feelings of deep regret by her many friends in Canada. Mrs. Henning was a daughter of Mr. Peter Brown, well known as the editor of the *Banner*, which, during its existence, was the able advocate of the Free Church movement in this country. Her eldest brother was the Hon. George Brown, founder and editor-in-chief of the *Globe* newspaper, and the distinguished leader of the Reform party in Canada. She shared in full measure in the singularly intellectual, energetic, and public spirited characteristics of the family to which she belonged. Throughout her life she took a deep interest in works of Christian benevolence and enterprise, aiding them by her wise counsels, and large hearted liberality. For many years she conducted, in Toronto, a ladies school, which was attended by numerous pupils, now scattered over different parts of the Dominion and other lands, who received from her a thorough educational training, and not a few of whom can trace their deepest religious convictions and impressions to the Christian instruction she imparted, and to her faithful and affectionate dealing with their hearts and consciences. The older members and office-bearers of Cooke's Church, in this city, of which she was for a long time a member, will recall with gratitude the memory of her earnest, active, and generous efforts to promote its interests, and to sustain it amidst the struggles of its earlier history. For the last twenty years she was constrained by ill-health to relax her active exertions, but her interest in Christian work continued unabated. In various parts of the Continent of Europe, in which, with her husband, whose health was also impaired, she occasionally resided, she found objects of Christian enterprise which enlisted her sympathy and aid. The McAll Mission, for example, in Paris, and the cause of the Waldensian Church, received from her cordial sympathy and substantial assistance, and her influence was successfully exercised in securing for them help from others. In her Christian experience, it was her happy privilege to enjoy, in a remarkable measure, a clear and cloudless assurance of her personal interest in Christ, and the bright hope of future blessedness; and very admirable and worthy of imitation was her patient resignation to the will of God during her long, protracted illness, in which, as in years of health and vigor, she recognized the hand of a kind and loving Father. Death has at last released her from all pain and introduced her into the better land, where the inhabitant shall never say "I am sick." So far, therefore, as she is concerned, her friends have no reason to mourn; but her removal will be very keenly felt by her surviving friends and relations, and most keenly by her bereaved husband, to whom in his loneliness in a distant land, will be accorded the genuine sympathy of his numerous friends in this city and country.

## Sabbath School Teacher

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

December 30, 1888.

## REVIEW.

{ Joshua—  
Ruth.

**The Commission of Joshua.**—After the death of Moses Joshua was commissioned by God to be the leader of His people. He is commanded to cross the Jordan with the Israelites and take possession of the promised land. The boundaries of the country are specified and Joshua is counselled to be courageous and obedient to God's commands. Courage and obedience were to be the conditions of the leader's success.—Joshua i. 1-9.

**crossing the Jordan.**—In all his enterprises Joshua

acknowledged God and sought His guidance. When all was in readiness to make the eventful entry into Canaan, Joshua commanded the people to sanctify themselves and be prepared to behold God's miraculous intervention in their behalf. God's approval of Joshua would be seen in the parting of the waters of the river, where according to the divine instructions received, twelve priests bearing the ark, the symbol of God's presence, were to stand in the river-bed till the entire multitude had passed over.—Joshua iii. 5-17.

**Stones of Memorial.**—When all the Israelites had passed over the river the priests who stood in the bed of the stream were commanded to come up and join their brethren. The host encamped at Gilgal. The people had learned the lesson, the miraculous crossing of the Jordan was intended to teach. "On that day the Lord magnified Joshua in the sight of all Israel, and they feared him as they feared Moses, all the days of his life. From the bed of the river twelve stones were taken which were formed into a memorial pillar, which should remind after generations of God's special care of His people, and be a witness to all the people of the earth of the mighty power of God.—Joshua iv. 10-24.

**The Fall of Jericho.**—Jericho was a strongly fortified city. Its overthrow was essential to the safety of the Israelites. Here again God designed to teach the lesson of dependence on Him as the condition of their safety and success. It was not to be assaulted by force of arms. Priests bearing the ark preceded and followed by armed men were to go around the walls in succession. On the seventh day, after going round seven times in procession, the walls fell, without a stroke from the besiegers, and the capture of the stronghold was complete. The Lord gave them the city.—Joshua vi. 1-16.

**Defeat at Ai.**—When Jericho fell the people were not to take any of the plunder; the precious things were devoted to God's service. Meanwhile a small detachment of armed men were despatched to take Ai, a well-defended inland town. They were, however, repulsed by the men of Ai, and fled in terror and confusion. The people murmured at this defeat, and Joshua humbled himself before God. The cause of the defeat is made known to Joshua who summons the people before him, the guilty Achan is brought to light, and he receives an awful punishment.—Josh. vii. 1-12.

**Caleb's Inheritance.**—Besides Joshua there was only one survivor of all that left Egypt with Moses. Caleb, the son of Jephunneh, had with Joshua been one of the twelve spies sent into Canaan. Now he claims the fulfilment of the promise made to him by Moses many years before. He could with perfect modesty plead his past services and his obedience to God's law. His request was favourably received, and Hebron was granted to him as his inheritance.—Joshua xiv. 5-15.

**Helping One Another.**—The foes of Israel had been subdued, the land divided among the people. The headquarters were at Shiloh, where the two and a half tribes whose inheritance was on the east side of the Jordan were assembled. Joshua sends them home with commendations for their fidelity, and with a liberal share of the spoils taken in war. His parting counsels were that they were to love the Lord their God and to walk in all His ways.—Joshua xxi. 43-45; xxii. 1-9.

**The Covenant Renewed.**—Shortly before his departure from the world Joshua assembled the people of Israel at Shechem, and delivered to them a most solemn and impressive farewell charge. To secure their obedience and devotion to God's service they entered into a covenant that they would not serve idols, and a stone was set up as a witness of their solemn engagement.—Joshua xxiv. 19-28.

**Israel Under Judges.**—No immediate successor to Joshua was appointed. The people, notwithstanding their solemn vows, sunk into idolatry. This was one of the great sins to which they seemed specially inclined. They invariably suffered for their sins. God was angry with them. Saal and Ashtaroth could bring them no help. In His mercy God pitied them and raised up deliverers for them. The period of the Judges—about 330 years—extended from the death of Joshua to the appointment of Saul as king. Judges ii. 11-23.

**Gideon's Army.**—The people were greatly oppressed by the Midianites. God raised up and called Gideon as their deliverer. Once more to impress on them the lesson that it is God that giveth the victory, by a peculiar process of selection only a comparative handful of brave men were selected, and all the rest were allowed to retire. Gideon's band, each man with a lamp and a pitcher, surrounded the camp of the Midianites at night, when at the proper moment the pitchers that concealed the lights were broken, and the panic stricken Midianites turned their swords against each other and fled in confusion, and their retreat was cut off at the fords of Jordan.—Judges vi. 21-31.

**The Death of Sampson.**—Though not the best, Sampson was the strongest of all the judges. In physical strength and courage he was unsurpassed. Having yielded to temptation, he was bereft of his strength by his enemies, because God left him to himself. As a prisoner, he was cruelly treated by the Philistines. After idolatrous ceremonies in honour of their god Dagon, they wanted Sampson to make them sport before a vast multitude. Having prayed to God for the return of his strength, his request was granted, and laying his hands on the main pillars of the building, he bent himself with all his might, and the structure fell and thousands were crushed in the ruins, Sampson among them. His remains were honourably interred in the burying place of his people.—Judges xvi. 21-31.

**Ruth's Choice.**—Naomi, with her husband and two sons, had sought refuge from famine and oppression in the country of the Moabites. There her sons married, and there they and her husband had died. She returns to her own land accompanied by her daughter-in-law Ruth, who humbly, yet firmly resolves to leave her own people and all their idolatrous ways. She resolves faithfully to take Jehovah to be her God, and to live and die in His service. She reaches honour and prosperity, and forms one in the line of our Saviour's earthly ancestry.—Ruth i. 16-22.