

Teacher and Scholar.

BY REV. W. A. J. MARTIN, GUELPH.

Jan. 3rd, 1897. **CHRIST'S ASCENSION.** { Acts 1: 1-14.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Luke xxiv. 51

MEMORY VERSE.—7-9.

CATECHISM.—Q. 82.

HOMER READINGS.—*M. Ma.* xxviii: 16-20 and Mark xvi: 9-20. *T. Lu.* xxiv: 36-53. *W. John* xxi: 1-22. *Th. I.* xlv: 1-8. *F. John* xiv: 1-20. *S. Acts* i: 1-14. *St. A. A.* i: 15-26.

During the coming year we shall be permitted to study the book of the Acts in almost its every part. At least we shall study it with sufficient fulness to give us, if we pay careful attention to our lessons from week to week, a pretty clear idea of the planting and progress of the Christian Church during the generation immediately following the crucifixion of our Lord. The gospels purport to give us an account of the things which Jesus began both to do and to teach during His earthly career, the book of the Acts tells us some of the things which this self-same Jesus continued to do from His glory, through the agency of the Holy Spirit. Clearly we have no record of all that Jesus continued to do through the operations of the Spirit, for we have scarcely a word about at least eleven of the apostles, including Matthias, and we cannot imagine that these eleven were idle in the face of their commission to go and disciple all nations. Our lesson for this week covers the interval between our Lord's resurrection and Pentecost, and may well be studied under the headings, "The Lord Risen and Ascended," and "The Disciples Waiting."

I. The Lord Risen and Ascended.

—The resurrection of Jesus was a most unexpected thing by His disciples, and yet so satisfied were they of the truth of His resurrection from the dead, that they were ready to lay down their lives rather than surrender the hope which they had in that resurrection; nay, many of them did seal their testimony with their blood. In the face of that one fact, we need not say much about the "many infallible proofs," by which He convinced them of the reality of what they saw. Let those who cavil at the doctrine of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, find any parallel in history of men ready to lay down their lives for a myth of such a character as this, and we will then be prepared to hear what they have to say in explanation of the phenomena we find manifested in the early Church, and which sprang from an honest conviction that what they had seen and heard was true, and that He who was dead really lives again at God's right hand. Again and again did the risen Lord show Himself to His disciples, and so often as He met with them, He spoke of the "things pertaining to the kingdom of God." The substance of all His conversations was "go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation." But He would not have them go without their fitting equipment. They had "seen and heard," and "their hands had handled of the word of life," but something else was needed to make their witness effective, and that something was "the promise of the Father," of which the Master had spoken to them at such length during the last hours before His passion. They must not go at once, but must "wait" the fulfilment of this promise, viz., the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Now they have come for the last meeting though they knew it not, and still their minds are full of that Jewish chimera, a temporal kingdom. Fittingly the Lord rebukes their curiosity and theorizing, with a reminder of the immediate duty of the day, and that they should wait God's own time for making known the future. It would be well if many in our own day were content to leave the future to God, and to work in the present through the power of the Holy Ghost. Thus from Bethany the Lord with outstretched hands was taken up, and the last words they heard were "witnesses for Me—unto the uttermost parts of the earth."

II. The Disciples Waiting.—At first

the disciples seem to have been stricken dumb with amazement. Not until the heavenly visitors gently reminded them of the Master's promise to come again, and of His words of command about "waiting," did they come to themselves and return slowly to Jerusalem to the upper room to "wait." There was the abiding place of the apostles and thither gathered the little band of believing men and women to "wait upon God" for the fulfilment of His promise. There was but one mind among them, and that was a longing desire for the promised Spirit. For Him they cried night and day, until the time had come for the fulfilment of the Father's promise, and then, as we shall see next week, they received what they had longed for. The lesson to us is obvious. No equipment intellectual or other can of itself qualify for effective witnessing for Christ. We must have the "promise of the Father." That promise we can obtain only by "waiting upon God" as did these first disciples.

Ministers and Churches.

Rev. Dr. Wardrope, of Guelph, formerly of Knox Church, Ottawa, preached at Billings' Bridge on Sabbath evening Dec., 6th, an able and interesting discourse on the subject of "Assurance."

We ask all present subscribers to send us a new name and thus help THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN to a joyful celebration of this semi-jubilee and holiday season.

The Ladies Aid Society of Billings' Bridge Church recently held a very successful social. A very excellent programme was kindly furnished by the orchestra of St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa. Proceeds amounted to over fifty dollars.

Brandon Church held its annual thank-offering meeting recently. A large gathering of ladies was present. Mrs. (Rev.) E. A. Henry, assisted by a committee, received the visitors as they arrived at the church, where a sociable and profitable evening was spent. The President, Mrs. McDiarmid, was assisted during the opening exercise by Mrs. Cameron who offered prayer, and Mrs. Forbes, who gave an earnest, helpful address on "Waiting on God." The programme rendered was an excellent one and much appreciated. Mrs. Murray, in clear, impressive tones, read the reasons for thankfulness accompanying each offering, which amounted in all to \$96. The dedicatory prayer was offered by Mrs. Smart and the members separated with hearts filled with gratitude and gladness for the privilege of assisting in the Lord's work.

The Board of Management of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, has issued a circular signed by the chairman, D. Morrice, Esq., calling attention to its claims at this season. It states that the attendance of students in the Theological classes is this session the largest in the history of the College. The sum of \$5,000 is this year required, over and above the interest accruing from the Endowment Fund and the guaranteed salary of two of the professors. Last year only 160 congregations sent contributions. Were all the congregations of the Church in Ontario and Quebec to contribute, as the Assembly enjoins, there would be no difficulty in securing the revenue needed. The large debt of \$26,200 on the College building, the interest of which must be met from year to year, is a serious burden on our finances. Contributions should be sent to Rev. Robt. H. Warden, D.D., Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

At a meeting of Knox Church, Cobocok, held on the 6th inst., the following resolution was unanimously passed: "That this congregation, having learned with much regret that our pastor, Rev. David Millar, intends resigning the charge of Cobocok and Kimount at the forthcoming meeting of Presbytery, we desire to place on record our high opinion of his faithful work as a Christian minister, and his conscientious efforts at all times to forward his Master's work in this portion of His vineyard. We believe that on no occasion has he left anything undone that could advance the welfare of the congregation, and as a result of his efforts, with the Divine blessing, our church has been numerically strengthened. We would, therefore, humbly petition Presbytery that every effort be used to retain Mr. Millar in his present charge." At the ordinary meeting of the Lindsay Presbytery, held in Lindsay on the 15th inst., we understand Mr. Millar resigned his pastorate of the above congregations, which action was regretfully acquiesced in by the Presbytery.

OUR ENEMY STOLE IN

An enemy stole into your house one day last week and touched you lightly in passing. You thought little of the matter at the time, for the enemy was only a vagrant current of air. But now you are beginning to learn what mischief the little intruder did, for your back is stiff and painful. Your head aches, and at times you feel dizzy.

What has happened? Simply this: the cold has settled on your kidneys. They are over-charged with blood and inflamed. Instead of passing the waste matter out of the body they are damming it up in the blood. Every minute, yes, every heart beat adds to the poison in you.

Normal action of the kidneys will purify the blood. Nothing else will.

WATERBURY'S Safe Cure

is the friend in need. It will reduce the inflammation, so that the grip on the tissues of the blood-vessels is relaxed, and the uric acid is sent on its way out of the body.

Thus You Overcome Your Enemy

KNOX COLLEGE.

A misunderstanding exists in some quarters regarding the amount which is required from the congregations of the Church on behalf of Knox College. In the estimate circular, the amount is placed at \$18,500, including the deficit of last year. This has been interpreted by some as the total amount required, including interest on investments. We learn, however, that after deducting the interest, the sum of \$18,500 is necessary to enable the College to end the current year free from debt.

The total amount received from congregations last year was \$6,864. It will thus be seen that this year there is required nearly three times that amount. It ought not to be a very difficult matter to obtain the \$18,500. It only means an average contribution of thirteen cents per member, and there are few congregations in the Church from which this cannot be got, if ministers and sessions will present the strong claims of the institution, and give their people an opportunity to contribute.

The expenditure has been largely increased by the appointment of the two new professors, by last Assembly. These appointments were made with great unanimity, and the College Board has therefore good reason to expect that the Church will respond liberally to the appeal made for the funds necessary to maintain the institution. It is hoped that the requirements of the College will be kept in mind when congregations are distributing their missionary contributions.

A VOICE FROM FORMOSA.

The following letter has been received by Rev. R. P. Mackay, Foreign Missionary Secretary, from Rev. G. L. Mackay, D.D., Formosa:

MY DEAR BROTHER,—On the 27th ult., when travelling inland, indistinct sounds were heard far ahead. These grew louder as we approached. Looking towards the east was seen in appearance a perfect snowstorm advancing rapidly westward. We halted on the path-way, and with a rushing noise swarms of locusts on the wing flew ten feet over our heads. On and on with the wind the insect army pressed forward, until the air was thickened and the sun darkened. In a moment they settled on the waving rice fields of green, and with great rapidity that color gave way to a brownish hue.

Crowds of farmers, their wives and children were wild with excitement, and were jumping, running, yelling, and cursing the destroyers; I clapped my hands, not only to assist in driving the voracious hosts away, but also from real joy, because these eyes saw what accurate observers the inspired naturalists were. Bamboo groves have been stripped of their leaves and left standing like saplings after a rapid bush fire. Rice crops have been made to resemble oat fields in Canada after the army worm has marched through. And grass has been devoured, so that the bare ground appeared as if burned. Hence the name locust.

The Hebrew name of one species is truly appropriate, Arbeh (to multiply).

These insects belong to the order Orthoptera, and are gregarious, migratory and vegetable feeders. They closely resemble the (Locusta migratoria) of Linnaeus. The heads, bodies and legs of the majority are yellow, while others are reddish brown in color. Their antennae are short and thick. The front wings are straight, membranous and four inches in length when stretched at right angles. The hinder ones are sail like, translucent and three and one half inches long when spread out to fly. One specimen in my museum is so gaily colored that it might be mistaken for a gaudy butterfly.

What splendid and accurate descriptions are the following: "And when it was morning the east winds brought the locust." "All thy trees shall the locusts consume." "The locusts have no king, yet they go forth all of them by bands." "The land is as the Garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness."

As there are countless numbers in the larval condition, and as eggs are being deposited in the ground, it is to be feared these dreadful armies may next year invade and devastate vast regions in North Formosa. As this is their first appearance here the natives are amazed and affrighted. Many declare there are letters on their wings and are a scourge somehow connected with the coming of the Japanese, and many have burned incense-sticks and invited the locusts to leave Formosa and go elsewhere. Christians declare they understand better than ever one of the plagues of Egypt.

I am, yours sincerely,

G. L. MACKAY.

A JUBILEE CELEBRATION.

Knox Church, Cornwall, has just finished celebrating their jubilee. The Rev. James Fleck, B.A., of Montreal, Moderator of the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa, preached on 6th December, forenoon and evening, and addressed the Sunday school in the afternoon. It is needless to say the greatest satisfaction was given. On Monday evening the ladies gave a splendid dinner to some seven hundred people. Then for two hours the audience were treated to music by the choir and addresses by the local clergy, while Mr. Fleck, the chief speaker, gave a humorous and instructive speech.

The pastor, Rev. James Hastie, read a sketch of the congregation from its inception fifty years ago. During that period seven pastors have been in charge, viz., Revs. John Fraser, J. Charles Quinn, Martin Loury, Wm. H. Hendie Bourck, Hugh Campbell, Robert Binnie, and James Hastie. The first six are now all dead. The first

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Nerves extend from the brain to every part of the body and reach every organ.

Nerves are like fire—good servants but hard masters.

Nerves are fed by the blood and are therefore like it in character.

Nerves will be weak and exhausted if the blood is thin, pale and impure.

Nerves will surely be strong and steady if the blood is rich, red and vigorous.

Nerves find a true friend in Hood's Sarsaparilla because it makes rich, red blood.

Nerves do their work naturally and well,—the brain is unclouded, there are no neuralgic pains, appetite and digestion are good, when you take

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four remained from two to four years each, Mr. Campbell ten years, Mr. Binnie eleven when he died, and the present pastor completes his thirteenth year this month.

Some interesting details were given for the last twelve years. There were added to the communion roll 420, 270 were baptized, and 106 couples married. The Sunday school has about trebled. A new church was built at a cost of \$18,000. The congregation has raised during this period \$63,271 or \$5,273 per annum on an average. Reference was made to the unusual number of deaths, and the large number of the factory people, who had left town and of young men who went to the cities.

On Wednesday evening the Junior Mission Band of sixty little boys and girls, under the leadership of the pastor's wife, gave a missionary concert which was highly appreciated. The closing day was the 13th inst., when the communion was dispensed by the pastor. Few remain of those present when the congregation took shape half a century ago.

OPENING OF MORRIS COLLEGE, QUEBEC.

In connection with the account of this College, to be found in another column, we give here a brief account of the ceremonies at its opening under its new Principal, Rev. Donald Macrae, D.D., which took place at the usual time—an account of which, though late, was sent us. It is appropriate here.

It was naturally an occasion of much interest to all connected with the College. The Convocation Hall was the place of meeting and was suitably decorated for the occasion, a portrait of Dr. Morris, the founder of the College, appropriately occupying a conspicuous place. A. Cook, Esq., B.A., B.C.L., chairman of the Board of Governors of the College, occupied the chair and with him on the platform were the Principal-elect, other members of the faculty, several clergymen and other well-known friends, together with a large and interested audience along with students. The ceremonies included, after the installation of Rev. Dr. Macrae as Principal, addresses by several gentlemen and a convocation.

Mr. Cook, the chairman, made an admirable opening speech in which he referred to the history of the College, the advantages it offered, the valuable work it had already done, and its improved prospects under a new Principal, and with its enlarged means. The Rev. K. McLennan was the next speaker. He gave a cordial welcome to Dr. Macrae to Morris, and spoke of the absence in it of sectarian spirit, and expressed regret at the unavoidable absence of some whose intention it was to be present.

The Very Rev. Dean Murray next spoke, and, like the other speakers, emphasized the broad basis on which the College was founded and the liberal spirit exemplified in its teaching, and in the choice of its faculty. He was followed by

The Rev. Principal Macrae, who, after expressing his thanks for the kind references and good wishes expressed towards him in his new office, paid a high tribute to the ability, talents and success as a Principal, of the late Rev. Dr. Cook. He referred also appreciatively to the kind and liberal spirit shown towards the College by members of other religious bodies, and stated that its teaching and whole conduct would continue to be marked by the same broad and liberal spirit by which it had been characterized in the past. Its chief need at present was more, more of everything that goes to make a flourishing college. There were, however, indications of brighter days being in store for the City and Province of Quebec, and in that prosperity which was coming, and brighter future for the City, the College was bound to share. After an able and eloquent speech the Principal formally declared the College open. With such an opening, Morris College would appear, indeed, to have entered upon a new lease of life, and let us hope a long career of ever-increasing usefulness, both to the Church and with which it is connected and to Quebec City and Province.