

Romans and Galatians. The numerous allusions therein to the Resurrection of Christ were cited, all the stronger because undisputed, introduced not to prove it, but rather taking it for granted as the well established basis of the Church's creed and conduct. The re-constructed Church rested on a recognition of this great fact, and apostolic argument and appeals were founded upon it. The connection of the great fact of the Resurrection with certain doctrines was shown, such as the Divine origin of the Holy Scriptures, the character of Christ, His work as Atoner and Advocate and the practical influence of the Resurrection. In the establishment of this, the greatest miracle of Scripture, was included the truth of all the rest. It was, in fact, the pillar and ground of the truth. Were it possible for any infidel Samson, with eye of reason and conscience put out, to grasp this main pillar in the temple of faith and make it totter to its fall, the whole would come down with a crash, involving friends and foes alike in the ruin.

PRESBYTERY OF STRATFORD.—A regular meeting of this Presbytery was held in Knox Church, Stratford, on the 11th inst. There was a good attendance of members. Notice was given that the Presbytery of Glengarry would apply to the General Assembly for leave to receive Rev. D. McLean, B.D., a licentiate of the Congregational Church in the United States, as a minister of this Church. A report was read regarding the appointment of Commissioners to the General Assembly, and Moderators of Presbytery, as follows: That appointments should be made according to the date of induction into this Presbytery, and the starting point shall be the year 1882 as regards Commissioners to the Assembly, and 1880 as regards Moderator of Presbytery. The remit on the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund was taken up. The fourth recommendation was disapproved and the fifth approved. The following were appointed Commissioners to the Assembly: Messrs. Tully, Penman, and Henderson, by rotation, and Messrs. Hamilton, Wright, and Boyd, by ballot. Elders: Messrs. Chalmers, Boyers, Dunn, McMaster, D. Stewart, and J. Hamilton. Reports were received from the committees appointed to visit Millbank, Crosshill and Wellesley, and Granton and Lucan, and it was agreed that the following amounts be asked as the supplements to these congregations: Millbank, \$50; Crosshill and Wellesley, \$60, both these for the year; and Granton and Lucan, \$100, for the next six months. A letter from the Convener of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund was read, when it was agreed that the different congregations be corresponded with, and an effort be made to increase the contributions to that fund. The Presbytery then adjourned to meet in Knox Church, Stratford, on the second Tuesday of May, at ten o'clock a.m.—A. F. TULLY, Pres. Clerk.

MONTREAL NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE annual examination of the Pointe aux Trembles schools took place on Wednesday, and was largely attended. The Rev. Principal MacVicar presided. Among the ministers present were Revs. Dr. Burns, of Halifax; F. W. Archibald, of Truro; C. A. Tanner, of Scarborough; Prof. Scrimger, G. C. Heine, R. H. Warden, A. Cruchet, J. Patterson, J. J. Casey, R. P. Ducloux, etc. The pupils were examined in the customary English and French branches, grammar, geography, etc., and the more advanced in geometry, Latin, etc. The answers were most satisfactory. In Scripture history and in the doctrines of the Bible they were examined by several of the ministers present, and acquitted themselves exceedingly well, showing a very thorough knowledge of God's Word. Addresses were delivered by Dr. Burns, Messrs. Warden, Archibald, Tanner and the Chairman, and a resolution adopted, on motion of Mr. J. Foster, expressive of confidence in the teachers and hearty appreciation of their devotion to their work. The attendance this session is 122. The boys conduct a prayer meeting among themselves, and a very manifest work of grace has been going on in the schools, chiefly among the girls, most of whom have been under deep religious conviction and many of them are now rejoicing in Christ as their personal Saviour. The Church has reason to thank God for these schools and for the class of teachers there. The institution is supported largely by means of scholarships from Sabbath schools and private individuals. These cost \$50 each and all who contribute a scholarship have a pupil assigned them, concerning whose progress they receive reports from time to time. In no department of the Church's work is money better spent, and it is hoped that the \$200 still required this session will soon be forthcoming.

THE half-yearly meeting of the Board of French Evangelization was held in this city on Thursday. The present state of every one of the fields and mission schools was considered at length, and reports with full statistics were submitted by the eight or nine Presbyteries in whose bounds the work is carried on. These show considerable progress during the year, and perhaps at no former period was the work in a more satisfactory position. In the bounds of the Presbytery of Montreal alone, where there are eighteen distinct fields and nine mission schools, the additions to the membership during the year, as reported by the Presbytery, are upwards of one hundred. Student and other missionaries were appointed to the several Presbyteries for the summer, and it was resolved to recommend the General Assembly to authorize the Board to appoint a travelling missionary to visit regularly the several missions, dispense ordinances, etc. In connection with the proposed resignation of the Chairman and Secretary, an address was presented by the missionaries of the Board, expressive of their deep regret at the step contemplated, and urging these gentlemen to reconsider their decision. There was also presented by Prof. Scrimger an address to Mr. Warden, earnestly requesting him to reconsider his resolution to withdraw from the several positions held by him in the Church. This address, which was most artistically designed and beautifully framed, was signed by some 200 of the ministers and best known laymen of Montreal, including men of all denominations. In reply, Mr. Warden stated that although his plans were made to withdraw from the work, and to spend some time with his family in

Europe, yet in view of so strong an expression of opinion from gentlemen so prominent in the city and the church, he would re-open the question and give an answer in a short time. The Chairman also, while thanking the missionaries and others for their address, did not see his way clear to withdraw the intimation of his resignation. This whole matter was remitted to the Executive, to take such action as may be necessary in the circumstances prior to the meeting of the General Assembly.

WE were favoured with a visit this week from Mrs. Harvie, of Toronto, secretary of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society. She addressed a public meeting in Erskine Church on Thursday evening, presided over by Mr. Croil, and also a largely attended meeting of ladies on Friday afternoon in the same church. She won all hearts by her earnest, simple, touching addresses, and her visit will doubtless be productive of good, especially in connection with the Montreal Presbyterian Women's Missionary Society, under whose auspices the meetings were held. On Thursday evening the attendance at Mrs. Harvie's meeting was somewhat affected by a union anniversary meeting of the French Churches, which was addressed by representatives of these churches, and by Rev. Dr. Potts. The speech of Rev. C. A. Doudiet was one of great power. He spoke of the spirit which ought to actuate those engaged in the French work, and those who were its supporters. There are few ministers in the city, of any denomination, who are more acceptable on the platform or in the pulpit than the minister of St. John's French Presbyterian Church.

THE Rev. J. Hally, of Ste. Therese, purposes spending a few months in Scotland and Germany this summer, visiting old friends.

ANNIVERSARY sermons were preached on Sabbath last in St. Andrew's Church, Huntingdon, by the Rev. Principal MacVicar, D.D. The services were largely attended, especially in the evening, when the church was filled to overflowing, some of the other Protestant congregations giving up their services to allow their people to attend. The Rev. J. B. Muir, the pastor of St. Andrew's Church, is expected to return from Britain about the end of next month.

Sabbath School Teacher.

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

April 5,
1885.

PAUL'S VOYAGE.

Acts xxvii.
1, 2, 14-26.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"I believe God, that it shall be even as was told me."—Acts xxvii. 25.

TIME.—Autumn, A.D. 60.

EXPLANATORY.

This voyage is in many ways interesting. At first sight it seems as if God were unnecessarily severe in His treatment of Paul; every step is hedged in with difficulties by land and by sea—even the elements appear to have conspired against him. But when we think of these tribulations as the dark background, manifesting more clearly the power and consolations of the Gospel of Christ, we rejoice that such an illustration is recorded—a beacon to all the ages.

I. **They embark, vers. 1, 2.** Prisoners often went by land, but a ship for Adramyttium being in the harbour of Casarea, they decided to sail into Italy. Adramyttium is a port of Mysia, not far from Troas, and this ship was probably engaged in the coasting trade.

Julius. Paul and other prisoners were committed to a Centurion of the *Augustan band*, which may have been the same as the Italian band of which Cornelius was a Centurion, ch. 10. He was a man in some degree kindred in spirit to Cornelius, judging from his treatment of Paul, both at Sidon, where he permitted him to visit his friends, ver. 3, and afterwards, as shall be seen in the wreck, saved his life.

We launched. Luke and Aristarchus (vers. 19, 29) are Paul's companions on the journey, but not prisoners.

The lesson, for brevity's sake, passes over a large portion of the journey. But it would be unfortunate if every point that is connected with such a voyage were not impressed upon the memory so as to perfect the picture.

They then called at Sidon, where Paul was courteously treated by the centurion. The last point visited by Paul on this coast has this pleasant association: When they left Sidon, the direct course to Adramyttium would be about the same as that taken by Paul, when he sailed from Pataia to Tyre on the road to Jerusalem. But the contrary winds made them sail along the coast, to the east and north of Cyprus ("under Cyprus," that is, in lee of Cyprus), and then west along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, to Myra in Lycia. This course gave them smoother water and the advantage of a western current along the south coast.

Myra was an important port at which many ships called; and, therefore, it was no surprise that there was found there an Alexandrian ship laden with wheat, destined for Rome. The intention may have been to go from Adramyttium by land, but they accept this as a better and more expeditious way. When they passed the south-west corner of Asia Minor, and lost the protection of the land, they met the full force of wind and wave, and with difficulty came to the island Cnidus. They could have wintered there, but they changed their course and sailed south, and passing *Salmone*, the eastern point of Crete, turned west along the southern coasts to *Fair Havens*. This was not a commodious harbour to winter in, and they desired to get to *Phoenice*, which was much better. Paul admonished them to remain where they were. He said there would be damage both to life and property if they went to sea again. But the harbour of Phoenice was not far away, and very much more comfortable, and the master of the ship said there was no danger—especially as the wind changed to the south, the very direction that would help them along, and the Centurion listened to him in preference to Paul.

II. **The perils of the deep, ver. 14.** If they had been as well acquainted with the Mediterranean as sailors are now, this south wind would have been a warning—being almost

always the precursor of stormy weather. They had not long left Fair Havens, when they came to a part of the coast that suddenly turns to the north, and they were again exposed to the north and west just as when they left the south-west of Asia Minor. The south wind changed into a violent north-east gale called *Euraquilo*. This may have been the name used by the sailors for the *Euraquilo*, by which it is better known (Latin, *curis*, south-east wind, and *aquilo*, north or north-east wind). They lost control of the ship, could not face the storm, and had to let her scud before the gale. *Clauda*. Being a north-east wind, the ship was driven in a south-west direction which brought them to the little island *Clauda*, in lee of which they found a little respite. If it were possible, they would gladly winter here, but there was no such accommodation. Fair Havens would not be despised now. Such is the effect of storms in life. It makes us ashamed of former ingratitude.

But they found enough shelter to put themselves in a better condition.

(1) *They hoisted the boat into the ship.* When they left Fair Havens the boat was towed behind, expecting a short and pleasant trip to Phoenice. They hoisted it with great difficulty.

(2) *Undergirding the ship.* They passed strong cables around the hull, making them as tight as possible on deck, in order to keep the timbers together. That was a very common practice until recent times. Ships that had only one mast were very much more strained, than when with two or three masts, the pressure of the wind being distributed. Probably, this ship was leaking already.

(3) *Strake sail or lowered the gear.* If they allowed themselves to go before the wind, as they were going, they would have been inevitably wrecked on the *Syrts*, the shoals on the coast of Africa. They therefore changed their course by taking down the large sail, putting up the small storm sail, and facing the north, or as near the wind as they could go. Thus, the wind struck the right side of the ship, which drifted her in a direction between south-west, where the wind was driving her, and north toward which the sail was set. That would be west, or slightly north-west.

(4) *Lighten the ship, vers. 19, 20.* The storm continued unabated, and the leaking ship must be lightened to be saved. They began to throw overboard whatever could be best spared and was most accessible.

III. **Triumph of Faith, vers. 20-26.** Many days passed. They must have felt long and weary. It is necessary to let the imagination dwell upon the misery of the scene; the sleeplessness, cold, fasting, anxiety, in order to see the majesty of Paul's faith. It reminds us of the greater majesty of Jesus when He stood up and rebuked the waves and there was a calm. Paul was not allowed to do that, but he was enabled to exhibit the power and glory of faith in the midst of peril and suffering.

Sun nor stars appeared, and therefore they were unable to tell where they were. The compass was then unknown. How soon they might be dashed on some rocky coast none could tell. All hope of safety was gone.

Paul stood forth. "In evening time it shall be light." He begins by reminding them of their former neglect of his counsel, not tauntingly—he would not add to the great burden of distress—but in order to induce them to listen to what he was now about to say.

Be of good cheer. Even in that desolate condition, cheerfulness was possible if they would accept the assurance that their lives were safe. What will people not do or accept in exchange for their lives? "All that a man hath will he give for his life." How infinitely more emphatic the thought is when we think of eternal life being in danger. To the dying man, in any conceivable distress—eternal hope is *good cheer*.

The Angel of God. Paul gives them this assurance on the very best evidence. An angel appeared unto him during the night, and told him not to be afraid, for all lives should be saved; but that the ship should be wrecked upon a certain island.

IV. **Source of Paul's Strength.**—1. *Prayer.* "God hath given thee all that sail with thee." No doubt Paul was, during the storm, praying without ceasing, not only for himself but also for all on board. The prayer is answered, all are to be safe. How ungrateful some of them were shall afterwards be seen. Christian workers are not always to expect a recognition of their services in this life, but "the crowning day is coming."

2. *Service.* "God whose I am and whom I serve." What services the apostle rendered have been in part seen in the past record. Here is the blossom of such a life.

3. *Promise.* Paul had been assured before this that he must stand before Caesar, and the promises of God are sure. Let it be noted that all these assurances given to Paul in no degree interfered with his diligence in prayer. Paul acted as if all depended on himself, and prayed as if all depended on God.

Practical Suggestions.

1. Paul, like Christ, numbered with the transgressors, ver. 1.

2. Paul's delicate health needed Luke's attention. Did ever such a physician have such a patient?

3. Several Centurions interesting characters, Luke vii. 1.

4. When we are sailing on calm waters, we should be ever in readiness for a storm. "In such an hour as ye think not," ver. 14.

5. When we are in a storm, there are two things we need to do: (1) fortify ourselves by putting on the whole armour of God. (2) cast away any encumbering weight, ver. 17, 18.

6. The Christian can have hope in the dark, when neither sun nor star appears. The Star of Jacob, the Sun of Righteousness, never sets, ver. 21.

7. The superiority of men over their fellows, is in character, and not in surroundings, ver. 24. God's people are highly valued in time of trouble.