

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.—This Presbytery met in Dundas on the 15th and 16th of January. The attendance of members was small. Mr. Chrystal reported that he had declared the vacancy at Lyndoch and Silver Hill. Rev. G. Grant was appointed Moderator of Session, *pro tem.*, and Messrs. Ratcliff, Chrystal and Laing were appointed a committee to see to supply. A claim by Rev. J. Dunbar was considered, and the clerk was instructed to correspond regarding it. Conferences were held anent Sabbath schools and Sabbath school work, temperance, and the state of religion. An overture from the session of Dunnville anent ordained missionary supply, and a second by Rev. S. Lyle anent term service in the eldership, were discussed. Further consideration was reserved till next meeting. The remit of the General Assembly anent a board of examination was disapproved as inexpedient. The remit on standing committees was considered and amendments agreed to which materially affect the plan.—JOHN LAING, *Pres. Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF GUELPH.—This Presbytery met on the 16th January, according to appointment, in the Central Presbyterian Church, Galt, Mr. Wm. Millican, Moderator. Payments were called for to the Presbytery Fund. The Clerk was instructed to apply to the only aid-receiving congregation in the bounds for its report before the next meeting. A lengthened and elaborate report was read from the Committee on Statistics, which was received and ordered to be printed for circulation among the families in the bounds. Reports were received from the Committee on Remits sent down by the late General Assembly, and their recommendations adopted. The first remit was on the method of appointing Standing Committees, and the report proposed certain amendments which were approved. The second remit was on Theological Education, and the recommendation of the report was adopted disapproving of the appointment of a Board by the Assembly. Mr. Torrance reported that he had preached as appointed in Knox church, Guelph, and, after sermon, had declared the pulpit vacant in the usual way. He was instructed to report it to the Committee on Distribution for probationers' supply. The Presbytery took up the petition from Hespeler for an increase of the labours of their pastor among them, and, with a view to that, asking that he be released from part of his present charge. After long deliberation it was agreed to cite all the congregations concerned to appear for their interests at an adjourned meeting appointed to be held in Chalmers' church, Guelph, on the thirtieth January, at ten o'clock, forenoon, and the Clerk was instructed to inform them of the request of Hespeler congregation, and that said congregation was prepared to pay seven hundred dollars a year. A report was read from the committee appointed to visit the First Congregation, Guelph, to the effect that at a public meeting called, after notice on two Sabbath days, it had been carried by a majority of those present, that the congregation dissolve, over a motion to be recognized as a Mission Station. A request was read in connection therewith, from the members of the congregation, that action be taken to have the pulpit supplied on two Sabbaths, that there may be the opportunity of calling a public meeting, in terms of the deed under which the property is held, to consider the matter of the disposal of that property. It was agreed that the session be instructed to take all the necessary steps for holding a public congregational meeting as provided for in the deed. The Clerk reported the names of congregations that had paid, and of those which had not paid, into the funds for defraying the expenses of Commissioners to the late General Assembly. He was directed to apply again to those in default, and to request that the amounts they owe should be remitted to the Treasurer before the adjourned meeting.

PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL.—This Court held its quarterly meeting in St. Paul's church, Montreal, on the 9th of January. There were present thirty-one ministers and thirteen elders. After routine business the matter of more frequent meetings of Presbytery was taken up. It was resolved to continue quarterly meetings for the present. The Committee on city mission work reported, giving details of what had been done during the past four months, and whereas hindrances at present prevent necessary access to Presbyterian prisoners in the jail, a Committee was appointed, viz., the Moderator, with Rev. R. Campbell, Messrs. Andrew Robertson, and Dr. Cameron, M.P.P., for the County of Huntingdon, to take all necessary

steps by petitioning the Provincial Government or otherwise, to have these hindrances removed. Rev. J. S. Black called attention to some features of the missionary work coming under his own observation, and to the liberality of members of the Church in Montreal in strengthening his hands in dealing with the poor. The report was received and adopted. A committee to provide for the accommodation of members of Presbytery coming from the country was appointed, Rev. Jas. McCaul, Convener, with Professor Scrimger and Wm. Drysdale. Rev. R. H. Warden, Convener of the Presbytery's Home Mission Committee reported for the quarter showing that regular supplies had been provided for all mission stations and vacancies, and that the necessary grants had been received from the Assembly's Home Mission fund, that the people of Arundel had agreed to add \$50 a year to their subscriptions for maintenance of ordinances, and that the people there had raised half their long indebtedness to Mr. Dobie, one of their number, for church building purposes. The Presbytery's deputation to that district, Messrs. Warden and McCaul, earned the cordial thanks of the Presbytery by raising the other half from friends of the Church. The deputation appointed to visit St. Louis de Gonzague reported a readiness on the part of that congregation to guarantee to a minister \$600 a year with manse and glebe, leaving the question of union with Allan's Corners to the natural course of events after a settlement at St. Louis de Gonzague. The Presbytery's Sabbath School Committee was appointed as follows: Jas. McCaul, Convener, D. Paterson, D. W. Morison, A. B. Crachet and the Clerk, with Messrs. Jas. Stuart and Wm. Drysdale to issue the printed forms, collect returns and report to next quarterly meeting. It was resolved to hold a Conference on Sabbath school work on the evening of Tuesday, the 3d of April next, during the meeting of Presbytery. The Clerk, convener, with Messrs. Warden and Cruikshank, were appointed a Committee on Statistics to collect returns and report to next quarterly meeting. Leave was granted to the Orms-town Trustees to sell a part of their glebe for railway purposes, the proceeds to be expended according to the laws of the Church. Two students, J. A. Taylor Keays and Alex. McDonald, recommended by the Examining Committee, were ordered to be certified to the Senate of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, the former as a student of theology for the first year and the latter as a first year's student in literature. Application for moderation in a call at St. Hyacinthe was granted, Professor Coussirat was appointed to moderate and report. Two calls to Rev. P. R. Ross, Cote des Neiges, one from Georgetown and Limehouse, Toronto Presbytery, the other from Ingersoll in Paris Presbytery were considered. After hearing Commissioners and Mr. Ross' own mind, the Presbytery resolved to grant the translation craved for by the Presbytery of Paris. Rev. A. B. Mackay was appointed Moderator *pro tem* of Cote des Neiges, and instructed to declare the pulpit vacant on Sabbath the 28th of January. Rev. A. B. Mackay on behalf of the Committee reported a scheme for raising the salaries of all ministers within the bounds to a minimum of \$750 in the country, and \$1,200 in the city with an allowance where there is no manse. The scheme in printed form was placed in the hands of members and read. After long deliberation the following deliverance was unanimously arrived at: "Approve the scheme submitted as a Presbyterian Sustentation Scheme. Commend it to the liberality of individuals and congregations and appoint a Committee to carry it out, and report to every ordinary meeting of Presbytery." The following is the Committee: Rev. A. B. Mackay, Convener, R. H. Warden, Sec.-Treasurer, R. Campbell, Professor Scrimger, D. W. Morison, D. Paterson and James McCaul, with Messrs. W. D. McLaren, Wm. Robb, D. Morrice, J. Murray Smith, Alex. McPherson, Wm. Darling, Jr., and Warden King. In response to a generous invitation the Presbytery resolved to hold its meetings in future in the Morrice Hall of the Presbyterian College, Montreal. Professor Scrimger reported that he had moderated in a call in St. Joseph street Church, in favour of Rev. Thos. Cumming, Stellarton, Pictou. The call was numerously signed with a guarantee of \$1,500 annually. The call was sustained and ordered to be transmitted to the Presbytery of Pictou. Professor Scrimger is appointed to prosecute the call before that Presbytery. After other items the Presbytery adjourned to meet in the David Morrice Hall on the first Tuesday of April next at 11 o'clock a.m.—J. PATTERSON, *Pres. Clerk.*

SABBATH SCHOOL TEACHER.

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

LESSON V.

Feb. 4.
1883.

THE PRINCE OF LIFE.

{ Acts iii.
12-21.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men."—John 1: 4.

CONNECTED HISTORY.—Peter assures the people that the lame man was healed by faith in Jesus, who is the Prince of life, risen from the dead.

NOTES.—Men of Israel, ye Jews. Israel was a name given to Jacob after he wrestled with the angel at Peniel (Gen. xxxii. 28), and meaning "soldier" or "warrior of God." It was afterward applied to all the twelve tribes until the division of the kingdom, after Solomon; then it applied only to the ten tribes until after the Babylonian captivity, when all the returned exiles again united in one nation and were known as "Israel." It now meant "all Jews." Abraham—father of a multitude, born in Ur of the Chaldees; was called and promised Canaan; became the "father of the faithful;" died in Canaan, aged about 175 years.

I. JESUS THE SOURCE OF ALL POWER.—Ver. 12.—He answered: not their words, but their looks, had asked him questions. The expression is often used in the New Testament. Our own power or holiness: he was very careful to claim no glory for themselves, but to give it all to Christ.

Ver. 13.—The God of our fathers: it was not a new religion; it was but the further blossoming out of the religion of Abraham and of Moses (John 8: 56; Acts 7: 37). Peter wants the people to see this. Delivered up: he directly charges the murder of Jesus upon the people. Their clamour had decided Pilate.

Ver. 14.—Denied: how often do men now deny Christ, and receive a murderer (Satan) instead?

Ver. 15.—Prince: author, originator, leader ("Author" of faith, "Captain" of salvation—same word). In Him only do we have eternal life.

Ver. 16.—His name: it was in Christ's name, that is, in Christ Himself, that this power resided. Through faith: the power could not have been exercised by Peter unless he had sufficient faith, nor received by the man unless he had the necessary amount of faith (See Acts 14: 9).

II. REPENTANCE FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS.—Ver. 17.—Ignorance: this may lessen a crime, but cannot take it away; and there is an exceedingly guilty ignorance which prejudice and sin prevent our putting away. "When thou sawest a thief, then thou consentest with him"—Ps. 50: 18.

Ver. 18.—He hath so fulfilled: God had planned that Christ should suffer for man, and man's guilty interference in Christ's death did, by God's overruling, but work into that plan. But it was none the less wicked because foreseen. God prophesied Pharaoh's oppression (Gen. 15: 13), but it did not justify Pharaoh.

Ver. 19.—Repent: change your mind. Be converted: change your lives. (It is not "passive," but the "active" voice, as in Revised, "turn again.") These were two things the people were to do, not wait to have done on them. Then sins are blotted out. Times of refreshing: joy, peace, increase in holiness—*Revolutions*.

Ver. 20.—Shall send Jesus Christ: these times of refreshing prepare the world for Christ's coming again. So, instead of only praying for Christ's coming, let us also work for it, and it will come the sooner.

Ver. 21.—The heaven must receive: in the meantime, Christ must be in his glory in heaven. He is not sleeping in the grave, nor wandering on earth, "rejected of men." Restitution: [Revised, "restoration"] of all things will be when all the prophecies are fulfilled, and God's glory shall be over all the earth—Zech. 14: 9. How glorious is the prospect for the Christian! He shall see it! Whether among those on earth, who receive their King, when Jesus comes to "receive His own," or in the immediate retinue of the Great King, he shall be an actor among these splendors, and a partaker of these joys (See Job 19: 27).

PRACTICAL TEACHING.

1. Peter gave the glory to God: we should give the glory of all we have to God.

2. Pilate was more favourable to Jesus than the Jews: wrong-headed professors are sometimes greater enemies to God's work than the ungodly.

3. The people preferred Barabbas before Jesus; the applause of men is of no value without the favour of God.

4. No forgiveness without true repentance.

[Our "Notes" and "Practical Teachings" are chiefly taken from a handy little manual by Rev. E. W. Rice,—"Scholar's Hand Book"—published by the American Sunday School Union, Philadelphia.]

MR. WILLIAM BLACK is supposed to be making the largest income of any English novelist living.

THE chaplain of the Auburn State Prison says: "There are in the United States forty-four prisons, with an average of 1,000 prisoners, making 44,000 criminals, with an average of ten relatives afflicted by each; making 440,000 who suffer from this source. The long line of sorrow could be traced to one of three causes—viz.: idleness, licentiousness, and intemperance."

It is a fact worth noting, that Mrs. Oliphant has now been upwards of thirty years on the staff of "Blackwood's Magazine." The first story she wrote for Old Ebony, "Katie Stewart," appeared during the year 1852. She has probably written a greater quantity of matter for that venerable magazine than any other contributor it has ever had, not omitting even Prof. Wilson or Sir Archibald Alison from the account.