

Messrs. White, Armstrong and Ami were added to the committee on the studies of Mr. P. S. Vernier. The session records of Daly Street Church, Ottawa, Rochesterville, Hull, Carp and Kinburn were attested in the usual form. The committee on the Revision of Questions for Presbyterial Visitation not being prepared to report was continued. In the absence of Mr. Clark, Dr. Moore reported that East Gloucester had been declared vacant. Mr. Farries, convener of Home Mission Committee of Presbytery, submitted his report. He called attention specially to the Scheme for the Augmentation of Ministers' Stipends. Mr. Warden, of Montreal, present as a deputy from the Home Mission Committee was heard on this scheme. He gave a full explanation of the scheme, and answered such questions as were proposed in connection with it, after which Mr. Armstrong moved, seconded by Mr. Farries and agreed: "that the Presbytery thank Mr. Warden for his lucid explanation of the Assembly's Scheme for the Augmentation of Ministers' Stipends, and assure him that this Presbytery will use their best endeavours to carry out the Assembly's directions." Deputations in connection with the augmentation scheme were appointed as follows:—Fitzroy Harbour, etc., Dr. Moore; L'Orignal, etc., Mr. Caven; Cumberland, Mr. Caven; Russell and Metcalfe, Mr. Armstrong; Nepean and Bell's Corners, Dr. Moore and Mr. White; Manotick and South Gloucester, Mr. Clark; Richmond and Stittsville, Mr. Bennett; Alymer, Mr. Farries; Osgoode and Kenmore, Mr. Farries; North Gower, Mr. Clark; Aylwin and Desert, Mr. Whillans; Rochesterville, Messrs. Farries, Armstrong and E. H. Bronson. The reports of these deputations to be all in by the 25th of December. East Gloucester, being vacant was left in the hands of Mr. Clark, interim moderator of session, to be dealt with when a call is moderated in. It was also agreed that certain congregations self-supporting should be visited; and that Messrs. Farries (commissioner), Dr. Moore, Armstrong and E. H. Bronson be a committee to take charge of the whole work in connection with the augmentation scheme, and report to Presbytery from time to time till the work is completed. A Presbyterial certificate was granted to Rev. Mr. S. Oxley, B.A., and letters of transference to the Rev. A. F. Kemp, LL.D., from this Presbytery to the Presbytery of Hamilton. The report of the committee to prepare minutes on the removal of Messrs. McDiarmid and Bayne from this Presbytery to the Presbytery of Brockville was received and the clerk instructed to forward copies of said minutes to Messrs. McDiarmid and Bayne. Mr. McCusker, who appeared for examination with a view to entering upon a course of study preparatory to the work of the holy ministry, was examined and his examination sustained; and the Presbytery agreed to certify him accordingly. A resolution of condolence with Mr. Clark in his great sorrow was passed in the following terms:—"That the Presbytery of Ottawa have heard with deep sorrow of the great affliction which has befallen their brother, the Rev. G. M. Clark, in the death of his wife. They assure Mr. Clark of their heart-felt sympathy with him in his bereavement, and their prayer that it may please the great Head of the Church to grant him such support in his trial that he may be able by his holy resignation to the divine will to witness a good confession of his faith, so that this affliction may in the end be both to his own spiritual profit and the good of the Church. Mr. Caven was appointed convener of the committee on education in the Province of Quebec in the stead of Mr. Bayne. It was agreed to hold Conference on Sabbath Schools and French Evangelization at the February meeting. Presbytery adjourned to meet on the first Tuesday of February, in Knox Church, at half-past seven p.m.—JOSEPH WHITE, Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF GUELPH.—This Presbytery met in Knox Church on the 20th inst., was largely attended and a great amount of business transacted. After reading and sustaining the minutes of last meeting, and inviting the Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, of St. Andrew's Church, Toronto, to sit as a corresponding member, the Presbytery proceeded to take up the statistical and financial returns from congregations in the bounds as they are published with the minutes of the General Assembly. The clerk submitted a tabulated statement he had prepared of the average sums contributed by families and communicants towards stipend, the schemes of the Church and all purposes, and showing the comparative proportion by each. After some deliberation it was agreed to thank him for the labour he had expended, and to refer the report to a committee with instructions to report thereon at next ordinary meet-

ing. Mr. Cameron reported from the Committee on Conferences, recommending that said Conferences be held in Knox Church, Acton, beginning on the third Tuesday of January, 1884, the one on the State of Religion in the afternoon of that day, the one on Temperance in the evening, and the one on Sabbath schools beginning on Wednesday forenoon. A Committee was appointed to consider matters contained in the proceedings of the General Assembly calling for Presbyterial notice. Reports of missionary deputations were delayed till meeting. Mr. Torrance reported that he had moderated in a call in Knox Church, Guelph, which had come out unanimously in favour of Mr. R. J. Beattie, of Port Hope. The call and relative documents were produced, and commissioners from the session and congregation were heard. The call having been sustained was ordered to be forwarded to the Presbytery of Peterborough with the request that they take all necessary steps to have it placed in Mr. Beattie's hands, and Mr. Torrance was appointed commissioner from this Presbytery to prosecute it before that court. The Presbytery took up the resignation by Mr. Fisher of his pastoral charge of the congregation of Knox Church, Elora. Proof was produced that the congregation had been cited to appear for its interests at this meeting. Commissioners were heard who spoke in warm terms of the value set upon Mr. Fisher's labours, in which he had been abundant, and of the attachment of his people to him, and the same thing was stated in a resolution adopted by the congregation, a copy of which was read. After due deliberation, in the course of which several members of the court expressed their esteem for Mr. Fisher, the resignation was accepted, and the clerk was authorized to take steps for having the pulpit declared vacant on the first Sabbath of December. Mr. Mullan was appointed moderator of session during the vacancy. Mr. D. J. Macdonnell who was appointed for the purpose by the sub-committee of the General Assembly's Home Mission Committee, addressed the Presbytery on the scheme proposed for the Augmentation of Ministers' Stipends, explaining the nature of the scheme, entering fully into the details of its working, showing the amount required to be raised in the western section of the Church in order to its successful operation, and the proportion of this that should be contributed by congregations in the bounds of the Guelph Presbytery, namely \$4,500. Afterwards a Committee was appointed to take charge of the matter. A memorial was read from certain persons in Garafraxa, declaring their adherence to the faith, doctrine, worship and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and desiring to be admitted to the status of a congregation, with a statement of the amount they were willing to pay for supply of preaching. Parties were heard in explanation and support of the memorial, after which it was resolved that it be received, and that the clerk be instructed to notify sessions likely to be effected if its request were granted. A report was presented from the Committee to Preston, containing recommendations, one to the effect that the sale of the church there be allowed to proceed, the second that the Presbytery press its claim of right to the two lots originally purchased as a site for a manse, but which had been disposed of without their authority, and the third that, as the English speaking portion of the congregation had raised their allowance for the supply of preaching, the treasurer of the Presbytery be authorized to pay any balances that may be due for that supply. The auditor's report and the report of the Committee on Church Property were submitted and approved. Some other matters of minor importance were disposed of, after which the Presbytery adjourned to meet in Knox Church, Guelph, on Friday the 7th December, at ten o'clock, forenoon, and the next regular meeting was appointed to be held in Knox Church, Acton, on the third Tuesday of January, 1884, at the same hour. The Roll having been called and marked, the proceedings were closed in the usual way.—ROBERT TORRANCE, Pres. Clerk.

SABBATH SCHOOL TEACHER.

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

LESSON XLIX.

Dec. 9. 1883. DAVID'S FRIEND—JONATHAN. { 1 Sam. 20: 37-42.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"A man that hath friends must show himself friendly; and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."—Prov. 18: 24.

CENTRAL TRUTH.—True Christians make true friends.

CONNECTION.—David had become Saul's son-in-law. Saul had turned against him, and sought his life. He fled to Samuel, and it would seem that Samuel thought his own life in danger, for he went with David to dwell at Naloth. David then privately returns, and confers with Jonathan. They two made a solemn covenant of love and friendship. (20: 16.) Jonathan was of opinion there was no danger to David, or his father would have shown it to him. But David suggested that Saul kept his designs from Jonathan, so as not to grieve him (20: 2, 3.) But the morrow was the feast of the New Moon, and whatever his father should say about David, he (Jonathan) would report it to David (who was in hiding) by shooting arrows. (See 20: 18-22.) At the feast Saul enquired for David; and when Jonathan excused his absence Saul tried to kill his son.

I. SAUL'S ANGER.—Ver. 32.—Wherefore shall he be slain? This was Jonathan's enquiry of his father. There ought to be a reason for all things, but there could be no proper reason for slaying a faithful and capable young man of David's character and acquirements.

Ver. 33.—Cast a javelin: Saul must have had a javelin always beside him—perhaps using it sceptre-like, as a symbol of royalty. But it was dangerous for a passionate man to have deadly weapons within reach. The young man who foolishly and wickedly carries a revolver in his pocket puts himself, in fits of sudden passion, directly in Satan's hands, and Satan can easily provoke the sudden passion! Whereby Jonathan knew: if Saul tried to kill his son because he was David's friend, it was quite sure that Saul would have slain David if he could.

Ver. 34.—Arose from the table in fierce anger: Saul had openly insulted Jonathan (ver. 30) and had tried to kill him; and in great turbulence of feeling Jonathan left the table. Grieved for David: he felt sad at the injustice done David, who had deserved none of it. Are we grieved when shame is put upon David's great Son, Jesus?

II.—THE MESSAGE OF THE ARROWS.—Ver. 35.—Went out into the field "the field" always means the open country. Jonathan took a little lad and went out to practice with the bow. He wished to warn David, who was hiding near, waiting to learn how Saul was disposed toward him.

Ver. 36.—He said unto his lad, what he called out to the lad was intended as a signal to David. It had been all arranged beforehand (ver. 21, 22). Arrows were considered of too much value to waste when they could be gathered up. When a little lad I lost a good arrow I had shot at a wild pigeon. I went back and shot a second arrow at the same branch and found the two arrows sticking in the ground within a yard of each other. Shot an arrow beyond him: over his head; arrows are not aimed point blank.

Ver. 37.—Is not the arrow beyond thee? by this calling out to the lad Jonathan let David know that there was danger for him. They are our best friends who warn us of danger—especially danger to our souls.

Ver. 38.—Make speed, haste, stay not: the words were called out to the lad, but were intended for David that he might lose no time in escaping. Gathered up the arrows: the lad did what he was told.

Ver. 39.—The lad knew nothing of the real purpose of Jonathan in coming out. Only Jonathan and David knew: mark, Jonathan's name was put first. He was the king's son, and the elder of the two.

Ver. 40.—Gave his artillery unto his lad. "artillery" originally included all implements and machines for war. We use the word in a more restricted sense now. To the city: to Gibeah, where Saul resided.

III.—THE COVENANT RENEWED.—Ver. 41.—As soon as the lad was gone, David arose: the two friends, when they arranged to convey information by signals, did not know but others might be near. But now, when no one was in sight or hearing, David came out of his concealment. Bowled himself: he gave Jonathan the honour that was customarily paid to his rank. *We lose nothing by courtesy.* Kissed one another and wept: they were brothers by marriage, they were brothers still more in heart; both in danger of their lives from the same source, and both innocent. Yet there was no plotting, no revenge. They acted in an eminently "Christian" manner. David exceeded, and no wonder. He was now an outcast, debarr'd from home and its happiness, and from religious principles. He was young, and it was a tough storm at the very beginning of his public life. He had nothing left but God's love. Thank God, he had that!

Ver. 42.—Go in peace. Jonathan gave him his blessing. We have sworn, he recalls the solemn covenant they had made. They had pledged their word before the Lord that there should be love between them, and their children after them. It makes us better men and women to read of such true love and unselfish generosity. He arose and departed: that is, David hastened away, unseen by any one, and escaped. Jonathan went into the city: it was his duty to stay by his father, and he did his duty—striving to forget the injuries done to himself. Jonathan is one of the noblest characters in all history.

PRACTICAL LESSONS.

1. Expressions of love and fidelity between Christian friends are not snares, but rather helps.
2. Tears are mingled on earth (ver. 41); but all tears are wiped away in heaven. (Is. 25: 8.)
3. There can be no true friendship that will last "for ever," unless the parties can truly say: the Lord is "between me and thee." (Ver. 42.)
4. One of the parts of David's example safest for us to follow is his choice of friends.

Two large wolves were killed in Essex Swamp, Conn., last week.