

lish and French. Two hundred and four members were added to the French congregations last year, the majority of whom were converts from the Church of Rome. One of the missionaries—an ex-priest from Italy—labours among the Italians in the city of Montreal.

The Board support a French Theological Professor in the Montreal College, for the training of French-speaking students for the ministry. Four of these graduated last spring and nineteen are in attendance this session.

The total amount required this year is \$73,000, viz., \$30,000 for the general work, \$9,000 for the maintenance of the Pointe aux Trembles schools, \$9,000 for the enlargement of the buildings, and \$25,000 for the purchase, repairs, etc., of Coligny College, Ottawa. Only contributions specially designated can be used for the last named object, no portion of the French Fund being available for the Ottawa College.

The indebtedness of the Board at this date is nearly \$15,000. To remove this and to aid us in a vigorous prosecution of the work, we earnestly solicit liberal and prompt contributions from all friends of this department of the Lord's work. Yours faithfully,

D. H. MACVICAR, D.D., LL.D., *Chairman.*
ROBT. H. WARDEN, *Secretary-Treasurer.*

Montreal, December, 1889.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY JUBILEE.

The jubilee celebration at Kingston last Wednesday was in every respect a most successful affair. The proceedings very appropriately begun with a thanksgiving service in Convocation Hall. The preacher was the Rev. J. Mackie, M.A., of St. Andrew's Church, Kingston, who, from Psalm c. 4, preached an appropriate and learned discourse. A very interesting feature of the service was the singing of the Jubilee Thanksgiving Hymn—exquisite in expression, lofty in tone, and tender in feeling,—written by Miss Machar "Fidelis."

In the afternoon convocation was held. At the hour appointed Sanford Fleming entered the hall amid loud applause. With him were the following gentlemen, who took seats on the dais: Lord Stanley, Governor-General of Canada; Sir John Macdonald, Chancellor MacVicar, of McMaster University; Principal Grant, Professor Ferguson, Hon. G. W. Ross, Professor Mowat, Dr. Lavell, Professor Ross, Professor Goodwin, Professor Watson, Professor Dyde, Professor Dupuis, E. G. Malloch, Perth; J. Macgillivray, M.A.; John Waddell, Royal Military College; W. G. Anglin, A. Short, D. B. Mactavish, Ottawa; Bishop Lewis, Provost Body, of Trinity College; J. M. Oxley, Professor Cappon, Dr. Dupuis, Rev. Archibald Currie, M.A.; Judge Macdonald, Brockville; Hon. George Kirkpatrick, J. J. Bell, M.A.; Rev. J. Mackie, F. H. Chryster, Rev. W. T. Herridge, Ottawa; Mayor Thompson, Kingston; Hon. William Macdougall, D. H. Marshall, George Gillies, M.A., Gananoque; G. R. Webster, Brockville; T. F. Cumberland, Morrisburg; Dr. Moore, Brockville; W. J. Gibson, M.A., Belleville; Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, Toronto; G. M. Macdonnell, Kingston; Rev. George Cuthbertson, Rev. G. M. Milligan, Toronto; Professor Murray, of McGill College; Dr. Henderson, Professor Fowler, Rev. Dr. Ward-roppe, Rev. Dr. Warden, H. Hawkins, Warden of Frontenac County; R. V. Rogers, John McIntyre, Q.C.; Rev. John Barton, Toronto; Rev. K. J. Craig, Deseronto; Hon. Charles Colville, Lieut.-Col. H. R. Smith, R. McBan Rose.

The degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on Lord Stanley, of Preston, Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada. The distinguished recipient of the honour made an excellent response.

Sanford Fleming, C. M. G., LL.D., Chancellor of the University, then delivered an address of great historic interest and value, giving a clear and connected view of the rise and progress of higher education in Canada, and showed how large was Queen's contribution to the cause. Near the close he said: "I think it fitting that I should refer to the founders as they are inscribed in the Royal charter. The list embraces twenty-six names, twenty-five of whom have passed away. With profound veneration I feel it my duty to read the names: Revs. Robert McGill, Alexander Gale, John McKenzie, William Rintoul, William T. Leach, James George, John Machar, Peter Colin Campbell, John Cruikshank, Alexander Mathieson, John Cook, Hons. John Hamilton, James Crooks, William Morris, Archibald McLean, John Macdonald, Peter McGill, and Edward W. Thompson, Thomas McKay, James Morris, John Ewart, John Steele, John Mowat, Alexander Pringle, John Strang. The sole survivor is the venerable Dr. Cook, of Quebec, who, I regret to say, is prevented by the infirmities of age from being here with us. If we are denied the satisfaction of having in our midst any of those whom her Majesty was graciously pleased to honour, we value the more the presence to-day of the representative fathers who have been good enough to come to the celebration. They will renew to us the memories of the past, and it will be my duty to call upon the youngest trustee specially to address and pay honour to the three gentlemen now present, the survivors of the men who took part in the business of the meeting held in the city fifty years ago. While the pleasing duty is delegated to another, I cannot deny myself the great satisfaction of welcoming to this hall those three representatives of the founders of this institution—the Right Honourable Sir John Macdonald, Premier of Canada; the Rev. Dr. Reid, senior Clerk of the General Assembly; Mr. Roderick M. Rose, who acted as secretary this day fifty years ago."

In order to mark the auspicious occasion, it was decided by the management to place two memorial brass plates in Convocation Hall—one in honour of the founders of the University, and the other in honour of those who contributed to the Jubilee Fund.

After the Chancellor concluded, Rev. W. T. Herridge, of Ottawa, the youngest trustee, was called on to unveil the memorial to the oldest benefactors of the University.

Sir John Macdonald delivered a brief, racy and interesting address in which he recalled incidents connected with the first meeting for the organization of Queen's.

Rev. William Reid, D.D., of Toronto, followed in a happy speech. He told how Sir John looked on the platform on the memorable occasion when Queen's was founded, and the part he took in the proceedings. He was struck by the youth's appearance, possibly arrested by that magnetism which it is said a political opponent can hardly withstand. He never saw the Premier without recalling his first impressions. Hon. O. Mowat was also in the audience on that occasion, and his father, John Mowat, was on the platform. R. M. Rose, A. Pringle, Mr. Bruce, Major Logie, Mr. Harper, Thomas Wilson, Mr. Mason, Thomas Greer, W. Ferguson, George Drummond and George Davidson were also present. The speaker concluded with a review of the changes wrought in fifty years. He believed that the world was better to-day than when he first knew it.

Rev. Dr. Williamson then unveiled the memorial brass in honour of the Jubilee Fund. The other speakers were Mr. R. V. Rogers, Dr. Wardroppe, Provost Body, Rev. George Cuthbertson, Rev. G. M. Milligan and Rev. John Burton. Principal Grant, before the benediction was pronounced by Rev. Dr. Reid, read a fine rhythmic Thanksgiving Ode written for the occasion by Mrs. Annie Rothwell.

In the evening a splendid banquet was given at which most of the distinguished men present at Convocation were among the guests. The mayor of Kingston presided. The speakers were Lord Stanley, Principal Grant, Col. Twitchell, U.S. Consul; Hon. G. A. Kirkpatrick, Lieut.-Governor Campbell, Ald. Gildersleeve, Sir John Macdonald, Mr. Caldwell, M.P.P., Senator Sullivan, Major-General Cameron, Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, Professor Murray, Rev. J. A. Macdonald, Sir James Grant, Chancellor MacVicar, of McMaster University, Bishop Lewis, Hon. G. W. Ross, Rev. W. W. Carson, Mr. E. W. Rathbun and others.

OBITUARY.

MRS. JOHN LAUGHTON.

Mrs. John Laughton, of St. Margaret's Hope, Orkney, passed away peacefully in the midst of her friends and kindred at Blanstro, on Tuesday, Nov. 26. To not a few on this side the Atlantic this piece of news would come as a herald of saddest import. Natives of the islands of South Ronaldshay and Kirkwall neighbourhood spread over the world still preserve fragrant memories of the biotcher of the deceased, viz., Rev. Alexander Millar, although it is thirty five years or more since this venerable man held the pastorate of the U. P. Church at St. Margaret's Hope, and made his usefulness felt through every island and parish in Orkney. Mrs. Laughton, although less known, was highly esteemed by a wide circle for exemplary qualities such as do honour to the possessor and shed a halo of blissful recollections among persons of three generations. Many of the excellent ones of the earth have proceeded from this archipelago in the north of Scotland, their early training and strength of character have carried a beneficent influence to places remote from the place or land of their birth. Although the climate of Orkney is forbidding to newcomers by reason of its bleakness and severity during six months of the year, it may be truly said of Mrs. Laughton that from the first her sympathies were with the people and place of her adoption, thus endearing herself to persons of every age and condition.

Those who knew Mrs. Laughton from childhood concede to her unobtrusive retiring manners through a long career of private usefulness. Her strength of character was veiled under a natural timidity which was allied with steadiness of purpose, self-abnegation and considerate kindness. Examples like these do more to impress other lives with a sense of duty than a hundred instances of gratuitous advice, however well meant. She did what she could. Her family, exemplary in their several spheres, rise up and call their mother blessed.

The chief mourner has been for thirty years a leader in philanthropic movements. The flower and life-blood of Orkney and Shetland are induced to emigrate to fairer and more fruitful portions of God's earth, making it harder for those who remain to sustain religious and secular institutions. It is hoped that this multitude of exiles do not forget, in other climes, their obligations to the old friends and the land of their fathers.

MRS. DR. MAIR, OF KINGSTON.

The name of John Mair, M.D., staff surgeon first class, was for a long time in Kingston "familiar as household words," and no name is more fragrant. "A beloved physician"—centre of a circle of British officers, who, years ago, gave a tone to society in the Limestone City, he followed the Master whom he so tenderly loved by going about continually doing good. He was prominent in every good work, notably in the ranks of the friends of temperance and the Sabbath. He was one whom his fellow citizens "delighted to honour" in life, and when he rested from his labours, and his works followed him, they erected in the beautiful Cateraqui Cemetery a seemly memorial, and now the faithful wife, a "true mother," to whom he owed so much in the growth and development of his Christian character, has passed away. She was an "elect lady," of singular faith and patience, exhibiting ever the beauties of holiness and the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit.

Brought up under the earnest ministry of Angell James, of Birmingham, she early caught an inspiration that never left her. The rich aroma of the gifts and graces of her early pastor and friend she always retained and diffused. She was among the first and best workers in Chalmers Church. No one cared for the souls of the children in the Sabbath school with more yearning and anxiety. "My class for Jesus" was her constant thought and prayer, till increasing infirmity abridged her active labours.

None of the girls she taught can ever forget her faithful and affectionate pleading, and her solemn and suggestive letters. Not a few will rise up to call her blessed. She was remarkably conscientious and painstaking. "She hath done what she could." The vivid recollection of her simple, unobtrusive piety and of the influence she exerted on herself and others, together with her sainted husband, has induced an old friend to ask presentation in your columns of this imperfect obituary.

JOHN MACBETH, OF STAYNER.

The death of Mr. John MacBeth at Stayner, on December 4, is much regretted by the residents, and particularly by the members of the Presbyterian Church, who highly esteemed and loved him as one of its elders. The following extracts from an obituary notice in the local paper testify to the usefulness of his life and to the honourable estimation with which he was regarded. Mr. MacBeth was an infant in his mother's arms when the journey, referred to underneath, was made, and is said to have been the last surviving member of the expedition.

Mr. MacBeth's father was one of the colony sent out by Lord Selkirk from Sutherlandshire, Scotland, to the North-West Territory to engage in agriculture; for the purpose of producing supplies for the numerous employes of the Hudson Bay Company.

His father was among those who thus left the Red River settlement, and at last, after many weary days and nights, the party arrived in the township of West Gwillimbury, where the majority of them settled. The deceased there grew to manhood, imbibing the best principles of his fathers, and he became one of the best known and most respected citizens of that township. He was for a number of years a magistrate, and was generally appealed to by his neighbours to help them to settle their disputes, which he invariably succeeded in doing to the satisfaction of all. He was also for a considerable time a valued member of the township council. Some twenty-five years ago he removed to Nottawasaga, where a large and respectable family grew up under his parental care. About five years ago he retired from farming and moved to Stayner. He has always taken a deep interest in religious matters, having been a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church, and since he took up his residence there he has been an elder, and has taken even a greater interest in church affairs than hitherto. Indeed it would not be a reflection on any other member of the congregation to say that the inauguration and successful completion of the Jubilee Presbyterian Church, and its subsequent success, are due, in a large measure, to his untiring efforts. Although the deceased did not have the benefits of an early education, he was highly intelligent and loved to recall reminiscences of the days when he was hewing a home for himself in the wilderness. The deceased was very methodical in his habits, was thoroughly temperate, and was the best kind of a Christian, one who not only loved God, but who loved his neighbour as himself. The funeral took place on a recent Friday, and was attended by a large concourse of sorrowing relatives and friends. Thus, after seventy-five years' pilgrimage through this vale of tears, he passed to his long home, "wearing the white flower of a blameless life."

Were this notice not already too long, the excellence of his Christian character might be more fully exhibited. Suffice it to say that one could tell of his humility and readiness to serve, sometimes in very humble ways, the interests of the Church which he loved and for which he exercised a wise thoughtfulness; of his charity in speech and act, and liberality according to his means; of his exemplary walk and conversation; and of his faith and patience during the long illness which preceded his departure. He is survived by his widow, five sons and three daughters, the youngest of whom is married to the Rev. S. Craig, of Chinguacousy.

Sabbath School Teacher

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

Jan. 5, 1890.

THE FORERUNNER ANNOUNCED.

Luke 1: 5-17.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Behold I will send My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me.—Mal. iii. 1.

INTRODUCTORY.

Luke, the writer of the third Gospel, is supposed to have been native of Antioch, in Syria. Paul, speaks of him as Luke the beloved physician. At that time Tarsus, Paul's birthplace, was the seat of a distinguished medical school. It is probable that Luke studied there and that there the life-long friendship between Paul and Luke had its beginning. He accompanied Paul in several of his missionary journeys and was with him during his imprisonment in Rome. He was an accomplished and scholarly man. His Gospel was primarily written for those outside the Jewish nation. It presents the world-wide adaptation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I. The Parents of John the Baptist.—The time of Christ's advent was one of great interest in the history of the world. Greece, where learning had attained its greatest advancement was a decaying power. The Roman Empire was at the height of its splendour and influence. Palestine had lost its independence and was tributary to Rome. It was a period of profound peace among the nations. The Temple of Janus, always open during war at Rome, was only closed twice; one of the times was when our Saviour was born. The old pagan religions had lost their power, morals were corrupt. People everywhere were longing for a better hope. The Jews were looking for the long-promised Messiah. In the fulness of the time Christ Jesus came to save the people from their sins. Herod the Great, the first of that name, an Idumean by birth, though professing the Jewish religion, had rebuilt the temple on a scale of great magnificence. He was a cunning ruler always careful to secure the good-will of the Roman authorities, but a cruel despot, who was guilty of many dreadful crimes. He was the first foreigner who had ever reigned over the Jewish people. In David's time the priests were classed in twenty-four courses. It was so arranged that each course had charge of the temple service for one week. There at the head of these courses were the chief priests so often mentioned in the New Testament. Zacharias belonged to the course of Abijah, the Hebrew form of the name here given as Abia. His wife Elizabeth also belonged to the priestly line, seeing that she could trace her descent from Aaron. "They were both righteous before God." They were righteous in God's sight, which means a different thing from being righteous in their own estimation or in that of their fellow-men. It means that they were just and upright in heart. What follows is the direct result of their integrity, "walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless." If there is a difference in the meaning of commandments and ordinances, the former word probably refers to the moral precepts of the decalogue, and the latter to the ceremonial observances enjoined in the Mosaic law. They had attained to a high degree of spiritual excellence when they could be described as blameless. That does not mean that they were perfect, but it does mean that so far as they understood God's Word they sought to render a perfect obedience. These two good people were childless.

II. Temple Service.—In performing the Temple services the particular duty of each officiating priest was determined by lot. At this particular time it fell to the lot of Zacharias to enter the Holy Place and burn incense. "The priest entered in white robes and with unsandalled feet, with two attendants, who retired when they had made everything ready. The people waited outside in the Court of Israel, praying in deep silence till the priest who was sacrificing the evening lamb at the great altar of burnt offering in the court gave a signal to his colleague in the shrine. He then threw the incense on the fire of the golden altar, and its fragrant smoke rose with the prayers of the people." While the priest was burning incense in the temple the great multitude of worshippers were engaged in silent prayer in the outer courts. Incense was offered morning and evening and the people assembled for worship at the stated times. Though they might often fail in the spirituality of their worship they were most exemplary in attending to the outward forms of its observance.

III. The Angelic Announcement.—While thus engaged in the solemn and impressive worship of Jehovah, an unexpected messenger brings an unlooked for answer to Zacharias' prayer. Looking up he saw an angel form standing on the right side of the altar of incense. From verse 19 we learn that the same angel was sent with God's message in answer to Daniel's prayer. Since the time of Malachi there had been no direct revelation of God's will to his people. Now He once more reveals His purpose in answer to this faithful priest's prayer. Zacharias was disturbed and agitated when he looked up and saw the angel standing on the right side of the altar. A clear vision of God's truth always produces feelings of reverential awe. But the words of the angel are reassuring. He says, "Fear not, Zacharias. God knows his people by name. His prayer was heard and this is how it is answered, 'Thy wife, Elizabeth, shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.' God-given names are always full of meaning. John signifies 'the gracious gift of Jehovah.'" When loving parents look on the smiling face of their babe they cannot be certain what its future will be. They have joy and gladness but it is mingled with fear. In this case the joy and the gladness are unalloyed, and others will share in it, for "many shall rejoice at his birth." His work in after years would bring joy and gladness to many hearts. In the case of John the Baptist we have God's estimate of human greatness. "He shall be great in the sight of the Lord." About thirty years after this event, when John was a prisoner in the fortress of Macherus, Jesus said, "Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist." Did John possess the qualities that we so commonly estimate great? His life was to be holy and temperate. He was to live with all the strictness that the Nazirite vow imposed. Strong drink of any kind was never to enter his lips. And he was to be fitted for the service of God by the indwelling of God's Spirit, "He shall be filled with the Holy Ghost." His work was to be a blessed work. "Many of the Children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God." The birth of John was to be the fulfillment of the closing prophecy of the Old Testament. The Jewish people inferred from that prophecy that Elijah was to return to the earth as the forerunner of the Messiah. It was, however, fulfilled in John the Baptist, who, with Elijah-like devotion and boldness, preached repentance, and proclaimed the advent of the Kingdom of God.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

The highest attainment in God's service is to walk in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. To be righteous in God's sight should be our constant aim.

In Zacharias' case we have one of the many express instances of God's answers to prayer.

They do not err who are filled with the Holy Ghost.

Greatness in God's sight is the greatness that comes from moral and spiritual attainment, and finds its work in the service of God for the salvation of men.