

THE *Peterborough Advertiser* says. High Park, North Vaughan, the beautiful residence of Mr. William Ferguson, was the scene of a pleasant gathering Friday evening week. A social, under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid Society of St. Paul's Church, had been gotten up, and, assisted by the perfect weather, it was a grand success. Passes, phaetons and carriages poured in from the town and surrounding country, even bicycles were impressed into service, bearing scores of happy people whose expectancy of enjoyment was fully realized. The soft glow of the coloured lanterns, the laughter and chat of merry conversation, the sweet strains of music from the band and the picturesque groups of brightly attired guests, strolling about or reclining idly in the cosy nooks with which the grounds abounded, all bathed in a flood of brilliant moonlight, it was indeed a happy occasion. The house was thrown open, and in the drawing room vocal and instrumental music was rendered by the young people. On the lawn were a number of refreshment tables, presided over by the ladies. It was altogether a highly successful social. It is estimated that about 150 persons were present, all of whom left, refreshingly full of pleasing recollections of the hospitality of the ladies of St. Paul's Church and the manifold beauties of High Park under such auspicious circumstances. The proceeds netted a handsome sum. It is unnecessary to say that Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson were untiring in their efforts to make all feel at home.

A VERY interesting meeting to bid farewell to Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Smith who go as missionaries to Honan, China, was held last week in St. Paul's Church, Hamilton, the congregation with which both were connected. They were soon to leave via Vancouver for their destination. Miss Sutherland, a trained nurse, is to accompany them. The chair was occupied by Rev. Dr. Laidlaw. After the singing of the missionary hymn and prayer offered by Rev. Mr. Webster, "Hark, Hark! My Soul," was beautifully sung by members of St. Paul's choir. Mr. Stead sang, "No Crown Without the Cross" very acceptably, and Rev. Walter Laidlaw, of West Troy, N. Y., delighted the audience with "Palm Branches." Rev. Dr. Laidlaw, after conveying the regrets of Rev. Messrs. Joseph Builder, S. Lyle, B.D., and T. Goldsmith for unavoidable absence, read the resolution and address presented by the Ladies' Foreign Missionary Auxiliary and Mission Band, giving expression of the deep interest in the mission and affectionate well-wishes for the present and usefulness of the departing missionaries. Rev. Dr. Laidlaw, on his own behalf, as Mrs. Smith's pastor, also presented her with an elegant copy of the sacred Scriptures. Rev. Dr. Smith, in an earnest and pleasing address, thanked the pastor, the ladies, the congregation and the audience present for their kind wishes toward Mrs. Smith and himself, and said that they would always be cheered by their remembrance of this evening, and by the consciousness of being remembered by their friends in Hamilton. Appropriate and interesting addresses were then delivered by Rev. Messrs. J. Murray, R. G. Boville, Dr. Fraser, W. J. Dry, Colin Fletcher, Walter Laidlaw and Mr. Webster. The hymn, "Blest be the Tie that Binds" was then sung, and after prayer by Mr. Boville, refreshments were partaken of and a reception was held, during which all present cordially bade Dr. and Mrs. Smith farewell.

THE Rev. Joseph Hogg, who is soon to be inducted in the pastoral charge of St. Andrew's, Winnipeg, preached his farewell sermon to the people of Moncton, N. B., on Sabbath week from Rev. xxii. 21. It was an able and impressive discourse. The church was filled to overflowing, not only with Rev. Mr. Hogg's own congregation, but with a large representation of other denominations in Moncton, who were anxious to hear the farewell sermon of the rev. gentleman whose personal qualities have won the respect of all. At the close of the Sunday school, Mr. David Grant read an address to Rev. Mr. Hogg, signed by Messrs. James McAllister, D. Grant and S. W. Irons, the committee on behalf of the teachers and scholars, expressing regret at his departure from Moncton and wishing him increased prosperity in his new field of labour. Rev. Mr. Hogg replied in a very feeling manner to the sentiments conveyed in the address. At the meeting of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union on 16th ult., a resolution expressing appreciation of Mr. Hogg's labour on behalf of Temperance and cordial well-wishes for his future prosperity and usefulness was unanimously passed. On Monday evening the church was again filled, the occasion being a farewell meeting and presentation to Rev. Mr. Hogg. Mr. J. H. Marks presided, and on the platform were Rev. Messrs. Hogg, Hagen and Wiggins, of Moncton, and Rev. Mr. Robbins, of Springfield. The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. Wiggins, and singing by the choir. Mr. D. I. Welch then stepped forward and said the duty he had to perform, while one of very great pleasure, was also one of sorrow and pain. It was a matter of great pleasure to be there and present Rev. Mr. Hogg with an address on behalf of the congregation, accompanied by a purse of \$275, but when he opened the address and saw its first words it earned its sorrow and pain to him. Mr. Welch then read the address which was one of considerable length. It voiced the general and deep feeling of appreciation of Mr. Hogg's faithful and self-denying labours, and was an affectionate tribute to the high regard in which he was personally held by all in the congregation. The Temperance Committee and the Sons of Temperance, respectively, also presented addresses. To each of which Mr. Hogg made fitting and feeling replies. A number of short addresses followed, and the people took the opportunity to bid him good by and God speed.

THE *Hamilton Times* gives a full account of the proceedings at the celebration of the third anniversary of Rev. Dr. Mungo Fraser's settlement as pastor of Knox Church in that city, from which the following is condensed: The celebration of the third anniversary of the settlement of the popular and highly-esteemed pastor of this congregation, Rev. Mungo Fraser, M.A., D.D., was held on Tuesday evening. From half-past six to about a quarter past eight p.m. the basement of the church was a busy and happy scene. The ladies of the congregation were busily engaged

in supplying the wants of the crowds who surrounded the well filled and tastily laid out tables. At about a quarter past eight Alderman David McLellan, Session Clerk, took the chair, supported on his right by the pastor and Rev. Mr. Murray, of Wentworth Church; on his left Hon. A. McKellar, sheriff; Rev. Mr. Dey, of Erskine Church, and the Rev. Mr. Maxwell, of Wesley Church, John Street. The platform and the chairman's table were profusely decorated with plants and choice flowers. The programme opened by the congregation singing the first verse of the 63rd hymn, after which the pastor led in prayer. The chairman then addressed the meeting. He thought the news he was about to communicate would be of a more pleasing nature than anything he could say that evening. He then feelingly referred to the arrival in the city in May, 1885, of the late American consul here, the Rev. Thomas R. Welch, D.D., who had been welcomed to the city by Mr. W. H. McLaren and another member of the congregation, and to the late Rev. gentleman's stay in the city until March, 1886, when he was called to his rest. He was a true friend of the congregation and their pastor, and a most intimate acquaintance was formed between him and the chairman. In conversation with him he knew it was on his mind to recommend the pastor of the congregation for the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity at the next annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the South-western Presbyterian University of Clarksville, Tenn., of which institution the doctor was such a strong friend. "Man proposes, but God disposes," and the late reverend doctor was not spared to carry out his wishes. In the month of August, 1885, Rev. John N. Waddell, D.D., LL.D., Chancellor of the above university, preached in Knox Church with very great acceptance, he being a guest of the late Dr. Welch at that time. The chairman, knowing the intention of the late doctor, wrote to the Chancellor of the above university, stating the case, and on his last official report to the university he strongly recommended the pastor of this Church for the above honour, and by a unanimous vote of the said Board of directors, on June 4, 1888, he was elected to the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. The chairman read a letter of regret from Rev. R. J. Laidlaw, LL.D., for his inability to be present, and tendering his kind congratulations to the pastor on his three years' success in the city. The programme was then carried out, which consisted of choice music, recitations and addresses by Rev. Mr. Murray, Sheriff McKellar, Rev. Messrs. Maxwell, Dey and Dr. Fraser. All the visitors vied with each other in doing honour to Dr. Fraser on his richly-deserved title, and expressed the hope that he might be long spared to wear the honour, and that his ministry in the future might be even more prosperous than it has been in the past.

MONTREAL NOTES.

The Rev. W. T. McMullen, Moderator of the General Assembly, preached with much acceptance in St. Andrew's Church Quebec, Sabbath 24th June, on his way home from Halifax.

Many of the members of Assembly, with their wives, have passed through the city on their way homeward within the past few days. Among others, Rev. Mr. and Mrs. McAlpine, of Chatsworth; Mr. and Mrs. Matheson, of Martintown; Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Taylor, of Moose Jaw, N.W.T.; Mr. Moody, of Stayner; Mr. Cumberland, of Wolfe Island; Dr. James, of Walkertown, and Mr. Tibb, of Sarnia. Others are remaining for a while by the sea.

Now that the public schools have closed and the heated term opened, many of the families in all our churches are making their way to the country and the seaside, leaving much diminished congregations.

Knox and Erskine Churches have arranged to unite during the remainder of July and August. The Rev. Mr. Fleck, of Knox Church, will preach to the united congregations from his own pulpit during July. The Rev. Dr. Fraser, of Hamilton, and Rev. D. McGillivray, of Godrich, will supply Erskine pulpit during August.

The Rev. Mr. Jordan, who is now in London, England, seems to have quite recovered in health, and is availing himself of the opportunity of attending many of the anniversary and religious conventions, now being held there.

There seems to be no foundation for the report that the Rev. Dr. Warden has been dangerously ill since leaving Montreal. On the contrary, he seems to have derived much benefit from the voyage across the Atlantic.

The Rev. Mr. Barclay and the Rev. Mr. Mackay, with their families, have gone to the seaside for July and August—the former to Cacouna, the latter to Murray Bay.

The Rev. James McCaul, late of Stanley Street Church is to be inducted as pastor of Broad Street Presbyterian Church, Buckingham, England, on July 15. The field is said to be a good one, and no doubt Mr. McCaul will enter upon it with well-known energy and enthusiasm.

Two of our suburban churches—Chalmers and Cote St. Antoine—are increasing their accommodation this summer at considerable cost. Such evidences of prosperity are gratifying and encouraging.

The great National Temperance Convention which meets here this week, will no doubt bring many of our ministers who are interested in this subject. No doubt action will be taken which will prove of importance in the progress of the great reform.

The Rev. Joseph Hogg, late of Moncton, pastor-elect of St. Andrew's Church, Winnipeg, passed through the city the other day on the way to his new field of labour.

The Rev. G. M. Milligan, of your city, sailed for Scotland by the *Alcides* on Friday last.

The additions to the boys' school at Pointe-aux-Trembles are being rapidly pushed forward and are likely to be ready in good time for the opening of the classes.

Sabbath School Teacher

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

July 1st. 1888.] GOD'S PRESENCE PROMISED. [Lev. 23: 1-24.]

GOLDEN TEXT.—Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.—Matt. xxviii. 20.

SHORTER CATECHISM.

Question 84.—This question brings out in a striking manner the awful nature of sin. The punishment to which the sinner is justly exposed shows the enmity of his transgression. God is a just and merciful God. How terrible an evil must sin be when it entails His wrath and curse. It is because sin is repugnant to God's nature and government that it merits His righteous indignation. Every sin condemns the sinner, and its just punishment—"the wages of sin is death"—is certain to follow. From sin and its punishment the Son of God came to deliver us. For every one that believes in Him repents of sin and accepts Christ as the Saviour, there is forgiveness of sin and an inheritance among all them that are sanctified.

INTRODUCTORY.

Moses' energetic action and the consequences that followed had, in a measure, convinced the Israelites of their sin in distrusting God and betaking themselves to idol worship. They had by their violation of God's covenant with them, ratified with the greatest solemnity, brought upon themselves God's displeasure. He had withdrawn His favour and guidance and it seemed as if the nation would perish. Moses, faithful to God, and deeply concerned for the people, intercedes earnestly on their behalf. He pleads the honour of Jehovah's name, and is willing that his own name should be blotted from God's book, rather than that the nation should perish, and now in the lesson of to day comes God's gracious answer.

I. *Moses' Intercession.* While God had promised that the nation should not be destroyed and that it would be led in its march to the promised land, Moses desires assurances of God's presence. This desire did not spring from weakness of faith on the part of the leader, nor for any merely personal reason, but for the people's sake. His approach to God on this matter is a fine illustration of reverent confidence. He had God's command, "Bring up this people," and the gracious announcement "I know thee by name, and thou hast also found grace in my sight." This gives him encouragement to urge his request. There is a favour that he asks for himself, only that he may the more effectually accomplish the great work to which he was called. "Show me now thy way, that I may know Thee." He wants to know God's way, which is always the right way, and that he might know Him more fully and be yet more conscious of the possession of the divine favour. Only those who live near to God can be thus favoured. Then the reason of his plea is stated last. "Consider that this nation is Thy people." Notwithstanding their rebellion and grievous apostasy, they were still God's chosen heritage. They had been faithful to their covenant engagements, but God is faithful to His promises.

II. *God's Answer to Moses' Prayer.*—The gracious and encouraging answer comes "My presence shall go with thee." The pillar of cloud and fire as the symbol of the divine presence and guidance would be continued, and God's spiritual presence would be specially with His servant to sustain, enlighten and bless him in the position to which he was appointed. To the promise of the divine presence was added, "I will give thee rest." Rest from the anxiety, the waywardness of the people, and the great difficulties this would occasion, and when his work was ended there was a better rest than the earthly Canaan could afford. He rests securely who rests in God. The elevation of religious character reached by Moses is brought out in his response to the divine promise. "If Thy presence go not with me carry us not up hence." It takes great grace and much largeness of soul to give up every way but God's. Nothing else could compensate for the absence of God. Are there not too many who are willing to go their own way even while they know that God's presence cannot go with them? What a test this saying of Moses can supply as to our pursuits and our pleasures. For this visible manifestation of God's presence with the nation Moses pleads earnestly as an evidence that God was with His people and that they are separated from all others as His chosen heritage. The request is granted and God's faithful servant is again personally assured of the divine favour, and an object of God's special care, "I know thee by name."

III. *A Vision of the Divine Glory.*—The revelation of God's goodness and mercy to Moses had made a deep impression upon him, and he now longs for a yet richer and fuller disclosure of the divine perfections, and he prays, "I beseech Thee show my Thy glory." The full answer to this prayer could not be given. No mortal could look on the unveiled splendour of the divine glory and live. An infinitely glorious Spirit cannot be fully revealed to finite sight. The divine goodness and mercy are essential attributes of the divine nature. Of these Moses was, in answer to his request, to have a vivid and impressive view, but coupled with this announcement there is the statement, "I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and show mercy on whom I will show mercy," thus intimating the inseparable connection and harm of all God's attributes, that He is Sovereign in the exercise of them all. God is here represented as having bodily parts. It should not be forgotten that as God is a Spirit this is the language of accommodation to give us a more definite idea of the divine personality and glory. In the cleft of the rock Moses was sheltered while all that was permissible for mortal to behold was made visible to him. The fullest revelation that we have of God is in Jesus Christ, who is the brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of His person.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

For sinful creatures there is no reconciliation to God without a Mediator.

It is through Christ only that we can see God.