

list in New York city, the Park Union, East Eighty-Fifth street.

THE Rev. Robert Patterson (United Presbyterian minister), of Dunse, Scotland, has just celebrated his jubilee in the ministry.

THE creditors among the congregation of St. Paul's Catholic Church, to whom Archbishop Purcell owes \$1,000,000, have resolved to remit one-half the claims.

THE Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions closes its financial year with a debt of \$62,538, an increase for the year of \$15,538.

ISLINGTON Chapel (Congregational), London, has undergone considerable alterations, having been thoroughly modernized, and was re-opened on the 28th ultimo.

THE chief of police in New Orleans has issued an order requiring that coloured preachers shall be notified that all churches must hereafter be closed at 10 o'clock at night.

Rev. Dr. Somerville will almost immediately commence a mission under the auspices of the Free Church of Scotland to the English-speaking people on the continent of Europe.

It is reported that the Rev. H. Paddon, late vicar of High Wycomb, the Rev. C. T. Astley, late vicar of Gillingham, and another vicar who has resigned his incumbency, have joined the Reformed Episcopal Church of England.

It is stated by good authority that 50,000 Bibles and parts of the Scripture were circulated in China, and 13,000 in Japan in 1877. Commentaries by natives on different parts of the Bible are being published in Japan independently of missionary aid.

THE first of a series of services in connection with the jubilee of the Congregational church in Nicholas street, Ipswich, Eng., under the pastorate of Rev. Wickham Tozer, was held on the 22nd of April, Dr. Joseph Parker preaching on the occasion.

THE Presbytery of Cork, Ireland, has voted for instrumental music in the service of the sanctuary, and has asked the General Assembly to deal with the question so as to "prevent continued interference with the scriptural liberty of congregations in the service of praise."

THE total income of the Scottish United Presbyterian Church during the past year was £367,388 6s. 1d., shewing a slight decrease as compared with the previous year. There has been, however, a considerable increase in the number of congregations and members.

THE American Presbyterians are well to the front in missionary zeal and labours. They have 222 mission stations with 962 missionaries. Connected with their various stations are 1,391 converts from heathenism and no less than 16,039 children under education in the mission schools.

M. WASHINGTON, Prime Minister of France, is a Protestant, and an active member of Pastor Fisch's Church in Paris. Five of the nine heads of departments in the French government are of the same religious belief—a good compliment to the worth and brains of the Protestants of France.

THE Rev W. Fleming Stevenson's congregation at Rathgar, Ireland, has raised during the twenty years of its existence no less than \$146,935. This includes the cost of the church, \$27,580. In 1859, when the congregation was formed, the entire contributions were \$105; in 1878 they were \$10,490.

THE Congregationalists of Massachusetts have adopted the policy of uniting the smaller churches two by two, in the support of a pastor. Secretary Barrows says that in about fifty cases this has been done, and after a trial of four years, only one couple has applied for a divorce. Each church has one sermon a Sunday.

In "Smaller London," which has a population of 3,577,304, there are church accommodations for 1,119,776 persons. The national church provides the majority of the sittings, or 51.96 per cent., the Congregationalists provide 12.28 per cent., the Methodists 10.99, and the Baptists 10.48. Then come the Catholic, Presbyterian and other Churches.

THE report of the English Baptist Union states that there are in Great Britain and Ireland 3,451 churches with 1,028,000 sittings. Church members number 276,348—increased over last year of 7,512. Sunday school teachers number 40,216, and scholars 399,317. There are 1,879 pastors, and 2,652 evangelists and lay preachers. The amount raised for evangelistic work was £16,996.

THE American Board of Commissioners for foreign missions, which is the missionary society of the Congregational churches of the United States, held its anniversary in Broadway Tabernacle, New York, on Sunday evening, May 11th. The venerable president of the society (Rev. Dr. Mark Hopkins), presided. The following embodies some of the more salient features of the association and its work: The Board was organized in 1810. It has since sent out 540 ordained missionaries. These missionaries have reduced 26 languages to writing, preparing in them grammars, lexicons, school-books, religious works and translations of the Bible. They are now working in 46 different tongues, virtually giving the Gospel to about 100,000,000 of the human family. The present number of labourers from America, men and women, amount to 371; there are 1,178 native labourers aiding them. The Board has 248 churches, 13,737 members (not counting about 8,000 more at the Sandwich Islands). More than 1,200 members were added to the churches in the past year. It has under instruction about 27,000 pupils, 1,500 of whom are in higher schools and seminaries. The Woman's Board was organized in 1868, and has now 62 single ladies in its connection, of whom 12 are in Japan and 30 in Turkey.

## The Sunday School.

### INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

#### LESSON XXII.

June 1. } PROPHECY AGAINST TYRE. { Ezek. xxv. 1879. } 7-14.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."—Matt. xxiv. 35.

#### HOME STUDIES.

M. Ezek. i. 1-3 ..... The Prophet Ezekiel.  
T. Isa. xxiii. 1-18. .... The burden of Tyre.  
W. Ezek. xxvi. 1-21. .... Prophecy against Tyre.  
Th. Ezek. xxvii. 1-36. .... Her riches and commerce destroyed.  
F. Ezek. xxviii. 1-26. .... Her brightness defiled.  
S. Ps. lxxvi. 1-12. .... The stout-hearted spoiled.  
S. Matt. xi. 20-30. .... A more dreadful doom.

#### HELPS TO STUDY.

Ezekiel, the son of Buzi, a priest and the great prophet of the Babylonian captivity, was carried into exile eleven years before the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. He dwelt in the Jewish community, upon the river Chebar, where he was held in the highest consideration. His prophecies extended over at least 22 years. The book is divided into two parts—the prophecy of judgment, chaps. i. xxiv.; and the prophecy of mercy, chaps. xxxiii. xlviii. Between them lies a transition consisting of predictions against seven nations, enemies of the Jews, xxv. xxxii. Among them was haughty Tyre, which sat enthroned beside the Mediterranean, the Queen of the seas. Chapter xxxvii. contains a wonderful description of the doomed city, the beauty of its situation, the extent of its commerce, and the splendour of its civilization. We obtain from its study a remarkable insight into the industries and enterprises of those far-off times. But wealth brought pride, and pride was followed by destruction. The siege and overthrow of the city by the great Chaldean king are here foretold by the prophet. We almost see the martial array and hear the tramp of the mighty host of the desolator marching against haughty Tyre. He comes as the servant of Jehovah, who brings him to be executor of His wrath. God is in all history. He makes all things serve Him and work out His wise and gracious purposes. Even the ambition of one self-sufficient and worldly king He makes the instrument by which He punishes the pride, and rebellion of another. So God said of Sennacherib—"I have brought it to pass that thou shouldst be to lay waste defenced cities."—Isai. xxxvii. 26. Nebuchadnezzar is called by name as Cyrus was—Isai. xlv. 1-4. From the north he comes. This was the line of his approach on account of the great eastern desert which had to be avoided. The great host marches on with chariots and horsemen, spreading desolation far and wide. In the field, the open country where they marched, even the women were slain. Now he lays siege to the city. He makes a fort, a moveable tower from whose top the battlements are assailed. He heaps up a mound; under cover of the buckler, or great shields linked together, the sappers get near the walls, which are demolished with engines, battering rams and axes. The breach is made. Amid clouds of dust, the horsemen and chariots press into the gates. The people are trodden down by the horser hoofs, slain by the sword. The statues of the gods (not "strong garrisons") are laid prostrate in the dust, the gods in whom they vainly trusted. The spoil is taken and divided. Utter destruction is made of house and wall. The island citadel which stood in the midst of the waters is demolished. The desolation is complete and irremediable. The sound of song and of harp ceaseth. Joy and revelling are changed to sorrow and sadness. Proud Tyre is made bare and desolate as the top of a rock, the populous city becomes but a place to spread nets, a mere fishing station, no more to be built. (Note 1.)

Has Tyre no warning for us? God gave that ancient city, and He has given us, great privileges, a high civilization and mighty commerce. Far greater things He has bestowed upon us, the knowledge of His love, the religion of Jesus. Tyre abused her privileges, hence her doom. And if we abuse our privileges, our sin is greater and our doom will be more terrible. It will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the judgment than for us.—Matt. xi. 22.

God is the arbitrator and judge of nations. He hates now just as much as then, and He will punish now as surely as then, pride, dishonesty and lust.

The highest civilization and the greatest material prosperity cannot give stability to a nation. Without righteousness it must sooner or later perish in its own corruption.

Sin involves, sooner or later, destruction. There is no exception to the Divine law. None can escape.

Prophecy fulfilled is a wonderful evidence of the truth and faithfulness of God.

God's word cannot fail. His promises and His threatenings will all be realized and fulfilled.

God's faithfulness in nature is an emblem and guarantee of His faithfulness in Providence and grace. As surely as day and night succeed each other, so surely will His word abide.—Jer. xxxi. 35, 36; xxxiii. 20, 21, 25, 26.

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE.

1. Make thee like the top of a rock, &c.—So literal has been the fulfilment of this prophecy, that Tyre, once so rich and populous, has become a mere fishing-station; and nearly every traveller who has visited its remains has remarked upon the fact that fishermen were to be seen dry-

ing their nets upon the top of the rocks which stretch into the sea. Volney, the celebrated infidel historian, adds his testimony, unconsciously, to the truth of God's word. He says, "The whole village contains only fifty or sixty poor families, who live but indifferently on the produce of their little grounds and a trifling fishery." Since Volney's time the place has somewhat increased in population.—*Bible Treasury*. The Hebrew historians, prophets and poets constantly allude to her power, wealth, luxury and vices; and Ezekiel seems to tax the entire geography of the known world to set forth the extent of her commerce, and the multitude of her riches. It would take a volume to trace the varied fortunes of Tyre, through Egyptian, Chaldean, Macedonian, Roman, Saracenic, Frank and Turkish dynasties, down to the present wretched representative of so much greatness and glory. With but few exceptions, it is a cluster of miserable huts, inhabited by about 3,500 impoverished Metawelles and Arab Christians, destitute alike of education, of arts and of enterprise.—*Dr. Thomson's Land and Book*.

## Official Notices.

CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.—The annual meeting of the Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec, will be held (D. V.) in the Congregational Church, Wellington street, Kingston, Ont., on Wednesday the 4th of June 1879, at 7.30 p.m. The proceedings will commence with the annual sermon by the Rev. William Allworth of Paris, Ont. Special attention is called to the annual collection on behalf of the union, which should be taken up on the Lord's day prior to the annual meeting. Information as to reduced travelling fares will be duly furnished.—KENNETH M. FENWICK, *Secretary-Treasurer*.

Pastors and churches are respectfully requested that the time for sending in statistics is drawing to a close. Very few have yet come to hand. Will those whose duty it is to attend to this matter in the churches please make returns at once?

W. H. WARRINEK, *Statistical Secretary*.  
Yorkville, May 12th.

REDUCED FARES.—The Grand Trunk and Great Western Railway Companies, and the Steam-boat Company have made the same arrangement as last year. A boat will leave Montreal on Tuesday, so that passengers will arrive in Kingston on Wednesday afternoon. One will leave Toronto on Monday, one on Wednesday. Those who take the Wednesday boat will be in Kingston early on Thursday morning. Possibly there may be a boat daily by 2nd June. Certificates in every case must be obtained from the undersigned, and presented on taking tickets. In sending for certificates, send early, write distinctly the names of delegates, state the railway by which you travel and address 227 St. Urbain street, Montreal. The Union allows for fare only, and by the cheapest routes. To secure the full amount, remember the annual collection.

K. M. FENWICK, *Secretary-Treasurer*.

UNION OF ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.—The Committee of the Union will meet in the Congregational Church, Wellington street, Kingston, on Wednesday, the 4th of June, at four o'clock p.m.

K. M. FENWICK, *Secretary-Treasurer*.

CANADA CONGREGATIONAL INDIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—The members of the Board will meet the Secretary for conference, on Wednesday, June 4th, in the vestry of First Church, Kingston, at 3 p.m.

JAS. HOWELL, *Secretary*.

THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF NOVA SCOTIA AND NEW BRUNSWICK.—This Union will hold its annual meeting this year, in the Congregational Church, at Keswick Ridge, on Saturday, July 12th, at 9.30 a.m. Brethren from the Upper Provinces and the United States, who contemplate attending the meeting of the Union, are respectfully requested to signify to me their intention, as early as convenient. Further particulars will be given at a later date.

DUNCAN MCGREGOR, *Secretary*.

Liverpool, N.S., May 6th, 1879.

RECEIVED on behalf of Labrador Mission—Ladies' Missionary Association of Calvary Church, Montreal, \$5; Mrs. Leslie, per Wm. McDonough, Toronto, \$5; additional from Mrs. McDonough's Sewing Meeting, Toronto, \$3; Rev. C. H. Brooks, Constantinople, per J. B. S., \$3; Mrs. McGregor, Listowel, \$1.

Montreal, May 17, 1879.

B. WILKES.

A MEETING of the shareholders of the Congregational Publishing Company will be held in First Congregational Church, Kingston, on Thursday, June 5th, at 2 p.m.

J. B. SILCOX,  
*Secy.-Treasurer*.

Toronto, May 20th, 1879.

CANADA CONGREGATIONAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—The meeting of the General Committee of this Society will be held in the Lecture Room of the First Congregational Church, Kingston, on Wednesday, June 4th, at 4.30 p.m. The Society's annual meeting will be held on Thursday, June 5th, at 3 p.m. The Public Missionary Meeting will be held in the same place on Friday evening, June 6th, at 7.30 o'clock. All subscribers of one dollar, and more, are members of the Society.

SAMUEL N. JACKSON,  
Kingston, May 12th, 1879. *Home Secretary*.