

tain and Gibraltar. Mr. John Hunter, licentiate, to Guthrie Church, Oro. The Clerk was directed to certify the students resident in the bounds to their respective colleges. Mr. Acheson, treasurer, reported \$195.17 received for the preceding year, and \$188.44 expended, and was authorized to ask contributions to the Presbytery fund from congregations at the rate of 8 cents per member. He also received thanks for diligence and success in managing the fund. Leave was given to mortgage the Fesserton Church property for \$250. Dr. Moffat addressed the Presbytery in interest of the Tract Society. At the close of his address the resolution was adopted, "That the Presbytery have heard Dr. Moffat with pleasure, express their sense of the valuable work done by the Tract Society, and undertake to further its objects within the bounds according to their ability." A committee, Mr. Burnett, Convener, was appointed to arrange a convention or conventions on Sabbath Schools, State of Religion and Temperance, to be held at Barrie under direction of Presbytery at such time as may be deemed suitable.—ROBERT MOODIE, Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF SARNIA.—This Presbytery met at Strathroy on the 18th ult. There was laid on the table and read, a call from the congregations of Oil Springs and Oil City to Rev. Mr. McKibbin, B.A. Mr. Macdonald moderated in the call, and was heard in reference to the same. The call was sustained, and it was agreed to apply for \$150 supplement. Mr. McKibbin having intimated his acceptance of the same, his induction was appointed to take place at Oil Springs, on the second Wednesday of October next, at eleven a.m., Mr. Cuthbertson to preach, Mr. Macdonald to address the minister and Mr. Beamer to address the people. There was also laid on the table and read, a call from the congregation of Guthrie Church, Black Creek and Wilkesport, to Rev. A. Ogilvie, B.A. Mr. Tibb, who moderated in the call was heard in support of the same, as also Messrs. Beattie and McKae, commissioners. The call was sustained. On motion of Mr. Cuthbertson the Presbytery agreed to record their expression of sympathy with Rev. Mr. McAdam in his sad and sudden bereavement by the death of Mrs. McAdam on the 21st of August last. The Presbytery having had experience of the Christian worth and hospitable nature of the deceased, sorrow with him in his loss, and pray that the God of all consolation and comfort may sustain the bereaved husband and daughters and heal their wounds with the healing influences of His grace. May they be comforted by the consolation whereby in like circumstances they cheer others. Mr. McAdam replied in suitable terms. On motion of Mr. Cuthbertson the Presbytery also recorded their recognition of the hand of the Great Head of the Church, in the terribly sudden death of Mr. McKellar, a member of the Court and for many years an active and honoured member of Theford Kirk Session. The Presbytery desire thereby to be stirred up to increased watchfulness and diligence till the night cometh when each man's work is done. Mr. Currie, Convener of the Presbytery's Home Mission Committee, gave in the half yearly report from April 1 till October 1 next. The report was received. In considering the same it was agreed to instruct the committee to borrow money enough to enable them to procure a deed from the Grant family so as to secure to the Church the church property of Dathel Church, Sombra. It was further agreed to connect for united service the tenth of Brooke, Weidman and Inwood, and to confine the services of Mr. McRobie, to Marthaville, thus securing them services every Sabbath in these stations. The following students were ordered to be certified to the Senate of Knox College, Toronto, viz.: Mr. Needham, third year, Theology; Mr. Nichol, first year, Theology; Mr. McLennan, University; Mr. Crockard, first year, University. The next regular meeting was appointed to be held in St. Andrew's Church, Sarnia, on the third Tuesday of December next, at two p.m. Mr. Tibb addressed the Court submitting a motion of which he had given notice in July last, in reference to the election of commissioners to the General Assembly. After discussion it was referred to a committee consisting of Dr. Thompson, Convener, Messrs. Cuthbertson, Tibb and Anderson and Mr. Nesbit, elder, to consider the same and report in December next. Mr. Pritchard submitted a motion of which he had given notice, in regard to standing orders for the conduct of the business of the Court. After discussion it was agreed to refer the same to a committee consisting of Mr. Pritchard, Convener, Messrs. Cuthbertson and Currie, ministers, and Mr. McPherson, elder, with the view of framing a programme and report in reference to the same at next ordinary meeting. The meeting was closed with the benediction.—GEORGE CUTHBERTSON, Pres. Clerk.

MONTREAL NOTES.

The regular quarterly meeting of the Presbytery of Montreal, met in the Convocation Hall of the college on Tuesday. The attendance of ministers was good, but comparatively few elders were present. Reports were received and considered from the several standing committees of the Presbytery, and a large amount of routine business was transacted.

The Presbytery agreed to apportion among the congregations of the bounds the amounts asked by the Home Mission Committee for Augmentation and Home Missions, and deputies were appointed to visit the several augmented charges and mission fields, with a view to stimulate the liberality of the people so as to lessen, if possible, the grants from the Church funds.

The minimum salary allowed in city charges by the regulations of the Assembly's Committee is \$1,000. This is felt to be much too small a sum for the maintenance of a minister's family in Montreal, where the expense of living is becoming increasingly high. According to the Assembly's regulations the sum of \$100 is allowed for house rent. As a matter of fact the average rent of the houses occupied by our ministers in Montreal is upwards of \$400 per annum, and the cost of living generally is proportionately great. For several years past special efforts have been made in the city

to supplement the grants from the Augmentation Fund, so as to make the minimum salary \$1,400 per annum, and a committee of Presbytery has been appointed to secure that this shall be accomplished this year also. There has been a considerable increase in rents in Montreal of recent years. Many of the class of houses which a few years ago could be had for \$300 and \$400, are now renting for \$500 and \$600, and even as high as \$700 per annum. While the cost of living has greatly increased there has not been a corresponding increase in the salaries of many ministers.

On the evening of Wednesday, the twentieth Session of the Presbytery College was publicly opened, when the Rev. L. H. Jordan, B.D., delivered a lecture on the office of the Deaconess, a plea for its revival in the modern Christian Church. The attendance was large and the lecture one of much interest. At the close the Rev. Principal MacVicar announced that there were thirty new students, making the number on the roll ninety, by far the largest number in the history of the college. He contrasted the position of the college now, with its magnificent buildings, its extensive and valuable library, its endowment fund, its staff of four professors and five lecturers, and its roll of ninety students, with its humble beginning twenty years ago. He also intimated that the college board had that day decided, in accordance with the recommendation of the General Assembly, to put forth an effort to increase its endowment fund by an additional sum of \$150,000.

The examining committee of the Presbytery had before them a large number of students, thirty-two of whom were certified to the Senate of the college here.

With the exception of Melville Church, Cote St. Antoine, and the Hochelaga French Mission, no new Presbyterian congregations have been established for several years in the city or suburbs, there being comparatively little increase in the Protestant population. Recently, however, there has been a decided improvement in this respect and a committee upon church extension, appointed by the Presbytery, have mapped out the city, and are about to take steps looking towards the opening of Sabbath schools and, in some instances, preaching stations, at a number of points in and around the city. In this work they are having the co-operation of the Presbyterian Sabbath School Association of Montreal, and it is hoped that ere long ground will be broken in the several districts.

On the recommendation of its City Mission Committee, the Presbytery has appointed one, and in some cases two, of its ministerial members as visitors at the respective and charitable and benevolent institutions of the city, so that the interests of Presbyterian inmates may be duly cared for. Steps have also been taken with a view to the Christian supervision of the students from Presbyterian homes, attending educational institutions in Montreal.

The number of new students who have matriculated in arts at McGill this Session is sixty-eight, seventeen of whom are young women. This does not include partial or occasional students or those who are attending lectures with the intention of matriculating at the Christmas examinations.

The Rev. L. H. Jordan has given notice of his intention to move the following motion at the January meeting of Presbytery: (1) That in the judgment of this Presbytery the time has fully come when the various female workers in our Presbyterian congregations should in some way be officially recognized, both by Kirk Sessions and Presbyteries, and (2) That as a first step towards the end just indicated, the Moderator of this Presbytery nominate a committee whose duty it shall be to consider this important question in all its bearings, alike in the light of early primitive practice and of present pressing necessities; said committee to recommend some method by which woman's work in the Church may at once be deliberately organized and then judiciously developed.

A conference on Christian work is to be held under the auspices of the Presbytery on the evening of its next regular meeting in January, and a committee has been appointed to make all necessary arrangements therefor.

Principal MacVicar brought before the Presbytery the action of the Quebec Provincial Legislature in regard to the incorporation of the Jesuits. A committee was appointed to consider the matter, and the Presbytery, on the recommendation of this committee, unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

Whereas, by recent legislation of the Province of Quebec a large sum of money was voted out of the "Jesuits' estates," which upwards of a century ago became public property, and have since yielded the means of educating the people of the Province, irrespective of race or religious belief, \$400,000 to the Society of Jesus, and \$60,000 to the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction, the Presbytery of Montreal avails itself of this opportunity of expressing strong disapproval of the same, and of declining, so far as it has a right to voice public opinion, to be a party to it.

The Presbytery further expresses astonishment that the Provincial Legislature, not content with granting powers of incorporation to the Jesuits, should have gone out of its way to foster in a mixed community a society which has proved itself the enemy of civil and religious liberty all over the world, and which even the governments of Roman Catholic States have found necessary to expel.

The Presbytery also protests earnestly against the action of the Government of Quebec in violating the principle of religious equality which was established in Canada many years ago by bestowing public money upon a society of a distinctly religious character like that of the Jesuits. Therefore, be it resolved that this Presbytery memorialize the Governor-General in Council to take the foregoing preamble and resolutions into consideration and adopt such measures as will protect the rights of the people of this Province in the premises.

PROFESSOR DUNS, in unveiling the bust of Hugh Miller in the Wallace monument, expressed the conviction that the appreciation of the grandeur of Miller's struggle against early hardships which characterized his life is more and more deepening, and so, too, in regard to his word as a literary man, a publicist, and a man of science.

Sabbath School Teacher

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

Oct. 21,
1888.

THE STONES OF MEMORIAL

Josh. 4:
10-24.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Then shall ye let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land.—Josh. iv. 22.

SHORTER CATECHISM.

Question 95.—Prayer is one of the most important parts of public worship; it is of vital necessity for every Christian, old or young. Prayer is as necessary to the soul's life and well-being as daily food is to bodily health and strength. It must not be formal, a mere part of daily routine, but the sincere, fervent outpouring of the soul to God. Prayer must be in faith and should ever be reverent. It is an act of worship, homage and love to our Father-King, and slippancy is incompatible with our devotion to Him. He is willing to hear the fullest expression of our desires. The condition of all true prayer is that it must be for things agreeable to God's will. How can we know what is agreeable and what is not? We have only in humble submission to present our petitions and He will decide that, and answer them according to His infinite wisdom and love. Prayer is to be presented in the name of Christ, because He has made atonement for sin, and is the mediator between God and man. In coming to the throne of grace we must remember and confess our sins, and also remember God's mercies and express our thankfulness to Him for His unfailing bounty.

INTRODUCTION.

The present lesson continues the account of the passage of the Jordan by the Israelites begun in the last, and gives a description of the memorial erected to commemorate an event so significant and important in God's dealings with His chosen people.

I. The Crossing of the Jordan completed.—The priests remained with the ark in the river-bed till the entire multitude had passed over. They remained faithfully at the post of duty until the people were safe on the western bank of the river, till they were all safe in the promised land. The priests with the ark would impress the minds of the people with the fact that God was their protector. They descended into the bed of the river first, and remained there till all had crossed. They moved in solemn procession to join the people, indicating that God had gone before His people, and that He was their defence. The children of Reuben, and the children of Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh, had settled east of the Jordan, where their inheritance had been allotted them. Moses, before his death, had charged them that when the body of the people entered Canaan they were to help them in its conquest. In obedience to that command, forty thousand men fitted for war passed over, the rest remaining to protect the aged, the women and the children. It is said that on that day "the Lord magnified Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him as they feared Moses all the days of his life," in fulfilling the promise made when preparations for the crossing were begun. Now that the people were all safely over the river, and the priests with the ark had joined them, the river resumed its wonted course. Again it flowed on, and rose so that the banks were again overflowed. The day was a memorable one. It was the tenth day of the first month—the tenth day after the new moon in our month of March.

II. The Memorial Erected.—Twelve men, one from each tribe, had been selected beforehand to take each a stone from the bed of the river, and carry it to the first place of encampment. This was at Gilgal, lying between the city of Jericho and the Jordan. These stones were placed in such a manner that they would form a conspicuous and enduring monument of one of the most eventful incidents in the national life of the Jewish people. An eminent writer says, "The most of the Hebrews, at the camp thus chosen for them, were about five hundred feet above the bed of the Jordan. The river they crossed lay underneath them about four and a half miles to the east. An open plain stretched on all sides of them and permitted free movement. . . . The name Gilgal (circle or wheel) was given in direct allusion, we are told, to the rolling away of the last trace of the degradation and reproach of their Egyptian slavery; by the circumcision of the host, which had been neglected in the wilderness, but was now commanded by Joshua, as the appointed acknowledgment of their national covenant with God at Sinai. . . . But another allusion may well have been to the circle of twelve stones, raised by Joshua's order—the first sanctuary of Israel in Palestine."

III. The Design of the Memorial.—This memorial, raised to commemorate the passage of the Jordan, was an object lesson to all Hebrew children. When they saw in after years the monument at Gilgal it would arouse their interest, and they would ask their parents, "What mean these stones?" The answer gives an explanation of God's miraculous intervention on behalf of His people, "Israel came over this Jordan on dry land." It was God's doing. He is spoken of as "the Lord your God." The crossing of the Jordan and the passage of the Jordan were both effected by the direct and immediate interposition of Jehovah. He is your God. He who so cared for His people in the past cares for you now, and this memorial is designed to impress the truth of God's care for His children, and to remind them of the exercise of His power on their behalf. It was a memorial not only to the people of Israel. The lesson it was designed to teach is of world wide significance. "That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty; that ye might fear the Lord your God forever." So that all who seek to love and serve Him can say, "This God is our God, and He will be our guide even unto death."

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

God's marvellous doings on His people's behalf should be gratefully remembered.

The monuments that record God's wondrous works to the children of men are never meaningless.