

Mr. Chambers was appointed to this position. The following were elected: commissioners to the Assembly, ministers, by rotation, Messrs. J. Callagher, B.A., R. J. Craig, M.A., and D. Kelso; by ballot, Messrs. F. McCuaig, M. W. Maclean, M.A., and Principal Grant, D.D. Elders, Messrs. G. Gillies, W. G. Craig, Rev. J. Fowler, M.A., Messrs. J. Bell, Q.C., W. P. Hudson, M.P.P., and A. Gunn, M.P. Mr. Wilkins presented the report on the State of Religion. Mr. Chambers (for Mr. Young, absent through illness), that on Sabbath School work, and Mr. Cumberland, that on Temperance. In connection with the first an interesting conference was held. More attention was bestowed on these subjects than has been customary of late years. Messrs. J. Hay, B.A.; R. C. Murray, B.A.; J. A. Brown, B.A., and A. K. McLeod, students of Queen's College, were examined as applicants for license. It was decided to ask leave of the Synod to take them on public probationary trials for this purpose. Mr. J. P. Gerrier was also examined, but as his case has some peculiarities it is to be brought before the Assembly. The names of Messrs. K. McLennan, M.A., and Alexander McKay, M.A., were appended to the roll as ministers without charges. The report of the Home Mission Committee, with its several recommendations, was considered at length. Its recommendations were adopted. Arrangements were made for moderation in a call at Newburgh, on the 30th ult. The congregation of Melrose were authorized to sell their church property for the purpose of erecting new buildings on a more suitable site. Mr. J. Hay, President of Queen's College Missionary Association, furnished a list of students, who were desirous of being employed as missionaries during the summer. A committee was appointed to examine the list and determine what names should be recommended. All those offering their services for the first time were previously examined by the Examining Committee to ascertain their fitness for such work. An adjourned meeting was appointed to be held in Cooke's Church, Kingston, on the 11th day of May ensuing at three o'clock p.m., to attend to the licensing of students, etc. —THOMAS S. CHAMBERS, Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF BARRIE.—This Presbytery met at Barrie on Tuesday, 17th March. Present, eighteen ministers and nine elders. Dr. Fraser presented a call from the congregations of Knox and Guthrie Churches, Oro, to Mr. John A. Morrison, late of Sault Ste. Marie, signed by eighty-four members and 136 adherents. The call was sustained and accepted by Mr. Morrison. The Presbytery agreed to meet for his induction to the pastoral charge at Guthrie Church on April 2nd, at one o'clock p.m., and it was arranged that on the occasion Dr. Fraser should preside, Mr. D. D. McLeod preach, Mr. Fairbairn address the newly inducted minister, and Mr. Carswell the congregation. Mr. Burnett also presented a call, in which he moderated, from the congregations of Mulmur and Rosemont to Mr. R. B. Smith, probationer. The call was sustained, and a letter read, intimating Mr. Smith's acceptance in the event of the Presbytery sustaining it. It was accordingly agreed to meet at Rosemont on Tuesday, 31st March, at one o'clock p.m., for the trials and examination of Mr. Smith, and, if these be sustained, at two o'clock for the ordination of Mr. Smith to the ministry and for inducting him to the charge of Mulmur and Rosemont. Mr. Burnett was appointed to preside and to address Mr. Smith when inducted, Mr. D. D. McLeod to preach and Mr. S. Acheson to address the congregation. Mr. Rodgers addressed the Presbytery on the claims of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. Commissioners to General Assembly were elected, viz.: Ministers Messrs. G. Crow, R. Moodie, J. Bryant, and D. D. McLennan, by rotation; Messrs. R. N. Grant, W. Fraser, D.D., and J. R. S. Burnett, by ballot; Elders Messrs. J. Gray, M.A.; R. Laidlaw, W. J. Forbes, A. Melville, J. Duff, P. Mahaffy, and A. P. Cockburn, M.P. The Conveners of Committees on State of Religion and Sabbath Schools presented reports based on the replies of Sessions. Two reports were received and the Conveners were instructed to send them up to the Synod. An overture to the General Assembly anent the Act of last Assembly, by which the mode of election of Moderators was changed, was introduced by Mr. McLeod. It sets forth that in response to an overture signed by eighteen persons, an Act was passed, depriving Presbyteries of their constitutional right of nominating candidates for the Moderatorship, and that the action in the opinion of the Presbytery was unconstitutional and uncalled for by any expression of the mind of the Church. It prays that the rights of Presbyteries be restored. The overture was unanimously adopted. A committee consisting of Messrs. McLeod, Burnett, Leishman, and Carswell was appointed to take into consideration the modes in use in the various congregations and stations in the bounds for the purposes of Stipend and Schemes of the Church and report with such recommendations as may appear to them to be of use for the guidance of congregations in regard to this matter. Home Mission business was then taken up. Mr. Findley was requested to visit the Huntsville group of stations and make enquiries to serve in disposing of a petition from Huntsville and Allansville to be separated from Port Sydney, and erected into a congregation, retaining the services of the ordained missionary, for which they promised a stipend of \$400. Reports were given in by deputies appointed to visit ad-receiving congregations. Schedules duly filled for the coming meeting of the Assembly's Home Mission Committee were passed. An interesting report was given in by Mr. Findley of his services in supervising the mission field of Muskoka, Parry Sound and on the line of the Canada Pacific Railway, and of collections made for the Home Mission Funds. He controverted some published statements which he found to be injuriously affecting the settlers, to the effect that "Muskoka was strewn with wrecks of Presbyterian buildings." A letter from Mr. W. D. Stark, offering to do missionary work among the foreign labourers on the Muskoka Railway, was referred to Home Mission Committee. The Convener was directed to apply to the Committee for nineteen student missionaries and catechists to labour during summer in the bounds—in addition to eight appointed by the Missionary Societies of Knox College and Montreal Presbyterian College. The Presbytery granted \$50 to Huntsville, \$20 to Spence and Wingham severally from its funds, to aid in church and

manse building in the mission field. Mr. McDonald was authorized to moderate in a call, when desired, at Singhampton and Maple Valley. —ROBERT MOODIE, Pres. Clerk.

KNOX COLLEGE ENDOWMENT.

The following is the report of the canvass for Knox College Endowment to date:

PRESBYTERY.	SUBSCRIBED.	PAID.
Ottawa.....	\$53,462 00	\$21,577 64
Brockville.....	192 00	139 50
Kingston.....	1,435 00	346 00
Lanark.....	3,948 50	3,297 27
Peterboro.....	2,920 75	1,286 66
Whitby.....	4,416 00	2,384 73
Lindsay.....	356 00	91 00
Toronto.....	43,405 65	25,671 17
Barrie.....	2,148 25	612 57
Saugen.....	55 00	19 81
Guelph.....	13,855 20	8,452 14
Hamilton.....	10,892 50	6,337 96
Paris.....	9,263 63	2,880 59
London.....	8,306 48	3,146 87
Chatham.....	2,632 25	721 95
Stratford.....	1,943 50	1,237 67
Huron.....	3,329 00	1,994 59
Maitland.....	3,644 25	1,099 61
Bruce.....	1,084 00	620 81
Sarnia.....	7,244 00	3,036 68
Donations.....	285 75	285 75
Total.....	\$174,909 71	\$85,140 97

It is exceedingly desirable that all subscriptions now due to this Fund should be paid before the end of the financial year, which closes on the 30th of April, and friends who have been acting as local agents would confer a favour by obtaining and remitting as much as possible before that date. Will not friends who have subscribed and who have not yet made payment make an effort to aid local treasurers by paying the amount now due?

DR. REID has received the following anonymous contributions: Friend to Missions, Brantford, Home Missions, \$10; Foreign Missions, Indore, \$5; Trinidad, \$5; Disciple, Scarborough, Foreign Missions, \$20; Home Missions, (North-West) \$20; also from Rev. J. Dunbar, a donation of \$120, for Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.

WHEN two such artists as Clara Louise Kellogg and Agnes Huntington are announced for a concert, supported by the string quartette of the Buffalo Philharmonic, it is not surprising that the sale of tickets should be large. Mr. Gustav Dannreuther, the leader of the quartette, was for years the solo violinist of the Mendelssohn Quartette Club, and the organization he brings here with him is little short of it in artistic merit. The entire programme is one of unusual brilliancy, and the concert will, without doubt, be the musical event of the year.

Sabbath School Teacher.

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

April 19, 1885. PAUL GOING TO ROME. { Acts 28: 1-15.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"He thanked God and took courage."—Acts xviii. 15.

TIME.—Winter, A.D. 60-61.

Incidental Topics.

Melita or Malta. The discussion as to whether this island is Malta in the Mediterranean, or Melita in the Adriatic, on the coast of Illyricum, is closed in favour of the former. It is supposed to have derived its name from the great quantities of honey found there formerly (*Mel*, honey). It is twenty miles long, and twelve broad, having a thin layer of earth, not more than a foot in depth, covering a soft calcareous rock. Much of this earth has been imported from Sicily for the formation of gardens, and yet it is celebrated for oranges, flowers, etc. Its inhabitants are of Phœnician origin, and are hence called Barbarians by the Greeks and Romans.

Syracuse. The capital of Sicily, of Greek origin, and of eminent historic associations. The city consisted of five parts, the first, built on the rocky island *Ortygia*, was very strong. The city grew, by the successive additions of four other parts, to be very large and important. "It baffled the power of Carthage, crushed and captured the proudest fleet sent by Athens in the plenitude of her power, and was overcome by the Romans only by the drunkenness of its guards during the night of the festival of Diana."

Marcellus, the Roman general, when he saw the glory of the city and its impending fate, burst into tears. But the city began to decay from the date of the Roman conquest, and has now a population of only about 17,000, squalid, superstitious and idle. The gorgeous palaces and glittering temples are all gone.

Rhegium. A very ancient city in the south-west of Italy. Few cities can boast of having given birth to so many distinguished statesmen and philosophers or men of such literary and artistic celebrity.

Puteoli. A city on the north angle of the Bay of Naples. Probably got its name from the number of its sulphurous springs. It had a good harbour, and was of great commercial importance—the Liverpool of Italy.

Appian Forum. The "Appian Way" was the most important of the Roman Roads. It extended from Rome to Brundisium. The term *Forum* applied to places where markets were held and courts of justice convened; so this was a small market town in the Appian Way.

Three Taverns. A place for refreshments on the Appian Way, ten miles nearer Rome than the Forum.

Castor and Pollux. The twin sons of Jupiter and Leda. Castor was the most experienced charioteer, and Pollux

the most distinguished pugilist. Regarded by some to be representatives of the sun and moon, or day and night. Also said to be the constellation of the *Gemini* or Twins, and to be the protectors of sailors. This ship, probably, had on its prow the images of these deities whose names it bore.

EXPLANATORY

I. Maltese. As soon as they reached the shore they recognized where they were. The island was very well known to sailors, although not this particular bay to these particular sailors.

(1) *Natural Sympathy*, ver. 2. The inhabitants did what they could to make them comfortable, and nothing was more needed than the warmth of a fire. This sympathy, which is an important part of our nature, becomes a blessed power under the guidance of the Holy Spirit in a renewed soul.

(2) *Maltese Philosophy*, ver. 2-6. Paul was helping himself and others even in this emergency. He gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, when a viper, feeling the fire, fastened its fangs into his hand. The people saw it, and, amongst themselves, drew their conclusions. "Paul must be a very wicked man—probably a murderer—whom justice will not allow to live, even if he did escape the sea." It is an evidence of the universal feeling that sin and punishment are connected.

It is true that *every sin* must in some way be punished, but we go astray (1) in trying to connect the particular punishment with the particular sin, and (2) in assuming that *all suffering* is punishment. Whilst remotely *all suffering* is connected with sin, yet, in the Christian, it has lost the character of punishment. It is for *discipline* or *testimony* to the truth, for the opportunity it affords for Christian fortitude, etc.

Neither the viper nor any other serpent is known on the island now, and tradition says that St. Paul cursed them away. There are frequent instances of reptiles becoming extinct in lands where they were once numerous.

(3) *rewarded*, ver. 8, 6. Paul rewarded the inhabitants by the exercise of miraculous power. *Pubblius*, the chief man of the Island, (probably the Governor) had affliction in his home. His father lay ill with a fever and a bloody flux. Paul prayed over him, laid his hands on him and healed him. The news soon spread and the sick were gathered from the surrounding country, and Paul healed them. Great as this service was, a greater was the Gospel that heals the soul, of which he told them, but with what results we cannot tell. Would that people would go to as much trouble in bringing souls to the Great Healer, as in bringing the sick for the body's sake!

4. *Gratitude*, ver. 9. At first they showed kindness out of natural sympathy. Now they multiply kindness out of gratitude. Yet they did not reach the Christian spirit which actuated Paul. Very important that we be not deceived. How often we hear people pluming themselves on the fact, that they feel disposed to render assistance to the distressed, under the misapprehension that it is Christianity. It is not doing whatsoever we do to the glory of God.

II. The Voyage Completed, ver. 11-15. They spend three months in Malta. The patience of Paul was greatly tried. He had often longed and prayed to see Rome, that he might bear fruit there also. Such eagerness must be impatient of delay. Paul had long cultivated the spirit of submission to the divine will, and for that he had many opportunities of development.

(1) *Ship.* Another Alexandrian ship receives him, which had the good fortune to reach Malta before the cat storm, and wintered there.

(2) *First Stage.* They reach Syracuse and spend three days. Probably Julius, after all that had passed, is more courteous than even at Sidon, and allows Paul to land and to preach the Gospel and perhaps he founded the Church, with which tradition credits him.

(3) *Second Stage.* Either the wind was not favourable, and they had to "beat" or they were becalmed, owing to the shelter of the mountains to their left, and they struck out to sea ("fetched a compass") in order to reach Rhegium.

(4) *Third Stage.* They came the next day to Puteoli, a distance of 182 miles from Rhegium. The points of interest along the journey are numerous. Soon after leaving Rhegium they passed Mount Etna; soon after leaving Rhegium, they saw to their left the volcanic island *Stromboli*, and in passing the Bay of Naples, would see *Vesuvius*, which not long after became active, and amongst its many victims was that Drusilla and her child, to whom Paul so faithfully preached at Caesarea. If we know the future of many of our pupils how much more faithful we would be!

At Puteoli they remained seven days, according to the request of brethren who long desired to see Paul.

(5) *Fourth Stage.* They now leave the ships and go by the most famous of all the famous Roman roads, the Appian Way, called the "Queen of roads."

The brethren at Puteoli sent word to the brethren at Rome that Paul was coming. A deputation came as far as Appii Forum to meet him, a distance of forty miles. Others came to the Three Taverns, thirty miles.

Thanked God and took Courage. A phrase often quoted lightly. What *cause* for thankfulness in this case and what *need* of encouragement? Paul was human and the hardships of this voyage which must have done much towards the breaking up of that frail body, would also reduce his natural buoyancy of spirit. But, especially, it increased his hopes as to the results of his visit, to find friends ready to welcome him.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS

1. How sweet the warmth and rest of heaven to those who suffer for His sake! ver. 2.
2. Watch the enemy that lurks in the best things, ver. 3.
3. Shake off with horror every sinful lust, ver. 5.
4. Every service will bring a certain reward sometime, ver. 8.
5. The ship adorned with heathen divinities bears the Gospel of the true God. "He maketh the wrath of man to praise Him," ver. 11.
6. Thank God first even for the services of men, ver. 15.