

Currie pressed the resignation of his charge and the congregation were cited to appear at the next meeting of Presbytery. The Home Mission Committee with Messrs. Scott and McAlpine added were appointed to consider the question of supply for our mission fields, and submit a scheme at the next meeting of Presbytery. In the meantime instructions were given to sessions of mission stations and vacant charges to have diligent oversight of them and use every effort to have them supplied with Gospel ordinances. Presbytery adjourned to meet on the 17th March and was closed with prayer.—J. SOMERVILLE, *Pres. Clerk*.

**PRESBYTERY OF MAITLAND.**—This Presbytery met at Lucknow on the 16th of December. Rev. John Ross was appointed Moderator. Mr. D. Cameron reported regarding the vacant and supplemented congregations in the Presbytery. Committees were appointed to visit supplemented congregations, and these under the minimum, as follows: Pine River—Messrs. Murray and D. G. Cameron, ministers with their Presbytery elders. St. Andrew's, Lucknow—Messrs. Leask and Sutherland, ministers with their Presbytery elders. Fordwich and Gorrie—Messrs. Brown and Bickell, ministers with their Presbytery elders. Knox Church, Brussels and Walton—Messrs. Leask, McRae and Law, ministers with their Presbytery elders. Langside—Messrs. Sutherland and McNabb. Messrs. Brown and Hartley read excellent reports on the finances and statistics of the Presbytery. The remits of the General Assembly are to be considered at next meeting. It was agreed that the evening of the meeting of the Presbytery in March be set apart for hearing the report on the State of Religion. The report of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbytery, and addresses on the Missions of the Church. That the congregation worshipping in the church in which the meeting of Presbytery is held be invited to attend, and that a collection be taken up in aid of the Presbyterian Society of the Church's Foreign Mission. At the evening sederunt a conference was held on "The Sabbath." The subject was introduced by Mr. Hutton, elder, followed by other members of the Presbytery. The report of the deputation appointed to visit Molesworth and Trowbridge was given in by Mr. McRae. The deputation was re-appointed, with instructions to endeavour to effect a union and report at next meeting. It was agreed to hold a Sabbath School Convention in Knox Church, Lucknow, on Tuesday, the 24th day of February next, all arrangements to be left with the Sunday School Committee of the Presbytery. The circular regarding the Augmentation of Stipend was considered, and congregations urged to attend to this fund.—R. LEASK, *Pres. Clerk*.

**PRESBYTERY OF SAUGEEN.**—The Presbytery of Saugeen met in the Presbyterian Church, Mount Forest, on the 16th ult. Messrs. Morrison, McLeod and Chisholm were appointed to meet with the congregations of Markdale and Flesherton, and confer with them in regard to their respective claims on Valley Church. The following motion was unanimously agreed to: "Regarding the liquor traffic as the cause of a vast amount of sin and misery and one of the greatest strongholds of Satan, we approve of recent legislation to do away with it, and urge the importance of ministers in their different congregations doing all in their power to assist to pass the Scott Act." Messrs. Campbell and Crozier, ministers, and Mr. Joseph Scott, elder, were appointed to consider if a re-arrangement cannot be made among the stations in Egremont, Proton and Normanby. Messrs. Campbell, Aull and Young were appointed a committee to consider the matter of Presbyterial visitations, and prepare a scheme to submit to Presbytery at its next meeting. A basis of union between the two congregations of Durham was read. Commissioners from both congregations were heard. Mr. Park was also heard expressing his perfect willingness to retire to make way for an harmonious union. The articles in the basis of union were approved of by Presbytery. Mr. Park then tendered his resignation of the pastoral charge of the first congregation, Durham. The resignation was accepted to take effect on the third Sabbath in January. Mr. Straith was appointed to preach in Knox Church, Durham, on the first Sabbath of February and declare the union consummated in terms of the basis. Mr. Straith to act as Moderator of Session, Messrs. Mc Kenzie and Dodds to act as Elders of Session, till others are elected and inducted. Mr. Park is to receive \$1,000 of a retiring allowance. Mr. Campbell tendered his resignation as convener of the Presbytery's Home Mission Committee which was accepted and thanks tendered to him for his many years of efficient service in that capacity. Mr. Straith was appointed convener in his place. Minutes anent the resignation of Messrs. MacMillan and Fraser, were read, adopted and ordered to be forwarded to these brethren. It was agreed that each minister take an early opportunity of bringing the subject of Augmentation before his congregation, explain the importance of the matter and urge liberality.—S. YOUNG, *Pres. Clerk*.

**PRESBYTERY OF SARNIA.**—The Presbytery of Sarnia held its regular quarterly meeting in St. Andrew's Church on the 16th ult. Following are the items of business disposed of: A petition was laid on the table and read from parties around McKay's Church explaining why they had

not appeared at Watford when the question of change of church from McKay's to Aberarder was taken up. Messrs. Finlay Smith, Stoop and George Symington were heard. Mr. Finlay McKinlay was heard on behalf of the petitioners. On motion of Mr. Cuthbertson, seconded by Mr. Thompson, it was agreed that inasmuch as all the necessary steps had been taken in the interests of all concerned, nevertheless, as it appears that from oversight on the part of the opposition, no steps had been taken to represent their views at Watford, the Presbytery agree to take into consideration their explanation, and proceed to hear parties in the matter. The parties were heard in the above order. It was then agreed, on motion of Mr. Cuthbertson, that the Presbytery having heard parties in the matter of changing the site of the church from McKay's to Aberarder, express their conviction that nothing has been advanced to alter their decision, but rather to confirm the wisdom of their action, and hereby reaffirm their former finding. At the request of the session of Alvinston and Napier, the Presbytery appointed a deputation to visit and confer with certain Gaelic speaking people in the Township of Brooke, belonging to the Presbyterian Church, within the bounds of this Presbytery, anent their relation to this Presbytery and to the congregation of Alvinston, said deputation to consist of Messrs. Currie, Cameron, and D. L. Leitch, Strathroy, with Mr. Johnston, convener. Leave was granted to Camlachie, Adelaide, and Arkona to have calls moderated in, if necessary, before the next ordinary meeting. The following deputations were appointed to visit congregations receiving augmentation supplement: Mandaumin, Mr. Cuthbertson; Forest, Mr. Currie; Point Edward, Mr. McAdam; Arkona and Adelaide, Mr. Cameron. In holding missionary meetings each congregation was directed to make its own arrangements for holding meetings and moderators of vacancies were directed to attend to such vacancies and mission stations. The afternoon sederunt was occupied with the report on the State of Religion, which was given in by Mr. Thompson. It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Presbytery at Strathroy, on the second Tuesday in March; at two o'clock p.m., remits to be considered and elders' commissions received.—G. CUTHBERTSON, *Pres. Clerk*.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.**—Rev. Dr. Reid has received the following contributions for Schemes of the Church, viz.:—Young Friend of Mr. Jamieson's, at Normanby, for Formosa, \$1; Friend, Norval, for French Evangelization, \$1; Member of Union Church, \$1.50 for Foreign Missions; Friend, Vernon, for Foreign Missions, \$5, and for Home Missions, \$5.

## Sabbath School Teacher.

### INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

Jan. 25. } **PAUL GOING TO JERUSALEM.** { Acts xxi. 1-14.  
1885. }

**GOLDEN TEXT.**—"The will of the Lord be done"—Acts xxi. 14.

**TIME.**—April and May, A.D. 58.

**GEOGRAPHICAL.**—*Cos, or Cos:* a small island forty miles south of Miletus. It is about twenty-five miles long and ten broad. Had a medical school famous on account of being connected with the name of Esculapius.

**Rhodes.**—An island of great beauty, about fifty miles south east of Cos. Its situation at the south west angle of Asia Minor, between the two seas, made it a commercial emporium. Besides commerce they cultivated literature, arts and science, and Roman nobles made it their university, as Athens, formerly. The Colossus was a brazen statue of Apollo, 105 feet high, between the legs of which ships could pass. It was completed 280 B.C. and sixty years after demolished by an earthquake.

**PATARA.**—A seaport town on the river Xanthus. It carried on an extensive trade with Syria, Egypt and Cyprus. Famous for its oracle of Apollo.

**Tyre:** A very ancient city, Josephus says, built 230 years before Solomon's Temple. It was a double city, built partly on an island and partly in the mainland. The circumference of the whole being nineteen miles. It had two harbours, the northern, called the Sidonian, and the southern, the Egyptian. They were partly natural and partly made by prodigious breakwaters, and connected through the city by a canal. Associated with Bible history from David's time. Nebuchadnezzar besieged it for thirteen years after the destruction of Jerusalem. It is uncertain whether it was actually taken, but Alexander the Great took it by building a mole across the strait. He massacred 8,000 of the inhabitants, sold 3,000 into slavery, crucified 3,000 in retaliation for the death of certain Macedonians during the siege. For the haughtiness, pride and luxury of Tyre in her glory, see Ezek. xxvii. Her extensive commercial relations made her overthrow shock the trade of the world from England to India.

Now, Tyre has a population of only 3,000, and her fleet has dwindled to a few fishing boats and in fulfilment of prophecy, fishermen spread their nets on the ruins of ancient palaces.

**Casarea:** On the plains of Sharon, seventy miles from Jerusalem, built by Herod the Great as a harbour for ships. It had at one time a population of 200,000, but is now the most desolate site in Palestine. It has most interesting Scripture associations. There, the door was open to the

Gentiles in the house of Cornelius. Paul and Peter took refuge there from enemies. Paul imprisoned there for two years. The home of Philip the Evangelist. It was there that Herod Agrippa was eaten up of worms.

### EXPLANATORY.

1. *The journey to Tyre.* Noticed.

1. The fact that Paul found a ship at Patara ready to sail into Phœnicia would not be called "good luck" by him, but would be recognized as part of the divine arrangement enabling him to pursue his journey.

2. That every step in the journey is worthy of record in an inspired volume. Every step in our lives is recorded in the book that shall be opened on that day. A comfort to them whose steps are rightly ordered. Malachi iii. 16; Is. xlix.

4. There will be a reward as to Mordecai, when the chronicles were read. It is a warning to the thoughtless. Ps. cxxxix. 2, 3.

11. *Visit at Tyre.*

1. "Finding disciples," or having found the disciples. The apostle wishing to make the best use of his time went to the Church as the base of operations. He did not wait to be asked, but used his opportunity. It is as wrong not to act or speak, when the Spirit impels us, as to insist on being prominent when the Spirit commands silence.

2. "Said to Paul through the Spirit that he should not go to Jerusalem," and yet Paul was constrained by the same Spirit to go to Jerusalem. It may be explained. (1.) As a conditional decree. "If Paul goes to Jerusalem," etc., hence they try to dissuade him. (2.) And no doubt in the true explanation they allowed the Spirit's revelation to be affected by their own personal feelings. And this is an instance explanatory of the text, "The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets." Our own constitutional activities are not suspended when the Holy Spirit works. But Paul's clear preception of the mind of the Spirit, owing to the complete surrender of his own will, did not allow him to be mistaken.

3. *The parting.* Paul had many an affecting parting. He was escorted by men, women and children to the shore, where they had a farewell prayer meeting. It was mutual comfort. Paul's sensitive nature could keenly appreciate all such tender sympathy. This is the first time children are mentioned in the Christian Churches. They saw what they would never forget.

111. *At Ptolemais.* A town now of about 10,000 inhabitants, called after Ptolemy, king of Egypt. The ancient Accho, now, Acre. Paul only spent one day here, but who can tell what one day's work may bring forth? That the time was so short made the apostle more energetic. It was probably one of his busiest days. Time is short, be up and doing, for the night cometh.

1V. *Visit at Casarea.*

1. *Home of Philip:* An evangelist bore the same relation to the Church as the modern missionary does. He was one of the seven deacons whose election is recorded in chap. vi. He travelled for a time. Chap. viii. 26, 40, and then probably settled as the pastor of the church at Casarea.

2. "Four daughters virgins who did prophecy." A happy family, such as Paul or any one of Paul's spirit would like to visit.

"Virgins." Nothing said to justify the use of this family reference in favour of the doctrine of the "honour of virginity." If so, the same reference may be used in dishonour of the celibacy of the clergy. Philip was married.

"Did prophecy." The fulfilment of prophecy. Joel ii. 28; Acts ii. 17. This extraordinary bestowment does not decide the question whether women ought to take part in public ministrations. It was to women, possessed of such gifts that Paul commended silence in the Church. 1 Cor. xiv. 34. Moreover, we have no information as to what part these women took.

3. *Agabus:* A prophet, whose acquaintance was made in Chap. xi. 28. The gift of prophecy, as in this case, revealed the future, but its principal function was teaching. It was an exalted, authoritative teaching, that was most effective in the conversion of souls.

"Paul's girdle." A symbolical style of teaching much used by the old prophets, and also by Christ when He washed the disciples' feet. See Isaiah walking bare footed for three years, Chap. xx. 3. Jeremiah huting his girdle in a hole in the rock by the Euphrates, Chap. xiii. 4, 5. Zedekiah's horns of iron. 1 Kings xxii. 11, etc. We have the same methods in the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper.

4. *Paul's answer to their importunity:* ver. 13. No danger would cause the hero to swerve from the path of duty. "I set my face like a flint and I know that I shall not be ashamed," said Christ, in contemplating the coming agony. Isa. l. 7. "He set His face steadfastly to go to Jerusalem." Luke xix. 51. "I am a man," said Frederick the Great, "therefore born to sorrow; but to the rigour of destiny I oppose my own constancy, and menaced with shipwreck, I will brave the tempest, and think, and live, and die, as a king." The true spirit, if instead of "his own constancy" he had said, "the faithfulness of God."

"The will of the Lord be done." The Lord's Prayer then in use. An expression often used when there is no alternative possible. But with Paul and those Christians when quickened by Paul's conduct, it was the ruling principle, when it was possible to have their own will. Our prayer should be:

"Control my will from day to day,  
Blend it with Thine, and take away,  
Whatever makes it hard to say,  
Thy will be done."

**Suggestions.**—1. Connection with Gospel work has immortalized these places forgotten in history. Make yourself an enduring name.

2. Practice prayer, silent or audible, when parting with friends.

3. Entertain strangers and let intercourse be profitable.

4. Have courage in opposing difficulties.

5. "Give in" always to the Spirit. "They that are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God."