

prophets who wrote them could not have foreseen all that was in the mind of the spirit by whom they were indited. The verses referred to are here said to apply to Christ. But they also had a more immediate reference to Christ's covenant people, who, on the ground of their relation to him, are members of his mystical body. "Why persecutest thou me?" Ver. 15; Hosea ii. 1.

V. 18.—Compare Jer. xxxi. 15, 16, with Jer. xl. 1. Rachel, the wife of Jacob, had been buried near Rama. In the striking imagery of the prophet, she is represented as mourning for her children led into captivity.

V. 23.—"He shall be called a Nazarine." Cannot tell certainly what prophecy is here referred to. Observe, the words are not quoted as spoken by a particular prophet, as in the other two cases, but what was spoken by the prophets in general. The name Nazarene was applied to Christ on account of his living in Nazareth. It was used as a term of reproach by his enemies.

V. 22.—Archelaus seems to have inherited the cruelty of his father. He massacred three thousand Jews in the temple, at one time. No wonder Joseph was afraid to trust him. Philip, his brother, who ruled in some of the tribes farther north, was a person more deserving of confidence.

#### LESSONS.

1. The wicked are ready to go any length for the gratification of their sinful and malignant passions.

2. The longer sin is indulged, the greater is the ascendancy it obtains.

3. Sin, sooner or later, brings deserved punishment.

4. God can make even the wrath of man to praise him; while he over-rules it for the accomplishment of his wise and holy purposes.

5. Those who follow the directions of God are safe.

#### FOURTH SABBATH.

SUBJECT: *Jesus and the Doctors.* Luke ii. 40-52.

Jesus, as man, made progress in knowledge by the study of divine truth. When he had arrived at the age of twelve years, it became his duty, as a Jew, to attend the feast of the Passover. How inexpressibly interesting to him must every part of that ancient and suggestive service have been! Knowing that the ordinance was typical—and probably feeling that all those things must have their fulfilment in him, how careful he would be to understand all. New trains of thought are started; and now, in the midst of the recognized teachers of religion, he avails himself of the opportunity to make enquiries—while, in his turn, he imparts such instruction as the questions

put to him would warrant. Christ is often represented, as on this occasion, "disputing with the doctors;" but the narrative does not authorize this view. His modesty as a youth seems to have been as conspicuous as his extraordinary knowledge of the things of God.

V. 46.—"In the midst, &c." The seats of the teachers were arranged in the form of a semicircle, while enquirers, &c., occupied the open space immediately before them. Acts xxii. 3. Jesus was, no doubt, moved by a divine impulse, to protract his visit at the temple. Hence his answer to his mother, (v. 49) which, while reminding her that obedience to his father in heaven must control his conduct, still recognizes her right to exercise over him parental authority. But "God manifest in the flesh" is a great mystery. There is much that we dare not attempt to explain. There was much that Joseph and Mary could only wonder at while they waited for more light.

#### LESSONS.

1. The time of youth is the proper season to acquire religious knowledge.

2. It is the duty of the young to listen to the instructions of the accredited teachers of religion.

3. Modesty of demeanor is not only christlike, but also lovely in the eyes of our fellow-beings.

4. Respect for the authority of parents is essential to the christian character, and is an evidence of increase in true wisdom.

5. Even when we cannot fully comprehend the words of Christ we should treasure them up in our hearts.

## News of the Church.

#### Theological Hall.

The seventeenth session of the Theological Hall, Halifax, was brought to a close on Tuesday the 8th of April. Seventeen students were in attendance during the session, viz.: 10 of the third year, 3 of the second and 4 of the first. The 10 who have completed their curriculum are Messrs A. McL. Sinclair, A. J. Mowitt, A. Simpson, A. Glendinning, J. Hogg, A. R. Garvie, J. W. Nelson, A. Christie, J. Sinclair, and H. Archibald. All these are already employed as probationers with the exception of Messrs. Nelson and Christie, who desired some time to recruit their exhausted energies, and Mr. Garvie has charge of a school in Halifax. Messrs. McL. Sinclair and Mowitt, have been appointed by the Home Mission Board to the Pictou Pres-