

warm feelings of the congregation towards him, and especially acknowledging the value of the services he had rendered to the congregation as its moderator.

**PRESBYTERY OF SAUGEEN**—This Presbytery met in Knox church, Mount Forest, on the 19th December. The Moderator's term of office having expired, Mr. Niven was appointed Moderator for the next six months. Messrs. Young and Frazer were appointed a deputation to visit Cotswood to ascertain the state of matters there and report to Presbytery. The members present reported anent the different schemes of the church, to which their congregations had so far contrived. The following motions of condolence were passed: *First*. "That the Presbytery have heard with great sorrow of the death of the Rev. William Lohead, a member of this court, who, although retired from the active duties of the ministry, after long years of faithful service, still took a deep interest in whatever pertained to the advancement of the cause of Christ, and has been a very useful elder in connection with Knox church, Harriston. We commend the aged widow and the family to the God of all grace, and extend to them our sympathy in this bereavement, and instruct the clerk to send a copy of this minute to Mrs. Lohead." *Second*. "That the sympathy of the Presbytery be expressed and extended to Mr. Isaac Starratt, a ruling elder and member of this court, in his present bereavement by the death of his beloved wife, and that the clerk be instructed to communicate the same to Mr. Starratt." Messrs. McMillan and Fraser, ministers, and Mr. McArchin, elder, were appointed a committee to prepare a deliverance "On methods of appointing standing committees," and Messrs. Young and Stewart, ministers, and Mr. Neill, elder, were appointed to prepare a deliverance "On Board of Examination." Answers to questions on state of religion to be sent to Mr. McMillan, Mount Forest, and on Sabbath schools, to Mr. Aull, Palmerston. The Presbytery adjourned, to meet in Guthrie church, Harriston, on the second Tuesday of March, 1883, at two o'clock, p. m.—S. YOUNG, Pres. Clerk.

#### TOPICS FOR THE WEEK OF PRAYER.

The Evangelical Alliance recommend the following list of subjects for the Week of Prayer from January 7 to the 14th inclusive:

**SUNDAY, JAN. 7.**—Sermons: "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave Himself a ransom for all."—I Tim. ii, 5 6.

**MONDAY, JAN. 8.**—Praise and Thanksgiving: For the long-suffering love and faithfulness of God, and for His continued mercy and goodness; for the progress of the Gospel, the continued presence of the Holy Spirit; for the large measure of peace among the nations; and for all temporal blessings. Psalm ciii.; Isa. xxv.; Psalm cvii.; I Thess. i. chap.; Psalm xxxvi., from 5th verse.

**TUESDAY, JAN. 9.**—Humiliations and Confessions: In view of unfaithfulness to Christ, divisions among the Lord's people, and want of brotherly love; of pride, self-will and worldliness; of National sins, especially intemperance and licentiousness, the desecration of the Lord's Day, the spread of scepticism and infidelity, and the prevalence of disorder and violent crime. Psalm li, and cxxx.; Jerem. xiv. 7 to 10 and 20 to 23; Luke xv.; Lam. iii. 22 to 41; Hosea xiv.; James iv.; I Cor. vi.

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10.**—Prayer for families: For parents, children and the household,—that all connected with the training and education of the young may be deeply impressed with the vital importance of Scripture instruction, and that the absolute need of the power of the Holy Spirit in all departments of this great work may be realized; for the cultivation of every moral virtue, for integrity, purity and piety in the home life; and for a special blessing upon Sunday schools. Deut. vi. 1 to 16; Psalm cxvii.; Ephes. vi. 1 to 18; Deut. xxxiii. 12 to 16 and 24 to 29; Prov. viii.; I John xiv. 12 to 17.

**THURSDAY, JAN. 11.**—Prayer for the Church Universal: For the outpouring of the Holy Spirit,—that all ministers of Christ and those preparing for the ministry may deeply realize their responsibilities and the need of the Spirit's teaching and power; that their testimony before the world may be open and faithful; that sound doctrine and holiness of heart and life may prevail in the churches, and false teaching and superstition be counteracted; that all the children of God may be filled with earnestness and zeal in seeking to

gather in the lost, for a rich blessing upon efforts to promote union and brotherly love, and for afflicted Christians everywhere. Joel ii. 23 to 31; Acts ii. 32 to 41; Isa. lv.; Ephes. iii. 14 to 21; I Cor. xii. 1 to 13; John xv. 12 to 27; Phil. ii. 1 to 16; Psalm xcv.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 12.**—Prayer for the Nations: For sovereigns, rulers and magistrates; that all laws favourable to cruelty and vice, the opium traffic and intemperance, may be abolished; for the better observance of the Lord's Day, for peace and good will among men, that all may yield obedience to the powers that be, and that the spirit of lawlessness may be subdued; for the cessation of war; that the pursuit of literature, science and art may be influenced by the fear of God; that all people may be turned from their sins, saved from unbelief and brought to know Christ as their Saviour; that God's ancient people the Jews may be delivered from their oppressions, and all persecuted Christians be relieved. Matt. v. 1 to 16; Prov. xvi. 1 to 13; Rom. xiii.; Psalm cxliv.; I Peter ii. 13 to 25; I Tim. ii. 1 to 21; Acts x. 34 to 48; Rom. xiv. 1 to 19; Jerem. xxx.; Mark x. 28 to 45.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 13.**—Prayer for Missions. That all missionaries and others engaged in mission work and in the circulation of the Scriptures at home and abroad may be filled with the Holy Spirit, and that great success may crown their efforts; that all converts may be kept steadfast in the faith, and made earnest and efficient in seeking to bring souls to the Saviour; that many more faithful labourers may be called into the Lord's vineyard that the Mahomedans and the heathen may be won to Christ, and that the Jews may be constrained to receive Him as their long expected Messiah. That the blessing of God and the power of the Spirit may abundantly rest upon the Conference of Christians of various nations proposed to be held in Stockholm. Luke xxiv. 36 to 53; Luke x. 1 to 16; John xvi. 1 to 15; Acts xi. 1 to 21; Psalm cx. and Psalm c.; Rom. xi.; Ezek. xxxvii. 11 to 28; Isa. lii. 7 to 15.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 14.**—Sermons: "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the Great God our Saviour Jesus Christ." Titus ii. 19.

**NOTE.**—It is suggested that at meetings pauses for silent prayer should be allowed, that each person may supply what cannot be expressed publicly. This is especially needed in confession and in prayer for families, and for the afflicted.

## SABBATH SCHOOL TEACHER.

### INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

December 31st.

No lesson was chosen by the Lesson Committee for this Sabbath, having the idea, perhaps, that schools would, mostly, take this last day of the year for special services in some shape. Several of the lesson-note publishers agreed upon a lesson from Isaiah 11: 1-9. "The kingdom of Peace;" as we think, however, for the reason stated, that it is not likely to be used by many schools, we do not give any notes upon it.

#### LESSON I.

Jan. 7th, 1883.

#### THE ASCENDING LORD.

(Acts i. 1-14.)

**GOLDEN TEXT.**—"And when He had spoken these things, while they beheld, He was taken up."—Acts i. 9.

**NOTES.**—Acts, written by Luke, a physician, a companion of Paul, and writer of the third Gospel. The book of Acts was written about A.D. 63, probably at Rome. (See Introduction, page 4). Theophilus—lover of God, not a title for any believer, but a real person, though not a Jew, nor a resident of Palestine; He was, no doubt, a Roman of rank, for he is called "most excellent" (Luke i. 3), a title of honour applied to Felix and to Festus; tradition says He lived in Italy. Jerusalem—place or possession of peace, the capital and chief city of the Jews; founded by the Canaanites; taken by David and made his capital; enlarged by Solomon and others; repeatedly taken by Israel's enemies; in the time of Christ it was subject to the Roman empire; was destroyed by Titus; again rebuilt; fell into the hands of the Turks; present population is about 25,000. Judæa, Samaria, Galilee, the southern, central, and northern divisions of Palestine. (See Schaff's Dictionary of the Bible). Olivet, a noted mountain ridge, two miles east of Jerusalem, and having several peaks; and central peak, or mount of ascension, is 2652 feet above the sea. The Ascension. At the foot of Olivet the Saviour saw Gethsemane and His awful sorrow; near its top He ascended to glory. Says Dr. South, "Depressed before advanced, crucified before enthroned, passing through the valley of tears to the region of hallelujahs." The redeemed beheld Gethsemane, Calvary, the cross, the resurrection, and do not stop gazing at these successive divine wonders until they see the glorious ascension.

**I. THE FORTY DAYS.**—Ver. 1.—Began: Jesus began

the teaching of Christianity personally. this Book show how He continued it through the Holy Spirit, by the Apostles and first Christians.

**Ver. 2.**—Taken up: the Father is often said to have "raised" Jesus, and "taken" Him, thus showing us how pleased and satisfied He was with Jesus' work for us. A strong consolation for poor sinners!

**Ver. 3.**—Passion: sufferings. Speaking: probably a much larger amount of teaching, in those forty days, than we are apt to think. And now their eyes began to be opened. Nearness to the unseen world is a great quickener of our perceptions.

**Ver. 4.**—Assembled: they met Him (probably the five hundred in Galilee—1 Cor. 15: 6). They were to wait for further illumination. Sometimes our highest duty is just with patience to wait. "He also serves, who only stands and waits."—Milton.

**Ver. 5.**—Baptized: there should be a great Revival, as in John's time, three or four years before. John testified of this—Matt. 3: 11. Not many days. He encouraged them that they would not need to wait long. Perhaps they were impatient to go and tell what they did know, but their knowledge was imperfect.

**Ver. 6.**—Restore: still they hoped for an earthly kingdom. The Christian's best citizenship is that of heaven.

**Ver. 7.**—To know: such knowledge would only divert us from present duty. It is better in God's power.

**Ver. 8.**—Power: A different kind of power from what they and the Jews had been looking for. A power we should seek and use every day of our lives.

**II. THE ASCENSION.**—Ver. 9.—Taken up: from some part of the Mount of Olives. Jesus is now in His glorified human body in heaven. So are Enoch and Elijah. A threefold evidence of our coming glory, body as well as spirit. Cloud: we may not be wrong in believing that this was the bright cloud of God's presence:—through the Red Sea; in the Desert; in the Temple; and in which He will come at the last day.

**Ver. 10.**—Two men: angels. They are often nearer to us than we think. They were no doubt there; and round about Elisha (2 Kings 6: 17); and in the tomb (John 20). Before: they were seen. Our souls need to be in a certain state of faith and love, to receive certain blessings.

**Ver. 11.**—Gazing: they seemed unwilling to conclude that their Master had left them. But they saw only the beginning of His return home. We may see indications of the end of the journey in Psalm 24: 7-10.

**III. WAITING FOR THE BLESSING.**—Ver. 12.—Returned: from whatever manifestations of God's presence and glory we have while on earth, to "return" to prayer and duty. A Sabbath day's journey: was 2,000 paces, or about a mile. The Rabbins allowed a man to go that far and return.

**Ver. 13.**—Upper room: some large second or third storey room they used for a place of meeting; perhaps the same where they made ready the Passover for Jesus; some of them might sleep here; John and others might have hired-houses, or rooms, in the city (John 19: 27).

**Ver. 14.**—Prayer and supplication: their only present duty was to pray, which, perhaps, they did, night and day, scarcely taking time to sleep. Mary: Jesus' mother was with them; no doubt now a widow. She, too, a sinner saved by grace, prayed with the rest. Extraordinary prayer is sure to be followed by extraordinary blessings. A great revival took place at a sacramental occasion in Scotland, a century or two ago; hundreds were converted; afterwards it came to be known that the young man whose sermon was so blessed, had, with some others, spent the whole of the preceding night in an agony of prayer for a blessing on the morrow.

#### PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

1. Christ rising from the dead became our life and resurrection.
2. He prepared for heaven by talking of the kingdom of God; so may His people now.
3. They were to wait for the promise of the Father: so His people may expect the Holy Ghost now.
4. The disciples were specially interested in a temporal kingdom: in Christ's presence how often Christians are thinking of worldly success!
5. Longing disciples have angel visitors: looking to Christ brings unexpected blessings.
6. Present loss may lead us to know of greater glories in the future.
7. Unity in prayer brings the Holy Spirit in power upon God's people.

### LOOK FOR THE ASCENDED LORD. PRAY UNITEDLY for the HOLY GHOST.

[NOTE.—The quotations from the text, in heavy-faced type, are the shortest possible: to save space. But the explanation, it will be seen, is not limited to the single word quoted. The word directs attention to the part of the verse under notice.]

THERE can be little doubt, says the "Outlook," that evil days are preparing for our Christian brethren in Madagascar. The members of the Embassy from the Queen now in Europe are being given to understand very clearly that France does not recognize the sovereignty of their mistress, except over a small portion of the island, and there is not the least hope, we are told, that their representations will be heeded. The French theory is that Queen Ranavola is sovereign only of the Hovas, and that France is free to do as she pleases with other tribes who inhabit the island.