

able consideration of the board, to be applied on a manse at Glenboro'. Agreed also to recommend to the favourable consideration of the board a loan of \$300 for a church at McGregor when the conditions are fulfilled. It was agreed, upon request, to revive the interim session of Brandon and add the names of Messrs. Duncan and Hodges to the session, and empower the moderator, Mr. Fraser, to convene the session as business demanded. The board of management of Brandon congregation asked permission to borrow \$4,000 on the church property for the payment and consolidation of debts, instead of \$3,000 as agreed upon at the time of union of the First Church and Knox Church. It was agreed to authorize a loan of \$3,500. Leave of absence was granted Mr. Stalker for two months on account of the effect of the winter upon his health. Leave of absence for six months was also granted Mr. Omand on account of sickness. Messrs. Hargrave and Laird were received from the Winnipeg Presbytery as members of Brandon Presbytery. An application for a loan of \$150 for a church at Binscarth was recommended to the favourable consideration of the board. The resignation of the session of Knox Church, Portage la Prairie, was submitted, and after a little consideration it was agreed to receive the same and lay it on the table till the next meeting of the Presbytery. Mr. McTavish reported for the Foreign Mission committee, recommending that steps be taken to purchase the property used as an Indian school at Portage for \$500. Report and recommendation adopted. Mr. Murray reported that he had moderated in a call to a minister at Rosedale; in favour of Rev. J. L. Hargrave at a stipend of \$700. The call was sustained and placed in the hands of Mr. Hargrave, who accepted the same and the Presbytery arranged for his induction to take place Friday, the 4th January. Leave was granted Brandon congregation to moderate in a call to a minister at their convenience, and Mr. Fraser was appointed to attend to the same. Mr. Hargrave was authorized to erect a session in Rosedale; Mr. Simpson at Shellmouth and Minniska; Mr. Haig at Treherne, and Mr. Currie at Elkhorn, and that the above named ministers be moderators of the sessions when erected. Mr. Mowat was appointed moderator of the Strathclair session. It was agreed that augmented congregations be dealt with in the interests of food before the March meeting of the Presbytery, and that the home mission committee make the necessary arrangements. It was agreed that Mr. D. H. Atcheson be taken under the care of the Presbytery of Brandon as a student in theology, and that the home mission committee provide him work in the meantime. A petition was read from a few persons in the Strathclair congregation, including the elders, asking an investigation of affairs at Okanase mission and re-organization of the Strathclair mission. It was agreed unanimously that owing to the disrespectful statements contained therein, reflecting on this Presbytery and the Foreign Mission committees of the church, that the document be not received. A petition signed by twenty-two members and adherents of the church, and another signed by twenty-two of the Indians on the Okanase reserve, praying that no change be made at present in the management of affairs at Okanase, was received and remitted to the Foreign Mission Committee. The Home Mission report was submitted by Mr. Todd. The leading points are as follows: Consideration of the report of the Synod and Home Mission Committee concerning claims of fields within the bounds of the Presbytery; also consideration of items in report of Assembly committee affecting work of Presbytery; claim of Presbytery upon Foreign Mission Committee for \$135 for work done at Beulan be committee to the Foreign Mission Committee for payment; that Mr. Marsh be requested to look to Winnipeg Presbytery for claim for travelling expenses; that Pipestone be supplied by a student during the Christmas holidays; also Lakeside, Roseland, mouth of the Saskatchewan and Kenmay; that Mr. Duncan visit the field, and request people to take a student to the field from Brandon as condition of supply; that Mr. Patterson supply Alexander; that Mr. Coulter supply Rapid City after Sabbath next, and that Rapid City and Shanks be separated during the winter, the latter to be supplied by Mr. Smith during the winter; that Messrs. Haig and Mowat visit Strathclair and report to the Home Mission committee, and the supply be left in the hands of the Home Mission Committee; the supply of Treherne and Arden also be left with the Home Mission Committee. The committee appointed to allocate amounts for schemes of the church reported, and the report was adopted by the Presbytery. The Presbytery then adjourned to meet at Portage la Prairie on the second Monday of March at half past seven in the evening.—S. C. MURRAY, Pres. Clerk.

FOREIGN MISSION COMMITTEE.

A special meeting of the Presbyterian Foreign Mission Committee was held in Toronto last week. The following members were in attendance:—Rev. Dr. Wardrop, Convener; Mr. Hamilton Casels, Secretary; Rev. Drs. MacVicar, Moore, McLaren, Reid and Fraser; Revs. G. Barson, A. A. Scott, A. D. McDonald, J. A. Murray, D. D. McLeod, G. M. Milligan; Messrs. Forbes, C. Davidson and Dr. McDonald.

Letters of apology for unavoidable absence, from Revs. Principal Grant and James Barclay, were read.

The committee was much disappointed that no further communications had been received from the Formosa missionaries in reply to the questions referred to them after the September meeting. After hearing the correspondence in the case and fully discussing the question of Mr. Jamieson's position, the committee arrived at the following conclusion:—The committee having considered a series of nine letters from the Rev. J. Jamieson of various dates from 17th August to 11th September, 1888, regret to gather from them that Mr. Jamieson during a residence of more than four years has not been able to acquire an adequate knowledge of the language or to render any really useful service to the mission, and are of opinion that it is inexpedient for him to remain any longer in connection with the mission; but in view of the fact that no answer has been received from Mr. Jamieson or Dr. McKay in reference to the committee's resolution of September 27th, remit the matter to the executive with instructions, should no new element of serious moment emerge in the correspondence, that the Executive Committee be instructed to issue the matter not later than the first week in February.

Dr. MacVicar reported on behalf of the Committee on Regulations for Missionaries. The report recommended that the local missionaries should possess the degree of M. D. or its equivalent, and produce a certificate of recommendation from the Presbytery in whose bounds they reside.

It was reported that a lady whose name was withheld desired to give several thousand dollars towards a mission to the Jews. Application for an appointment was made on behalf of Mr. Samuel Gries, a converted Jewish rabbi, at present a member of Dr. Hall's church in New York.

A committee appointed for the purpose reported the following resolution with reference to the recently lamented death of the Rev. Mr. Baillier, which was unanimously adopted:—

In the early death of the Rev. Joseph Baillier, B. A., the church has lost one of her most faithful sons, as also a very devoted and zealous missionary. His death occurred on the 4th of November last whilst on his way south for the purpose of recruiting his health. Mr. Baillier possessed those qualities of mind and heart which rendered him a kind friend, a genial companion, and a faithful minister of Jesus Christ. He was designated and ordained to the mission field of Central India about five years ago. He proceeded thither and did work which was much valued by this committee. He was compelled to return to Canada through severe illness. He laid down his chosen work in the good hope that he would be permitted to return again after a season of rest; but the Great Head of the church ordered otherwise; and whilst we record these facts in connection with the life and recent lamented death of our brother, we desire to extend the most sincere and heart-felt sympathy to the bereaved widow and family, commending them to the care of our Heavenly Father, who is the Father of the fatherless and the husband of the widow. It was

agreed also, in consideration of the special circumstances of the case, to continue to Mrs. Baillier for a short time the usual allowance made to missionaries while on furlough.

Regarding the case of Miss Ross, a missionary who returned from India without consulting the committee, it was decided to overlook the irregularity and send her back to India upon the restoration of her health.

Rev. Dr. J. B. Frazer was offered the appointment of missionary to the Chinese in British Columbia, and stated that he would consider the matter earnestly and give his decision as early as possible.

Dr. Reid read a financial statement, from which it appears that the contributions received up to the 25th of December this year were \$1,400 more than at the same date last year, but at the same time the expenditure necessitated by special expenses incurred on account of the exceptional and rapid expansion of our work and the sending out of so many missionaries this year is \$12,000 in excess of that of last year at the same date.

The details of expenditure are as follows:—

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| On account of Indians in Manitoba and the North-West | \$ 6,000 |
| Formosa | 14,000 |
| India | 22,000 |
| Honan | 7,400 |
| All other expenses | 1,700 |
| Total | \$ 51,100 |

About \$5,000 of the expenses of India are exceptional on account of the number of new missionaries sent out this year—the expenses being much larger the year a missionary is sent out than any succeeding year. The expenses for Honan are large this year for the same reason.

THE INDORE COLLEGE.

A communication was read from Rev. John Wilkie stating that the Missionary Council at its last meeting had resolved to close the Indore Mission College at the end of the next term. Mr. Wilkie desired instructions from the committee, and, after deliberation, a resolution was adopted to defer taking action in the matter in the absence of official information from the council.

A letter was received from Rev. Dr. Warden, Montreal, informing the committee of the wish of Mr. David Yuille, of Montreal, to maintain a missionary to China at his own expense for five years, and his willingness to provide at the rate of \$1,000 per annum for a single or \$1,200 for a married man. The offer was cordially accepted, and the following resolution with reference to it was passed: The letter of Dr. Warden conveying the offer of Mr. Yuille to pay the salary of a missionary in China for five years, having been received, it was resolved to recognize gratefully the liberality of Mr. Yuille, accept his offer and to send out a missionary as soon as the necessary travelling and incidental expenses can be provided for. Owing to the exceptional expenses of the work during the year, the committee hesitates to increase expenditure without a fair prospect of a corresponding increase of income, but hope that this difficulty may be removed before the next meeting of the committee, by the contributions yet to be received this winter. In connection with this offer the name of Mr. M. McKenzie, who completes his course this year in Montreal College, is mentioned. Both Dr. MacVicar and Dr. Warden bear the highest testimony to Mr. McKenzie's qualifications for the work—his strength, sense, spirituality, zeal, and thorough devotion. It is ardently hoped that many of our wealthy men may follow Mr. Yuille's noble example, and that funds may be promptly provided for the travelling and other incidental expenses of sending out Mr. McKenzie.

Other important matters were submitted to the Executive and several were deferred until the next general meeting, which will be held in May.

MONTREAL NOTES.

The customary New Year's gathering of the Presbyterian Sabbath schools of the city was held on Tuesday morning in Crescent Street Church, which was crowded in every part. It is estimated that about 2,500 children were present, besides the teachers and a large number of parents and friends. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. Murray Smith, President of the Presbyterian Sabbath School Association, and addresses were delivered by Rev. Messrs. Barclay and Jordan, and Mr. R. Johnston, B. A., of the Presbyterian College. Each scholar was presented with a sermonette by the Rev. A. B. Mackay on "The blessing of Assher" neatly covered and in an envelope. The weather was very mild, as indeed it has been almost the whole winter thus far.

Speaking of the weather reminds one of the Carnival to be held in the city on the first week of February. The lack of suitable ice consequent on the mild season is likely to operate against the ice palace, and unless we have zero weather within the next few days it will be difficult to complete the proposed structure in time. Should the carnival itself fall through it would not be a matter of regret to the better class of our citizens, many of whom believe it to be injurious in its tendencies and hurtful to the moral well being of our people.

On Saturday of last week the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Campbell celebrated their silver wedding. They held an "at home" in their house in the afternoon, when a large number of their friends called to congratulate them and to wish them many returns of the anniversary of their marriage. During the evening they were presented with addresses by the members of the congregation of St. Gabriel Church, and also by the Bible class, accompanied with several handsome pieces of silver plate and about \$200 in silver half dollars. The silverware gifts from a large circle of friends were numerous and beautiful.

The Rev. C. Chiniquy celebrates his silver wedding on Thursday next, the 10th inst.

The regular quarterly meeting of the Montreal Presbytery takes place on Tuesday, 9th inst., in the College Convocation Hall.

The anniversaries of the religious societies are to be held in Eskine Church during the week beginning Monday, the 21st inst. Several speakers from a distance are to be present and interesting meetings are expected.

The annual meeting of the Protestant Insane Asylum was held last week. The new asylum being erected on the Lower Lachine Road is being pushed forward, though a large sum has yet to be raised to meet the cost of the building. It looks as if not much more money was expected from the Presbyterian community. The office-bearers and the executive were elected at the annual meeting. With one single exception, not one of these is a Presbyterian resident in the city. In the list there are three ministers—two Episcopalians and one Methodist—and eighteen laymen. The parties were apparently not selected at random as a printed list was submitted at the meeting containing the names of those who should be elected. This is not the first time in the brief but peculiar history of this institution that things of a similar kind have been done, as has already been pointed out in these notes. If the confidence of the public is to be retained, and the best interests of this institution furthered, a change of procedure is desirable.

The Executive of the Dominion Evangelical Alliance is at present endeavoring to secure a financial foundation to warrant them in appointing a first-rate man as General Secretary, whose whole time shall be given to the work.

The college re-opens on Tuesday after the Christmas vacation. The attendance will be larger than the first term as several new students have enrolled their names. A public entertainment on behalf of the reading room is to be held in the Convocation Hall on Monday evening, the 14th inst.

Sabbath School Teacher.

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

Jan. 20, 1889.

HEALING OF THE LEPER.

Mark 1: 40-45.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"As soon as He had spoken immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed."—Mark 1: 42.

SHORTER CATECHISM.

(Question 2.—The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are two collections of inspired writings; which God commissioned prophets and apostles to write and give to His Church respectively under the old or Mosaic and under the New or Christian Dispensations, or modes of administering the Covenant of Grace. A list of the several books contained in these two testaments is given in the first chapter of our Confession of Faith. The canon of Scripture is that faithful rule of faith and practice which is composed of all the genuine writings of the inspired prophets and apostles now extant. The fact that all the books now contained in our canon of the Old Testament are genuine, and they only, is proved. 1. Christ and His apostles approve as genuine and authentic the Jewish Hebrew canon as it existed in their time. They often quote these books, and only these, and rebuke the Jews for disobeying them (Mark xix. 49; Luke xxiv. 44; John v. 39; 2 Tim. iii. 15, 16; Acts i. 16; Matt. xxii. 29). 2. The Hebrew canon thus endorsed by Christ is the same that we now have. This is proved by the Hebrew text kept with such jealous care by the Jews, by the Septuagint version in Egypt, B.C., 285, and by the testimony of Josephus and of the early Christian writers. The fact that the several writings composing our New Testament canon are genuine and authentic is proved—1. By the testimony of early Christian writers, from the age of the apostles downward. 2. By the list of books received of them as canonical by the early Church Fathers. 3. By the early translations, such as the Peshito, or early Syriac version (about end of second century), and the Vulgate, prepared by Jerome, A. D. 385, based upon the early Latin version. 4. By the internal evidence of language, idiom, style of the several books and their consistency, with their historic conditions, and with the doctrinal spirit and unity of the whole.—A. A. Hedge, D.D.

INTRODUCTORY.

After spending the sacred hours of the Sabbath Day in the synagogue, taking part in its worship and proclaiming to those assembled the truth of God, and in extending divine help and sympathy to the distressed that were brought to Him at the close of the day, Jesus retired to rest. Early next morning he went out before day-break where he He would be alone and could hold sweet converse with His Father.

I. Prayer the Best Preparation for Work.—One of the strongest reasons for private personal prayer is found in the example of Christ. It is frequently recorded of Him that He prayed. His were busy days passed amid exhausting toils, yet He always found time and opportunity for calm and undisturbed communion with His Father. He was human as well as divine, though He needed not, being absolutely sinless, to confess sin or to pray for its forgiveness. He needed strength to accomplish the great work given Him to do. In silent and solitary communion with God, He found refreshment and power. Such being His daily practice, what should ours be? His presence, His teaching and His work had created a profound impression among the people of Capernaum, and in the early morning many came seeking Him. Peter, ever the active disciple, goes in search of His Master, and when they found Him they tell Him that "all men seek for Thee," a foreshadowing of the eagerness with which Christ will yet be sought after.

II. Preaching the Gospel.—Eager as were the people of Capernaum for the ministry of Jesus there are others besides them whose needs were equally if not more urgent. At all events Christ did not confine His ministry to one place but went everywhere throughout the land telling the people the glad tidings and healing the sick. Preaching the Gospel of His kingdom was His great work. For this purpose He had come forth from His home in heaven that He might offer salvation to perishing men. He preached in the synagogues throughout all Galilee. He honoured the assemblies of the people for the worship of God, and they afforded the people the best opportunity of hearing Jesus. In addition to the proclamation of the truths of the kingdom, Jesus, Mark tells us, cast out devils. Possibly because this awful form of disease, so prevalent in the days of the Saviour, was regarded as most difficult, if not impossible, of cure, the evangelist here mentions it particularly. Matthew, in recording the same occurrences in Christ's ministry, says, "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the Gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness among the people." His was a busy and beneficent ministry.

III. The Leper Healed.—Leprosy is one of the most terrible, loathsome and repulsive diseases that can afflict humanity. The sad victim of this disease grows more and more horrible looking as his incurable malady makes its certain and deadly progress. Skin, blood, nerves and tissues become infected. It may not inaptly be described as a prolonged and ghastly form of dying. It was common among the Jewish people, and lepers are to be seen in Palestine at the present day. It is also making its ravages felt in the Sandwich Islands. Even here in Canada there is a colony of lepers at Tracadie in Nova Scotia. The poor man afflicted with this deadly disease approached the loving and merciful Saviour, worshipping Him and doing homage. This poor outcast had faith in Christ. He may have heard that many sick people and those possessed with demons had been cured; even he might be cured of his leprosy. At all events One who had already done such wonderful works was able to cure him, so he says to Jesus in the language of faith, "If Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean." The Jewish law made the leper an unclean outcast. No sufferer appeals to Jesus in vain. The loving One is moved with compassion—no idle sentiment—genuine, deep, heartfelt commiseration. He from whom all others would shrink in disgust is only an object of pity to Him who bore our griefs and carried our sorrows. "He touched Him." What kindness and courage in that touch, and saith, "I will; be thou clean." Before that powerful and holy will the most obdurate disease has to vanish. The death process is arrested and the healed leper with joy and hope in his heart takes his place once more among living men. He is cleansed of his leprosy. It was a divine cure for it was effected instantaneously. The man who had received this great gift of Christ's healing was strictly charged to refrain from speaking about his marvellous cure. His first duty as Jesus plainly pointed out to him was to obey the Mosaic law relating to leprosy—to obtain the official priestly declaration of his cure and to make the offering which his gratitude would prompt and the law required. The man, however, disobeyed Christ's command in so far as related to his silence. For this command Christ had the wisest reasons. We can trust Him that what He commands is worthy of implicit obedience. This man's disobedience interfered with Christ's work for a time. He had to seek secluded spots for the exercise of His ministry, but still the people came in crowds to hear Him and to obtain His help.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

If we are tempted to neglect daily private prayer, let us remember the example of Jesus.

Jesus is the Great Missionary; He who said, "Go ye therefore," Himself went forth preaching the Gospel of the kingdom.

Christ was full of compassion and tender mercy for the distressed; so should His disciples be.

Leprosy is a type of sin in its loathsomeness, its deformity and deadly nature.

Christ alone can cleanse and heal the sin-sick soul.