

The Oddfellows of Guelph attended Divine service at Chalmers' church last Sabbath. Rev. R. J. M. Glassford preached a short sermon on "The Divinity of Sympathy," taking as his text Isaiah xxxii. 2, "And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest, as rivers of water in a dry place; as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land."

A meeting was held in Central Presbyterian church a few weeks ago to prepare a Model Constitution for Missionary Associations. There will be another meeting held in the same place next Monday night 2nd. May for further consideration of the best methods of creating intelligent interest in the Schemes of the church.

About 11 o'clock on Tuesday night 19th. Rev. A. E. Neilly's stable was discovered to be on fire. The fire had gained such headway before being discovered that it was impossible to save anything and Mr. Neilly's horse, buggy, cutter, harness, feed and other articles, were destroyed. The building was insured but none on the contents. Mr. Neilly's loss will be about \$200, the congregations of Hornig's Mills and Primrose deeply sympathize with him in this severe loss.

The church of the Redeemer, Deseronto celebrated the 250th anniversary of the Westminster Assembly on Wednesday 20th. Though the weather was unfavorable the attendance was good. S. Rus-ell, M. P. P., presided. The proceedings were opened with praise and prayer after which addresses were given by Rev. W. Peck, of Naples on "Events leading up to the Assembly;" by Rev. T. J. Thompson, of Belleville, on "The Catholicity of the Standards of the Church;" and by Rev. W. S. McTavish, B. D., on "The Influence of the Assembly." The speeches, though necessarily brief, were replete with valuable information and were marked by fairness of argument and liberality of sentiment. They were thoroughly enjoyed by the audience who followed the speakers with closest attention. The choir gave a number of excellent musical selections during the evening.

Rev. Dr. Milligan, pastor of Old St. Andrew's church, Toronto, preached the Baccalaureate sermon at Queen's College, Kingston, last Sabbath afternoon. He chose as his text the utterance of King David, as recorded in 2 Sam. 23rd. chapter 17 verse "And he said he is far from me, O Lord, that I should do this; is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives? therefore he would not drink it." The sermon was powerful, and was listened to with close attention by the large audience. The winners of scholarships in Theology were as follows:—Scholarships in Theology—Anderson, No. 1, first-year divinity, \$40, T. R. Henney, B. A., Woodstock; Anderson, No. 2, second-year divinity, \$10, G. R. Lowe, Ottawa; G. A. S. memorial, Church history, \$30, R. Herbison, M. A., Sand Bay; Toronto, second year, Hebrew, \$60, C. A. Ferguson, Admaston; St. Andrew's church, Toronto, Old and New Testament exegesis, \$50, R. Young, B.A., Trenton; Rankin, apologetics, \$55, J. R. Cour, M.A., Ottawa; Leitch memorial, No.

2 (tonable for three years), \$80, J. S. Shortt, M.A., Calgary; Sponco (tonable for two years), \$60, A. O. Patterson, M.A., Carleton Place; Sarah McClelland, Waddell memorial, \$120, D. L. Gordon, B.A., Stapleton; James Anderson, bursary, \$30 (Gaelic), M. A. McKinnon, B. A. Lake Ainslie, C.B.; Mackie prize, \$25 (in books), R. Herbison, M. A., Sand Bay. The William Morris bursary, \$60, will be announced later. Degree of B.D.—J. G. Dunlop, B.A., passed in comparative religion. The valedictorian in theology is J. H. Turnbull, M.A.

WHITBY PRESBYTERY.

The regular quarterly meeting of the above Presbytery was held in St. Andrew's church Whitby, on the 19th instant. There was a fair attendance of members. Rev. R. M. Phaten, B. A., moderator, presided. Reports on "Church Life and Work," "Y. P. S. C. E.," and "Sabbath School," were submitted, received and recommendations adopted.

The reports were satisfactory. The following Commissioners were appointed to General Assembly, Revs. J. McMechan, J. A. McKoen, and Richard Whiteman, ministers; and Messrs. Wm. Anderson, Thomas Moffet, and William Taylor, elders. Rev. Jno. Chisholm as Committee of bills and overtures of Synod; Rev. J. McMechan on same Committee of General Assembly.—J. McMechan, Clerk.

SYNOD OF MONTREAL AND OTTAWA.

The Synod of Montreal and Ottawa will meet (D.V.) in the First Presbyterian church, at Brockville, on the second Monday of May, at the hour of eight o'clock, in the evening.

The usual privileges for travel will be granted by the leading railway and steamboat companies, on conditions which must be strictly complied with. These will require to be ascertained and conformed to at the commencement of the journey.

Members having in view to attend the meeting and willing to accept accommodation from the local committee are asked to communicate on the subject with Mr. Charles Grant, Ontario Grove Work, Brockville.

All papers intended for the Synod should be forwarded at an early date, and in any case not later than ten days before the day of meeting.

The business committee will meet on Monday afternoon, at 5 o'clock.—K. Maclean, Synod Clerk.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

Editor Presbyterian Review:

Sir,—Along the line of your editorial remarks on our Sabbath School enrollment on 21st April, I venture three comments.

1st. Do we really know what our enrollment is?

2nd. How does it compare with our neighbors?

3rd. Do we not need closer oversight of our school work by our Church Courts?

If you refer to last Assembly minutes, pages 271, 276, etc., and 457, etc., you find two official statements of our school strength; on the face of them you find errors in common arithmetic, but beyond that, there is a difference of about eleven thousand members; this one fact is sufficient to discredit the accuracy of the enrollment, specially when such a thing continues after the attention of the Assembly has been called to it. Again, if we take the largest of these returns, and the Dominion census, we find that we have 24% of our Presbyterian population in the Sabbath school; any person acquainted with general Sunday school statistics knows that this decimal is moderate for denominational work; even in Quebec Province, the Presbyterians have 30% in their schools and are surpassed by all but one denomination. A curious relative comparison is afforded in Montreal City, between the Presbyterian and Methodist Associations, which cover much the same ground, but larger than the census boundaries, these circumstances render the decimal

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unsuitable elsewhere; the Methodists have 75% in their schools and the Presbyterians have 40%.

The fact is, there is a good deal of room for growth in Presbyterian enrollment, whatever we may say.

Again, Day schools are visited and inspected, and improve thereby; why should not Sabbath schools have the same rule applied to them, only on the voluntary system.

The "personal visitation of all schools in session" is a possibility to any Presbytery, and can be made a great help. Through such a visitation, in Presbytery of Montreal, 9 schools sent in their reports for 1897, which did not report before, making 88 or 89 schools.

Another advantage is, that such visitation revives the interest in school work amongst Church members, it also brings to light the methods in use, and that produces improvement. Take our Presbyterian Sabbath schools as a whole, is teaching the lesson from the Bible itself an invariable rule; is memorizing of the Catechism itself, or even of Bible verses, an invariable rule; are our Teachers' Helps and children's papers all of a desirable character; is not cheapness made one great consideration; do not too many schools keep open only part of year, and in many cases close, more from habit than necessity; is not the teaching session crowded by church services before or after; what about contributions, and many other things; would not visitation be a help?

Finally, if the present enrollment be considered satisfactory, I would still urge, that the personal visitation of all schools in session by Presbyteries be carried out, in order to show that the Church at large is interested in its young people and in order to quicken the earnestness of all concerned in this important work.

D. TORRANCE FRANKEL

MONTREAL, April 23rd, 1898.

MCALL RIVER WORK IN FRANCE.

At the last meeting of the McAll Auxiliary held at the residence of Mrs. A. E. Kemp, 119 Wellrley Crescent, on Thursday evening, April 7th. A most interesting description of the work carried on by the house-boat belonging to this mission was read. This house-boat called "Le bon Messager," is either towed by horses, or by steam tug, through many of the large and small rivers with which Franco is intersected, thus reaching the very heart of France, and coming into contact with those frugal and hard-working country people, who are the hope of Franco in the future. The missionary says: "It is difficult for us to realize that in many of the places visited no copy of the New Testament has ever been possessed by the people, they have never heard a Gospel address, they have never heard a prayer offered in their own language, nor sung a Gospel hymn. All that the boat has brought to them has been absolutely new." As no halls can be procured in these villages, and open air preaching forbidden, it will be readily understood that more than one house-boat is necessary to carry Christ's "Glad Tidings" through the length and breadth of the land. This boat, which is really a floating Gospel Hall, carries wherever it goes, Gospels, Tracts and New Testaments, many of which are sold and many given away, and the meetings which are held nightly are filled to overflowing—sometimes they are twice filled in one evening. More boats are needed.

Any contributions sent to the Treasurer, Miss Inglis, Berwick Hall, Jarvis street, Toronto, will be gratefully received and sent direct to France.

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