

**PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL.**—This court met in the David Morrice Hall, Presbyterian College, Montreal, on Tuesday, the 2nd October, at ten a.m.—present thirty-six ministers and ten elders. Rev. T. Cumming, moderator. After reading the minutes, calling the roll, receiving elder's commission and appointing committees to examine session records, and other matters of routine, Rev. D. Paterson, of St. Andrew's, reported that, according to instructions, he had taken the necessary steps to have elders nominated and ordained in connection with the united stations of Avoca and Maskinonge, viz.: Alex. McPhee, Colin Fraser and Glendon Galliard. Mr. Mackay, convener of the committee on the augmentation of stipends, reported that all the congregations requiring aid had been visited with one exception, although all had not yet reported results of canvass. He moved, seconded by R. H. Warden, secretary-treasurer, that, pending the action of the General Assembly's Committee, the principles underlying the scheme as adopted in January last be held in abeyance, the committee meanwhile being empowered to pay on the 1st January next, to the ministers of those congregations complying with the regulations adopted in April, the amounts necessary to make their salary \$750 and \$1,200 per annum for the quarter then ending, together with an allowance for house rent at the rate of \$50 a year in the country and \$200 in the city, when no manse is provided by the people. Motion adopted. Special attention was called to the regulation requiring congregations to contribute an average of \$7 per family or \$4.50 per communicant for salary before a grant can be received from the fund. Mr. Alexander Mitchell appeared as commissioner from St. Paul's Church, Montreal, and asked that the usual steps be taken to induct the Rev. James Barclay, M.A., as minister of the charge. The Presbytery appointed a special meeting to be held for this purpose in St. Paul's Church on Thursday, the 11th, at eleven a.m., Dr. Jenkins to preside, the moderator to preach, Principal MacVicar to address the minister and Mr. Campbell of St. Gabriel, the people. Rev. Donald Ross, B.D., having been appointed Professor of Apologetics and Greek Exegesis in Queen's College, Kingston was released from his present charge of Lachine. The following minute was unanimously adopted: "That whilst rejoicing at Mr. Ross' appointment to a chair in theology, this Presbytery deeply regrets the loss of one who has laboured within the bounds during eighteen years and testifies with pleasure to the fidelity and success of his ministrations. The Presbytery will long feel the removal from among them of a brother distinguished by geniality, courteousness and scholarly attainments. At the same time they will follow him to his new sphere of usefulness with earnest prayers that the Lord may continue to bless him and his and prosper him abundantly in all his work. Mr. Robert McNab, B.A., student in divinity, having successfully passed his trials for license, was licensed by the moderator and suitably exhorted as to his important duties. Mr. Warden, convener of the Presbytery's Home Mission Committee reported, recommending that certain congregations be supplied from the probationers roll, that a deputation visit Avoca, Maskinonge and parts adjacent, with a view to the settlement of a minister over the district to report to next meeting. The Presbytery adopted the recommendations; appointed Rev. Daniel Paterson and Rev. James Fraser a deputation to visit as above; also renew their commendation to the liberality of the congregations in the bounds of the effort being made at West Farnham to build a new church there. The following students were recommended to the Senate of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, at this meeting: Arch. Lee, B.A., David Mackay, B.A., Robert McKnight, B.A., Howard S. McAzeal, B.A., George J. Thompson and Murray Watson as students in theology, and Paul N. Cayer, Albert J. Lods, Joseph E. Coité, Peter A. McLeod, Murdock McKenzie and Jas. A. McLean to the literary department, also Albert B. Groulx and William D. Roberts. Mr. Campbell, convener of the Presbytery's City Mission Committee, reported as to the work done during the past quarter in connection with the mission, the steps taken to receive and provide for the spiritual wants of strangers coming to the city, also to find out and deal with those in any way belonging to the Church residing in the city not in actual connection with any of the congregations. The report was received. Mr. Warden gave notice of a motion for next meeting, anent the printing of the minutes of Presbytery for the use of members. JAMES PATTERSON, *Pres. Clerk*.

## SABBATH SCHOOL TEACHER.

### INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

#### LESSON XLIII.

Oct. 18, 1883.]

SAUL CHOSEN KING.

{ 1 Sam. x. 17-27.

**GOLDEN TEXT.**—"And all the people shouted and said, God save the king."—1 Sam. 10. 24.

**INTRODUCTION.**—In the providence of God, Saul was brought to Samuel's house; and, before he parted from Samuel's company, was by him privately anointed to be king. Our lesson shows how, in a more public manner, he was chosen and acknowledged.

**NOTES.**—*Mizpeh*. a watch tower, a high point of land in a plateau of considerable elevation above the sea level. Five miles north from Jerusalem. Family of Matri though not mentioned among the families of Benjamin in 1 Chron. 8, the omission there does not contradict the statement here. Some suppose it to be a corruption of one of the names given in the list of families belonging to the tribe, while others regard it as a substitute for the same. *Gibeah*: about six miles from Jerusalem, in the southern part of Benjamin. *Children of Belial*: lawless, worthless persons.

**I. SAUL CHOSEN KING.**—Ver. 17.—Called the people together: though Saul was secretly anointed, it was proper he should be publicly recognized as king; and Samuel called all the grown men of the tribes together to Mizpeh.

Ver. 18.—I brought up Israel out of Egypt: Samuel is well called a prophet. Here he had a direct revelation from God. and the Lord reminds them, as in a great many other places in the Bible, of the great works He had done for their nation. It is well for us in our prayers to follow the same model, and first remember and praise God's mercies to us and others.

Ver. 19.—Ye have this day rejected your God: God reminds them, through His prophet, of the great sin they were committing. They desired a king; because they were unwilling to be ruled by God. Nay, but set a king over us: this had been their answer to God's warnings and exhortations. They were, as they had always been, a "rebellious house." Since all warnings were unheeded, they were now commanded to draw near to the altar, to have the "lot" taken by tribes and thousands. The latter were subdivisions of a tribe; probably in every case embracing only those of common family descent. Ver. 21 shows that "thousand" and "family" may be used interchangeably.

Ver. 20.—The tribe of Benjamin was taken. mark the Divine wisdom in this choice. Ephraim and Judah were powerful and rival tribes: but Benjamin was always small, and some time before nearly exterminated. And one from that little tribe would not be likely to excite the jealousy of the more powerful tribes. Of all the passages that speak of the "lot" only one indicates anything of the mode.—Prov. 16: 33, "The lot is cast into the lap, but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord." The ballot or lot was drawn from the lap, or from an urn, after a solemn appeal to God to direct. If the Lord directed us to use "the lot," as He did the Israelites, it would be our duty to use it.

Ver. 21.—The family of Matri was taken: a division of the tribe, equivalent to one of the "hundreds" or "thousands" of Benjamin. Saul, the son of Kish, was taken: when the lot came to be drawn, man by man, among the descendants of Matri, first Kish would be taken, and then Saul. He could not be found: it was a good sign for Saul that he modestly shrank from publicity. He did not *refuse* to reign, but he did not *seek* the honour.

**II. SAUL'S RECEPTION BY THE PEOPLE.**—Ver. 22.—Enquired of the Lord: perhaps by Samuel; but the phrase generally means through the high priest, by Urim and Thummim. Hid himself among the stuff: among the baggage; or, as in one or two places, the "carriage." The Lord kindly answered their inquiries.

Ver. 23.—Ran and fetched him: they insisted on his presenting himself before the people. Higher than any of the people. Saul, being a head taller than any of the people, must have stood nearly seven feet high. In those rude ages, bodily proportion and vigour were more valued than now. These would gain him favour with his followers.

Ver. 24.—Whom the Lord hath chosen. it was not an election by the people: it was the Lord's doing. Yet God was angry with them. (See Hos. 13: 11) None like him: for commanding stature and noble bodily presence. God save the king: or, "Let the king live!" An admiring shout, when they saw him. They gloried in Saul, when they should have gloried in the Lord.

Ver. 25.—Told the people the manner of the kingdom: not as in chap. 8, where he told them what they should suffer under their kings; but rather laying down a "constitution" for Saul and for them to be guided by. And this he wrote in a book, and deposited it beside the ark, or in the tabernacle, for future reference. And then Samuel sent the people home.

Ver. 26.—A band of men whose hearts God had touched: "Who feared God, and regarded allegiance to their king as a conscientious duty."—*Jameson*. He was thus honourably escorted home by God-fearing men. Gibeah was Saul's capital during his lifetime. Not long after, he had to leave his quiet retirement and take the field. (11: 4.)

Ver. 27.—Children of Belial. Belial is not a person, supposed or real, but a *quality* (though it is once used as a name for Satan, 2 Cor. 6: 15). It means "worthlessness." So, "children of worthlessness" just means "exceedingly worthless people." Brought him no presents: homage without a present was an unknown thing in the East. They despised him, but he nobly overlooked it.

## BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

Mr. Spurgeon's publications have an enormous sale in Scotland.

SEVEN new hotels, four with 1,000 rooms each, are being built in London.

THE will of the late Dean Boyd of Exeter has been proved at upwards of £134,000.

MR. POOLE, was consecrated as first bishop of the Anglican Church in Japan on the 29th ult., at Lambeth Palace.

It is stated that Rev. R. H. Lande, of Liverpool, is to be moderator of the next Synod of the English Presbyterian Church.

THE Rev. Dr. Monroe Gibson is delivering a series of lectures begun at the Young Men's Christian Association in Aldersgate.

MR. GLADSTONE positively refused to consent to newspaper correspondents being on board during his recent cruise.

THE "Singing Pilgrim," Mr. Philip Phillips, gave an evening of song in Glasgow lately, under the presidency of Sir William Collins.

DR. W. M. TAYLOR, of New York, has been preaching in Liverpool on the subject of Munkasck's remarkable picture of "Christ before Pilate."

THE proportion of human drones in Paris is large. There are 1,263,480 persons who work in some way or other, and 84,506 who have no known means of subsistence.

A LARGELY-ATTENDED meeting was held lately in Exeter Hall, London, to protest against the imprisonment in Switzerland of Miss Booth, of the Salvation Army.

THE learned Hartwell Horne, on examining the Scottish Episcopal question, satisfied himself that the succession of the Scottish bishops is of no more value than three cyphers.

ACCORDING to the "Cologne Gazette," Russia puts all sorts of vexations in the way of Germans desiring to enter her borders. Even children cannot enter without a passport.

THE origin of the term "Band of Hope" is attributed to the late Mrs. Carlisle of Dublin. She suggested it at a meeting of young people held in 1844 at South Parade Chapel, Leeds.

THE little Island of Atafu, in the South Seas, is said to be the only purely Christian country in the world. Every adult on the island is a member of the Church on confession of faith.

THE tone of the Melbourne newspapers, it is said, is so decidedly anti-Christian that many of the citizens are desirous to establish a daily journal with a more wholesome spirit.

THE population of Monaco, now reaches 9,108 souls, including "strangers of all nations." In the days before the establishment of Monte Carlo, viz., in 1867, they mustered 1,700.

DR. WILLIAM CHALMERS, principal of the English Presbyterian Theological Hall, in deference to the opinion of his medical advisers, is to take no part in the work of the hall till after Christmas.

A NEW work by Carmen Sylva, the Queen of Roumania, is announced to appear in the course of a few days. It is entitled "Meine Ruh" (My Rest). It consists of 365 poems, one for each day in the year.

REV. JOHN MEE, vicar of Westbourne, Hants, formerly Dean of Grahamston, South Africa, was taken ill with symptoms of sunstroke between Inverness and Banavie lately and died without recovering consciousness.

THE Strome Ferry prisoners state that they heard some very good sermons in prison, and were most favourably impressed with the ministrations of Rev. Dr. Rogers, who acted during the chaplains absence on leave.

THE death of Thomas Gilchrist, Presbyterian elder in Birmingham, is announced. While a young man, he was converted under a sermon preached in Dr. James Hamilton's pulpit by an obscure minister from Scotland whose name he never learned.

THE visitors of the London Presbyterian College, desire that greater prominence should be given to homiletics and practical theology, and also suggest the establishment of a permanent elocution fund. The students object to the proposed removal of the college to Cambridge.

THE Shakers and Mother Girding of whom so much was once heard, continue to live in tents on the borders of the New Forest, in England. The heavy storms make havoc of their lairs, but their health does not seem to suffer. Their number, however, has dwindled from 100 to 60.

REV. SAMUEL GARRATT says that Bishop Ryle, by his preaching in the Presbyterian kirk at Pitlochry and his letter defending that action, has "planted his foot on the Redan," and that any evangelical clergyman who does not manfully follow the good example is inexcusable.

MR. A. GRANT, M.P., laid the memorial stone in connection with the reconstruction of Newhaven church lately. The singing was led by a choir of young women in full fish-wife costume. Several of them wore the gold medal presented at the opening of the International Fisheries Exhibition.

AN English collector of curios wants to buy the Pope's old gala coaches, and it seems that the Pope's business manager is quite ready to sell a magnificent railroad car made specially for Pío Nono and only used once when he inaugurated a new line. This carriage is very richly decorated.

ACCORDING to the "St. Petersburg Gazette," a bill has been sent in to the imperial treasury (and paid) for 115,000 roubles, this being the cost of conveying by railway, housing, and feeding the foreign correspondents who, in compliance with the Emperor's invitation, attended the coronation festivities at Moscow.