

Dr. Kellogg. A report was read from a committee previously appointed a petition for the erection of a congregation at Dovercourt, expressing the opinion that such action would be premature, but advising the organizing of a Sabbath school, etc., in the locality, under the care of the sessions of Chalmers and College Street Churches. The report was received and adopted. Mr. D. McMillan, as representing Queensville, and Rev. J. Frazer, as representing Sutton, were severally heard a proposal to re-arrange the stations in these localities, and connect Ravenshoe with Sutton; whereupon it was moved by Dr. McLaren, seconded by Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, and carried, to send Rev. A. Gilray as deputy to these places and ascertain the views of the people ament the re-arrangement proposed. Mr. Gilray was also authorized at a later stage to moderate in a call from Queensville, etc., on the 20th of this month. On motion made by Dr. Reid, a committee was appointed to consider the matter of the supply of vacant congregations within the bounds, and to report thereon at next meeting. The committee appointed are Revs. Dr. Reid, Dr. McLaren, D. J. Macdonnell, A. Gilray, and Messrs. Banks and Crawford. Rev. A. Tait reported moderating in a call from Camilla and Mono Centre, addressed to Rev. James Malcolm, probationer. The call was found to be signed by 159 members, and concurred in by sixty-five adherents. The salary promised is \$700, together with a manse, with the hope of obtaining \$50 as supplement. The call was sustained, and ordered to be sent to Mr. Malcolm. In terms of application made, the Presbytery granted a certificate of disjunction to Rev. J. Kirkpatrick. On report of a committee, the Clerk was instructed to attest Messrs. A. R. Barron, B.A., and H. F. Thomas for admission to study at Knox College. A committee previously appointed reported in favour of allowing the congregation of York Mills to quit their present church and meet for worship in Bethesda Church, to the south-east. Similar reports were received from the neighbouring sessions, and the Presbytery granted leave accordingly. Rev. J. Gray tendered by letter the resignation of his pastoral charge, and it was agreed to cite his congregation to appear for their interests at next meeting. It was also resolved to appoint a committee for the purpose of considering a re-arrangement of these congregations and some others contiguous; said committee to report to next meeting. A paper was read from the congregation of Chalmers Church, Toronto, resolving to relieve the Presbytery henceforth from any further action ament supplement for their pastor, and pledging themselves to pay the whole of the salary, viz., \$1,100. The paper was heard with much satisfaction. There was also read an application from the same congregation for leave to consolidate the existing mortgages on their church property, amounting to \$5,300. The Presbytery granted leave as applied for. Next meeting was appointed to be held on the 3rd of November, at ten o'clock a.m.—R. MONTGOMERY, Pres. Clerk.

N. B. In the statistical return for the Presbytery of Toronto—appended to the printed minutes of last General Assembly—West Church, Toronto, is reported as having 250 on the communion roll. I have learned lately that the number should have been 450. But the error was not mine.—R. M.

MONTREAL NOTES.

THE Rev. Professor Campbell, M.A., and family returned to the city this week after the summer's vacation spent in Yukon, Alaska. The Professor is in excellent health and met with a hearty welcome from his brethren here.

The quarterly meeting of the Montreal Presbytery was held in the David Morrison Hall on Tuesday. There was a large attendance of ministers and elders and a considerable amount of business was transacted, the Court continuing in session till half-past eleven in the evening. The report of the Home Mission Committee was submitted by Rev. R. H. Warden, the Convener. It gave details of the work done in the several fields during the summer and contained recommendations as to future supply. It was resolved to endeavour to secure the services of an ordained missionary for the Avoca district who would take the supervision of the adjoining field of Ponsonby. This latter is a district of wide extent, somewhat sparsely settled and without any other than Presbyterian supply. It has been worked during the past six months by the Students' Missionary Society of the Presbyterian College, Montreal. The Avoca field consists of two stations, some eight miles apart. It has been supplied heretofore by student missionaries both in the summer and winter. It is believed that the appointment of a judicious ordained missionary will be very much in the interest of the whole district.

MR. S. A. THOMAS, one of the French students of the Presbyterian College here, supplied the Mille Isles and Shawbridge mission field this summer, conducting services both in French and English. The attendance has been very large, as many as 50 or 60 French Catholics being present at some of the meetings. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered by a member of the Presbytery last month when twenty-one members were added to the communion roll, all on profession of faith. The Presbytery are trying to secure for the district the services of a suitable ordained missionary qualified to take charge of both the English and French work. The people are contributing liberally in hope of getting such a missionary to labour permanently among them.

At West Farnham, another field supplied during the last summer by a French English missionary, five persons were last month added to the membership. There is here a very neat, comfortable brick church erected two years ago at a cost of \$4,000. The lot, valued at \$1,500, was donated to the congregation by a generous member. The people are most anxious to obtain a permanent pastor. The field is an inviting one in many respects, the town being in the centre of a good agricultural district with two lines of railway, one of which has extensive workshops in West Farnham. The population of the town consists of both French and English-speaking people.

THERE are fifteen congregations in the Presbytery receiving assistance from the Augmentation Fund. One of these

—Chatham and Grenville—becomes self-supporting from this date. Deputies have been appointed to visit all the others, with instructions to use their best endeavours to secure increased contributions toward the support of their pastors. The Presbytery is directing the special attention of sessions of the self-supporting congregations to the urgent claims of the Augmentation Scheme, so as to enable the Assembly's committee to wipe out the indebtedness of the past year and to pay the full minimum stipend to all the ministers of the Church. It is felt to be most important and it was strongly urged in the Presbytery that the visitation of the aid-receiving congregations be thoroughly attended to so that the liberality of the people may be fully drawn out and the funds of the Church saved. It is hoped that the reports of the deputies will in every case show an advance in the amounts contributed by the people toward their minister's salary.

MR. ALEXANDER C. HUTCHINSON appeared before the Presbytery asking their counsel and co-operation in the establishment of a congregation and the immediate erection of a church building in Cote St. Antoine. The following committee was appointed to co-operate with the Presbyterian families of that suburb in this matter. Rev. R. H. Warden (Convener); Rev. Messrs. Mackay, Barclay, Smith, Jordan, McCaul and Fleck and Messrs. John Stirling, Wm. Reid, J. Cleland, W. Robb, W. Drysdale and Walter Paul. It is hoped that a suitable church building will be erected this fall. The Presbyterian Sabbath School in Cote St. Antoine has now nearly 100 pupils on the roll and difficulty is being found in efficiently carrying on the school because of the limited accommodation in the building where it is held.

THE call from Ianbar and Colquhoun, in the Presbytery of Brockville, to Rev. J. P. Grant, of Laguerre, was laid on the table for two weeks and Prof. Scrimger and Mr. Warden were appointed to visit Port Lewis with a view to the union of the congregation there with that of Laguerre.

ELEVEN students appeared before the Examining Committee of the Presbytery and were certified to the Senate of the Montreal College.

At the request of the congregation of Joliette Mr. Z. Lefebvre has been appointed missionary to that field for one year and arrangements have been made for his ordination.

THE opening exercises of the Presbyterian College, here, took place on Wednesday evening, when the David Morrison Hall was filled by the friends of the institution. Rev. Principal MacVicar, D.D., presided and on the platform in the hall were Sir Wm. Dawson, Professors Campbell, Cousirat and Scrimger, Dr. Kelly, Rev. Messrs. Herridge, Lee, Dey, Cornack, and most of the city ministers. After devotional exercises, conducted by Rev. L. H. Jordan, B.D., the Rev. W. J. Herridge, B.D., of Ottawa, delivered a very able lecture on "Christianity and Culture." The Principal announced that fifteen new pupils had already been enrolled and a few others were still expected. Everything betokens a prosperous session.

ON Thursday evening the Rev. J. Fleck presided at a meeting of the congregation of Taylor Church and moderated in a call in favour of the Rev. Thomas Bennet, of Carp and Kinburn, in the Presbytery of Ottawa. The congregation are unanimous and it is hoped that a settlement will soon be effected.

ONE of our city volunteers, Mr. John H. Samuel, a member of St. Paul's Church, was accidentally shot on Saturday evening week by a comrade, while guarding the Exhibition buildings, some of which are being fitted up for hospital purposes. He died on Sabbath and was buried on Tuesday. His funeral was one of the most largely attended that has been seen here for many years. Not only was the church filled to overflowing but the streets were lined by large crowds of people thus testifying their deep sympathy with the family in their bereavement. Mr. Samuel was a young man of great promise and the circumstances connected with his death were such as to call forth the sympathy of very many, even of those not personally acquainted with the family. The service in St. Paul's Church was conducted by Rev. J. Barclay.

Sabbath School Teacher.

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

Act. 25, } THE TEMPLE REPAIRED. } 2 Kings 12: 1885. } 1-15.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go i to the house of the Lord."—Psalm cxiii. 1.

INTRODUCTION.

Hitherto we have been engaged with the history of Israel. Now we are transferred to Judah for a lesson, but led thither by the wicked family of Ahab. When A-ha-ziah was slain by Jehu, A-ha-ziah, the mother of Ahaziah, a daughter of Ahab, usurped the throne and slew the royal family with the exception of one the youngest child, who was stolen and hid by his aunt Je-ho-i-ba, the sister of Ahaziah and wife of Je-hoi-da the High Priest. This child Joash—was only a year old when rescued, and was concealed in the temple for six years. In the seventh year of his age the High Priest arranged a revolution by which Athaliah was slain and Joash made King.

The skilful manner in which the revolution was conducted is recorded in chap. xi. It was comparatively easy to accomplish it, because the best of the people, as well as the priests and Levites, were favourable on account of the efforts of Athaliah to establish Baal worship and destroy the worship of Jehovah. It was a part of the divine purpose by which the family of Ahab should perish on account of their sin. The first act of the new king was to make a covenant between himself and people and the Lord that they should be the Lord's people. The first practical result of that covenant was the demolition of the temple of Baal. The people broke down the altars, images and temple, and slew Mattan the priest before the altars. The right way in which to

prove our loyalty to Jehovah is to break down every idol that may have a place in our affections.

EXPLANATORY.

The King was only seven years old when he began to reign and reigned forty years. He reigned well so long as the High Priest lived to instruct him, but afterwards was led astray. One defect, however, is noted during the lifetime of Jehoiada, viz.: that the *high places* were not destroyed. These altars were forbidden and an express command given that they should be destroyed. (Deut. xxxiii. 29.) They were associated with idolatrous practices and led the people away from the true worship of the temple. Examples of *will-worship*.

I Temple out of Repair.—This was owing chiefly to the preference of Athaliah for Baal worship. She and her sons (2 Chron. xxiv. 7) "had broken up the house of the Lord and all the dedicated things were bestowed on Baalim." How much damage was done it is impossible to say. The diversion of all the funds for a number of years, for another purpose, would of itself by the natural process of decay—result in serious defects. Probably much more was done. The vessels and materials were used for the erection and furnishing of the rival temple.

How unfortunate when money and intellect, etc., that belong to the Lord, and ought to be used for His service, are turned into other channels—to serve our great enemy! We the temples—or the Church the temple, will suffer by simple neglect. "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?"

II. First Attempt at Renovation.—The king commanded the priests to collect all the money of the dedicated things, and to make the necessary repairs. The money of the dedicated things is explained as consisting of three elements:

(1) *Money of every one that payeth the account.*—In Ex. xxx. 13 we are told that when the census was taken, a half-shekel was paid by every one that was numbered above twenty years old.

(2) *Money that every one is set at.*—The first-born was redeemed at a certain price (Num. xviii. 15, 16) of man and beast, and also when under a vow, a payment was made according to the priest's valuation. (Lev. xxvii. 2 S.)

(3) *Money that cometh into any man's heart to bring.*—That means voluntary or free will offerings which was a variable amount, according to the piety of the people.

All this money was put into the hands of the priests. They were required to collect it, (ver. 5). "Every man of his acquaintance," in their own districts and having provided for their own maintenance—to expend the rest on temple repairs. But it did not work: some think that the priests were dishonest and appropriated the money; others think that the real cause of failure was the want of funds the people did not respond to the call. The latter is the probable explanation—since Jehoiada was High Priest, and would not allow such misuse of money given for so sacred a purpose.

III. Repairs Completed.—In the twenty third year of Joash's reign the work was not done, and the King took them to task for neglect of duty. He asked the High Priest why the work was not done.

That will be the question to be answered by every negligent servant to the King of Kings, "Why have you not done the work entrusted to you?"

He next took the work out of their hands.—He told the priests to receive no more money for this object, and they consented to receive no more, and gave up their commission, and thus acknowledged their failure.

So, when Christ comes, the unused talents will be taken away and given to those who have proved themselves faithful. How humiliating to be reproved for unfaithfulness in repairing the Lord's temple! How happy to hear the Master's "well done" at the close of the day!

New Arrangement. Jehoiada the priest took a chest and placed it at the door of the temple, on the right side, near the altar. In the lid of this chest a hole had been bored into which the priests dropped the money brought for the purpose of repairing the temple. If there had been suspicion that the priests were before dishonest, they would not now be allowed to handle the money, as they did when dropping it into the chest. It was more negligence than dishonesty.

Put in bags. When the chest became full the High Priest and secretary put it in bags, and weighed it—the usual method of counting money—often these bags with the king's seal upon them passed as current money. The contributions came in very freely. In 2 Chron. xxiv. 9-10 it is said that the people rejoiced in giving, so that there was an abundant supply.

The causes that led to this greatly increased liberality were probably the king's proclamation, requiring the people to pay this tax of Moses for this purpose, and then the fact that the people knew what they were giving for made them more interested. By the first arrangement, they did not know what portion of their gifts might go to the special object in view, and that destroys interest.

Amongst other things it is a help in stimulating the liberality of the Church to let them have no doubt as to the fact that the money is used for the purpose for which given.

Overseers. They had such entire confidence in the men employed to take charge of the work that they required no reckoning of them: for they were faithful. What a careful state of society it would be, if all masters could have such confidence in their servants! That is the state that will exist in the future when the Gospel shall sweeten all our nature that has been corrupted by sin. The more of such harmony that exists between the labourers in repairing Zion, the more enthusiasm will exist amongst the people in giving all the support they are able.

May that blessed time be hastened by His Spirit!

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. How many breaches in the Church now! As a whole—as congregations—as individuals!
2. The rulers of the land should try to quicken the Church in building Zion, instead of standing in the way.
3. The giving of money is a way in which all can have a hand in building Zion in all lands.
4. When a first attempt fails at a good thing make a second.