

mission fund, and a vote of thanks passed to him as to the other re-elected officers. On motion of Ald. Johnson, the thanks of the congregation were tendered to Mr. Selwyn, and the choir of the church for their very efficient services during the past year. It was decided to distribute the mission fund of the Management Committee as follows: Home Missions, \$180; Foreign Missions, \$125; Montreal College, \$50; Manitoba College, \$40; Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, \$66; Widows and Orphans' Fund, \$30; French Evangelization, \$70. The amount collected for missions during the past year was \$603.10. Messrs. F. Hoosack and I. H. P. Gibson were elected auditors. The following were elected members of the Managing Committee for the next three years: Messrs. R. Uglow, R. Stewart, G. Snider, G. J. Dewar, Dr. Hutchison. After the meeting Mr. James Clarke was re-elected chairman, and Mr. J. H. Thompson, Secretary of the Managing Committee. Refreshments were served by the ladies at the close of the meeting.

The annual meeting of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Montreal, was held last week in the basement of the church, Rev. J. Barclay, the pastor, in the chair. The secretary, Mr. Greenshields, presented the annual report, which showed the past year to have been most successful in every respect, after which the election of officers was proceeded with. The old Board of Trustees was re-elected in its entirety, viz.: Andrew Allan (chairman) Sir Donald A. Smith, Alexander Mitchell, John C. Watson, G. B. Greenshields, Alexander Ewan, John Hope, and J. Burnett. Votes of thanks were passed to the various officers and to the chairman, Rev. Mr. Barclay, who in the course of his reply referred to the fact that there was not sufficient accommodation for Presbyterians in the west end, and to meet this want in some degree the Presbytery committee would present a report advising that their church, St. Paul's, be requested to start a Sunday school in the west end. After a short prayer, the meeting adjourned.

The annual meeting of St. Paul's congregation, Carluke, was held on Friday, 17th inst. Reports from the various boards indicated a good measure of success in all departments. No new names were added to the roll during the year. The Sabbath school has grown rapidly, and has given thirty four dollars to the boys' school at Pointe-aux-Trembles. The ladies of the Woman's Foreign Mission Society report \$100 in addition to a bale of goods for the Indians valued at \$75; while the Mission Band raised \$21, besides sending finished work and material to the Indians. Inclusive of \$43 for the Bible Society, our seventy-three families contributed \$652 to the Schemes of the Church. During the past year a manse was built at a cost of nearly \$2,200, and over \$900 paid on it. The total amount contributed for all purposes is \$2,635. After the business meeting a very pleasant hour was spent in conversation while partaking of the good things provided by the ladies.

The annual congregational meeting of Calvin Church, Pembroke, was held on the evening of Monday, January 13th. The various departments of the congregation's work were reported upon. The following facts and figures are gathered from the report: There are 272 names on the communion roll, thirty-two of which were added during the year. Within the last twenty months the number of members has increased by 142. There are 173 families and sixty single persons not connected with the families. The Sabbath school roll numbers 317 with twenty-two teachers. The Woman's Foreign Mission Society raised \$250 and the Mission Board \$84. The ordinary revenue amounted to \$3,000 and, after meeting the expenses of the year, \$132.15 remains as a balance on hand. The amount raised for missions was nearly \$800. The Woman's Working and Benevolent Society raised \$413.64 and has \$288.55 on hand. Three thousand dollars were paid on the Church debt. Total payments for all purposes: \$7,213. Officers for the year were elected and the reports ordered to be printed. The salary of the pastor, Rev. G. D. Bayne, B.A., was by unanimous vote increased by \$200, making it \$1,400 with manse.

The annual meeting of the Barrie Presbyterian Church was held last week, and in spite of the inclement weather there was a good attendance of members. The Rev. D. D. McLeod occupied the chair. After the meeting had been duly opened the various reports for 1889 were submitted and confirmed. The retiring managers, John Davidson, Henry Harper and Dr. W. A. Ross were elected for another term of three years, and Messrs. J. J. Brown and J. H. McKeggie were re-elected auditors. The resignation of Mrs. Heinrich as organist was then laid before the meeting, whereupon it was resolved that an expression of regret be conveyed to Mrs. Heinrich that she is compelled by circumstances to sever her connection with the church, and also that a hearty and sincere testimonial to the devotedness and diligence with which she has for the past seven or eight years filled the position be tendered her. The sum of \$50 was voted her, as a more substantial token of the congregation's regret at her departure. The business of securing another organist was left to the managers and Session. The last transaction of interest was the resolution that the Church celebrate their anniversary this year by special Sabbath services conducted by some prominent divine, and by a congregational meeting the following evening. This will probably take place about the beginning of February.

The Rev. Dr. Fletcher acted as Moderator at the annual meeting of the congregation of Erskine Church, Hamilton, which was held last week. The congregation is at present pastorless. The report of the Sunday school showed an average attendance of 196. The collections amounted to \$215.69, of which \$159 went to missions and \$56.59 to the general school expenses. Robert Anderson, secretary, presented the report. The Ladies' Aid Society has raised \$214.38 during the past year, of which \$205 was paid to the church managers. The Missionary Society collected \$79.88, and has a balance on hand of \$52.38. The total number of members on the church roll at the end of the year was 213. The following is the financial statement, showing receipts for the year of \$2,408.15, the expenditures being \$2,400.03, leaving a balance of \$8.07 on hand. The total collections for the year amounted to \$1,038.45, and the average collection was \$19.97. The several reports were adopted. Votes of thanks were tendered to John Patterson, the secretary, the Board of Management, the choir, and Miss McBean. The retiring managers were John Slater, W. D. McLaren, J. Patterson and W. McClelland. John Gieves, Alex. Hay, James Pickard and George Harper were elected managers. W. Brown and James Souter were appointed auditors. W. Brown was re-elected secretary-treasurer of the Missionary Society, and James Souter and George Harper were elected directors of the Missionary Society. Miss McBean was re-appointed organist.

The annual meeting of Knox Church congregation, Portage la Prairie, was held last week and was fairly well attended. After devotional exercises by the pastor, Mr. S. R. Marlatt was called to the chair, and the business of the meeting was proceeded with. The annual financial statement of the church was presented from which we glean the following figures. Receipts: Cash on hand, \$78.75; weekly offerings, envelopes, 1,440.50; weekly offerings, open collections, \$853.40; subscriptions and various other revenues, \$913; total, \$3,285.65. Expenditure: Pastor, caretaker, pulpit supply, etc., 1,811.38; building, \$75; manse, \$237; missions and college, \$162; music expenses, \$42.56; printing and stationery, \$25.80; wood, 76.80; interest, \$472.30; insurance, \$264.46; sundry accounts, \$90.45; balance on hand, \$27.10; total, \$3,285.65. The

following officers were elected: Managing Committee, H. S. Paterson, chairman; J. Pitblado, secretary; W. W. Miller, treasurer; A. D. McKay, T. B. Miller, E. Lyal, D. B. Hanna, and J. S. Telfer. Auditors, John Hunter and R. S. Thompson. Encouraging reports were received from the secretary of the Managing Board; from Mr. W. W. Miller on behalf of the Sunday school and from the session, the Christian Endeavour Society and from the Missionary Society. Full and interesting reports were also received from the Ladies' Aid Society and the Woman's Foreign Mission Society. Upon recommendation of the session a committee consisting of the sessional managers was appointed to consider the whole question of Church Psalmody with power to employ a suitable choir leader. A vote of thanks was also passed to the choir of the past year.

The annual meeting of the congregation of John Street Presbyterian Church, Belleville, was held in the lecture room last week. The devotional exercises were conducted by the pastor, Dr. George, after which Mr. Robert Tannahill was called to the chair. Mr. A. G. Northrup was appointed secretary. Reports from the different societies in connection with the church showed the congregation to be in a very prosperous condition. In moving the adoption of the report, Mr. W. H. Ponton said nothing could be more satisfactory and encouraging than the present condition of the church. Although a debt remains on the building, still it is not formidable and all obligations have been met by the people. Mr. W. Smeaton seconded the motion, stating at the same time that the regular contributions of the church are in excess of any previous year. The treasurer's report shows that over \$4,600 had been contributed for church purposes during the year. The trustees for 1890 are: W. H. Ponton, R. C. Clute, A. G. Northrup, John Farn and James Smith. The four retiring members of the managing committee, Thomas Ritchie, Robert Tannahill, U. E. Thompson and A. Brignall, were re-elected, while Capt. A. Waters was chosen to take the place of W. R. McRae, who has removed beyond the bounds of the congregation. Hearty votes of thanks were extended to Prof. Coleman, A. Brignall, and the choir for their efficient service in leading the psalmody of the church, also to the treasurer, Mr. A. G. Northrup, and the chairman for their services. The meeting, which was one of the most pleasant in the history of the church, was closed with prayer by the pastor.

The annual meeting of the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Guelph, was held in the lecture room last week, and was fairly attended. The pastor, Rev. J. C. Smith, occupied the chair, and Mr. T. M. Till was appointed Secretary. Reports from the managers were read by Mr. James Naismith, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer; from the Ladies' Aid, Home Mission and Ivy Mission Band, by Mr. K. McLean; from the Benevolent, Trustees and Debt Fund, by Mr. O. Davidson; from the Woman's Foreign Missionary Auxiliary, by Mr. James Anderson; from the Auditors, by Col. Higinbotham; from the Session, Sabbath School Association, and Missionary Committee, by the chairman. A statement was also handed in by Mr. R. H. Bryden on behalf of the choir appealing to the congregation for additional members to aid in the service of praise. The above reports having been duly considered were adopted and ordered to be printed and distributed in the congregation. Managers and ushers for the current year were appointed on motion, duly seconded. The Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Kennedy, and his assistant were re-elected. Managers—Thomas Jackson, T. M. Till, Wm. Sinclair, C. Spalding, W. A. Higinbotham, A. Robertson, J. A. Lamprey, Colonel Higinbotham, Henry Luch, W. H. Toule, Alex. McIntosh, K. McLean, Alex. Sinclair, J. A. Ross, J. S. Riggerson, Jas. Naismith, Wm. Ross. Ushers—John A. McLean, D. Montgomery, George Jeffrey, Wm. Spalding, Wm. Sinclair, W. A. Clark, J. S. Riggerson, Jas. Naismith, Byron King, W. A. Higinbotham, Geo. Lamprey, Nicholas Jeffrey. Various subjects, affecting the future interests of the congregation were duly discussed. The missionary committee was struck, with some new names in the personnel, and the collectors for the past year were re-appointed. A hearty vote of thanks to the auditors, the choir, collectors, managers, secretary, treasurer, and assistant, other officials, and especially to the Ladies' Aid for seasonable financial help during the past year, were announced from the chair and ordered to be put on record. As expressed in the managers' report, the past has been a very prosperous year in the finances of St. Andrew's Church, the revenue from weekly collections exceeding that of any former year in its history. The meeting was closed with prayer by the chairman.

OBITUARY.

REV. THOMAS WITHEROW, D.D., LL.D., PRESIDENT OF MAGEE COLLEGE, LONDONDERRY.

The telegrams of this week announced the death of the above esteemed clergyman and eminent divine, and as no doubt some able pen will give to the public a fuller statement of the facts regarding his life, yet as a member of his congregation for twenty years, and as Dr. Witherow is well known on this continent, a few lines regarding his early life may not be uninteresting.

Thomas Witherow was the son of a respectable farmer in the county of Derry, and as was not uncommon with Presbyterians, one of the boys was dedicated to the ministry.

Mr. Witherow was called to the congregation of Maghera, in his native county, and for twenty years attended closely to what was his first and last congregation.

When Magee College was opened, the subject of our sketch was chosen as Professor of History and Pastoral Theology. At this time Professor Witherow was well known as a writer and contributor on historical and theological subjects.

His first publication was a lecture entitled "Three Prophets of Our Own," which was followed by "The Apostolic Church," and his tract on the "Mode and Subjects of Baptism."

"The Apostolic Church" and work on "Baptism" were given as lectures from the pulpit in the ordinary course of his ministry, and the present writer had the privilege of hearing them, and although the congregation was a rural one, they were much appreciated, and when published passed through several editions rapidly, and in a short time were to be found in every clergyman's library.

"The Apostolic Church" was replied to in an able pamphlet by the Rev. Robert Carson, of Tubermore, son of the Rev. Dr. Carson, the eminent Baptist minister, and for some years the neighbourhood was kept constantly in flame by a heated polemic controversy.

Other large, able works followed from Dr. Witherow's pen, which will live for generations after him.

As a preacher he was more didactic than pictorial, and although his preaching was of the substantial kind, it was never heavy or tedious. He was clear, pithy and forcible, and as an expounder of Scripture or of the theology of the Reformation he had few equals. I heard a clergyman who sat under his preaching for fifteen years say that he was often amazed at the ability and freshness of his discourses.

Dr. Witherow has been called away at a comparatively early age, being only about sixty-six or sixty-seven. His amiable wife predeceased him some years ago, and he leaves a family of six daughters and one son.

His brother-in-law, Rev. R. G. Milling, has taken his place in the college since the opening. It is hard to say farewell under any circumstances, but to say it over the grave of one whose lips were first heard the words of eternal life is more bitter still.

"Blessed are the dead who died in the Lord, yea, saith the Spirit, from henceforth they do rest from their labours and their works do follow them."

Toronto, 27th Jan., 1890.

THOS. KERR.

Sabbath School Teacher.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON

Feb. 9,
1890.

CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH OF JESUS.

Luke 2.
40-52.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.—Luke ii. 52.

INTRODUCTORY.

The recorded incidents in the early life of Jesus are few. Not a few in remote times wrote legendary accounts of the boyhood of Jesus and so-called Gospels of the Infancy, but they were purely imaginary, not only uninspired, but conspicuously destitute of truth. The little that the inspired Gospel reveals is very interesting and instructive, and gives a glimpse of the boyhood of Jesus that is entirely accordant with His sacred character. Soon after His presentation in the temple, Joseph and Mary being warned of God in a dream, took the young child and went into Egypt to escape the cruel and murderous designs of Herod the Great who in his blind jealousy commanded the slaughter of the innocents in Bethlehem. After Herod's death the Holy Family returned to their own land, and took up their abode in the town of Nazareth to which they formerly belonged. In this Galilean town, beautifully situated, Jesus spent His youth and early manhood. Here the education of the man Christ Jesus was received, and here the Divine Man was prepared for the stupendous work He came from heaven to earth to accomplish.

I. Jesus' First Visit to Jerusalem.—Jesus was very God and also very man. As man He passed through all the experiences of human life. He was a babe at Bethlehem, He was a little boy in Nazareth, "The child grew and waxed strong in spirit." His whole human nature, bodily and mental, was subject to the same law that governs ordinary development. He waxed strong. This would indicate that He had a sound mind in a sound body. He fulfilled the ordinary duties appointed Him and all the while His intellectual and spiritual nature was expanding, this being fitted, when the proper time came, for the complete fulfilment of His great mission. On the boyhood life of Jesus, as always, the divine favour rested, for we are told that "the grace of God was upon Him." The life of Jesus was a perfect life, therefore God could look upon Him with complacent delight, and His grace was given Him in richest measure. The best blessing a boy can wish for is to have the grace of God upon him. In outward circumstances, in His home life the conditions of Jesus' youth were the best possible for fitting Him to be the atoning and intercessory High Priest, the mediator between God and man, the man, Christ Jesus. The law required that the adult males should assemble at Jerusalem three times a year on the great feast days, the Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles. It was the custom of Joseph and Mary to attend the Passover celebration every year. When Jesus had reached His twelfth year He accompanied them to the celebration of this great religious festival, that commemorated God's deliverance of His people from Egyptian bondage. What follows makes it plain that Jesus was deeply interested in the sacred services of that commemorative week. When these were over the companies of worshippers had set out on their homeward journey, but Jesus was not in the company. It was not from boyish thoughtlessness or mere wilfulness that He stayed behind. He was so deeply interested in what He saw and heard that He remained probably unconscious that His relatives had departed. They knew it not, but when He was missed they supposed that He had joined some of the other companies of returning pilgrims and expected that when they camped for the night He would rejoin them. Not finding Him they turned back and sought for Him by the way. Not till the third day from their departure were they successful in finding Him. In the temple precincts where the men learned in the sacred law instructed their pupils He was found in their midst "both hearing and asking them questions." It was not the precocity of a conceited boy that prompted Him to take this part in the proceedings of doctors. It was the custom for pupils to put questions to their instructors that they might get their difficulties removed, and be the better able to comprehend the truth taught. It was a remarkable boy that these learned rabbis had encountered. With the Scriptures He was familiarly acquainted not only in the letter but the spirit. The answers He was able to give to the questions of the doctors, and the questions He presented to them in turn astonished them and all who heard them. Nor was it otherwise with Joseph and Mary, "when they saw them they were amazed." Though they had seen Him daily they were not prepared for this remarkable development of His progress in divine knowledge. When He rejoined them the first words of His mother were those of gentle reproach, "Son, why hast Thou thus dealt with us?" He had always been a loving and obedient boy and this was the first time that they had sorrowed because of Him. She explains that His father and she had sought Him with anxious hearts. In reply we have the first recorded saying of Jesus, "How is it that you sought Me? Wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?" His mother in her question had spoken of His father in the ordinary language of every-day life. It is not apparent that she had hitherto referred to Him as being the Son of God. Now in His answer it is shown that He is conscious of that relationship and fully understands it. Did they not know that the things of His Divine Father were those about which He should be employed? Some would explain this saying as if it meant, Where should you seek for Me, but in my Father's house? To His earthly parents these words of His were mysterious. They did not understand their meaning. Near and dear as He was to them, there was a divine mystery encompassing Him that they could not comprehend.

II. At Home in Nazareth.—His visit to the temple and the admiration of the rabbis and their pupils did Him no harm. Submissively He returns to the humble home at Nazareth, mindful of the fifth commandment. He resumes His customary duties, and patiently awaits His Father's time, but He is still about His Father's business in the quiet of home life and in the daily duties that fell to His lot. To His earthly parents He gives the honour and obedience that relationship and the law of God require. He was subject unto them. He knew more than His parents, but He did not make that an excuse for withholding that honour and obedience which the laws of God and nature sanction. To His mother He was ever an object of tender solicitude. There were depths in His mysterious nature she could not fathom, and she kept in her heart these sayings that aroused her wonder. And so the years went on. Jesus increased in wisdom and stature. In nothing did the human life of Christ differ from that of others, except that it was what no other is or was, absolutely sinless. As He grew in wisdom He also grew in favour with God and man. To have the good will and good opinion of just and righteous people is to have something in itself valuable, but to have the favour of God is the most precious of all blessings that young or old can enjoy on this earth. Three times did God testify of Jesus, "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

Beautiful is that young life on which the favour of God rests.

The boy Jesus delighted to engage in the public worship of God. He loved to inquire in His temple.

As a boy He felt the responsibilities of life. He had to be about His Father's business.

By His life Jesus teaches us that He came not to destroy but to fulfil the law. It is told us how He kept the fifth commandment.