

MONTREAL NOTES.

sembly's Committee; it will report at next quarterly meeting. The Presbytery carefully examined the Book of Forms, and suggested not a few alterations, that in their estimation would be improvements. The Presbytery, on the recommendation of the committee appointed to examine the remittance travelling expenses of commissioners to the General Assembly, agreed that the Church was not in a position at present to take any action in this matter. (This Presbytery pays the travelling expenses of its own commissioners.) It also considered the remittance on the Marriage Question, and agreed that the Confession of Faith be amended in accordance with the decision of last Assembly, by leaving out the clause "The man may not marry any of his wife's kindred nearer in blood than he may of his own, nor the woman of her husband's kindred nearer in blood than of her own." The Presbytery received a very encouraging report from the Presbytery's Woman's Foreign Missionary Association, which was holding its annual meeting in another part of the building, and they appointed Messrs. Eastman and McMechan to convey to it their cordial congratulation and earnest prayer for the continued prosperity of that association. The Rev. Principal Grant was nominated Moderator of next General Assembly. The next quarterly meeting will be held in Bowmanville on the 17th April, at half-past ten o'clock a.m. — A. A. DRUMMOND, Pres. Cleric.

PRESBYTERY OF GUELPH.—This Presbytery held its usual bi-monthly meeting in St. Andrew's Church, Guelph, on the 17th ult., Mr. John Davidson, Moderator. Payments were called for to the Synod, Presbytery and Commissioners' Expense Funds. The Clerk gave the names of congregations that had sent in their contributions, and those who had failed to do so. He was then instructed to correspond with those in default, and urge them to remit at an early day. Arrangements were made for supply of services at Hawkesville and Linwood. The committee appointed to summarize the contents of the reports of deputations on the visitation of congregations presented their report, which was long and carefully considered, resulting in entrusting the matters to a small committee with power to draft deliverances to be read to the congregations that have been visited by deputations, and to make all necessary arrangements for having them read at as early a date as possible. Application was made by thirty-four members and seventy-four adherents residing in the town of Waterloo and neighbourhood, showing their need of stated supply of ordinances, the steps taken to provide a place of worship, and praying that the usual measures be adopted to organize them into a congregation. Commissioners were heard in support of the application. Questions were put to them and answered. After deliberation it was agreed to serve notice on the Session of St. Andrew's Church, Berlin, as likely to be affected by granting the application that they may appear for their interests at next meeting, and the Clerk was appointed to meet with the people, inquire into all the circumstances and report to an adjourned meeting to be held in the Central Presbyterian Church, Galt, on Tuesday, January 31, at one o'clock in the afternoon. Mr. James Robertson, Superintendent of Missions in Manitoba and the North-West, addressed the Presbytery at length on the spiritual state and wants of that region, and the necessity of vigorous efforts on the part of the Church to retain the positions already occupied, and push on into the constantly enlarging field of usefulness that was opening up. On motion duly made and seconded, it was resolved that the Presbytery tender Mr. Robertson its thanks for the interesting address he had just given, and for the clear picture of the condition of the people and of the moral danger to which they are exposed that he has presented, express its hope and prayer that there may be no necessity of withdrawing from any point already occupied, or even of holding back from new fields which may be opened up, and its sincere and earnest desire that the congregations of the bounds will respond liberally, and at once, to the appeal made to them through the circulars issued in the name of the Home Mission Committee and the Committee on the Augmentation of Stipends. At this stage inquiry was made of the ministers present if they had read these circulars to their congregations as instructed at last meeting. A deputation appeared from the congregation of Knox Church, Elora, complaining of the action of the Presbytery reflecting upon them, because paying for the supply of preaching only the minimum rate of allowance fixed by the General Assembly and of the character of the supply from the probationers' roll sent for the current quarter. After long deliberation, in the course of which the financial history, standing and prospects of the congregation were stated, and the regulation of the Supreme Court of the Church specified under which appointments to vacant charges were made, it was agreed that the Moderator and Clerk who had been previously associated with the Session to advise as to supply, should meet with the Session and give fuller information, counsel and advice in the circumstances. Mr. Macaulay laid on the table his resignation of the congregation of West Puslinch, to take place as soon as the financial liabilities have been discharged. Mr. McCormack was heard, who stated that he had been appointed to appear before the Presbytery and call their attention to the weakened state of the congregation. After inquiry it was decided to send a deputation consisting of Mr. J. C. Smith, Dr. Mackay, Mr. Rae and Mr. Allan Ramsay, with instructions to meet with the congregation on Monday, the 30th inst., at eleven o'clock forenoon, enquire into all the circumstances, and report to the adjourned meeting previously appointed. Dr. Mackay to preach in West Puslinch on Sabbath first, and announce this decision. By a majority it was decided that the Rev. Dr. Grant should be nominated for the Moderatorship of the General Assembly. Mr. Tait presented and read a report of the conference held in December last on Temperance, the State of Religion and Sabbath Schools, containing the resolutions which had been proposed and adopted on each of these subjects at the close of the proceedings. Next ordinary meeting was appointed to be held in St. Andrew's Church, Guelph, on the third Tuesday of March, at half-past ten o'clock forenoon.

The Rev. Dr. McArthur, of New York, is to deliver a lecture in Erskine Church on the evening of Thursday, February 9, subject, "Rambles Among Words." The lecture is under the auspices of the Montreal Woman's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church. The tickets are already out and are being disposed of rapidly. Dr. McArthur is a native of Quebec Province, and is popular here as a platform speaker.

The congregation of Kingsbury, in the Presbytery of Quebec, have recently completed the erection of a commodious and comfortable manse for their attached minister, the Rev. J. R. McLeod. The house cost a little over \$2,000. Mr. McLeod's family have taken possession of their new home.

The Rev. S. Mylne, of St. Andrew's Church, Smith's Falls, has intimated to his congregation his purpose to resign his charge. Mr. Mylne has been pastor of this congregation for the long period of thirty-eight years, and is deservedly held in high esteem. Smith's Falls has made rapid strides of late, and is becoming a most important manufacturing, as well as railway centre. There are now 115 families and 250 communicants in St. Andrew's Church, and about a similar number in Union Church, of which the Rev. F. Nixon is minister.

On Tuesday last the annual meeting of Taylor Church congregation was held, the Rev. T. Bennett presiding. There was a good representation of the families of the Church in attendance, and the meeting was most pleasant and harmonious. The past year has been the most prosperous in the history of the congregation. Sixty-four additions were made to the communion roll and fourteen names were removed, making a net gain of fifty. There are now 183 communicants. During the year the sitting accommodation of the church was increased by about sixty, and the prospect is that a new church building will soon be a necessity. The total expense of the enlargement has been met, and the congregation is free from debt. The ordinary revenue for 1887 amounted to \$1,843, and there is good reason to hope that the congregation will shortly be able to do without help from the Augmentation Fund. The Sabbath weekly envelope system is in operation, and is found to work well. After the election of managers for the current year, addresses were delivered by Rev. Messrs. Fleck and Warden and by Messrs. Warden King and J. Muir. Refreshments were served, and a pleasant hour spent socially. The annual social of the Sabbath school was held on Friday evening, and was very largely attended.

On Wednesday evening the annual congregational meeting of Knox Church was held in the lecture room, presided over by the pastor, the Rev. James Fleck. Sixty-five names were added to the communion roll in 1887, thirty-six on confession of faith and twenty-nine by certificate. By death and other causes there had been thirty removed, leaving the present membership 451, a net increase of thirty-five during the year. The annual report of the managers was submitted. The total receipts for 1887 were \$8,931, of which \$2,007 were for missionary and benevolent objects. The amount allocated for Augmentation was \$350 to the Assembly's Scheme and \$65 for special City Augmentation. During the year a costly new organ was put into the church. Notwithstanding this the congregation is free from debt. Mr. Robert Henderson was elected president; Mr. John Baillie, secretary; Mr. J. B. Picken, treasurer; and Messrs. W. Paul, J. Gardner, G. Barrington and J. McD. Hains, managers. The following missionary committee was also elected: Messrs. A. C. Clark, W. Henry, S. Loughhead, A. Roberts, James Brown, George Irving and G. W. Lundie.

The Knox Church congregation are greatly concerned as to the call which is being extended to their minister by Knox Church, Winnipeg. This call comes altogether unsolicited, Mr. Fleck not having even gone to preach. The result will be awaited with great anxiety by his attached people here.

The attendance at McGill College this session is very large, there being about 100 students in excess of the preceding session. The numbers enrolled are: Arts, 280; Law, twenty; Medicine, 235; Science, sixty-three; Affiliated Colleges, forty-one; total, 629. The Arts students include 108 young women, viz., twenty-six regular students, eleven partial and seventy-one occasional.

The respective strength in this city of the several Protestant denominations, so far as Sabbath school work is concerned, is seen in the following table submitted at the Sunday School Union anniversary meeting the other week:

Denomination.	Schools.	Teachers.	Scholars.
Methodist.....	19	382	3,546
Presbyterian.....	21	477	4,545
Church of England.....	15	280	3,323
Congregational.....	3	37	410
Baptist.....	2	64	715
Reformed Episcopal.....	1	23	260
Lutheran.....	1	6	45
Union.....	4	37	349
	66	1,306	13,193

Missionary meetings are at present being held in many congregations throughout the Presbytery of Montreal. The intensely cold weather and the heavy snow fall have interfered somewhat with the success of these meetings, though the attendance in most places has been fully up to the average of former years.

The Rev. Roderick Mackay, B.D., is at present supplying for a few weeks the new congregation at Lowell, Mass. This congregation is to be formally organized by a deputation from the Presbytery of Montreal in the end of February.

THE Rev. J. C. Gibson writes from Mi-ou detailing the persecutions which the Chinese Christians are suffering and their trial for allowing a house to be occupied by a preacher who was going to reconstruct it into a chapel. The decision of the judge was in the form of a compromise.

Sabbath School Teacher.

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

Feb. 12, 1888.

JESUS AND THE LITTLE ONES.

{Matt. 18: 1-14}

GOLDEN TEXT.—But Jesus said, Suffer the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto Me; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.—Matt. xix. 14.

SHORTER CATECHISM.

Question 60.—This deals with the manner in which the Christian Sabbath is to be observed. It is to be kept holy, that is, consecrated to God. The ordinary occupations and amusements permissible on other days are out of place on Sabbath. The public and private exercises of religion have the first claim on our attention. They are the special duties pertaining to the day. It does not mean that a mere formal and mechanical filling up of the sacred hours would be compliance with what the fourth commandment requires. Whatever brings heart and soul into holy converse with divine things is in harmony with the spirit of God's law respecting the Sabbath. Works of necessity and mercy are as legitimate on that as on any other day of the week.

INTRODUCTORY.

After the transfiguration Jesus cures a youth who was grievously afflicted with that terrible form of disease, demoniac possession. The disciples failed because of their want of faith. Returning to Capernaum, Christ again foretells His sufferings and death. The tribute money is paid by miraculous means.

I. The Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.—The disciples had been discussing among themselves the question, Who should be greatest in the kingdom of heaven? Their ideas concerning that kingdom were indistinct and rudimentary. Its spiritual nature and the characteristics it required had not yet apparently dawned on their minds. They thought only of the exalted positions and honours it would afford. They ask Jesus for a decision. With that divine wisdom which was ever revealing itself, the Great Teacher gave a most impressive and memorable answer. He called a little child unto Him, and set him in the midst of them. The child in its innocent simplicity, its genuine trustfulness and docility is the model of the citizen of the kingdom of heaven. Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter that kingdom. That is the condition the Saviour lays down, and it cannot be altered. There is only one salvation, and that is in God's way. Those only who through God's grace obtain the childlike spirit can be great in the heavenly kingdom. Christ places childhood in a most attractive and endearing light. Here we have another strong proof of Christ's love for little children. "Whoso shall receive one such little child in My name receiveth Me."

II. Stumbling-Blocks.—"Whoso shall offend one of these little ones that believe in Me," that is, whoever shall place a stumbling block in their way and cause them to fall. It is a terrible thing to place temptation in the way of a young soul or a young convert to Christ. This may be done in various ways. Wicked people sometimes purposely set themselves to lead others astray. They incur great guilt, but they are not the only ones who cause young converts to stumble. Evil customs and bad examples are injurious and cause others to fall. How careful ought all to be not to place stumbling-blocks in the way of Christ's little ones! That is made very impressive by the illustration Christ here employs. "It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." In this world there will be temptations, but woe to those that cause them. The temptation to sin can be resisted. Yielding to temptation is weak and wicked, but there is a lower depth still, leading others into sin. The address now becomes directly personal, "If thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off." Hand, foot and eye are essential to all well-directed activity. Anything that would prove a stumbling-block, though dear as a hand or eye, must be parted with, however painful the sacrifice, if we are to enter the kingdom of heaven. This part of the lesson closes with a solemn warning. Here the Saviour speaks plainly of hell-fire. The valley of Hinnom in earlier times had been the scene of revolting idolatrous rites, and the passing through the fire of children to Moloch; latterly, and in the Saviour's time, Gehenna was the place where all the refuse from the city was burnt. The fire burned constantly, and the smoke was continually ascending; it was a terribly suggestive emblem of the punishment awaiting the finally impenitent. The Saviour gives this warning because He loves with an infinite love.

III. The Weak and the Helpless are the Special Objects of Christ's Care.—Christ's little ones are not to be despised or neglected. If there are those that despise them on earth, there are those that love and care for them in heaven. "Their angels do always behold the face of My Father." Their guardian angels are in the immediate presence of God. In marked contrast with the ambition to be greatest the Saviour declares that He is come to save that which is lost. The man, prompted by worldly ambition, pays court to the great, the rich and powerful, to secure the rank or position to which he aspires; Christ seeks out the lost, for whom very few care. This He illustrated by the beautiful parable of the stray sheep. The ninety-and-nine are left while the careful Shepherd goes into the wilderness after the helpless wanderer. How impressive also are the words with which the lesson closes, "It is not the will of your Father, which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish."

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

Christ's estimate of greatness is the only true one. Self denial, not self-seeking, is the law of God's kingdom. There is no room to doubt Christ's love for little children. Let us beware of the awful guilt of leading others into sin. The Son of Man is come to save that which is lost.