

not believe, therefore he could not speak.

V. 21.—The time occupied in burning incense while the people were engaged in silent prayer, was about half an hour.—Zacharias had remained in the sanctuary much longer than usual.

V. 23.—Dumbness would have excused him if he had at once given up his work, but he loved it well and continued till his time was fulfilled.

Vv. 24, 25.—Elizabeth did not boast of her blessing, but thanked God for it. Barrenness was held as a great reproach among the Jews; and children were regarded as a great blessing.

LESSONS.

1. We have here a striking instance of the value of prayer. It was in answer to prayer that the angel came; he came at the hour of prayer, into the place of prayer.

2. Mark the gentleness of the heavenly messenger: his first word is "Fear not!"

3. There are two lessons in the 15th v. We cannot be filled with the Holy Ghost and with wine or strong drink; and children may, from their birth, be regenerated by the Holy Spirit. We may also learn what God means by being *great*: (1) John was great because he was filled with the Holy Ghost; (2) because he was always doing good; (3) because he had courage to speak the truth and to rebuke vice and sin; (4) because he testified of Jesus.

4. From Zacharias's punishment we should learn to take heed not to cherish or express unbelieving feelings, and from the fulfilment of the angel's promise let us be encouraged to believe all that God tells us.

5. John was a cause of "joy and gladness" to his parents. Children should so live as to be like John in this respect; but, alas, how often do they break their parent's hearts!

DOCTRINE TO BE PROVED.

Children may be regenerated. Luke i. 5; Jer. i. 6; Matt. xix. 13, 14.

News of the Church.

Presbytery of P. E. Island.

This Presbytery met in the West St. Peters Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, the 22d inst. In consequence of the inclement weather and bad state of the roads, but few members of Presbytery were in attendance. Those present were the Rev. James Allan, Moderator, *pro tem.*, the Rev. Henry Crawford, and the Rev. George Sutherland, clerk; and Messrs. Benjamin Coffin, and David Auld, elders.

The special business before the court was the ordination and induction of Mr. Daniel W. Cameron. It was cheering to see, notwithstanding the violent rain, the church well filled by a large and attentive audience. The usual preliminary steps having been gone through, the Rev. Mr. Allan proceeded to the pulpit and preached an appropriate discourse from Rom. i. 16. A narration of past proceedings in regard to the call and ordination followed; the usual questions before ordination were satisfactorily answered, after which Mr. Daniel W. Cameron was solemnly set apart to the work of the holy ministry by prayer and the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery. After receiving the right hand of fellowship, Mr. Cameron was kindly and encouragingly addressed by the Rev. H. Crawford. The congregation were then addressed by the Rev. Mr. Sutherland on the duties which they owe, in their present relationship, to themselves, their pastor, and the cause of God. After engaging in the praise of God, the congregation were dismissed with the benediction, and on retiring gave their pastor a hearty welcome. God has in his great mercy so far enlarged our borders, and enabled us to fill the waste places of Zion, that we have now settled our *twentieth* pastor. Let us give Him all the glory; and instead of boasting of our numbers and strength, let us rather feel humbled that we have been so long in attaining to our present condition. Two extensive charges will soon be ripe for division into four; and mission stations must be opened or resumed. There is ample room for expansion, without including the much neglected Romish population to whom the gospel must be carried if we are to be guiltless. May God be a wall of fire around our Zion, and the glory in the midst.

The Presbytery adjourned to meet in the Free Church, Charlottetown, on the last Wednesday of January, 1866, at 11 a.m.

Presbytery of Halifax.

This Court met at Lawrencetown on Tuesday, 6th inst., in Calvin Church. There were present Rev. W. Maxwell. John McLeod, W. Murray, A. Stuart, *Ministers*; and R. Murray, *Elder*. Mr. McLeod, Moderator. Rev. Mr. Maxwell preached an able and appropriate sermon, after which the Presbytery proceeded with the visitation of this section of Mr. Stuart's charge.

It appeared that this section of the congregation has promptly paid their share of the minister's stipend, which is raised by annual subscription, and paid quarterly on the Lord's Day in Church. This is found