

MONTREAL NOTES.

gall, and replied to by Mrs. A. H. Scott, of Perth. The secretary's and treasurer's reports (referred to in the report of the Presbytery meetings) were read; and then Mrs. George E. Neilson, of Annapolis, delivered the President's annual address. This was followed by papers by Mrs. Ellingham, of Pakenham, on "The Duty of Giving;" by Mrs. A. Irving, on "Home Missions;" by Miss L. J. Bell, of Pembroke, on "The Jews of the Past, Present and Future;" and by Miss McDiarmid, of Annapolis, on "The Indian Missions of the North-West." Between the reading of the papers there were devotional and musical exercises, and sacred vocal solos by Miss Barnett and Mrs. Cadenhead. It is understood that the lady visitors were greatly pleased with the attention they received and with the harmony and success of the meetings; while the ladies of the Renfrew Society were much encouraged by the spirit of the visitors and the matter of the papers read.

THE Rev. E. D. McLaren, B.D., formerly of Brampton has met with a most cordial reception in his new field. The Vancouver *World* has a full account of the enthusiastic public welcome tendered him lately: The Wilson Hall was the scene of a brilliant throng of citizens of all denominations to welcome the Rev. E. D. McLaren, B.A., of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church last evening. It was a typical and an enthusiastic assemblage, and a greeting which must have made the heart of the reverend gentleman, in whose honour it was arranged, feel glad. It was intended that the proceedings should commence at eight o'clock, but it was some time past that hour ere the proceedings began. The hall had been decorated with flags behind the stage, while immediately over the chair of the presiding clergyman, the Rev. T. G. Thompson, was a portrait of Her Majesty the Queen in all her splendour. Many could not even gain access to the hall and were obliged to stand outside and hear as best they could from the top of the stairs. Fully 1000 people must have been in the hall proper and in the corridors. After an introductory address by the chairman, the Rev. Robert Jamieson, the pioneer Presbyterian Missionary, was next called upon. He stated that Mr. McLaren was the thirty-seventh Presbyterian minister who had come to British Columbia; twenty-one had gone away. The number in this Province was now sixteen. He had come here in the year 1862, just twenty-seven years ago. He had never had a chance to go away for a change of air or anything else. When he came he had determined that if the ship sank he would sink with it—but it didn't. Everybody now says what a beautiful place British Columbia is, and also Vancouver. Addresses were also delivered by the Rev. J. W. Pedley of the Congregational Church; Rev. D. McRae, Moderator of Presbytery; Rev. J. B. Kennedy and E. Robson. Mr. McLaren made an appropriate and feeling reply to the addresses of welcome. Attractive music was interspersed with the speeches.

THE *Newmarket Era* says: The annual teameeting of the Presbyterian Church last Wednesday evening was another grand success. As usual, the ladies performed their part of the service with pleasure and satisfaction to all. The attendance was much larger than anticipated, but there was no lack of provisions. Rev. J. W. Bell called the assembly to order shortly after eight o'clock, and after a hymn of praise had been sung, Rev. W. W. Smith, invoked the divine blessing. The pastor, in his opening remarks, said there were many reasons for thankfulness as a congregation, and the church finances, which were not the least consideration, were very prosperous. With a portion of the proceeds of the teameeting, they proposed to make the church more comfortable than at present for worshippers. Rev. Mr. Patterson, of Cooke's Church, Toronto, in his heterogeneous speech, said many things of great importance, particularly to the young ladies and gentlemen, aptly illustrated by anecdote or personal experience. A united pastor and people were capable of producing wonderful results, but the importance of personal endeavour and influence was particularly emphasized, stimulating efforts in that direction, while his remarks on Giving were very practical. Rev. Mr. Macdonnell, of Toronto, was then introduced, and he complimented the congregation upon the satisfactory annual report and also the proposed increase in minister's stipend. He noted too, with much pleasure, that the Sunday school had donated \$60 to mission work. The leading question of the day, the Jesuits' Estate Bill, was then touched upon, in which regrets and cautions were blended; but the main topic of his address was evidently "The Church as the centre of moral influence." He dwelt at length on the sacred relation of husband and wife, parents and children; and the wisest counsels were given touching the great dangers in society. The pathos and earnestness of the speaker were far beyond the ordinary, and a very healthful result will long abide. The efficient church choir, which had given two or three specially prepared anthems, then rendered by special request, "Rock of Ages," in a most pathetic manner, eliciting well merited applause.

PRESBYTERY OF PARIS.—A special meeting of this Presbytery was held on Feb. 28 for the induction of Rev. E. Cockburn, M.A., into the pastoral charge of Dumfries Street Church, Paris. An appropriate sermon having been delivered by Rev. H. C. Ross, the Moderator, Rev. M. McGregor, M.A., conducted the induction, Dr. Cochrane gave the charge to the pastor, and Rev. R. Pettigrew addressed the congregation. As the people retired from the church they gave a very cordial welcome to their new minister. A unanimous and hearty call from Princeton and Drumbo in favour of Mr. J. C. Tolmie was submitted, sustained and forwarded to Mr. Tolmie for his consideration. A moderation was granted to First Church, Brantford, for March 11, Rev. W. Wylie to preside.—W. T. McMULLEN, Pres. Clerk.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS.

THE annual congregational meeting of the Presbyterian Church, West Toronto Junction, was held on Monday evening week, the pastor, Rev. James A. Grant, presiding. After the usual preliminaries the secretary, Mr. William Wilson, read the financial report, which showed the church to be in a flourishing condition, so much so that in future no further demands will be made on the Augmentation Fund. This satisfactory state of affairs is largely due to the popularity of the pastor, and a pleasant surprise awaited him. At the conclusion of the business part of the meeting, Mr. R. L. McCormack was called to the chair, upon whom devolved the duty of presenting the reverend gentleman with a stem-winding gold watch and a secretaire, with the following inscription on the inner case of the watch: Presented to the Rev. James A. Grant, from the congregation of West Toronto Junction, March, 1888. Mr. William Wilson read the address, to which Mr. Grant replied in suitable terms. The company then sat down to refreshments provided by the ladies, which concluded the evening.

THE annual congregational meeting of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Levis, Quebec, was held on the 4th inst., the pastor, the Rev. Charles A. Tanner, in the chair. After devotional exercises, reports were heard from the Trustees, the Session, the Ladies' Aid Society, the Young People's Christian Association, and from Mr. George Ramsay, the superintendent of the Sabbath-school. The report of the Session showed that the congregation consists of twenty-four families, nine single persons, forty-two communicants and thirty-five Sabbath-school pupils. The treasurer of the congregation gave a detailed account of the finances of the church for the past year, from which it was shown that the stipend had been paid quarterly in advance; that the debt incurred for repairs to the church property and the building of a hangar had been lessened by \$313.44, \$300 of which had been given by the Ladies' Aid Society; and that the congregation had given \$38 to the mission schemes of the church. The whole amount of money raised during the year being \$917.14.

The Methodists are about to erect a handsome new church on Wellington Street, Point St. Charles, to seat 750 on the floor with space for galleries when needed. This section of the city is making rapid strides. Almost every week the attendance at St. Matthews' Church Sabbath school is on the increase, the number present last Sabbath being 467. The need of the new church building is increasingly felt by Mr. Cruickshank's congregation.

The new Methodist Church on St. Catherine Street is now nearly completed, and is expected to be ready for occupation in May. The congregation has been worshipping for some months in the lecture hall at the back of the church. This hall, which has a gallery, has accommodation for upwards of 800.

On Monday the 18th inst., the annual meeting of the Montreal Presbyterian Woman's Missionary Society is to be held in the Convocation Hall of the Presbyterian College at three o'clock in the afternoon. Delegates from all the Auxiliaries will be present and a large and successful gathering is expected. On the evening of the same day a public meeting under the auspices of the Society is to be held in Erskine Church when several addresses are to be delivered on the three branches of work undertaken by the Society, viz., Home, French and Foreign.

The next regular meeting of the Presbytery of Montreal takes place on Tuesday, the 19th inst., at 10 a.m. In the evening a conference on the State of Religion is to be held, the subject to be introduced by the Rev. Messrs. Fleck and Morrison.

On Wednesday of last week the annual business meeting of St. John's Church (French) was held, and was attended by about one hundred. The Session reported that thirty-two new members had been received since 1st June last. The average attendance on Sabbath morning was ninety, on Sabbath evening 120, and at the weekly prayer meeting sixty. There were sixty scholars in the Sabbath school. The expenditure by the congregation for 1888 was \$438. For the current year they are to contribute \$150 additional to the salary of the pastor, Rev. J. L. Morin, B.A., thus lessening the amount received from the Board of French Evangelization.

The annual report of Melville Church, Cote St. Antoine,—Rev. J. McGillivray, B.A., pastor—has just been issued. The membership is ninety-two. The church building was enlarged last year to about double its previous capacity, and is already so well filled that the congregation will soon require to again consider the question of increased accommodation. The cost of the enlargement was \$5,867. The ordinary revenue last year amounted to \$2,285, viz.: envelopes \$1,946, and plate collections \$339. The Ladies' Aid Society raised \$126. On the roll of the Sabbath school are twenty-three teachers and 231 scholars, an increase of fifty-nine over last year. The Sabbath school missionary contributions were \$215, an increase of \$60 over last year. The contributions of the Church Missionary Society were \$198.50. A Willing Workers' Mission Band was organized last October in connection with the Sabbath school. It now numbers fifty members, and has already done good service in providing a Christmas treat for about 100 poor children in the city.

The Rev. Dr. Armstrong, of Ottawa, Moderator of the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa has, by the direction of the Synod, issued a timely pastoral letter on the duty of family worship and parental training.

The Rev. D. W. Morison, of Ormstown, who has had an attack of typhoid fever is now recovering. His pulpit was supplied on Sabbath week by the Rev. Principal MacVicar, who preached anniversary sermons. Prof. Scrimger took Mr. Morison's place last Sabbath.

On Friday evening, 8th inst., the Rev. J. Myles Crombie was inducted by the Presbytery of Montreal into the pastorate of the Cote des Neiges Church. The congregation were out in large numbers, despite bad weather and roads. The Rev. Prof. Scrimger, M.A., presided, the Rev. J. Barclay, M.A., addressed the minister, and the Rev. Dr. Warden, the people. The call to Mr. Crombie was unanimous and cordial, and he enters on his work at Cote des Neiges with encouraging prospects.

The handsome new church edifice erected by the congregation of St. John's Church, Cornwall. Rev. Dr. MacNish, pastor, is to be opened on Sabbath the 17th inst. The opening services are to be conducted by the Rev. W. T. McMullen, of Woodstock, Moderator of the General Assembly, and the Rev. Principal MacVicar, of this city.

The report for 1888 of the Stanley Street Presbyterian Church, Rev. F. M. Dewey, M.A., is just published. There are nine elders, four of whom were ordained during the year, seventeen managers, and 325 communicants, a net increase of eight over the preceding year. In 1888, sixty-three new members were received, thirty-one by certificate, and thirty-two on profession of faith, while fifty-five names were removed from the roll. The receipts for ordinary revenue amounted to \$2,913, namely \$2,083, from envelopes and \$830 from plate collections; an increase of \$211 over the year 1887. The receipts of the missionary society were \$346, in addition to \$410 raised for the support of the congregation's city missionary. There are 275 names on the roll of the Sabbath School and Bible class. For missionary purposes, the school contributed \$143. The Willing Workers Society raised \$118, and rendered valuable assistance in visits to the sick and needy. In connection with the Church there is a Young People's Society, and also a Mission Band, both in active operation. The total receipts of the congregation for the year 1888 were \$4,337.

An enjoyable entertainment was given in the St. Gabriel Presbyterian Church, Montreal, last week, in aid of the East End French mission. An attractive programme of vocal and instrumental music, readings, etc., had been arranged, and was given in a manner that left nothing to be desired.

Sabbath School Teacher.

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

March 31,
1889.

REVIEW.

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1-10.

The Mission of John the Baptist.—The coming, character and mission of John the Baptist foretold by the prophets Isaiah and Malachi. John preached repentance for the remission of sins, and baptized the penitents. His character and preaching aroused the attention of the people and large numbers flocked to him in the wilderness. His mode of living was characterized by the utmost simplicity. He proclaimed that Christ was about to enter on His public ministry. Jesus comes to John for baptism, on which occasion the divine approval is indicated by the descent upon Him of the Spirit like a dove, and by a voice saying, "Thou art My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."—Mark i. 1-11.

A Sabbath in the Life of Jesus.—Jesus, according to His custom, attended service at the synagogue in Capernaum on Sabbath. He taught with such impressiveness that the people were astonished at His doctrine, for "He taught as one that had authority and not as the scribes." In the synagogue that day there was a man with an unclean spirit, who recognized Jesus and was afraid and cried out. After rebuking the evil spirit Jesus by His command cured the man

and cast out the malignant spirit. After leaving the synagogue Jesus went to Peter's house where his mother-in-law was ill with fever. He restores her to health and she ministers unto them. At sunset numbers of sick people were brought to Jesus who compassionately relieved many sufferers.—Mark i. 21-34.

Healing of the Leper.—Jesus was instant in prayer. He went forth alone before day-break that He might have uninterrupted communion with His Heavenly Father. Then His disciples find Him, and He intimates His purpose to preach the Gospel throughout Galilee. On that tour He also continued His beneficent work of healing the sick and casting out devils. On that journey a man afflicted with leprosy earnestly besought His help. At this appeal the loving Saviour was moved with compassion, put forth His hand, a hand that could receive no contamination—and touched him, saying, "I will, be thou clean." The cure was wrought instantaneously and the man was charged to follow the directions Moses had given concerning those cured of leprosy. The fame of Jesus spread everywhere and they came to Him from every quarter.—Mark i. 35-45.

Forgiveness and Healing.—Returned to Capernaum, Jesus was as eagerly sought for as ever. While teaching in a house the friends of a poor sufferer brought him to the Divine healer, but the crowd was so great that they could not approach; not discouraged they ascended the flat roof, opened a passage in it and lowered the man sick of the palsy into the presence of Christ in the room below. The faith both of the man and his friends was great. Jesus in recognition of it said, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." There were scribes present who were offended at that saying. They were right in concluding that God only could forgive sins, but they could not see that Jesus was God. It takes divine power to work miracles just as it does to forgive sins. This Christ makes plain to them. The man departs cured and forgiven.—Mark ii. 1-12.

The Parable of the Sower.—While the disciples are alone with Jesus He interprets to them, at their request, the Parable of the Sower. The sower is he who proclaims the Word of God. The wayside hearers do not retain the Word in their hearts long. Satan quickly comes and takes it away. Stony-ground hearers receive the Word gladly, but trials and persecutions prevent its growth. Thorny-ground hearers are a step in advance of those already mentioned. The Word takes root, but the soil is so occupied by thorns that the Word has no room to grow. Cares and ambitions, evil desires choke the Word, and it becometh unfruitful. There is the good ground, well prepared, well cultivated. Those who hear the Word and receive it, bring forth fruit in varying degrees of productiveness.—Mark iv. 10-20.

The Fierce Demoniac.—On the east shore of the Lake of Galilee, Christ and His disciples met a poor, distracted man, who was possessed of an unclean spirit. The man's sufferings were of a terrible description. He could not be held in restraint. He had his dwelling among the tombs and chains would not hold him. In his paroxysms he possessed extraordinary strength. The unclean spirit controlling the man knew who Jesus was, and addressed Him as the Son of the Most High God. The spirit was commanded to come out of the man, and dreading the consequences, besought Christ to be permitted to enter a herd of swine feeding near. Permission was given, and then the swine rushed into the lake and perished. The poor man was completely restored, but the people of the place, not knowing Jesus and the gifts He had bestowed, and probably vexed at the loss of their swine, prayed Jesus not to remain with them, but to depart from their coasts. The man who was delivered from the unclean spirit testified of Jesus wherever he went.—Mark v. 1-20.

The Timid Woman's Touch.—A woman who had been an invalid for twelve years, and who tried all the doctors within reach without avail, made her way through the crowd that was following Christ as He was on His way to heal the daughter of Jairus. She had faith that if she could only touch the hem of His garment she would be cured; and she was. To give her the opportunity of confessing Christ He asks, "Who touched Me?" The question causes her to prostrate herself at His feet and confess all. She is rewarded by His gracious reply, "Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague."—Mark v. 25-34.

The Great Teacher and the Twelve.—The appearance of Jesus in the synagogue on the Sabbath Day in His "own city," Nazareth, occasioned great interest. His teaching was marvellous. The hearers could not understand it. They had known Him as a youth; they were acquainted with His kinsfolk, "and they were offended at Him." Their unbelief was so great that He marvelled because of it. Then the disciples were sent for the first time, two and two, to preach the Gospel themselves. It was a part of their training, and before they set out Christ gave them instructions how they were to conduct themselves and what they were to preach; power was also given them over unclean spirits, and to heal the sick.—Mark vi. 1-13.

Jesus The Messiah.—On the way to Cæsarea Philippi, Jesus asks the disciples concerning the opinions people had formed of Him, and then pointedly asks them, "But whom say ye that I am?" Peter replies, "Thou art the Christ"—the Anointed One. This confession opens the way for enlightening their minds as to the true nature of His work, and the sufferings that awaited Him. The astonished Peter began to rebuke Him, and this produced a sharp reproof, followed by an explanation of the self-denial which all Christ's true followers must be prepared to exercise, and the inestimable value of the human soul. Christ requires that His followers openly confess Him.—Mark viii. 27; ix. 1.

The Childlike Spirit.—The disciples had a dispute among themselves who should be greatest. Jesus asked them what they had been disputing about, but they were silent, being probably ashamed. Jesus then sat down and took a little child and set him in the midst, and took him in His arms. The confiding humility, the unselfishness and the docility of the little child was to be an example to those who would enter His kingdom. In reply to John's question respecting one, not of their company, whom they had seen casting out devils, the Saviour says, "Forbid him not." Those doing Christ's work, however humbly, are assured of Divine recognition, and a solemn warning is added against offending, casting a stumbling-block in the way of Christ's little ones.—Mark ix. 33-42.

Christ's Love to the Young.—Children were brought to Christ for His blessing, but the disciples thought this a troublesome interruption. This displeased Jesus, who thereupon spoke the saying that has been dear to children in every age of the world since, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God." The next striking incident recorded is the case of the young man asking the way to obtain eternal life. He had sought to keep the commandments from his youth up, but he was not satisfied. The longing of his soul was unfulfilled. To obtain what he sought and to be a true act of self-denial for Him he must sell all his possessions—he was very wealthy—and become a personal follower of Jesus. This he was not prepared to do, and he went away grieved.—Mark x. 13-22.

Blind Bartimeus.—The poor blind beggar named Bartimeus, sitting by the wayside near Jericho, heard the noise of the multitude that accompanied Christ on the way to Jerusalem. He knew that Jesus was the Christ, and cried earnestly for His mercy. He would not silence his cry because the people rebuked, but cried only the more earnestly. The faith of the poor blind man was victorious. Christ commanded him to be called. Throwing aside his outer garment he hastens into Christ's presence and has his eyes opened. He then followed Christ in the way.—Mark x. 46-52.