

Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, especially with the view of raising an endowment fund to the amount of \$100,000. The thanks of the Presbytery were tendered Dr. Battiboy for his address, and the court agreed to take steps to bring the matter before the minds of the people, so as to enlist their sympathy in its behalf. Rev. Mr. McLennan, Convener of the Committee on the State of Religion, gave in a report, which was received. After conference it was agreed to thank the Convener for his diligence and instruct him to forward the report to the Convener of the Synod's committee on that question. Rev. Mr. Tibb, on behalf of the Committee on Temperance, submitted a report, which was received. After conference the Convener was commended for his diligence, and was instructed to forward the report to the Convener of the Synod's Committee on that question. Rev. Mr. Tibb, minister, and Mr. D. S. Robertson, elder, were appointed members of the Synod Committee on Bills and Overtures. Rev. Mr. Cameron reported in regard to the Log Church, Brooke, intimating that he had organized the congregation there, and submitted a roll, consisting of two elders and thirty-three members. The Clerk was instructed to forward the names of Mr. William Wilson and Mr. Kenneth McCrae as catechists open for employment during the summer. The Presbytery proceeded to elect delegates to the General Assembly with the following results: Revs. James Pitchard, Thomas McAdam, John A. McDonald, from the roll; and Dr. Thompson and H. Currie by ballot, ministers; Messrs. D. L. Leish, Thomas Gordon, D. S. Robertson, T. W. Nesbet, George Leys, elders. The next regular meeting was appointed to be held in Sarnia on the second Tuesday in July at ten a.m. It was agreed to arrange for a Sabbath School conference at the afternoon and evening sittings of that day. Rev. Mr. McAdam read an interim report on Statistics, which was received. It appears that arrears to the amount of \$102 are due by the congregation of North-East Adelaide. The Presbytery appointed Messrs. Hume and Anderson to visit that congregation on the matter and report. There was laid on the table a request of the congregation of Petrolia for leave to purchase a manse and church property, to the amount of \$5,300—\$950 of which is to be realized by sale of the old manse property. It was agreed to express gratification at and approve of the action of the congregation in the matter. Rev. H. Currie submitted the half-yearly report of the Home Mission Committee, up to the thirty-first of March. The report was received. It was agreed to ask the following sums for the Augmentation Fund: Forest, \$100; Point Edward, \$200; Corunna, \$75; Oil Springs, \$2 per Sabbath during vacancy. Leave was granted to Mr. Macdonald to moderate in a call at Oil Springs and Oil City, if called upon before the next ordinary meeting. It was agreed also to apply for a student for the summer months to supply Inwood and stations, Duthel Church and Sombra, also supply for Marthaville and Log Church, Brooke. The report was adopted and the Moderator instructed to sign the necessary schedules. Messrs. McLennan and Currie, ministers, and Mr. Leitch, elder, were appointed to draft a minute in reference to the death of Rev. Mr. McKinnon, of Moos, within the bounds of the London Presbytery, and intimately connected with this court.—GEORGE CUTHBERTSON, *Pres. Clerk*.

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.—This Presbytery met in the usual place on the 3rd inst., the attendance of members being very fair. It was learned that Revs. J. Alexander, G. E. Freeman, R. P. Mackay, and Alderman Carlyle, of St. Andrew's Ward, would not be able to go to Assembly; and Revs. J. M. Cameron, R. Wallace, J. Neil, and Mr. J. R. Mallon were severally appointed to take their places. It being also well ascertained that Principal Grant would be in another land at the time of the Assembly, his name for the Moderator's chair was now withdrawn, and the Presbytery agreed to substitute the name of Rev. D. M. Gordon, of Halifax. On motion of Rev. W. G. Wallace, a resolution was adopted by the Presbytery, expressing their heartfelt sympathy with Rev. J. Alexander in the recent decease of the partner of his life, and breathing their earnest prayer that the Great Head of the Church might give their esteemed brother in his great affliction His consoling and sustaining presence. Rev. D. Macintosh reported moderating in a call from St. Andrew's Church, Markham, and Zion Church, Cedar Grove, to Rev. R. Thynne, minister of Port Dover, in the Presbytery of Hamilton. The call was well signed, and the salary offered in \$900, together with a manse. Mr. John Miller appeared as a commissioner, and was duly heard. On motion of Rev. D. J. Macdonald, it was agreed to delay action on the call till after the committee had made their report who were appointed to visit the congregation of York Town Line. At a subsequent stage said committee, through Rev. W. Frizzell, submitted a report, to the effect that there was a want of agreement as to uniting with York Station, that some of the people are in favour of uniting with St. Andrew's Church, Scarborough, and that the committee recommend a consideration of the wider question as to a re-arrangement of certain congregations in Scarborough and Markham. On this report several members concerned expressed themselves, and eventually it was agreed, on motion of Rev. J. Mutch, to appoint a committee to meet with the congregations of Stouffville, Cedar Grove, Markham Village, St. Andrew's Church, Scarborough, St. John's Church, Markham, and York Town Line, to consider with them the re-arrangement of the field proposed by the Presbytery. The following committee were then appointed, viz.: Revs. D. J. Macdonnell, R. P. Mackay, J. Neil, D. Cameron, A. Gilray and Messrs. J. K. Miller and D. Fotheringham, to report to the Presbytery at its next meeting, and the call addressed to Mr. Thynne to remain on the table till said committee shall have reported. In terms of applications duly made, the interim Moderators of the Sessions of Bloor Street, Erskine and Central Churches, Toronto, were empowered to moderate in calls when the congregations might be ready for the same. Reports on the State of Religion and Temperance were respectively read by Revs. W. Frizzell and P. Nicol; they were also adopted and ordered to be transmitted to the proper Synod Committees. A motion in connection with the latter report was submitted by Rev. Dr. Kellogg; but after being discussed and

voted on, the Presbytery, by ten to eight, ordered it to be laid on the table till next meeting. Also leave was given to Rev. John Neil to postpone to next meeting his report on Sabbath Schools. A letter was read from the Clerk of Hamilton Presbytery anent a call from Wentworth Church, Hamilton, to Rev. J. Murray, of Streetsville, with notification that Rev. Mr. Fraser is to prosecute the same. The call was produced and laid on the table, together with reasons for the translation. And Rev. G. A. Grant was appointed to preach to the congregation of Streetsville on the 22nd inst., to give them notice of the said call, and to cite them to appear for their interests at next meeting. Agreeably to an application of Rev. J. S. Eakin, and influenced by a relative medical certificate—which speaks of his suffering in a serious way, and not likely to gain improvement—the Presbytery agreed to transmit his case to the General Assembly with a view to his getting leave to retire from active ministerial work, and to obtain benefit from the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. A certificate was read from the Presbytery of Ayr of the Free Church of Scotland, representing Rev. Mark Scott as a minister in full standing of said Church, and a letter was read from him, expressing his desire to be admitted a minister of our Church in Canada. The Presbytery agreed to apply on his behalf to the General Assembly, and the Clerk was instructed to issue circular letters anent his case. There appeared before the Presbytery Messrs. D. M. McKenzie, B.A., A. R. Barron, B.A., H. R. Fraser, B.A., D. Perrie, J. G. Shearer, G. Dempster, William M. Kay, J. J. Elliott, B.A., J. C. Tullie, B.A., A. J. McLeod, B.A., and D. McGillivray, M.A., who had finished their curriculum at Knox College, and wished to be taken on preliminary trials for license. They were examined accordingly, and the examination being sustained, the Presbytery resolved to ask leave of the district Synod to take them on public probationary trials. The next meeting of the Presbytery was appointed to be held on May 1, at ten a.m.—K. MONTGOMERY, *Pres. Clerk*.

MONTREAL NOTES.

On Thursday last the annual meeting of the Montreal Presbyterian Woman's Missionary Society was held in Erskine Church, in the afternoon, and was largely attended. The annual report was read by Miss S. J. McMaster, the recording secretary. It indicated encouraging progress. A Bible woman continues to be employed among the French-Canadians in the city, and a Bible woman and nurse among the English speaking section of the community. Mothers' meetings and girls' sewing classes are maintained. The society also raises funds for Foreign Mission work. Miss Samuel, corresponding secretary, read reports of the several auxiliaries of the society. The financial statement submitted by Mrs. Walter Paul showed receipts of \$1,587.87 in addition to upwards of \$2,000 for the extension of the girls' school at Pointe-aux-Trembles. The society agreed to endeavour to raise \$5,000 for this purpose, and already a little over \$2,000 of the amount has been received. The election of office-bearers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: Mrs. Robert Campbell, president; Mrs. C. Doudiet, Mrs. T. Bennett, Mrs. A. B. Mackay, Miss Ramsay, Mrs. James Fleck, Mrs. McCaul, Mrs. Dr. MacVicar, and Mrs. Dr. Warden, honorary vice-presidents; Mrs. Robert Campbell, Mrs. R. P. Ducas, Mrs. G. A. Grier, Mrs. J. Nichols, and Miss Sanderson, active vice-presidents; Miss S. J. McMaster, 43 Metcalfe Street, recording secretary; Miss J. Samuel, Cote St. Antoine, corresponding secretary; Miss Macintosh, treasurer; Rev. Dr. Warden, Rev. W. R. Cruikshank, Messrs. D. Morice, G. A. Grier and James Cruik, advisory committee; Mrs. G. C. Heine, Mrs. W. L. Haldimand, Mrs. H. Morton, Mrs. J. Campbell, Mrs. W. Paul, Mrs. J. Brown, Mrs. A. C. Leslie, Mrs. T. Graham, Mrs. D. Morrice, Mrs. J. A. McMaster, Miss Langwill, Mrs. D. Hood, Mrs. M. Thompson, Mrs. W. Drysdale, Mrs. R. A. Beckett, Mrs. J. Robertson, Mrs. A. McIntyre, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. G. Parker, Mrs. George Hyde, Miss Forsyth, Mrs. D. Vuile, Mrs. Mackerracher and Mrs. Kerr (of Howick), Mrs. R. Wat, and Mrs. Joseph Adams (of Athelstone), Mrs. C. Gordon (of Covey Hill), Mrs. Robert Adams and Mrs. Forling (of Lacute), executive committee; superintendents: Mrs. R. P. Ducas and Mrs. J. Campbell, French Evangelization; Mrs. Haldimand, Home Missions; Mrs. W. Paul, Foreign Missions. After short addresses from one or two of the ladies from a distance, tea was served and an hour spent in social enjoyment. In the evening a public meeting, under the auspices of the society, was held in Erskine Church, when addresses were delivered by Rev. Messrs. Jordan (chairman), Dewey and Dr. Campbell. During the evening solos were sung by Miss McMaster and Miss Amos, and a duet by Miss Taylor and Mr. J. R. Ba n.

A petition was presented to our City Council on Monday last praying for permission to erect a statue, 200 feet in height, of the Virgin Mary, on the top of the Mountain. The petition is signed by Archbishop Fabre and 700 others. It was referred to the Park Commissioners, a majority of whom, as also of the Council, are Roman Catholics. The promoters of this impudent scheme assign as their reason that Mary is the patroness of the city, and one of their organs unblushingly proclaims that this statue is to be a recognition of Mary as the mother of God. Surely the driving away from Quebec City of the Protestant population, and with them the commerce, should teach these fanatics a lesson. It is to be hoped that efforts will be made by the Protestant section of our community to thwart this scheme.

The Rev. James Patterson, Presbyterian City Missionary, and Mrs. Patterson, celebrated their silver wedding Monday week, when a large number of friends met at their home to extend congratulations and to wish them many years' health and prosperity in the Master's vineyard. Among those present there were several who witnessed Mr. and Mrs. Patterson's marriage twenty-five years ago. Substantial expressions of the esteem in which they are deservedly held, in the form of numerous gifts of silverware, were presented them on the occasion.

Sabbath School Teacher.

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

April 29,
1888.

THE TALENTS.

{ Matt. 25
14-30.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.—Rev. ii. 10.

SHORTER CATECHISM.

Question 73.—The two previous commandments related to the integrity of the person, the eighth regards the protection of property. "Thou shalt not steal." That is simple and comprehensive. It leaves no loophole for evasion. It embraces all belongings, whether great or small. It forbids alike the theft of a pin or a province. Personal ownership is at the foundation of civil life, and the law of God recognizes it. To be in accordance with that law all possessions must be honestly come by. The man who has acquired wealth by dishonest or disreputable means may secure a certain degree of honour and respect among men, but God's law condones no offences against the ten commandments. Honesty of purpose and act is the basis of an upright character.

INTRODUCTORY.

This is a continuation of the lessons which Christ was giving His disciples on the last day of His public ministry. They were still on the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem. The present lesson fitly follows that of last week. The parable of the Ten Virgins referred to the duty of watchfulness during the Lord's absence, that of the Talents teaches the lesson of activity in His service while waiting for His return.

I. **The Trust.**—The structure of the parable contemplates the departure to another country of a man who had large interests which he entrusted to his servants. They were to work for him while he was away. Primarily the servants entrusted with the interests of the absent Lord were the apostles and all who believed on Him through their testimony. Now the same applies to all believers. To them He has delivered his goods, which they are faithfully to use for his service and glory. The talents given include all the best that man can possess, the Gospel itself, the Scriptures, the graces of the Spirit, natural and acquired, endowments, means and opportunities, all to be used for growth in the knowledge and grace of Jesus Christ and for the extension of His kingdom. As in the parable, so in life, gifts and graces differ. Each has entrusted to him the number of talents he may most profitably use.

II. **Faithful Service and Its Reward.**—The first is represented as having received five talents. The silver talent is estimated at about \$1,600, which would make the money value of the five talents about \$8,000. The second person mentioned received two talents. These two received the talents as a sacred trust and traded wisely with them, and in due course they were doubled, the five became ten, and the two four. When the lord of those servants returned he reckoned with them. They had to give a faithful account of what they had done. The first tells that he had gained five talents more. He had been wise and diligent, and success had crowned his efforts. So in all spiritual effort there is recompense. Talents used in the Master's service increase in value and blessing. The man with the two talents had been equally faithful. He also had doubled the value of what had been put in his care. And now they receive, in addition to the satisfaction that the faithful discharge of duty ever brings, the hearty approval of their lord. It is not the gain they have made that is commended, it is the quality of their service. Their master recognizes it as good and faithful, it is for this they are commended. They had different capacities, but up to the measure of each they had displayed earnest fidelity. The same commendation is spoken to both, and to each the same glorious reward is accorded. There is promotion and advancement, "I will make thee ruler over many things, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Here is a clear intimation that faithful service rendered to Christ will be generously acknowledged and liberally rewarded.

III. **Negligence and Its Punishment.**—The man with the one talent was the one that failed, not because he had only one, but because he failed to use it. The humblest and least gifted can just be as faithful with what they have as those more largely endowed. This man made a poor appearance on the day of reckoning. He had not squandered the talent entrusted to him. His fault lay in not using it. His indolence rendered him unfaithful. Wrong doers are great at inventing excuses, but they are generally poor ones. The man with the one talent knew that his conduct needed justification, and he does his master great injustice. He represents him as a severe and grinding taskmaster. The lord of that servant takes him on his own ground, supposing that the estimate of his master was not a mistaken one, why then did he not act in accordance with it? In that case, if he could not himself profitably use the talent bestowed on him, why did he not deposit it with the bankers and get interest on it? If the commendation of the men who had acted faithfully was grateful to them, how humiliating are the words to the negligent one, "Thou wicked and slothful servant! What he had was taken from him, and the doom on the unprofitable servant pronounced: he was cast into outer darkness where is weeping and gnashing of teeth. The deprivation of the unprofitable servant was in accordance with the law of the kingdom. To him that hath shall be given. The wise use of talents and opportunities tendeth to increase and advancement; their neglect leads to loss and failure, a law that operates both in the spiritual and natural world.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

All talents are God-given, and He claims their use in His service.

Faithful consecration and service will be acknowledged by Christ's "Well done!"

Loss and exclusion from the kingdom are the penalty of wasted talents, mispent time and neglected opportunities. God is a loving Father, not an austere task master.