

107 in all; nearly an average of nine per month. The state of the society at present is as follows.—Three auxiliaries and two mission bands must be dropped off our list, one of the former to join a sister society, with the consent and best wishes of the Board, and one of the latter to go on with mission work, also with good wishes; the three others appear to be dead at present; but branches in the same condition have hitherto generally revived. A few others are in a languishing state, but with hopes of improving. With these exceptions the condition of the society at the present moment is more hopeful than during any of the previous twelve years, as has been proved by the correspondence carried on throughout the whole year without a break or a lull, from the Pacific Coast to Ormstown in the East, showing love, sympathy, and self-denial in giving to missions, and which has cheered the members of the Board who were privileged to hear the letters. The number of Presbyterian societies is twenty five, of auxiliaries 402, and of mission bands 164. Total, 566 branches. An increase of eighty-eight over last year.

Mrs. MacLennan presented the financial statement for the year. It showed a balance in hand on March 31, 1888, of \$25,019 51; amount on special deposit in Dominion Bank for boarding school at Indore when required by Foreign Mission Committee, \$3,500, and amount received after audit \$335 40, making a total of \$28,854 91, to which was added several hundred dollars of miscellaneous receipts and the following contributions from Presbyterian societies, auxiliaries and mission bands: Barrie, \$15 44; Brandon, \$41 15; Brockville, \$575 00; Bruce, \$359 46; Chatham, \$751 53; Glengarry, \$1,599 10; Guelph, \$1,226 03; Hamilton, \$2,401 24; Huron, \$1,174 22; Kingston, \$1,151 70; Lanark and Renfrew, \$2,415 24; Lindsay, \$817 46; London, \$1,526 19; Maitland, \$820 00; Orangeville, \$578 09; Ottawa, \$780 03; Owen Sound, \$176 00; Paris, \$1,503 23; Peterborough, \$1,439 75; Sarnia, \$337 72; Saugeen, \$364 65; Stratford, \$570 00; Toronto, \$5,011 89; Whitby, \$1,118 06; Winnipeg, \$124 40; Ormstown, Quebec, \$150 52; Chilliwhack B. C., and Columbia Mission Band, New Westminster, B. C., \$22 55. The total receipts of the year amounted to \$58,048 75. The expenditures amounted to \$29,726 47, leaving a balance in the hands of the society April 1, 1889, of \$28,322 28.

The recording secretary, Mrs. G. H. Robinson, read the report of the Committee of Management. Following are extracts from it. Total membership in mission bands, 4,085; Members in auxiliaries, 10,144; Members of general society, 2,749. Total membership, 14,978. New Presbyterian societies, 4; New Auxiliaries, 57; New Mission Bands, 44; Total Presbyterian societies, 25.

Auxiliaries are coming more and more into touch with their Presbyterian officers, and are gradually being trained to self reliance. They are learning, too, by experience the wholesome truth, that it is not always by the "stirring up" of eloquent addresses from ladies at a distance that the most lasting effects result. The missionary address is a valuable agency, no disparagement of it is here hinted at, but the true element of strength must continue to lie in the earnest, persevering efforts of individual members filled with the love of Christ their Lord.

Another pleasing feature in connection with the returns is the constant recurrence of the words, "All contributions are voluntary." There are fewer and fewer special efforts by means of entertainments or appeals for outside help. The sum contributed this year amounts to \$29,006 40. Of this amount \$22,735 50 was contributed by auxiliaries, \$5,630 38 by mission bands and \$724 52 from other sources.

Mrs. Campbell having resigned the office of home secretary, it was moved by Mrs. Gordon, of Harrington, seconded by Mrs. D. J. Macdonnell, that the society desires to place on record its high appreciation of Mrs. Campbell's valuable services and its deep regret at her retirement.

The nominating committee's report was presented by Mrs. Smellie, and the following members will be the Board of Management for the ensuing year: The presidents of all Presbyterian societies, auxiliaries and mission bands; hon vice presidents, Mrs. Topp, Mrs. J. Jennings, Mrs. W. Reid, Mrs. J. McLachlan, and Mrs. John MacMurrich; Mrs. J. M. Alexander, Mrs. Bryce, Miss Bruce, Mrs. J. L. Burns, Mrs. Hugh Campbell, Mrs. H. Cassels, Mrs. W. M. Clark, Miss M. A. Cooper, Mrs. Creelman, Mrs. A. T. Crombie, Mrs. T. Ewart, Miss Fullerton, Miss Haight, Mrs. J. C. Hamilton, Mrs. W. C. Harris, Mrs. I. L. Harvie, Mrs. A. Jeffrey, Mrs. Leslie, Mrs. D. J. Macdonnell, Mrs. D. Mackay, Miss Miller, Mrs. James MacLennan, Mrs. A. MacMurrich, Mrs. J. McCracken, Mrs. T. McCracken, Mrs. H. H. McMcLachlan, Mrs. G. M. Milligan, Mrs. J. A. Patterson, Mrs. Parsons, Mrs. F. Pierce, Mrs. Playfair, Mrs. J. V. Reid, Mrs. G. H. Robinson, Mrs. Shortreed, Mrs. A. Telfer, Mrs. James Tennant, Mrs. J. H. Thom.

PUBLIC MEETING.

On Tuesday evening St. Andrew's Church West was crowded by the lady delegates and their friends to hear addresses on foreign mission work. On the platform gaily decorated with flowers were, Rev. Drs. Wardrop, Convener of Foreign Mission Committee, Gregg, Reid, McLaren, D. J. Macdonnell, John Wilkie, and Mr. Hamilton Cassels, Secretary of Foreign Mission Committee. Rev. Dr. Wardrop presided and, after welcoming the society, introduced Rev. Prof. McLaren. The professor showed that in 1876 the amount raised by the Church for home missions and augmentation fund was \$25,947, and in 1888, twelve years later, \$96,794. For foreign missions the amount raised in 1876 was \$24,626, and in 1888 the sum realized was \$82,800. The amount raised by the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society in 1876 was \$1,000, while last year the total sum was \$29,093.

Rev. John Wilkie, missionary, from Central India, Indore, gave some interesting facts regarding the progress of the cause in the mission field there. He urged the necessity of a training school for women, having in connection with it a boarding school, where children and widows could be received.

Rev. Principal Caven followed, and in his address contended that attention to foreign work did not result in any weakening of the efforts in home mission work. All statistics would show that a large increase in both departments had resulted.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell concluded, and in his address said he believed the reason why the interest in foreign work was so intense was because the field was so illimitable. The work of the Church in all its branches was a united work. He called attention to the evil of sending Protestant girls to Roman Catholic seminaries, and urged ladies present to discourage the practice.

On Wednesday morning the election of officers took place, which resulted as follows: President, Mrs. T. Ewart; first vice-president, Mrs. J. Harvie; second vice-president, Mrs. H. M. Parsons; third vice-president, Mrs. J. C. Hamilton; fourth vice-president, Mrs. Hugh Campbell; the presidents of the Presbyterian societies, auxiliaries, and mission bands, honorary vice-presidents, viz.: Mrs. Topp, Mrs. J. Jennings, Mrs. W. Reid, Mrs. J. McLachlan, and Mrs. J. MacMurrich; recording secretary, Mrs. G. H. Robinson; home secretary, Mrs. Shortreed; foreign secretary, Mrs. MacMurrich; secretary of supplies, Mrs. H. Campbell; treasurer, Mrs. James MacLennan.

In the afternoon Mrs. Watson presented a very interesting report of the delegates of the society to the World's Missionary Conference, held in London last June. Mrs. McLaren also presented to the society a message from ladies in Great Britain, in regard to arranging for a woman's meeting in the year 1892.

The following resolutions as to the disposal of money were then adopted:—

(1) Moved by Mrs. Macdonnell, seconded by Mrs. McCrae:—That the sum of \$26,885 called for by the Foreign Mission Committee by their estimate, and which includes the sum of \$2,215 for the extra salary allowed foreign missionaries who are married, be paid to Dr. Reid. (2) Moved by Mrs. Ball, Vanneck, seconded by Mrs. Hay,

Ottawa.—That in answer to request of Prof. Hart an additional grant of \$1,525 be made for the purpose of completing the school building on Crowsland reserve. (3) Moved by Mrs. Roger, London, seconded by Mrs. Grant, Hamilton:—That the sum of \$400, required by the Foreign Mission Committee for the purchase of a building at Portage la Prairie, be paid to Dr. Reid for that purpose. (4) Moved by Mrs. Gunther, of Toronto, seconded by Mrs. Ure, of Goderich:—That the sum of \$581 88, being the balance of the funds in the hands of the treasurer of the society, be reserved for expenses. (5) Moved by Mrs. MacMurrich, seconded by Mrs. Wm. MacMurrich:—That \$200, being half of the amount of the estimates for Trinidad schools, be sent through the usual channel to Mrs. Morton for her schools, and the remaining \$200 be sent to Mrs. Grant in the same way for her schools. (6) Moved by Mrs. MacMurrich, seconded by Mrs. Ross:—That \$100 each be sent through the usual channel to Mrs. Annand, Mrs. Robertson and Mrs. McKenzie out of the \$600 voted for schools in the New Hebrides, to be used by them for teaching purposes.

A cordial invitation was presented to the society by Mrs. Grant, of Hamilton, to hold its next annual meeting in that city. The invitation was accepted.

The intervals of business were enlivened in various ways. The Toronto ladies entertained their visiting sisters to lunch in the Y. M. C. A. parlours, and the ladies of St. Andrew's Church, West, hospitably entertained the delegates in the church parlours, handsomely decorated for the occasion. Several ladies possessed of eminent musical ability gave their services, and at the public meeting St. Andrew's Church choir, under the leadership of Mr. E. Fisher, sang with fine effect. Before closing votes of thanks were cordially tendered to all who deserved them.

OBITUARY.

JAMES MACKAY, MONTREAL.

At the funeral services held in Crescent Street Church, Montreal over the above, who died abroad, and whose remains were brought to Montreal for interment, Principal Macvicar, who, along with the pastor, Rev. Dr. Mackay, conducted the services, said:

James Mackay, whose mortal remains we this day bear to the tomb, was a member for many years of the firm of Mackay Brothers, so well known for ability, commercial enterprise and integrity in this city and throughout the Dominion. It has been my happy lot for more than a quarter of a century to witness the successful career of this entire family circle. The memory of the late Joseph and Edward Mackay will never pass away in this land. Their associates and those who started with them in the battle of life are fast falling, or have already fallen, into the grave; but these two eminent merchants, in their lifetime, set up enduring monuments of their benevolence, philanthropy and earnest determination to promote Christian education. The same spirit has been admirably manifested by their successors. The late Mr. James Mackay, though long a resident in England, was always deeply interested in the welfare and progress of our city and country, and gave practical proof of his generosity in supporting the institutions, whose claims he readily recognized. He was naturally unselfish, friendly, kind hearted and hospitable, and delighted to manifest these qualities in a pre-eminent degree to those who visited him from this side of the Atlantic. His fidelity in business and personal worth, I have reason to know, were highly appreciated by a large circle in the fatherland, who with us to-day mourn his comparatively early removal.

While permitted, in the providence of God, to enjoy outward prosperity as the fruit of very diligent toil, he was far from being a stranger to the afflictions and sorrows which enter more or less into the lot of all. It is in these, brethren, that our Father in heaven, who afflicteth not willingly but for our profit, comes very near to our hearts and teaches us lessons which we cannot otherwise learn. And truly while we lovingly cherish the memory of the deceased, we have more need to think of ourselves than of him. His career is ended, but ours is still in progress, and that we may end it well we need to take heed to every lesson of providence and of divine truth. While we think of the patience and fortitude with which our departed friend discharged his duty and endured all the sufferings God was pleased to send, and while we lament his too early removal from his chosen scenes of activity, let us hear the voice which says to us now with special emphasis: "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh." O to be ready to welcome His advent, to hail with joy His glorious coming, to be able to say, "My Beloved is mine, and I am His." "Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly."

MRS. WILLIAM MILLIGAN, SHEFFIELD.

The day of death has lately come to a good woman—a sincere and humble Christian, one who having served her day and generation has fallen asleep in Jesus. Mrs. William Milligan, after a brief illness, passed away on Friday the 16th ult., at the age of sixty eight. A native of County Tyrone, Ireland, she came out with her husband to Canada forty-seven years ago. Having purchased land in Sheffield, they settled down to farm life. Here the subject of this sketch lived and died, being held in the greatest esteem by her many friends and neighbours. She was the mother of eight children, four sons and four daughters, all of whom, save one, the late Mrs. Smith Gilmour, survive her. Mrs. Milligan was a most devoted wife and mother, a truly exemplary Christian, and a kind neighbour, one who was always ready to lend assistance in time of sickness. Her word could always be depended upon, and she received the respect of both Catholic and Protestant in the community. She was a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church, and was most regular in her attendance on divine ordinances. Seldom was she ever absent from the house of prayer. Our sister loved the house of God, and joyed to go up thither. The language of David at any time could be hers:

How lovely is thy dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts to me;
The tabernacles of thy grace,
How pleasant, Lord, they be!

My thirsty soul longs vehemently,
Yea fain thy courts to see;
My very heart and flesh cry out,
O living God, for Thee.

On the Sabbath following her decease, a memorial service was held in the eighth concession Church of Camden. The church was completely filled. Her pastor, to whom she was much attached, chose as his text Rev. xiv. 13, and discoursed on the "happiness of departed saints." In closing his sermon he said: "Death is in our midst again. Another of our members hath been taken hence, our beloved sister who lies before us in this casket, is all that is left us of a once Christian mother and Christian wife; she worshipped in our assembly two weeks ago to-day. I little thought when I saw her there, that her earthly course was so nearly run, and that she would meet with us no more for ever. But God's thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are His ways our ways. Though her illness was of short duration, and her end was sudden, thank the Lord, she was not unprepared for it. For her to live was Christ, and to die was gain. "If it is death," she remarked the day before the end came, "I am ready to die," and peacefully the following forenoon she left this vale of tears, to enter into the joy of her Lord. "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

Sabbath School Teacher.

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

April 23, 1889. DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE FORETOLD. Mark 13:1-13.

GOLDEN TEXT.—But I say unto you, that in this place is One greater than the Temple. Matt. xii. 6.

SHORTER CATECHISM.

Question 16.—This covenant was not made with Adam as a private person, but with him as the root and representative of all mankind. Hence not only himself, but all his posterity equally with himself, were concerned in its terms. Adam's natural headship is the ground of his federal headship. If the question is, How, by what means, does it come to pass that every human being comes into the world with a depraved nature? the answer is that Adam and Eve, the natural root and origin of all men, corrupted their own nature, which corrupt nature is necessarily propagated to each new-born descendant by natural generation. If the question be why, on what ground of justice, God brings this terrible curse of hereditary depravity upon each new-born soul before he has personally done either good or evil? the answer is that each one of us, being represented in the holy new created Adam, had a far safer, fairer probation than we, any of us, could have had in our own persons after Adam's sin had corrupted the fountain from which we spring. The representative principle is grounded both in nature and in Scripture. Children do everywhere inherit the good or evil consequences of their parents' lives. "The free will of the parent becomes the destiny of the child" (Hugh Miller). Witness the declaration attached to the Second Commandment (Ex. 20:5), the representative character of Christ the second Adam. He assumed the legal responsibility for our sins, and the reward of his righteousness is given to us. (See Rom. 5:12-21.) The full penalty denounced upon Adam and Eve as the punishment of their apostasy has been continuously and rigorously inflicted on each of their descendants—death (Gen. 2:17) a cursed earth, and the necessity of gaining our daily bread by the sweat of our brow (Gen. 3:16-19). Dr. A. A. Hodge.

I. The Temple's Destruction Foretold.—As the little company left the Temple enclosure, one of the disciples looking round, gazed with admiration on the magnificent structure, which was one of the grandest then to be found anywhere. It was the temple built by Herod the Great, and fully completed by Herod Agrippa II., so that its construction from the commencement to the finish occupied the time mentioned in John's Gospel. It was built of great blocks of marble, had spacious courts and enclosed colonnades, splendidly adorned. No wonder that the disciple, merely looking at the building itself, exclaimed, "Behold what manner of stones and what manner of buildings!" Jesus saw much more than was revealed to the eye of His disciple. The beautiful appearance of the Temple, its massive structure, its solid masonry, would, to all appearance, stand for centuries, and elicit the admiration of successive generations. Jesus saw far into the future, and says with the certainty of absolute knowledge that one stone should not be left upon another, all would be levelled by the destroyer. It was literally as He had said. Forty years later, in A.D. 70, the awful destruction overtook the sacred city, and after the cruellest siege recorded in history, Titus Vespasian swept the city, which lay a mass of ruin and desolation, and the splendid Temple was razed to its foundations.

II. Signs of Impending Destruction.—The Saviour's unexpected reply to the disciple's admiring observation seems to have overawed those that accompanied Him. After they had gained the eminence of Mount Olivet, where the company sat down, the magnificence of the view, and the historic associations connected with the holy city must have been very impressive. The four well-known disciples and first followers of Christ from Galilee, approach Him privately, and ask questions about the unexpected announcement made to them as they were leaving the city. Curiosity is inherent in the human mind. These disciples first wanted to know when these things should be—the destruction of the Temple, the coming of Christ's kingdom and the end of the age, and next, what would be the signs heralding their approach. The lesson refers principally to Christ's coming in judgment, in relation to the first-named event, and has no doubt a secondary reference to the final coming. As to the time that is nowhere specified in Scripture. Christ does not gratify a merely idle and speculative curiosity. He says, "Take heed, lest any man deceive you," and tells of several signs by which the discerning may anticipate the great approaching events. The first sign mentioned is the appearance of false Christs. Many of those, He says, shall come, and what ought to be noted, they will be able to deceive many. Wars and disturbing rumours of war were to constitute the second sign of the impending destruction of Jerusalem, as they will form a prelude to the second coming. Christ's disciples were not to be dismayed by these. Even then the end is not yet. The third sign is seen in earthquakes and famines. There are on record an unusual number of earthquakes occurring about the time of the destruction of Jerusalem, among them the overthrow of Pompeii and Herculaneum. These convulsions of nature and the physical sufferings they entail are described as the beginning of sorrows, to be followed by better and more blessed times. Persecutions of Christ's people are described as the fourth sign. These were terrible in the early ages of the Church's history, but these calamitous events were overruled for the furtherance of the Gospel. The universal proclamation of the Gospel is itself adduced as the last sign given of the near approach of the fulfilment of Christ's sayings to His disciples.

III. Danger and Deliverance for Christ's Followers.—He who is the Truth does not conceal from His people the dangers and difficulties that lie in their path. The dangers have to be met but He will protect His people in all times of trial if they only look to Him. They were to be despised and persecuted. The Acts of the Apostles tell how literally this was fulfilled before the destruction of Jerusalem. When for Christ's sake and for fidelity in His service they are brought before kings and rulers, they are exhorted to dismiss all unnecessary anxiety. The time of their special need will be the time of His most gracious help. "Whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye, for it is not ye that speak but the Holy Ghost." One of the saddest trials of a young Christian must be opposition from members of his own family. In those first days of the Christian Church how terrible the feuds that divided the nearest and dearest of earthly relations. The very same thing is repeated still in India, China, and over all the world where the Gospel is making converts. Testimonies still exist that in many places throughout the Roman world the early Christians were maligned and hated; they were even described as enemies of the human race. The closing word is that "He that shall endure unto the end the same shall be saved." Patience must have its perfect work. It is related by the earliest church historian, Eusebius, that being thus forewarned the Christians who were in Jerusalem at the beginning of the siege that ended in such overwhelming ruin, escaped to Pella, in Decapolis, and the tradition is that not one of them perished.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

Christ's words are certain to be fulfilled.

The nation that will not serve Him shall perish.

Christ does not reveal His truth to us to gratify our curiosity but to strengthen our faith and secure our obedience.

We must be on our guard against deception; it has two sources: our own unbelieving hearts, and false teachers.

Perseverance, Christian steadfastness is necessary to salvation.