

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS.

A congregational meeting in connection with the new Chester Presbyterian Church, Toronto, was held last week, and another step taken in organization. The members of the interim Session appointed by the Toronto Presbytery were present, and received the Rev. William McKinlay, who is in temporary charge of the congregation. The following Board of Management was elected: Messrs. Young, Marshall, Cuthbertson, Macdonald and McKinnon. Mr. R. Marshall was elected chairman, and Mr. J. R. Cuthbertson, secretary of the Board. This new congregation is prospering under the charge of the Rev. Mr. McKinlay.

The first annual congregational meeting of St. John's Presbyterian Church, Gerrard Street and Bolton Avenue, Toronto, took place last week. Rev. J. McP. Scott, the pastor, occupied the chair. The report of the Managing Board for 1889 showed very satisfactory progress in all departments; the membership, which at the beginning of the year was twenty seven, has now increased to seventy. The treasurer's report showed the total revenue from all sources to be \$1,050, leaving a balance in the treasurer's hands, after all disbursements, of \$87.46. The report of the Sunday school showed the membership to be over 300, the average attendance being 200, with thirty-two teachers and officers. The election of managers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: Messrs. C. E. Lee, A. Greer, John Gray, R. O'Brien, J. C. Walkinshaw, A. Duncan, J. Traill, J. Cochran and Dr. A. F. Mackenzie. Votes of thanks were tendered Miss Warner and Miss Readman for their efforts in connection with the musical part of the service.

At the annual meeting of Erskine Presbyterian Church, Toronto, held last week, very satisfactory reports of the year's work were presented. The communion roll on the 1st of January, 1889, numbered 490 names, and the additions during the year were 124, making a total of 614 members. The building fund shows a mortgage debt of \$1,600, at five per cent. interest, and not in arrear. The weekly offerings for the year amounted to \$4,957.34, and the total income of the congregation was about \$8,000. The chief items of expenditure were the stipend of the pastor, Rev. W. A. Hunter, \$2,000; Mrs. Smith, \$500; organist's salary, \$300; sexton's salary, \$250; coal account, \$231.90; gas account, \$95; water rate, \$86.57, and painting, \$108. The various societies in connection with the congregation were reported to be in a very prosperous condition. The William Street Mission has increased in number and finances during the year. The following members were added to the Board of Management: Messrs. Young, Mitchell, Muir, Miller, Kerr and Dr. Turner, making a total membership of fifteen. The chairman is Mr. John A. Patterson, treasurer, Mr. John Young; secretary, Mr. James Robertson.

The annual meeting of Knox Church congregation, Toronto, was held last week in the lecture room of the church, the pastor, Rev. Dr. Parsons, presiding. There was a large attendance. After the adoption of previous minutes, the secretary read the trustee's financial report, which showed the expenditure for the year to be \$12,889.64, against \$11,149.98 receipts, making a deficiency of \$1,747.66, which, however, was wholly due to two items of unforeseen, extraordinary disbursements in 1888. By a unanimous motion the trustees were authorized to take immediate steps to liquidate this shortage. The report was then passed. The deacons' report, read by the chairman, showed that something over \$800 had been contributed to the poor fund during the year, and over \$6,000 devoted to other schemes of the Church. The outlay on the Duchess Street Mission for 1889 amounted to \$699.83. There were 112 new names added to the roll of church membership during the year, making the total number now about 1,000; there were thirty deaths, of which thirteen were members. Various other reports, the Ladies' Aid, Young People's Association, Willing Workers, Sabbath School, etc., not being quite ready for submission at last week's meeting, were, on motion, passed in advance. These, it is understood, all show most encouraging and gratifying results.

The annual meeting of College Street Presbyterian Church, Toronto, was held last week. The Rev. Alexander Gilray, pastor, occupied the chair, and Mr. Beatty acted as secretary. The managers' report on the financial position of the church showed that the collections during the year amounted to \$4,382.15, being \$36.95 in advance of last year; general revenue to building fund, \$1,110; from subscribers, \$1,616.50; from concerts, \$207.65; from Sunday School Association, \$157.66. On September 1, 1889, the Board converted \$1,000 of the debt into a floating debt. The financial report is as follows: Receipts, \$4,749.21; expenses, \$4,659.26; balance on hand, \$89.95; building fund liabilities for 1889, \$24,455.54; Missionary Association receipts, \$632.64; payments, \$580.36; balance, \$52.28. The Session report that 181 members have joined the Church during the year, while 176 members have left, and formed what is now known as St. Paul's congregation. The present total membership is 703. The managers elected are: Messrs. D. W. Clark, J. A. Dingwall, C. R. Peterkin, George Gall, William Clark, J. Alexander, W. P. Elder, W. R. Calloway, James Colhoun, A. B. Smith, D. T. Gray, J. Mitchell, Dr. Ferguson, D. Watson and John McCracken. The number of scholars attending the Sabbath school averages 400, while the number of names on the roll is 616. The auditors elected are Messrs. J. S. Brown and J. Brown. The following additional names have been added to the Session: Messrs. W. McWhinney, S. Phillips, Thomas Woolley, John Imlie and W. F. Mitchell. The chairman spoke for some time in favour of a suggestion for the building of an additional Sunday school room.

The annual meeting of the Central Presbyterian Church, Toronto, was held in the lecture room of the church last week, there being a large number of members present. After refreshments had been taken of in the basement, Mr. Robert Donald took the chair, and called upon the secretary, Mr. Melville, who read the report of the session. The report was very favourable, and expressed a deep sense of gratitude to the great Head of the Church for many tokens of blessing attending the work of the congregation during the year. The various societies and organizations in connection with the church had given in their monthly reports to the session, with encouraging accounts of the work done and of the results realized. The membership had been largely increased, while the attendance of strangers was very large each Sabbath. The Elizabeth Street mission work was attended with good results, the services being conducted voluntarily by students and others. The Sabbath school and Bible class work was also in a very satisfactory state, the attendance during the past year being greater than in any previous year in the church's history. The church was also doing much towards the foreign mission. Two members of the church had devoted themselves to this work, Miss Maggie McIntosh having gone to the Hnan Mission in connection with the Foreign Mission Board of the Church, and Mr. Malcolm Fenwick to Corea, as assistant to Mr. Gale. Miss Bella Ross who had been connected with the Sabbath school had just left for China under the auspices of the China Inland Mission. The number of members received into the fellowship of the Church during the year was eighty-five. The removals from the Church had been as large as in 1888, leaving a net increase of forty-eight, and making the present membership 480. The managers' report, dealing with the financial position of the church, was very satisfactory. The debt had been reduced to \$4,650. The average weekly collections by envelope and

loose contributions amounting to \$114, as compared with an average of \$104 last year. The receipts and expenses for the year were: Receipts, \$6,318.25, and expenses, \$6,289.40, leaving a balance on hand of 28.85. The report of the Sabbath school showed that there were 169 names on the roll, and that \$201.62 had been collected during the year for foreign missions. The remainder of the business consisted in electing managers for the present year. The following were elected: Dr. Wishart, Messrs. K. Donald, George Paton, A. Creelman, P. Campbell, J. Crooks, R. Spence, W. B. Windrum and F. Anderson.

The second annual meeting of the Bloor Street Presbyterian Church, Toronto, was held in the lecture hall of the church last week, and was well attended by the congregation. The pastor, Rev. W. G. Wallace, M.A., B.D., occupied the chair, and, after prayer and praise, opened the proceeding with a few well-chosen introductory remarks bearing on the work of the church during the year. The several reports were presented by Mr. William Davidson, secretary. The statement of the Session was a very satisfactory one, and expressed gratification at the very favourable condition of the church affairs at the end of this, the second year of its history. The report of the Board of Managers was very encouraging. The financial statement showed the total receipts during the year to be \$4,408.74; expenditure, \$4,356.19, leaving a balance of \$112.55 on hand. The report of the building committee showed that contributions amounting to \$6,397 had been paid to the building fund during the year, thus clearing off a considerable portion of the building accounts. The Missionary Committee reported that \$1,605 had been contributed towards their fund, showing that a great interest is taken by the congregation in the spread of civilization and the Gospel among the heathen, and that Bloor Street Presbyterian Church is well in the van in the good work, and has many earnest workers. The average attendance of scholars at the Sabbath school during the year was 389, teachers, forty three. The following officers were elected for the present year: Managers—Messrs. William Davidson, R. J. Hunter, Matthew Lanzmann and Andrew Marhead. Auditors—Messrs. R. Donald and Joseph McIntosh. The erection of a new church is progressing rapidly, and it is fully expected to be ready for occupation, according to contract, in May.

The annual meeting of the congregation of St. Andrew's East, Toronto, was held last week, Mr. W. D. Gilleen presiding in the absence of Rev. G. M. Milligan through illness. The various reports submitted showed the church and the associations connected with it to be in a healthy and progressive state. The report submitted by the Board of Managers stated that the receipts for the year ending December, 1889, amounted to \$9,070.58, which, with the balance carried forward from last year of \$694.95, makes a total of \$9,771.29. The disbursements were \$9,632.64, leaving a balance on hand January 1, 1890, of \$138.65. During the year the Board had reduced the debt \$1,000, in addition to paying the yearly interest on the mortgages, both out of the ordinary revenue. The debt on the church is now \$17,000. The Board hope to consolidate the debt next August at a reduced rate of interest. The system of raising money for church purposes by envelope was reported to be giving satisfaction, and the hope expressed that the envelopes would come into more general use. Improvements and repairs had been made to the church during the summer to the extent of about \$4,300; towards this fund the sum of \$2,246 had so far been subscribed. The Board recommended that a grant of \$800 be made towards St. Enoch's Mission Church for the coming year, after which it is expected the mission will be self-supporting. The report was adopted. The Session's report stated that at the close of 1888 the communicants' roll numbered 493. During 1889 twenty-one persons were received by profession of faith and fifty-eight by letter. Forty-nine members left the church during the year and six deaths occurred. The number of communicants now on the roll is 517. The auxiliary of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society reported that they had raised \$353 during the year and ninety-five new members had been added to the roll. Great interest had been manifested in mission work at Indore. Miss Harris had left for that field. St. Enoch's Church, on Winchester Street, a mission of St. Andrew's was reported to be rapidly approaching that period when it would be able to stand alone. A congregation was organized there a short time ago and the Sunday school is largely attended. The election to the Board of Management resulted in Messrs. Robert McLean, W. L. Symons and James E. Baillie being selected for three years, and Mr. James Baird for one year. Other members of the Board are: Messrs. John Leys, jr.; A. B. McColl, Joseph Oliver, R. McClain (secretary), and Hon. G. W. Ross. The auditors elected were Messrs. C. J. Beggs and John Kent.

The Central Presbyterian Church congregation held its annual meeting last week in Hamilton, J. W. Minton, chairman, and Roland Hills, secretary. The report of the managers was presented, and showed a balance in the treasury of \$339.05. The receipts from the various sources amounted to \$8,355.24. The disbursements were \$7,956.19, of which \$3,600 was for ministers' stipend, and \$240.25 for pulpit supply. The musical service cost \$1.100. The average Sunday collections have been \$73.21, which is \$6.14 below last year's average. The total revenue for the year has been \$84 more than the previous one. Mention is made in the report of the new Sunday school building, which will necessitate an expenditure of \$1,000 more for the coming year, \$400 of which will be used for rent of a manse for the pastor. The following amounts collected show how the internal working of the church body has been conducted during the year past: Ladies' Aid Society, \$712.53; Mission Committee \$346.84; Sunday school for mission purposes, \$498.74; Ladies' Visiting Committee, interest on deposits, \$8.36; Mission Band, \$371.52; Woman's Foreign Mission Society Auxiliary, \$189.99; Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour, \$159.86; Treasurer of Mission school, exclusive of contribution from Christian Endeavour Society, \$121.04; contribution to Women's Christian Association, \$70.50; subscription to Sunday School Building Fund, \$4,315. These figures augment the total income of the church to \$14,640.66. The report of the Ladies' Aid Society showed that of the \$5,000 promised in aid of the new Sunday school, \$2,500 had been paid over and \$500 more was in the bank, leaving only \$2,000 to be raised. The ladies were tendered a vote of thanks. The Visiting Committee reported \$575.68 raised, and \$495.78 disbursed. The session report showed a net gain of thirty in membership, and suggested the appointment of five new elders to properly look after the needs of the church. The pastor, Rev. S. Lyle, presented a letter offering to forego the \$400 allowed him for rent and apply it to the Sunday school. A. Rutherford did not think it right that the pastor should make such a contribution to the Sunday school. If the church gave him \$3,600 and a manse, it certainly was not the intention to reduce the amount. W. F. Findlay spoke in the same strain and the following resolution was put and carried: Moved by A. Rutherford, seconded by W. F. Findlay, that the pastor's offer be not accepted, but that \$400 be added to his salary in lieu of the manse, of which he has been deprived. W. F. Findlay made a report on the new Sunday school finances, and showed that subscriptions to date amounted to \$4,315; amount borrowed on mortgage, \$3,000; paid on contract, \$4,160. The election of officers resulted as follows: Board of Management: R. Hills, jr., Robert Hobson, A. M. Cunningham, Adam Stewart, James Balfour, and H. D. Cameron. Three trustees elected were Hon. J. M. Gibson, Alex. Garthshore and John Calder. J. B. Fairgrieve and Wm. A. Wood were elected auditors.

## Sabbath School Teacher.

## INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

Feb. 2, 1890. JESUS BROUGHT INTO THE TEMPLE. Luke 2: 25-35.

GOLDEN TEXT.—A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.—Luke ii. 32.

## INTRODUCTORY.

Forty days after the birth of Jesus He was taken by Joseph and His mother to the temple at Jerusalem. The first born male in every Jewish family belonged to Jehovah. In memory of the preservation of the first-born in Egypt, the dedication of the first-born son in every Jewish household was required by the divine law. As, however, the tribe of Levi had been set apart for service in the priesthood, the child was redeemed by the payment of five shekels—\$2.75 of our money. Mary also went to the temple to observe the ceremony of purification in accordance with the requirements of the ceremonial law. It was customary on such occasions to present a burnt-offering and a sin offering, for the first a lamb was required and for the second a turtle dove or young pigeon. If the person was poor, another pigeon might be substituted for the lamb. This was what was done in the case of the mother of our Lord, showing that she was in humble circumstances.

I. An Aged Saint.—The old man's name was Simeon. This is the only place in the New Testament in which he is mentioned. The one notable thing recorded of him is that he welcomed the infant Saviour the first time He was brought to the temple. What is said of him here shows that he was a God-fearing and upright man. He had lived a life of pious endeavour, and had held communion with God. This life of faith and holy obedience had prepared him to recognize Jesus as the Saviour. It is here said of him that he was just and devout. This expresses his attitude toward God and toward his fellow-men. In all his relations with others he was just and upright. He was faithful in the discharge of his religious duties, and to this he was moved by his feelings of love to God, and an earnest purpose to serve Him. In the darkest of evil times God is never without his witnesses. At the time of Christ's birth there were many waiting for the consolation of Israel, looking for the coming of the promised Deliverer. Simeon was one of these, and the lesson is followed by the mention of Anna, the prophetess who cherished the same exalted hope. The Messiah was to bring consolation and to satisfy the deepest longings of the soul. The source of the moral and spiritual beauty of Simeon's life was the Holy Ghost, who inspired and directed his thoughts, and was his unerring guide. To him the Holy Ghost had brought the revelation that "he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ,"—Jehovah's anointed One. No doubt Simeon had prayed fervently for the coming of the Messiah, and longed for His appearing. The answer was given in the form of a deep conviction that before he closed his eyes on this world he should see the Divine Redeemer. Though like many other good men before him he might have passed away without seeing with his bodily eyes the Lord's Anointed, he would have died in faith, yet this great blessing was bestowed upon him that he might look upon Him who had come to die for the sins of men. By the Holy Spirit he was guided to the temple at the time the infant Saviour was brought. Joseph and Mary had come to express their thankfulness to God, and in accordance with the requirements of the ceremonial law for the redemption of the first-born. Reverently and affectionately he took Jesus in his arms and blessed God.

II. Simeon's Song of Praise.—In a spirit of devout thankfulness the aged saint is now ready to depart. He has nothing more to live for, the greatest blessing had been bestowed upon him. God's promise had been fulfilled and he is ready to leave the world in peace. He was at peace with God, and He who is the Prince of Peace had come to the world, "For mine eyes have seen thy salvation." What a strong faith this old man possessed! In that little infant only six weeks old he was able to see the Saviour of the world, and the salvation he brings is a perfect salvation from sin in its condemnation and power in reconciliation to God, bringing the soul into harmony with God's will and everlasting life; perfect also in the means whereby it is applied,—the truth of God, the atonement for sin, faith in Jesus Christ and the efficacious work of the Holy Spirit. This salvation wrought out by Jesus Christ was in accordance with God's eternal purpose. "Which thou hast prepared." The plan of deliverance was before the foundation of the world. All the events of history since the fall of man were in the line of preparation for Christ's coming in the fulness of time. Though the Jewish race were God's peculiar people, though Christ took on Him the seed of Abraham, yet His salvation was for all people. The Jews had a special training as well as a clear revelation of a Saviour to come. Other nations by their experience were led to recognize the need of a divine salvation, since all mere human efforts at deliverance were unavailing, as the best and noblest of their teachers were led to confess. Simeon, by the Holy Ghost's teaching, was able to recognize the world-wide aspect of Christ's salvation. The Saviour was "a light to lighten the Gentiles," the heathen nations, sunk in the darkness of idolatry and moral and spiritual gloom. Jesus is the Light of the World, bringing truth, joy, peace, love and life to the nations. Christ is also "the glory of thy people Israel." He was the greatest of the race, but He was much more. The coming and the work of Christ was the fulfilment of God's purpose to which all His dealings with the Jewish nation led up. Though the Jewish people rejected Him, the time will come when they shall yet recognize him as the glory of their nation, and the source of their most precious blessings.

III. Simeon's Benediction.—Simeon's sayings caused Joseph and Mary to marvel. They themselves believed in the divine promises concerning Jesus, but here was a stranger to them speaking in the most exalted strains concerning His future. The venerable saint bestows his blessing on Joseph and Mary and says to the latter, "This child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel." The common Jewish expectation was very different from the reality. Their ideas of a temporal deliverer and an earthly sovereignty were completely at variance with the purpose of His coming. These misconceptions were overthrown. Christ's method of salvation causes the fall of all human attempts of securing spiritual deliverance. The rejection of Christ caused the fall of the Jewish nation. All who accept Him as their Saviour are raised up from the death in trespasses and sin to newness of life. Jesus was to be the sign that would be spoken against. The Jews spoke against Him, and many in our own day are to be found speaking against him. To all such he is a sign they do not understand. Mary was to experience great intensity of grief, as is here intimated by the very expressive words "A sword shall pierce through thy own soul also." When she stood by the cross weeping what words could be capable of expressing the depth of her soul's anguish. Christ reveals the thoughts of men. Jesus cannot be regarded with indifference. "He that is not with Me is against Me." Those who come to Him cannot help but love Him; the souls of those who reject Him will be filled with dread.

## PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

If we would live just and devout lives we must have the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Those who see God's salvation have no fear of death. They are ready to depart in peace.

Christ is the Light of the World and will yet be recognized as the glory of His people Israel.

Christ's truth cannot leave us indifferent.