

suitable building for the promising outgrowth of the congregation, and also to enlarge and re-arrange the class accommodation for the Central school. Provision was made for a residence for the janitor near the Church. By unanimous resolution an increase of \$300 annually was made to the pastor's salary. The new managers, elected in room of those whose term of office had expired, were Messrs. G. A. Somerville and D. McDonald. At the first meeting of the new Board for 1890 Mr. James McSween was elected chairman for the year.

The annual meeting of the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Lindsay, was held recently. The chair was occupied by the pastor, Rev. Robert Johnston, B.A., and Mr. Alexander Jackson acted as secretary. After devotional services the statement of the session was read by the pastor, referring more especially to the spiritual interests of the church and bearing testimony to the harmony, zeal and increasing liberality which have been so clearly manifested by the congregation in all parts of their work. Reports were read from the Woman's Foreign Mission Society, Ivy Mission Band, Juvenile Missionary Society, Visiting Committee, Ladies' Aid Association and Sabbath schools (town and country), all of which were adopted. The managers' report and financial statements for 1889 were then submitted. In beginning their report the managers referred in becoming terms to the happy settlement of the devoted young pastor of the congregation on July 11 last, and expressed the congregation's appreciation of his great ability as a preacher of the Gospel and of the success that has attended his abundant labours. Mr. D. J. McIntyre, in moving the adoption of the latter report, addressed the meeting, ably reviewing the past progress of the congregation and looking for greater success in the future. The managers were instructed to take such steps as they may deem advisable for securing the payment of the floating debt. Messrs. D. J. McIntyre, J. R. McNeillie and James Siorer, who retired by rotation, were re-elected managers, and Mr. John Brown was elected to the vacancy in the Board caused by the resignation of Mr. John Campbell, who has been removed to British Columbia. The other members of the Board are Messrs. Robert Spier, John McSween and A. Campbell. Mr. J. R. McNeillie was re-appointed secretary-treasurer, and Messrs. Thomas Stewart and Henry Ferguson were appointed auditors. Votes of thanks in felicitous terms were tendered to the managers, the choir, the ushers, and the lady collectors for the Schemes of the Church. The congregation raised in all departments during the year 1889 the sum of \$5,025 and of this amount \$846.20 was for missions. The number of members is 315, and there are nearly 200 families connected with the congregation. When the business of the meeting was finished all adjourned to the lecture room and partook of refreshments provided by the ladies.

The annual congregational meeting of Chalmers Church, Woodstock, was held last week and was well attended. Rev. Mr. McKay conducted the devotional exercises and then called on the meeting to choose a chairman. Mr. D. Dodge was elected to that position. The report from the Session says: "During the year eighty-five new members were added—twenty-eight by certificate and fifty-seven on profession of faith. There have been removed from the roll during the year twenty-one. The membership at the present time is 309. The increased attendance on public worship during the year has been very encouraging; lately, considerable difficulty has been found in providing persons with suitable pews. The average attendance at the Sabbath school is 150, and during a considerable part of the year the Bible Class, taught by the pastor, has numbered from 150 to 200. There is now a good library connected with the Bible Class. A Young People's Christian Endeavour Society has been organized in the congregation during the year and has done good work. The members of this society have undertaken to visit each family of the congregation in the town once a week with a tract, and to report any case of sickness to the pastor. The society meets for prayer and praise every Sabbath morning, and the Session would strongly urge upon the Young People of the Church the privilege of attending these meetings. The Session would like to see the prayer meetings more largely attended and would suggest that parents bring their children with them to it. The Session have to regret that greater liberality is not shown by some towards the schemes of the Church, and trust that the coming year will see an improvement in this respect. The Session would recommend every family in the congregation to provide itself with a copy of the Missionary Record of the Church. The Board of Trustees in their report congratulated the congregation on the excellent financial statement of the year. The statement was printed and distributed in the Church. The report of the Willing Workers was read and adopted. Thirty dollars had been distributed among the poor and over 500 visits made during the year. The following is the Board of Trustees for 1890: D. Dodge, W. Amos, Dr. McLure, J. Dowan, W. Griffith, Dr. Brownlee, J. Symington, John A. McKay, John Weir, Capt. McConnell and Mr. Cullen. Auditors, Geo. Kinton and Dr. McLure.

The annual meeting of McNab Street Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, was held last week. Dr. Fletcher opened the meeting with devotional exercises. Dr. Miller was appointed chairman and Mr. James Chisholm, secretary. The session report was presented by Mr. Alexander Davidson, from which it appeared that the present total membership is 482, an increase over last year of eight. There were fifty-one members added during the past twelve months, but nine members were removed by death and thirty-five severed connection by certificate. The session strongly recommended the building of an addition to the West End mission school and hoped the members of the congregation would be as considerate and generous as possible. The managers' report was presented by Mr. C. S. Murray. The statement submitted by the treasurer, Mr. James Chisholm, showed that the receipts for the year amounted to \$4,918.39. Dr. Macdonald, superintendent of the Sabbath school, read the annual report. It recommended the importance of home training. Mr. Thomas Cook, secretary-treasurer, read the financial statement of the Sabbath school. The receipts were \$154.70, of which \$88.55 was a balance from last year. The expenditure was \$3.34, leaving a balance of \$71.36. Number on roll January 1, 201 scholars, twenty-seven teachers; average attendance during the year, 165, being an increase of thirteen over last year. The Sabbath School Missionary Fund receipts were \$190.54, which was all expended but \$1.54. Mr. J. C. McKeand presented the report of the West End mission, on Locke Street. The total number of scholars on the roll at the beginning of the year was 120, with a staff of thirteen teachers, and the average attendance of scholars has been ninety-eight. The total amount contributed by the classes was 102.67, being an average of nearly two dollars per Sabbath. The report was a most encouraging one. Rev. Dr. Fletcher gave the following figures as the amounts collected by the mission schemes of the church: Missionary Association, etc., \$1,321; Woman's Foreign Mission Auxiliary and Mission Bands, \$372; contributed by Sabbath schools, \$285; augmentation of stipends, etc., \$218; total, \$2,196. The report of the Ladies' Aid Association, Auxiliary of the Woman's Foreign Mission Society, Mission Band, Juvenile Mission Band and Band of Hope were also read, and showed that good work had been done during the year. Messrs. C. Ferrie and C. W. Graham were elected auditors. Mr. Alexander Turner was unanimously elected trustee of the church and manse property in place of Hon. James Turner, deceased. Messrs. Adam Ballentine, Donald McPhie and C. S. Murray were re-elected managers. Mr. John Moodie resigned his position on the Board and Mr. P. H. Cline was elected manager in his stead.

The annual business meeting of the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Berlin, was held recently in the school room. There was a good attendance. Mr. D. McDougall was appointed chairman, and Mr. John King secretary. After devotional exercises, reports were read from the commissioners who attended the Presbytery meeting at Fergus in August last, the Board of Management, the Treasurer, the Ladies' Aid Society and the Auxiliary of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. There being no settled minister, no report was presented from the Session. Mr. Richard Reid, superintendent, read the report from the Sunday school. These reports were very interesting and instructive, and showed all the organizations in connection with the Church to be in a prosperous condition. Appropriate reference was made in the managers' report to the translation of the Rev. Mr. Tait to Quebec. The total revenue for the year ending 31st December, 1889, was \$1,712.78, made up of weekly offerings \$320.70, plate collections \$595.72 (an increase of \$50.99 over 1888), pew rents \$366, special collections in lieu of conversation, \$56.50, contributions to building fund \$75, etc. The total cash expenditure for the year was \$1,513.91, a decrease of \$188.55, as compared with 1888. The outstanding collectable assets were \$173.85, which, with the cash in hand, made a surplus of \$202.36. There were no liabilities for the year. The mortgage debt has been materially reduced, leaving a balance of \$769.64. The Ladies' Society has raised \$223.92, and expended out of funds in hand, \$260.11, including a substantial donation to the building fund. The society's entertainments had been very successful. There was an increase at the Sunday school, so much so that additional accommodation was asked for. The year's revenue of the school was about \$100. All the mission schemes of the Church had been aided by grants for different amounts. The total sum raised during the year by the congregation for all purposes was \$2,116.39. Messrs. E. Smyth and A. McPherson were re-appointed auditors. On the ballot for managers the following gentlemen were elected, viz. Messrs. D. B. Dewar, J. King, H. J. Hall, F. Smyth, W. Roos, L. Van Camp, W. A. Greene and D. McDougall. The Board of Management elected E. Smyth, chairman; J. King, secretary; and D. B. Dewar, treasurer. The formation of a children's choir to assist the present choir was resolved upon, and improvements in the lighting and ventilation of the Church were left in the hands of the managers. Heartily thanks were given all the officials and organizations in connection with the congregation, after which the meeting adjourned.

The third annual meeting of the congregation of Augustine Church, Winnipeg, adjourned from the 21st ult., was held last week. After devotional exercises, conducted by the Rev. A. B. Baird, M.A., B.D., a statement was read on behalf of the Session. During the year the additions to the membership have been thirteen, and removals two, net gain eleven. The number of communicants now upon the roll is fifty-two. The attendance upon the regular Sabbath services has for some time been increasing, and the attendance at the weekly prayer meetings is fairly kept up. The Bible class and Sabbath school, of which Mr. Hugh Ross is now superintendent, are in efficient working order, the number on the roll being fifty, with six teachers. Ald. McMicken was elected chairman, and Mr. D. M. Ross appointed secretary. The managers' report was presented by Chief Justice Taylor. The income for the past year from ordinary sources, including a balance of \$8.09 from last year, has been \$1,027.35, and the expenditure \$1,009.20, leaving on hand \$18.15. The managers had much pleasure in being able at the close of the year to hand the Rev. Mr. Baird a cheque for \$100, in addition to the amount for which they held themselves responsible. At last annual meeting the debt was reported as \$1,058.36. No special effort has been made during the year to reduce this, but in May the Rev. Dr. Ormiston, of New York, when visiting the city, kindly gave a lecture in the interests of the congregation, from which \$110.75 was realized. This sum, with \$10 given by two members, was applied upon the debt, reducing it to \$937.61. Thanks were given to Dr. Ormiston for his kindness, and in the same connection grateful recognition was made of the liberality of the managers of St. Andrew's Church in giving the use of Selkirk Hall for the purpose of the lecture free of charge. The total amount raised during the past year for all purposes has been: For the ordinary purposes of the congregation, \$936.06; for reduction of debt, \$120.75; for General Hospital, \$35.10; for Manitoba College Students' Missionary Society, \$28.10; for schemes of the Church, \$216.80; for deficiency in Manitoba College Theological Fund, \$50. In addition the auxiliary of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society raised among themselves for the funds of the Society \$50; the contributions of the Bible class and Sabbath school amounted to \$99.41; of which \$43 was devoted to missions, \$28 to Home Missions and \$15 to the Indian mission school at Crowstand, taught by Miss Armstrong, formerly a member of the congregation. These sums, when added together, make a total of \$1,556.22. The contributions to the schemes of the church after deducting \$2.55 paid for copies of the *Presbyterian Record*, were apportioned as follows: Manitoba College, \$70; Home Missions, \$50; Augmentation Fund, \$40; Foreign Missions, \$21.25; French Evangelization, \$5; Aged and Infirm Missions, \$20; Widows' and Orphans' Fund, \$5; General Assembly Fund, \$3. Chief Justice Taylor, Ald. McMicken, Mr. Wm. Johnstone, Mr. Wm. Bell and Mr. Wm. Jackson were elected managers for the current year, and Mr. H. M. Drummond was appointed auditor. Cordial votes of thanks were given to Mrs. Drummond for her gratuitous services as organist, to the choir, and to Miss Lily Jackson, for her faithful service as missionary collector. The business of the meeting having been satisfactorily concluded, an hour was pleasantly spent in the enjoyment of refreshments provided by ladies of the congregation, and in friendly conversation.

HOME MISSIONS AND AUGMENTATION.

The following circular has been sent to all our ministers and missionaries in the western district.

It is exceedingly important that all contributions for Home Missions and Augmentation should be sent to Rev. Dr. Reid, not later than the second week in March.

At the meeting of the committee, which will be held shortly after that date, the claims for work done during the winter months will fall due, and new applications be considered. The prompt payment of the former, and the new grants for the year beginning 1st April will largely depend on the state and prospects of the funds.

The prospects are, so far as can be judged by the contributions received up to date, that unless very special efforts are made during the next six weeks, there will be a considerable deficit in both departments of our work. Last year the contributions from congregations for Home Missions fell short by \$10,000 of the sum expended, and the contributions for Augmentation by \$3,768 of the sum expended. But for the Reserve Fund and unusual gifts from outside sources, in addition to special efforts since, the claims could not have been met. Now that the Reserve Funds are entirely exhausted, and the exceptionally large gifts of the past year from British churches cannot be expected, the committee is mainly dependent upon the contributions of the congregations.

Will you kindly endeavour to have the contributions of your own congregation increased, in proportion to the very urgent demands made upon the committee, and forwarded at the earliest possible date.

WM. COCHRANE,

Convener Home Mission Fund.

Brantford, Feb. 3rd, 1890.

Sabbath School Teacher.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

March 7,
1890.

JESUS AT NAZARETH.

Luke 4,
16-34.

GOLDEN TEXT.—He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.—John i. 11.

INTRODUCTORY.

After the temptation Jesus entered on the work of His public ministry. He had gathered His disciples about Him, and taught the people principally in Judea, where also He had performed miracles that attested the divinity of His mission, and, being beneficent in their character, brought healing and comfort to the suffering. He revisited Galilee and went to the town of Nazareth, where He had spent His youth and early manhood. It was there that the interesting and impressive incidents recorded in the lesson occurred.

I. Jesus in the Synagogue.—At His baptism Jesus said: "It becometh us to fulfil all righteousness." So it is told in the New Testament how devoted He was to the observance of all religious duty. It was His custom, as we are here told, to attend public worship. He knew more than all the teachers. He comprehended the teaching of Scripture better than all the rabbis, but He did not make that an excuse for the neglect of attending public worship. So also in regard to the duty of personal prayer. It is recorded of Him that He often withdrew into solitude that He might commune in prayer with God. The synagogue was the place of meeting for religious services on the Sabbath day. The service was not very different from the ordinary Sabbath service of the present day. There was the singing of praise, reading the Scriptures, prayer and an address. On the Sabbath mentioned in the lesson Jesus entered the synagogue, and stood up to read the Scripture lesson for the day. There was delivered to Him the book of the prophet Isaiah by the attendant who had charge of the Scriptures. They were not like our printed books, but carefully written by hand on long rolls of parchment. The reader and the congregation stood while the passage was being read. The attitude was expressive of the reverence with which the Word of the Lord should be received. Jesus read the passage from Isaiah lxi. The words convey the purpose of the Messiah's advent. The Spirit of the Lord was with Him throughout His life. His work was to preach the Gospel to the poor, not in a restricted sense, but in its widest significance. The poor, whatever their social condition, all who were destitute of spiritual possession. It is a gospel, good news, of comfort. It heals the broken-hearted, brings deliverance to the captives, gives sight to the blind and liberates the bruised. It was His mission to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, to declare that the time so long foretold by the prophets and symbolized by Jewish ceremonial had at length arrived. Having read the passage—as we may be sure He did with an impressiveness that could not be surpassed, since He so completely understood its meaning—He sat down. The Scriptures were read while the people stood. The person who delivered the address retained his seat. There must have been something very impressive in His manner of reading. Interest was heightened by the fact that His personal history in the little town would be familiarly known by the people in the synagogue, so all fastened their eyes intently on Him. They were eager to hear what He had to say. He opened His remarks by saying: "This day is the Scripture fulfilled in your ears." The rest of His discourse is not given, but it was a remarkable one. It produced a most favourable impression on those who heard it. "All bare Him witness and wondered." They had been curious to hear One whom they had often seen in their streets, and who had wrought at His trade in the town. His words had held them in rapt attention and roused their wonder how One whom they had known as the humble carpenter could speak so graciously. Christ's ministry here, as elsewhere, is a gracious ministry. Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

II. Stumbling at the Truth.—Attractive and gracious as were the words of Jesus, His former townsmen are not in their hearts prepared to accept His message. For its rejection they must have some excuse to their own conscience. They were not long in finding one. "Is not this Joseph's Son?" He cannot, therefore, be the Messiah. One whose outward circumstances were so like their own surely could not be the deliverer for whom the nation had looked so long. The meek and lowly Jesus was not like the One they were expecting. Jesus answers their objections whether spoken or unspoken. He quotes a proverb with which they were no doubt familiar, "Physician heal thyself," as expressing what they were thinking in their minds. They had heard that Jesus had wrought miracles in other places, let Him do the same here, and they will be convinced. To this He answered with another proverb, "No prophet is accepted in his own country." It is difficult for a community to believe that one whom they have known in humble and obscure circumstances can become great and influential. Be that as it may, He was only following the line according to which the most eminent of the Jewish prophets had acted. He instances the case of the widow to whom Elijah went during the distressing famine, with which the people were visited in his day, and the cure of Naaman's leprosy through Elisha's instrumentality. There were many suffering widows beside the one of Sarepta, and numerous lepers beside Naaman, but only to these did miraculous help come. Miracles were never wrought merely for the purpose of displaying divine power. Not every one is convinced by miracles. Many saw with their own eyes that miracle that Jesus did, yet they believed not. We are told that "He could do no mighty work there because of their unbelief." In the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus it is said: "They had Moses and the prophets; if they believe not them, neither will they believe though one rose from the dead."

III. Jesus Rejected.—By these sayings the pride of the people of Nazareth was deeply wounded. Is this all the respect that the carpenter's Son has for them? They instantly blaze out in anger; tumultuously rush from the synagogue, hurrying Jesus outside of the town to the cliff forty or fifty feet high, on which the eastern portion of the town was built; with intent to throw Him down. They failed in their murderous design. "He, passing through the midst of them, went His way." It is not stated in so many words that this escape was miraculous. Some are of opinion that it was; others think that the divine majesty became apparent to His persecutors, and they suffered Him to depart unharmed. Thence He went to Capernaum, a town on the north-western border of the Lake of Galilee. This He made His headquarters during the remaining period of His Galilean ministry. Here also His words produced a profound impression on the minds of His hearers. "They were astonished at His doctrine, for His word was with power."

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

It was Christ's custom to attend church on Sabbath. In this, as in all else, He has left us an example.

The Gospel of Jesus is adapted to the wants of all. His salvation is for all who need it.

Prejudice often prevents people from discerning real worth. It is not always safe to judge by outward appearances.

The greatest of all mistakes is to reject Jesus Christ.