

CHURCH
WORK

Ministers and Churches

NEWS
LETTERSSYNOD OF HAMILTON AND
LONDON.

The Synod met in Knox Church, Stratford, on Wednesday evening, the 25th April. The attendance was not large. Rev. Jnc. Currie, of Belmont, preached the sermon. The text was Jer. 12-10, and the subject "Evangelism." It was a strong gospel sermon on the old lines. The Rev. S. W. Fisher was elected moderator over Rev. W. J. Dey, of Simcoe, and Dr. J. Fraser Smith, of Comber, the other two nominees. The retiring moderator was thanked for his able sermon on motion of the two defeated candidates for the moderatorship, both of whom expressed their delight at being beaten by Mr. Fisher, the new moderator.

On Tuesday morning, the first hour was spent in devotional services. Then came the report of the Committee on Church Life and Work, presented by Rev. A. L. Budge, of Hanover, the convener. The report, on the whole, was very encouraging, although there were a good many discouraging notes in it. Mayor Dingman addressed the Synod, bringing the greetings of the city of Stratford in most felicitous terms. The moderator responded, the mayor's greeting very gracefully. The Sabbath school report was presented by Rev. J. W. McIntosh, of Mitchell. There are 376 schools within the councils of the Synod all doing fair work though some need new methods. Rev. Alexander MacGillivray, of Toronto, convener of the Assembly's committee, gave a fine address urging greater zeal and concentration on the work of the Sunday schools.

The report on French Evangelization was given by Rev. W. J. Dey, of Simcoe. The report was a most concise and lucid resume of the work. Almost every congregation in the Synod is contributing to the work. Rev. S. Carriers, of Grand Bend, and Rev. S. J. Taylor, of Montreal, both spoke most hopefully and eloquently of the progress of the gospel among the French Canadians.

The evening session was devoted to Evangelism and Foreign Missions. Rev. T. A. Watson, of Thamesford gave the report on the former subject. There had been special services held in 65 congregations in the Synod. The results in every case were helpful in removing prejudices, and in deepening the spiritual life of the people. A goodly number had made profession of their faith at the close of these services, and united with the churches. Rev. F. A. Robertson, of Toronto, the assistant secretary of the Assembly's committee on Evangelism, addressed in a lively and earnest speech.

Rev. E. H. Sawers, Brucefield, presented the report on Foreign Missions. Every Presbyterian except one had exceeded its offerings of last year. Rev. R. P. Mackay gave an inspiring address which stirred his audience greatly.

On Wednesday, the Synod dealt with new Augmentation, Home Missions, Young People's Societies and Moral and Social Reform. Sir Thomas Taylor, of Hamilton, made a fine report on Augmentation. Since the fund was inaugurated no less than 516 congregations have been helped up to strong self-supporting charges. The average giving per member, however, is 35 cents less than 20 years ago. Rev. D. N. Morden, of St. Mary's, Mr. Alex. Smith, Embro, and R. A. Thompson, ex-M.P. of Lyndon, all made brief but excellent speeches on the subject.

Rev. R. G. McBeth, Paris, gave the report on Home Missions, and Rev. Jno. Thompson, of Ayr, spoke on the need of men for the ministry.

Rev. J. A. Wilson, of Hamilton, reported for the committee on Young People's Societies. There are fewer members this year, but more money has been raised. The Adult Bible Class in some places is partially taking

up the work. He moved a resolution in opposition to the amalgamation of the young people's committee with the G. S. committee. An amendment by Rev. T. J. Thompson, of Stratford, was defeated.

Moral and Social Reform was presented by Rev. E. L. Pidgeon, of St. Thomas. It was an encouraging report, especially in regard to temperance. The report expressed regret at the compromise on the Miller bill, and condemned the pardon of the prisoners who had been imprisoned for selling obscene literature. The Synod unanimously endorsed these recommendations.

Rev. Dr. McNair, of Petrolia, presented an overture dealing with the administration of the Aged and Infirm Ministers Fund, the Synod refused to endorse the overture. The laymen of the Synod met and discussed the question of ministerial support during the session. Their report was in favor of increased liberality, and they recommended a visitation of all congregations by a committee of laymen to bring all the facts before the people. The Synod adopted the report enthusiastically.

After routine business the Synod adjourned to meet next year in Knox Church, Woodstock.

SUMMER CONFERENCES ON MIS-
SIONARY EDUCATION.

The Young People's Missionary Movement will hold seven conferences during the summer of 1910. Their locations and dates are as follows:

Asheville, North Carolina, July 1-10.
Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, July 1-10.
Cascaes, Colorado, August 3-12.
Whitby, Ontario, July 4-11.
Knowlton, Quebec, July 12-19.
Sunday School Conference, Silver Bay, New York, July 14-21.

General Conference, Silver Bay, New York, July 22-31.

The greatest need in Church life today is trained and consecrated leadership. In no sphere of Church activity is this more true than in the promotion of missions. Without it the Church cannot be true to the great commission given by the Lord. It is to meet this need that these summer conferences are held. They aim to train leaders of mission study classes. This is probably the most distinctive thing for which these conferences stand. But besides, the aim is to train leaders for other forms of missionary activity in connection with Sunday-schools, young people's societies, and other church organizations. An essential part of such training must be the giving of enlarged missionary vision and the creating of deeper Christian convictions. Emphasis must also be laid on the place and power of prayer in the individual life and in the conduct of the missionary enterprise. These features are provided for, as far as possible, through devotional sessions and addresses on topics intimately connected with the Christian life.

Special features to which a delegate may look forward include:

Acquaintance with missionaries from the home and foreign mission fields.

Contact with Mission Board secretaries and other leading Church workers.

Interviews with those who have been successful in conducting missionary work of a high grade in their own churches.

Study classes under experienced leaders in courses which have been adopted by the Mission Boards for the coming year.

Afternoons spent in rest and recreation in the mountains and beside the water away from the busy rush of cities.

Vesper services where questions concerning the personal life and one's life-work are dealt with by trusted leaders.

Conferences dealing practically with the conduct of missionary work in the local church.

Addresses from the mission field and addresses and sermons touching subjects concerning which every missionary leader should be vitally interested.

Denominational meetings where the plans of each denomination for the coming year are carefully outlined by a secretary of the denominational Home or Foreign Mission Board.

Opportunity to talk over personal problems and problems touching difficulties in missionary work with those who are competent to lead wisely.

Time to rest and be quiet, to think and pray. And it may be in the end that this is the best these conferences have to offer: to meet with the Lord unhurriedly and become acquainted with him.

GROWING HATRED TO JESUS.

Sunday school Lesson for May 15.—Matthew 12: 22-23, 38-42. Commit verse 41.

Golden Text: He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth.—Matt. 12:30.

What is sin? "Doing wrong," you say? Yes; but what is it to do wrong? I want just as many definitions of "sin" as the members of this class can give me. Then we'll take up the account of an attack that was made upon Jesus by some men who counted themselves the best men of their time, and see what Jesus had to say to them, and what light this gives us on our question about sin.

It was on a day that was perhaps the busiest day of Jesus' earthly ministry; The record that is before us consists of seven distinct points or facts:

1. Jesus does a work that only God can do, and is hailed as Messiah.
2. The religious leaders attribute this work to the Devil.
3. With piercing logic Jesus shows the senselessness of their claim.
4. He leads on to the irresistible conclusion that God is present and his Kingdom at hand.
5. Every one is either on Christ's side or against him, and whoever is against the Spirit (whose work Christ is doing) has placed himself beyond help.

6. The request for a sign is insincere, and will therefore not be heeded,—except by a sign that will be clear enough to all who really want one.

7. Those of lesser privilege, in earlier ages, will condemn, by contrast, those who reject their high privilege in Christ's day.

When the class come to the unpardonable sin (vs. 31, 32), let them ask questions, and express themselves as freely as they can in answer to their own questions, before the matter is explained to them. For it can be explained, so clearly and simply that this passage will always be understood by them, and never give them needless anxiety or worry,—though it ought to give us all food for the most solemn thought, in recognition of the inescapable truth that it presents.

These two verses, with Mark 3: 28-30 throw direct light on the question of sin that was discussed at the beginning of the class session. Sin is simply a breaking with God. Every sin ever committed meant that, for the time being, the person who sinned preferred the Devil to God. The forgiveness that God so freely offers us, in Christ, is a restoring of the broken relationship between Himself and the sinner. And many persons who have sinned have sought this restoration of relationship with God, and, because they have