

## HOME MISSION COMMITTEE.

The half-yearly meeting of the Home Mission Committee was held last week in St. Andrew's Church lecture room: Rev. Dr. Cochrane, Convener, and Rev. R. H. Warden, Secretary.

## TUESDAY'S SESSION.

The Convener reported that since last meeting he had received \$1,000 from the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, and \$1,000 from the Irish Presbyterian Church, and that he had also written to the officials of the Church of Scotland, and the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland with a view to receiving contributions for the Home Mission Fund.

A letter was read from the divinity students of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland, intimating that they had resolved to send next year a handsome contribution from the Students' Society, for Home Mission work in the North-West.

The Convener read a letter from Dr. Smellie, of Port Arthur, returning thanks, on behalf of the Port Arthur congregation, for the kindness of the Committee in giving substantial aid to the congregation for a period of many years.

It was stated that the Executive Committee had, since last meeting, appointed the Rev. T. G. Thomson, of Brucefield, to Vancouver City, British Columbia, and that he intended to go in the beginning of April to his new field.

Claims for Home Mission work for the past six months were passed to the amount of \$13,000.

Rev. D. J. Macdonnell presented the report on Augmentation, showing that a considerable sum had yet to be raised to pay the full amount expected by the assisted ministers.

Claims for augmented congregations were presented to the amount of \$15,000. After considerable discussion regarding the Augmentation Fund, the following motion was unanimously passed: That the report from the Committee on Augmentation be received; that this Committee regret that the receipts for this fund, up to the present date, are not sufficient to supplement all those ministers now upon the fund up to the minimum stipend, being thus far only \$17,000 as against the estimated requirement of \$30,000; that congregations that have not yet forwarded their contributions to either the Home Mission Fund or the Augmentation Fund be requested to consider the urgent claims of the Augmentation Fund, and that the recommendation of the Committee on Augmentation of Stipends be adopted, namely: That in regard to payment of these claims no grants be made meanwhile to supplement congregations for the past half year, but that the Committee be empowered to order the payment of these in the end of April, to the extent of the money on hand.

The afternoon and evening sederunts were taken up in revising grants to augmented congregations, for the year beginning April 1, 1885.

It was stated in the course of the discussions that the Home Mission Funds at date were over \$30,000, being quite up to the amount expected. The hope was earnestly expressed that before the end of April the Augmentation Fund would be in the same condition.

## WEDNESDAY'S SESSION.

The entire forenoon and afternoon were devoted to a revision of grants to mission stations and augmented congregations, for the year beginning April 1, 1885, in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, the North-West Territories, and British Columbia. The sum of \$11,000 was voted to mission stations in Ontario and Quebec, and \$18,500 to Manitoba and the North-West. In addition to the Superintendent's salary and travelling expenses, \$1,900 was also set apart for British Columbia.

The Convener having stated that many ladies in the congregations of the Church were desirous of doing something for Home Missions in destitute localities in the North-West and elsewhere, it was agreed to instruct the executive committee to prepare and submit to the General Assembly a scheme for raising the sympathy and active co-operation of the women of the Church on behalf of the work of this Committee.

The returns from augmented congregations were considered *seriatim*, from which it was found that the sum of \$31,000 would be required to meet the wants of the Committee on Augmentation for next year.

The report submitted by Mr. Robertson, the Superintendent of Missions in Manitoba, showed that there were now, in addition to sixteen augmented congregations, no less than 320 mission stations in the North-West. There are also in addition to these eleven self-sustaining congregations. Between regularly ordained ministers, probationers, students, and catechists, there will be this summer 110 labourers in connection with the Presbyterian Church in Manitoba.

## THURSDAY'S SESSION.

The state of the work in British Columbia was considered at length, when it was resolved to prosecute it vigorously and to open up new fields. The Rev. D. J. Chisholm, of Osprey, was appointed to take charge of the field at Nicola Valley, B.C., for a term of three years. The report of the Superintendent of Missions in the Parry Sound District was laid upon the table. It contained interesting information regarding the progress of the work, and recommended the appointment of nineteen missionaries to the district for the coming summer.

On representation from the Presbytery of Brandon, Dr. Cochrane and Messrs. Macdonnell and Warden were appointed a committee to confer with the Foreign Missionary Committee of the Church to secure the services of a suitable teacher for the High School at Prince Albert, N.W.T., who would take charge of mission work in the surrounding district. The following Executive Committee were appointed: Dr. Cochrane, Dr. Laing, Dr. Campbell, and Messrs. Robertson, Moodie, Macdonnell, and Warden.

The Committee agreed to put upon record the expression of its opinion that the full committee should only hold one meeting annually, viz.: in the month of March, the executive to conduct the business throughout the year.

The Secretary submitted a report to the effect that he had examined the financial statements submitted by the Synod of Manitoba for the past year, that these were duly audited, the details of all expenditure given in full indicating efficient

conduct on the part of those administering the work in the North-West, and showing great progress during the year. Further that the expenditure had been kept within the limits of the sum granted to the Synod for the year, with the exception of a little over \$100. The committee then proceeded with the appointment of missionaries to the several Presbyteries of the Church.

The Committee closed its session at two p.m., and the Sub-committee on Augmentation arranged to meet at the end of April to distribute moneys then on hand.

## HOME MISSION APPOINTMENTS.

The following are the summer appointments of Preachers and Students to the various Presbyteries made by the Home Mission Committee at its late meeting:

**Quebec**, Messrs. M. McKenzie, N. McLeod, M. McLennan, J. F. Langton; **Montreal**, Messrs. S. Rondeau, N. Waddell, S. A. Thomas; **Glengarry**, Messrs. J. C. Martin, J. A. McLean; **Ottawa**, Messrs. A. McLachlan, T. R. Shearer, J. J. Forbes, S. F. McCusker; **Brockville**, Messrs. D. J. Hyland, J. P. McNaughton, J. C. McDonald, J. H. Graham; **Lanark and Renfrew**, Messrs. A. Givan, W. G. Mills, N. McKay, T. R. Scott, D. H. Hodges, J. W. McLeod, M. Turnbull, J. A. Campbell; **Kingston**, Messrs. W. M. Kay, W. Allan, A. McAulay, Johnson Henderson, G. R. Lang, R. Steurge, Jas. Rattray, John Robertson, W. H. Hunt; **Peterborough**, Messrs. J. E. Duclos, T. G. Barron, A. S. Grant, W. J. Bell, C. H. Lowery, J. H. Boyd; **Lindsay**, Messrs. W. Patterson (Knox), Jacob Steele; **Toronto**, Messrs. John McMillan, R. J. M. Glassford, J. A. Grant, Orr Bennett, A. Robertson, A. W. Beattie; **Barrie**, Messrs. G. Ballantyne, T. M. Hardie, D. B. Marsh, J. McD. Duncan, Joseph Elliott, W. Hay, Aw. Patterson, W. A. Findlay, W. Patterson (Queen's), J. A. Nicholson, W. J. Jamieson, Wm. Stewart, - Parker, H. Knox, J. Garrioch, C. J. Hastings; **Owen Sound**, Messrs. Thomas Wilson, J. J. Dobbin, A. E. Doherty, H. Brown, John McNeil, W. H. Carnett, M. Gillanders; **Saugeen**, Messrs. John A. Ross, John Robertson, James Drummond, E. B. McGhee, W. Graham; **Guelph**, Mr. John R. Campbell; **Hamilton**, Messrs. J. H. Simpson, R. McIntyre, J. W. Rae, J. S. McIlraith, R. Pyke, Thomas Thompson; **Paris**, Messrs. W. J. Hall, D. Millar; **London**, Messrs. G. A. Francis, S. Childerose, T. McEwan; **Chatham**, Messrs. A. U. Campbell, L. C. Emes, F. W. Johnson, D. McLean, A. McDonald, P. Uzelle; **Sarnia**, Messrs. W. Farquharson, A. Ogilvie, W. L. Clay, W. T. Parsons; **Maitland**, Mr. D. McMillan; **Bruce**, Messrs. A. Jaffray, D. A. McLean, C. A. Webster; **Manitoba Synod**, Messrs. W. L. H. Rowand, James Hamilton, D. S. McPherson, J. A. Dodds, N. H. Russell, W. J. Drummond, A. MacPherson, D. Anderson, W. McK. Omand, H. W. Fraser, A. B. Winchester, M. R. Gordon, William Steele, T. C. Court, Rev. J. C. Herdman, J. Brown, John McMillan, W. P. Fulton, P. F. Langill, S. C. Murray, John McInnis, Angus McLeod.

Students, etc., will please at once correspond with the Convener of the Home Mission Committee of the Presbytery to whose bounds they are allocated, from whom particulars will be obtained as to the fields to be supplied, etc.

The following are the names of the Conveners in the several Presbyteries:

**Quebec**, Rev. F. M. Dewey, Richmond, (Q.); **Montreal**, Rev. R. H. Warden, Montreal (Q.); **Glengarry**, Rev. W. A. Lang, Lunenburg (O.); **Brockville**, Rev. D. Kellock, Spencerville; **Ottawa**, Rev. F. W. Farries, Ottawa; **Lanark and Renfrew**, Rev. Dr. Campbell, Renfrew; **Kingston**, Rev. M. W. Maclean, Belleville, **Peterborough**, Rev. J. Cleland, Port Hope; **Whitby**, Rev. J. A. Carmichael, Columbus; **Lindsay**, Rev. J. R. Scott, Cambray; **Toronto**, Rev. A. Gilray, Toronto, **Barrie**, Rev. Robt. Moodie, Stayner; **Owen Sound**, Rev. J. Somerville, Owen Sound; **Saugeen**, Rev. P. Straith, Holstein; **Guelph**, Rev. R. Torrance, Guelph; **Hamilton**, Rev. J. H. Ratcliffe, St. Catharines; **Paris**, Rev. W. Cochrane, D.D., Brantford; **London**, Rev. J. Kenzie, Ailsa Craig; **Sarnia**, Rev. H. Currie, Thorndorff; **Chatham**, Rev. W. Walker, Chatham; **Stratford**, Rev. Robt. Hamilton, Motherwell; **Bruce**, Rev. Andrew Tolmie, Saugeen; **Huron**, Rev. J. Pritchard, Auburn; **Maitland**, Rev. D. Cameron, Lucknow; **Manitoba**, Rev. J. Robertson, Winnipeg.

N. B. The attention of Presbyteries and students is directed to the regulation of the General Assembly fixing the salaries of missionaries as follows: *Students of Divinity*, during the summer, six (\$6) dollars per Sabbath, with board and travelling expenses to the field of labour; *Catechists* (including students in the literary course), five (\$5) dollars per Sabbath, with board. Students appointed to Manitoba receive six (\$6) dollars per Sabbath, with board and travelling expenses to and from the field.

W. COCHRANE, D.D., Chairman.  
ROBT. H. WARDEN, Secretary.

## Sabbath School Teacher.

## INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

April 12,  
1885.

## PAUL'S SHIPWRECK.

{ Acts 27:  
27-44.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and He bringeth them out of their distresses."—Ps. 107: 28.

TIME.—October, A.D. 60.

## INTRODUCTION.

This journey is given at great length, considering the brevity of the whole record. The reason is, that it is a great crisis in the history of the Church. The Jews, who rejected Christ, now reject His distinguished servant, and after this, the Gentiles almost exclusively receive the Gospel; and, as pointed out in the last lesson, it is, moreover, an eminent illustration of the power and superiority of faith in the most trying circumstances.

In the journey we, in the last lesson, passed Cyprus, Cnidus (the very south-west point of Asia Minor), Crete, Claudia; saw the arrangements made for safety, and the

successful prayer of Paul on behalf of all his fellow passengers.

## EXPLANATORY.

I. **Rocks Ahead**, ver. 27-29. The storm is of unusual severity. It has continued fourteen days—not an unknown thing on the Mediterranean, but happily not a frequent occurrence. They were drifting, it is calculated, at the rate of a mile and a-half per hour, in a north west direction, and in the fourteen days came to the island Malta, a distance of about 480 miles.

**Adria**. The mention of this name has caused difficulty. There is another island on the Adriatic sea called *Melita*, which some believed to be the island upon which they were wrecked. But it is proved that the name *Adria* was given to that portion of the Mediterranean, between Crete and Malta, and it is certain that the direction of the wind would make it impossible for the ship to go north to Melita.

**Breakers**. At midnight the sailors heard breakers ahead, and knew that they were near land. If they had been going directly towards the rocks from which this alarming sound came, it would be too late to escape, for in such a storm they could not be heard very far. But they, as afterwards appeared, were passing within a quarter of a mile of the point *Koura*, into St. Paul's Bay.

**Anchor**. Having cast the lead into the sea, they found twenty fathoms, 120 feet, which was soon after only fifteen fathoms. Nearing land rapidly, they cast four anchors out of the stern of the ship, and anxiously looked for the day. They did not know that the bottom was such as to make the anchors hold whilst the cables stood. If they had it would have allayed their anxiety.

The advantage of casting anchors out of the stern was apparent. They might have been so near the rocks as to strike by the swinging round of the vessel had they cast anchors from the bow. Besides, the ship was in a better condition for action as soon as day dawned.

II. **Treachery Detected by Paul**, ver. 30-32. The sailors try to desert the ship and all on board. They pretend that they are going to carry out some anchors from the bow of the vessel. In order to be of any service the anchors must be carried a cable's length from the ship and dropped. Paul saw that they really intended to get away in the boat and save themselves, and he informed the centurion of that fact. At once the soldiers cut the ropes by which the boat was suspended and let it fall into the sea.

"*Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved.*" A great deal of discussion has taken place in connection with this and Paul's other promise. "That God had given him all them that sailed with him." It brings out distinctly the two sides of the problem of God's decree and man's free agency. Man is to act as if all depended upon himself, and to believe that God is the disposer of events. Whatever difficulty we may find intellectually, we find no difficulty practically in accepting these two positions: We exert ourselves daily in dependence upon Him in whom we live and move and have our being.

III. **Christian Prudence**, ver. 33-37. Every step shows more and more distinctly the greatness of Paul's character. He is now in reality master of the ship. He sees that an effort must be made as soon as the day breaks that will need all their strength. In order to prepare for it, he exhorts them all to take food. We can easily understand how, during these terrible days of anxiety, very little food was tasted; cold, without fire, everything soaked with salt water, left them neither opportunity nor disposition for eating. But Paul now assures them of safety, and that that safety will be more assured if they take meat.

**Example**. He then gives them the example. But, before doing so, he, standing in the presence of the 276 passengers, gives thanks to God for preserving them so far, for the promise that they are yet to be saved from death, and for the food he held in his hand. That was a moment of triumph. Paul's greatness was never so apparent as when seen in the power of dependence upon God.

His courage and cheerfulness inspire them all. They eat and are of good cheer.

IV. **The Wreck**, ver. 38-41, 44. In their new strength and courage they begin to lighten the ship by casting the wheat into the sea, loose the rudders (two paddles) so as to guide the ship, hoist the mainsail and make for the shore. There is an island, *Salmonetta*, at the entrance of the Bay, only 100 yards from the shore, and that channel is the meeting place of two seas referred to. There the fore-part of the ship strikes into the tough clay and remains fast, and the waves soon break up the stern. All that remains is to get to the shore the best way they can.

V. **Paul Saves the Prisoners**, ver. 42, 43. The soldiers must, at the peril of their own lives, deliver up the prisoners entrusted to them. They now propose to kill the prisoners lest any should escape. What a horrible proposal in the presence of such a deliverance! They are willing to slay their saviour. Just what sinners have always been willing to do. From as great and greater dangers than this He constantly delivers us, and yet He is crucified afresh and put to open shame.

But Paul's influence over the Centurion saves all. This proposal is rejected, and all instructed to save themselves as best they can. The swimmers amongst them can first get to land and help the others, who, on boards and other things from the ship, struggle to save themselves.

## PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. We are all nearing the other shore. Some of us can hear the notes of warning getting louder and louder.
2. It is wise to take frequent soundings, and see how near we are. "Teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."
3. As the dangers are great, let us have an anchor of the soul, sure and steadfast.
4. How many souls are constantly dashed upon the rocks?
5. The hireling will desert in times of danger.
6. The true man is his own friend as well as of all others.
7. Give thanks for food. If Paul had occasion then for thanks, how much more we for our plentiful supply?
8. Cast aside every weight that besets you, that you may more securely enter the haven of rest.
9. May we all arrive safely, if it should be but as by fire.