

information will be sent on application to Mr. James McNab, Bridge Street, Toronto.

ON the 21st ult., the Rev. M. L. Leitch, lately pastor of the congregation of Valleyfield, was inducted by the Presbytery of Guelph into the charge of Knox Church, Elora. After the usual devotional exercises, Rev. J. C. Smith, of St. Andrew's Church, Guelph, preached a clear, appropriate and able discourse from Ephesians iv, 11-12, and was listened to throughout with manifest interest by all assembled. The Rev. J. B. Mullan, of Fergus, who has been Moderator of Session during the vacancy caused about eighteen months ago by the death of Mr. Rose, and who had been appointed to preside on the occasion, gave a narrative of the proceedings in the call to Mr. Leitch, after which he asked him to stand forward, when he put to him the usual questions, to which satisfactory answers were returned. Mr. John Davidson, of Alma, then led in prayer, after which Mr. Leitch was declared duly inducted into the charge of the congregation, with all the rights and privileges thereto pertaining, and was welcomed by the members of Presbytery and by other ministers present, both of the Presbyterian and other denominations. Dr. Mackay, of Duff's Church, East Puslinch, then addressed him, and Rev. McL. Gardiner, of Eramosa, the people, on their respective duties, both of the addresses being solemn and earnest in their spirit, clear and pointed in style, and most practical in their character. After the close of the public service, Mr. Davidson and Dr. Torrance, at the request of the Moderator, repaired to the door with Mr. Leitch, that the people as they retired might have the opportunity of welcoming him as their pastor. One peculiarity of this settlement is that Mr. Leitch had not preached in Knox Church, having declined to do so when invited, so that the people called him upon the report they had heard of him. He had preached in the neighbouring congregation of Melville Church, Fergus, and some from the congregation in Elora had gone to hear him, who spoke in warm terms in his favour and the call came in due time. The field to which he has been led is a truly interesting one, presenting abundant opportunities for the services of a judicious, energetic and devoted minister of the Gospel. He has the prayers of many that he may enjoy a long, comfortable and successful pastorate.

THE induction of Rev. Edward Cockburn, M.A., to the pastorate of Dumfries street Presbyterian Church, Paris, took place last week in the presence of a very large assemblage of people from the town and surrounding country. The services were of a very impressive character. Rev. P. R. Ross, of Ingersoll, preached an eloquent sermon. The Rev. Dr. Cochran delivered the charge to the minister in one of his characteristic and powerful addresses, and Rev. R. Pettigrew, an old friend and classmate of the newly inducted pastor, gave the people well timed and practical counsel. Rev. Mr. McGregor, Moderator of the Paris Presbytery, presided. The soiree in the evening in the Town Hall was one of the most successful and well managed affairs of the kind ever held in the town. Fully five hundred people sat down to tastefully and bountifully spread tables provided and waited upon by the ladies of the congregation. Rev. Dr. Cochran, of Brantford, presided at a crowded reception meeting in the church, which commenced at eight o'clock. After the opening services, Mr. Thomas McCosh, Clerk of Session, temporarily occupied the chair, when a resolution of thanks to Dr. Cochran for his unwearied services as Moderator during several vacancies in the congregation during the past twenty-five years, was moved by Mr. D. Brown, seconded by Mr. John Penman and supported by Messrs. Allan and Hall. Mr. McCosh presented the resolution, which was carried by a standing and unanimous vote, to the Rev. Doctor, together with a cheque for \$100. Dr. Cochran replied in a feeling and happy manner. Rev. Mr. Wylie, of Paris, welcomed Mr. Cockburn in a few well chosen remarks as the pastor of the sister Presbyterian congregation, and was followed by Rev. Mr. Unsworth, of the Congregational Church, on behalf of the Ministerial Union of the town. Rev. Mr. Hardie, of Ayr, and others gave excellent addresses. The musical part of the programme was made up of organ and vocal solos, and well rendered selections by the choir of the congregation, which was ably assisted by a number of amateurs.

THE Presbytery of Hamilton having decided to take a closer paternal interest in the welfare of the churches under its care, it has been arranged that all the congregations within its bounds shall be visited at least once in three years. A deputation consisting of two ministers and two elders has been visiting the churches in the city last week; conferring with the pastors, boards of management and sessions. One evening they addressed a meeting in MacNab Street Church lecture room. Rev. D. H. Fletcher occupied the chair. Rev. Mr. Murray, of Grimsby, an old friend of this congregation, having taken a deep interest in its welfare ever since its organization, spoke of the objects and ends of congregational work. Rev. George Burson, of St. Catharines, another member of the deputation, said he was impressed with the number of their organizations for work among the young, temperance, etc., and advised them not to attach too much importance to human means, but to look for the blessing of God and the power of the Spirit to set the machinery in motion; they were to live in the consciousness of being only instruments in the hands of God for real effective work. There was not one soul there who did not stand closer to some soul than any other, and the question was, were they seeking to bring that soul to Christ? Every member of the church should try to bring at least one soul each year to Christ. There were 475 members in connection with this church: at that rate in eight years it would cover the entire city of Hamilton. They might have their machinery, but it was the power of the fire of the Holy Spirit that rendered it effective. An important consideration at present was Christ as a King—not only as a Saviour, but as a King—to rule over and determine their pleasures. Where, he asked, are the young men to-night? There were some noble exceptions, but in St. Catharines, and no doubt in this city, he could find the great majority of them in almost any place except the prayer meeting. Young women were numerous there, but it was not a good prospect that so few young men attended these meetings. Rev. J. D. Macdonald also addressed the meeting as a member of the deputation. Rev. James Black offered prayer and Rev. Mr. Fletcher pronounced the benediction.

THE first annual meeting of the Sarnia Presbyterial Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, was held in St. Andrew's Church, Sarnia, recently. A meeting for the election of officers and the transaction of other business in connection with the society, was held at one p.m.; fifteen delegates were present. The officers for the ensuing year are: Mrs. Lochead, Parkhill, president; Mrs. Scott of Sarnia, and Mrs. Prichards, of Forest, vice-presidents; Miss Geddes, of Strathroy, treasurer; Mrs. Ross, of Parkhill, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Kerr, of Petrolia, recording secretary. At three p.m., a ladies' meeting was held, about eighty ladies being present. The meeting was opened by devotional exercises, and an interesting programme was gone through. Reports from the auxiliaries—eight in number—were read. The reports of the secretary and treasurer of the Presbyterial Society, which was formed only five months ago, show it to be in a satisfactory state. The contributions amount to \$340. Miss Ross, missionary from Indore, India, was present, and addressed the meeting, giving a most interesting account of her work and experiences in India. Before the meeting closed, a vote of thanks was tendered to the ladies of St. Andrew's Church, who had so kindly entertained the delegates, and also the young ladies whose efficient aid in the musical part of the programme added so much to the interest of the meeting. A public meeting was held in the evening. Dr. Thompson in the chair. There was a large audience present. The chairman gave a most excellent address. Miss Ross also addressed the meeting, and exhibited a number of Indian curiosities. A young lady having volunteered, was shown to the audience, arrayed in the costume of an Eastern woman. Mr. Nesbit an elder of St. Andrew's gave a short address, and read the report of the Presbyterial society. The singing was excellent, being led by the choir.

The society is to be congratulated on the success of this, its first meeting. The next meeting will be held in St. Paul's Church, Parkhill.

THE first annual meeting of the Bruce Women's Foreign Missionary Society was held in Knox Church, Paisley, lately, Mrs. Wardrope presiding. After devotional exercises, the address of welcome was given by Mrs. Johnston and replied to by Mrs. Gourlay. Since the organization of the Presbyterian Society by the union of the auxiliaries last summer, two new auxiliaries and two mission hands have been formed, making the number seven of the former and two of the latter, with a membership of 189 and sixty respectively. The contributions reported amounted to \$368. With one exception all the auxiliaries report for only nine months, in order that the accounts might be closed with the calendar year. Boxes of clothing valued at \$353 were sent to the Northwest from Walkerton, Teeswater, Paisley, Port Elgin and Underwood. The secretary's report, which was most interesting and encouraging, was submitted and read by Miss James. Mrs. Johnston read a paper on "Systematic Giving," which was highly appreciated. The afternoon was spent in considering the reports and other matters bearing on the welfare and progress of the Society. The following officers were appointed for the year:—President, Mrs. Gourlay; vice-presidents—first, Mrs. Wardrope; second, Mrs. Johnston and the presidents of the various auxiliaries; secretary, Miss James; treasurer, Mrs. Dr. McLaren. On the evening of the same day a public meeting was held in the same place, presided over by Rev. John Johnston, when there was a large attendance of the friends of the Society and the general public. The opening exercises were conducted by the Revs. J. Gillies and J. Little, after which the chairman gave an address, briefly setting forth the objects of the Society and the methods of working. The secretary's report submitted at the afternoon meeting was read by the chairman. Thereafter stirring addresses on Women's Missionary Work were delivered by Rev. Dr. James and Rev. J. Gourlay. The choir of Knox Church rendered efficient assistance during the evening by singing hymns. The effect of the meeting was decidedly helpful and tended to stimulate to greater earnestness and efforts in this department of the Lord's work and the hope expressed by all was that others might be interested in the missionary cause and led to help it on.

THE annual meeting of the Women's Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Foreign Missionary Society was held in lately in the basement of Knox Church, Ottawa. Miss Harmon, the president, occupied the chair, and there were present on the platform Rev. Messrs. Herdridge, Moore and Farries, Miss Armstrong and Mrs. Crant. This society has been in existence ten years, and during that time it has raised the sum of \$3,488 78 to help to carry on the mission work. The membership now numbers seventy-nine, and it is on the increase. This is the tenth annual meeting held, and much credit is due the ladies of the auxiliary for the great work they are helping. Rev. Mr. Farries opened the meeting by reading Scripture and by prayer. Miss Armstrong, in the absence of Miss Macoun, read the recording secretary's report, which showed that \$491.54 had been sent by the auxiliary to the parent society and Woman's Foreign Missionary Society at Toronto. The corresponding secretary's report was also read. Dr. Moore then addressed the meeting, after which Mrs. F. Bronson sang, "Oh, rest in the Lord." Rev. W. T. Herdridge delivered an interesting and instructive address to the ladies, reviewing the work they had done, and giving advice and encouragement to them for the future, after which a collection was taken up. The election of officers, which then took place, resulted as follows: Mrs. Harmon, president, re-elected; Mesdames White, Durie, Hardie, McNaughton, Herdridge and Armstrong, vice-presidents; Miss M. Macoun, recording secretary; Mrs. Alexander, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Crannell, treasurer; Mesdames Horsey, Blackburn, Romaine, Clark, Donaldson, executive committee, and Conveners of committees; Mesdames Ray, MacMillan, E. Bruns in, Clark and Thorburn (Mrs. Bronson as Convener) and the six vice-presidents, arrangement committee. Mrs. Thorburn gave notice that the annual meeting of the Presbyterial Society takes place on the 5th of March, when delegates from March, Manitowick, Masham, Gloucester and other places will be present. A letter was read from Mr. McLean, missionary teacher at Indian Head, Assiniboia, asking for a small sum of money to assist him in carrying on missionary work there.

THE annual meeting of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbytery of Guelph was held in Berlin lately. The day was very favourable, and between fifty and sixty delegates were present from the different auxiliaries and mission bands. The pretty little church in which the meeting took place was decorated with choice lilies and palms, and the reception of the guests provided for in the most thoughtful manner by their hostesses. Mrs. Goldie, of Guelph, president of the society, conducted the meetings, assisted in the opening and closing devotional exercises by Mrs. Graham, Galt; Mrs. Rae, Acton; Mrs. Smellie, Fergus; and Mrs. J. C. Smith and Mrs. White, Guelph. After welcoming words from Mrs. Tait, and thanks from Mrs. Guthrie, of Guelph, the president sketched the year's work in review. Miss Kerr, Galt, opened a talk on "How can our Mission Bands be conducted to best enlist the members' help, and foster the missionary spirit?" by an excellent paper. A very practical discussion of the questions in the drawer followed, joined in very generally by those present. Mrs. White urged in an inspiring address that the real benefit of these suggestions lies in the practical use made by them in the home societies. An interesting account of a personal visit to some of the Indian reserves in the North-West was given by Miss Smellie, of Fergus. Mrs. McCrae's report showed a total of seventeen auxiliaries within the bounds, with 507 members, and eight mission bands, with 231. Four life members are reported during the year, and an average attendance at monthly meetings of 415. Clothing had been sent as usual to the North-West by sixteen societies, and two boxes of gifts and prizes to the late Rev. J. Gibson, Demerara, for the Coolie mission on the west coast, the kindness of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Canadian Express Co., and Messrs. G. P. Mitchell & Sons, Halifax, being mentioned in regard to carriage, etc. Miss Cant reported that the contributions had been over \$1,200, nearly \$500 in advance of last year. The next annual meeting will be held in Galt. After a recognition of the courtesy of the Berlin friends by a "Chataqua salute," the meeting ended in the usual way. The gathering was a most successful one as regards completeness of representation, the interest and value of the topics discussed and the harmony of the results arrived at. The evening meeting was of a general character, presided over by Rev. Mr. Tait, assisted by Rev. A. M. Hamilton, of Winterbourne, Dr. Wardrope, of Guelph, and Dr. Parsons, of Toronto, addressed the meeting most acceptably in the line of mission work, and preparation for it. The officers of Presbyterial Society for 1889 are: Mrs. D. McCrae, Guelph, president; Mrs. Smellie, Fergus, Mrs. Goldie and Mrs. White, Guelph, vice presidents; Miss Smellie, Fergus, secretary; Miss Cant, Galt, treasurer.

#### CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS.

THE annual meeting of the congregation of the Presbyterian Church, Essex Centre, was held lately. The report by the managers on the building fund was read, showing a debt of \$900, which amount had been raised during the last month, leaving the church free. The report of the general fund was also read showing a fair surplus on hand, in view of which the congregation presented their pastor, Rev. W. M. Fleming, with a cheque for \$100 for past services, and it was unanimously carried that his salary be raised \$150 for the ensuing year, which shows the high esteem in which he is held by the congregation. The reports from the Sunday school and Ladies' Aid were also read, all of which were adopted and considered most satisfactory. J. W. Richardson and S. B. Green, the retiring managers, were re-elected.

## Sabbath School Teacher.

### INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

March 24,  
1889.

#### BLIND BARTIMEUS.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Thou Son of David, have mercy on me.—Mark 10: 46-52.

Mark x. 48.

#### SHORTER CATECHISM.

Question 12.—God having made man holy, yet mutable and liable to fall, as shown under Ques. 10, he proceeded mercifully to enter into a covenant with Adam and Eve as the representatives of the entire mass of their descendants, wherein they were afforded an opportunity of securing, by a temporary obedience during a period of probation under the most favourable circumstances possible, the establishment of their holy character, so that they should never be liable to sin for ever. Thus by one trial would the eternal blessedness of the whole human family have been secured. A covenant is a conditional promise. God promised to Adam eternal life on condition of his remaining perfectly obedient during a term of probation. The alternative to the promise was death on condition of disobedience. This covenant was called a Covenant of Life, because its promise was life. It has been called, in contrast with the Gospel Covenant of Salvation on condition of faith, a Covenant of Works, because its condition was works; and a Legal Covenant, because it demanded as the condition of favour the complete conformity of Adam and all his exercises of soul and body to the law of absolute moral perfection. The special test of obedience which God selected to try the loyalty of our first parents was expressed in the command not to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. This tree, of course, had no moral quality, nor any power of communicating any moral quality in itself. It was called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because it was used as an instrument to test the fidelity of Adam and Eve, and hence became to them the occasion of that tremendous experience of good and evil which they have subsequently gathered. God has attached to every one of his covenants with men a visible seal. The use of a seal is to confirm and consummate a contract, and hence to convey to the recipient party the benefits engaged for. The seal of the covenant God formed with Noah, in which he promised that the earth should never again be destroyed by a flood (Gen. ix. 9-17), was the rainbow. The seal of the covenant God made with Abraham, promising that by his seed should all the nations of the earth be blessed (Gen. xii. 3; xvii. 18, xviii. 1-14), was circumcision. The seal of the covenant God made with the nation of Israel through Moses, was the Passover (Ex. xiii. 3-10). The seals of the Gospel covenant which God makes in Christ with believers are baptism and the Lord's supper. The seal of the Covenant of Works which God made with Adam, and with all mankind in him, was the "Tree of Life" (Gen. iii. 22, 24).—A. A. Hodge, D.D.

#### INTRODUCTORY.

On His way to Jerusalem Jesus and His disciples crossed the fords of the Jordan, near where the Children of Israel crossed when they entered the promised land. Having reached Jericho, which had in the time of our Saviour become a place of considerable importance, having been greatly embellished by Herod the Great, the interesting incident which forms the subject of to-day's lesson occurred.

I. Blind Bartimeus.—While Jesus was leaving Jericho, accompanied by His disciples and a great crowd of pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem to observe the Passover, there was seated by the wayside a poor blind man who was dependent on the charity of the people for his living. He was named Bartimeus—bar, meaning son—the son of Timeus. He was well known to the people of the neighbourhood. The unusual commotion aroused the curiosity of the blind man, who if his eyesight was gone had acute hearing. When he learned that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he cried to Him, "Jesus, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me." This crying indicates that Bartimeus had heard of Jesus and His wonder-working power and compassion. The bodily eyes of Bartimeus were darkened but his mental vision was clear. He could see spiritually much better than men the most learned of his country and age. They thought only of the man of Nazareth, he saw in Him much more than a popular teacher or a great prophet. He had heard of the wonderful cures wrought by Jesus; he had faith that He was able to cure him. He recognized Him as the Messiah spoken of by the prophets; for he calls Him the Son of David. As such Isaiah had spoken of Him and foretold that He would give sight to the blind. Bartimeus prays fervently, and prays earnestly, "Have mercy on me." Humble, obscure and helpless as he was he nevertheless has a faith sufficiently strong to impel him to cry to Christ for mercy. How short the prayers in the New Testament usually are!

II. The blind man receives his sight.—Jesus is kind and condescending. It is a poor blind beggar who seeks His aid. He never treats any one with disdain; never turns away from the cry of the humblest. "Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called." He gave those around Him an opportunity of taking part in His merciful work. The people at once obeyed and called to him who was so eager to be healed by Christ. They are privileged to convey a cheering message, "He of good comfort, rise, He calleth thee." The blind man did not stop to criticize the invitation addressed to him; he was too much in earnest for that, and his faith was sufficiently strong to cast aside all doubt; every movement indicated how desirous he was of the divine healing. The outer garment he wore was impetuously thrown off so that nothing might hinder his approach to the Saviour, he rose up instantly and came to Jesus. If we are ever tempted to restrain prayer because we know that God knows all we need, let us notice this among many other instances that God will be enquired of. Jesus knew well what ardent wish was nearest the heart of Bartimeus, but He gives him the opportunity to present his request by asking him the question, "What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?" Promptly comes the answer, firm, no doubt, in tone as it was strong in faith, "Lord, that I might receive my sight." No less speedily was Christ's answer to this direct and earnest prayer, "Go thy way," not an unceremonious dismissal of the man, but a regal intimation that the request was granted. He could now go his way with a freedom and joy to which he had long been a stranger. The reply of Jesus also contains a marked approval of the man's faith, it "hath made thee whole." The great defect was removed, he was made whole, complete, able to exercise that wonderful gift of vision of which he had been so long deprived. Though Jesus had said "Go thy way," the man whose sight was restored found that Christ's way was his way; he followed Jesus in the way. The striking incident that took place as our Lord passed through Jericho is a vivid illustration of the still greater work Christ came to accomplish. The sinner is spiritually blind, he is poor and helpless; Jesus of Nazareth is passing by, every one that desires His help cries to Him for mercy; they cry in faith; He hears the cry, and tells His followers to command all such to come to Him. When the eyes of the spiritually blind are opened they are made whole, and they love to follow Jesus in the way, they desire to do His will, and show forth His praise.

#### PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

Christ is ever merciful and considerate to those in distress.

Whosoever earnestly seeks salvation will not be silenced by the efforts of unsympathetic neighbours.

To Christ is due all the glory of salvation; faith is its indispensable condition.