

and the election of officers for ensuing year as follows: Mrs. MacTavish, Chater, President; Mrs. Urquhart, Brandon, Mrs. McNaught, Rapid City, Miss Walker, Portage, Vice Presidents; Mrs. McDiarmid, Brandon, Treas.; Mrs. Murray, Brandon, Cor. Sec. In the afternoon session the President delivered an address dealing with the importance of mission work, the uncertainty of life, the advancement already made by the society and the need of still greater effort on the part of each member. An address of welcome was read by Mrs. Urquhart and the reply by Mrs. McKay. Miss Walker, missionary at Portage la Prairie, followed with a very interesting paper on the Sioux Indians and school at that point. Miss Preston, Brandon, gave an excellent paper on Japan. The rest of the session was devoted to discussion of plans of work, etc. Resolutions of sympathy with the auxiliaries that have lost valued members by death during the year, and with the General Society in the great loss sustained by the death of Mrs. McMurchy, Toronto, were passed and the session closed. In the evening an eloquent missionary sermon was preached by Rev. Peter Wright of Portage la Prairie and an address given by Rev. Mr. Currie of Virden. The choir of First Church furnished excellent music during the evening.

Two years ago the Presbyterian congregation in St. George resolved to abolish tea meetings, and raise money after a more scriptural method. Social gatherings are held as formerly, a good programme is presented, and the church is usually crowded. No admittance fee is charged, but a plate collection is taken up and other voluntary offerings are received. This method has proved so satisfactory that the people are not likely to desire to return to the restaurant business. On Sabbath, the 8th inst., the Rev. Dr. Fraser, of Hamilton, concluded the services in connection with the fourth anniversary of the settlement of the pastor, the Rev. W. S. McTavish, B.D. The large congregations highly appreciated the eloquent and practical discourses of the able divine. A social gathering was held on Monday evening, when the church was crowded to the door. The pastor occupied the chair, and feelingly referred to the tender sympathy extended to him during the four years of his pastorate. Rev. Messrs. Gibson (Baptist), Odery (Methodist) and Tolmie, of Brantford, delivered addresses of unusual excellence. The Messrs. Ironside, of Troy, sang a charming duet, and Miss Ironside sang a solo, which called for an encore. The singing of Miss Robertson, of Brantford, was very highly appreciated. Miss Henderson's readings gave evidence of careful study and dramatic genius. The recitations of Miss Haggart, of Brantford, so delighted the audience that she was re-called again and again. Miss Oliver, of Brantford, played the accompaniments, and in addition gave a very fine piano solo. The collection amounted to \$26, and this, together with the voluntary contributions, will bring up the sum to almost \$100.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.—This Presbytery met on the 17th inst. A petition for the organization of a mission station at Windham Centre was received. A committee was appointed to consider the matter, and the Clerk was instructed to confer with the Presbytery of Paris in regard to it. A committee was appointed to arrange for conferences on the State of Religion, etc. Mr. Caswell tendered his resignation of Oneida and Hagersville. The congregations are to be cited to appear for their interests at next regular meeting of Presbytery. Dr. McIntyre, owing to the delicate state of his wife's health, obtained leave of absence for six months. A resolution was received urging continued action so as to secure the submission of the Acts incorporating and endowing the Society of Jesus submitted to the Supreme Court and Privy Council, and if necessary to have the Federal Constitution amended so as to prevent the interference of the Pope and the Roman Catholic clergy in civil affairs, and to maintain the supremacy of civil law. The resolution was sent down to Sessions, and is to be considered at next ordinary meeting.—J. LAING, Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF CHATHAM.—This Presbytery met at Chatham on September 10. Several students were examined and certified to Knox College. A movement was made to separate the congregations of Amherstburg and Colchester, but the existing relation was not broken up. Mr. Fleming was appointed to prepare the annual report on Sabbath Schools; Mr. Fairquharson that on the State of Religion, and Mr. Tallach that on Temperance. It was agreed to call for elders' commissions at next regular meeting, and henceforth in the future to call for them at the September meeting. In connection with a circular from Dr. Cochran, stating the amounts apportioned to the Presbytery for Home Missions and Augmentation of Stipend, a motion was passed, cordially commending these two important schemes to the liberality of the churches within the bounds. A request of the Session of First Church to have the supply of the pulpit entirely in their own hands was not granted. It was agreed to hold the next regular meeting in First Church, Chatham, on the second Tuesday of December at ten a.m. Having received liberty to address the court, Mr. Bates expressed his regrets that he had not been appointed to go to Manitoba and the North-West by the Home Mission Committee. A motion duly made and seconded, the matter was referred to said Committee. The Clerk reported that he had visited Buxton in reference to the arrears in which the people there had fallen. Rev. Dr. Manson and Mr. McKay were appointed to go amongst the people and see what could be raised.—WILLIAM WALKER, Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF SAUGEN.—This Presbytery met in Durham on September 10. Mr. Straith, on behalf of the committee appointed to draft a resolution on Prison Reform, gave in a report, which was received and adopted, and the Clerk was instructed to forward it to the secretary of the Society. A circular on Home Missions and Augmentation, setting forth the amounts expected from the Presbytery, was read. In connection therewith Mr. Straith gave in the Home Mission report, giving the amounts expected from each congregation for these schemes. The Home Mission Committee was appointed to make arrangements for bringing the schemes before the congregations of the Presbytery. The Presbytery agreed to ask for a continuance of the grants. Also that Mr. Fairbairn be continued at Balaklava, Ayton and East Normanby. Mr. Wm. Dodds was examined with a view to enter Knox College. The Clerk was instructed to certify him to the Senate of said College. A petition from Monck and vicinity in the township of Luther was presented and read, praying the Presbytery to organize them into a mission station. Parties were heard in support of said petition. It was agreed to cite neighbouring Sessions. Also to appoint Messrs. Straith and Morrison to visit the field. After meeting and conferring with Mr. William G. Young, an elder in the Durham congregation, it was unanimously agreed to recommend him to the Home Mission Committee as a very fit and suitable person to labour in the Home Mission field. The Moderator and Clerk, along with the Home Mission Committee, were appointed to arrange for a presbyterial visitation in about a fourth of the Presbytery this year. At the evening meeting for the public Mr. Cameron gave an address on Sabbath school intercourse, and Mr. Aull on the distinctive features of the Presbyterian Church. The Presbytery meets in Mount Forest on Dec. 10 next, at ten a.m.—S. YOUNG, Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF WINNIPEG.—This Presbytery met in Knox Church, Winnipeg, on September 10. Rev. J. K. Welsh, of Boiservain, being present, was asked to sit with the Presbytery as corresponding member. Rev. Joseph Hogg's notice of motion, that the Presbytery undertake presbyterial visitation of the congregations within its bounds, was discussed, and the following resolution adopted on motion of Dr. King, seconded by Dr. Duval: The Presbytery, believing the periodical visitation of the congregations within its bounds to be necessary to their proper oversight, appoints the following committee to prepare a scheme of presbyterial visitation,

defining the objects and method with a view of overtaking the whole Presbytery within as short a period as possible. The committee consists of Revs. Joseph Hogg (Convener), Dr. Duval, Mr. Baird and Dr. King; and Chief Justice Taylor and Mr. C. H. Campbell. Mr. David Anderson reported that he had dispensed the communion at Suthwyn. Dr. Bryce reported similarly in regard to Morris and Union Point; and Mr. J. K. Welsh, in regard to Fort Frances. The thanks of the Presbytery were given to these brethren, and especially to Mr. Welsh, in whose case the distance travelled and the time occupied were much greater than in the others. The Fort William congregation presented a call to the Rev. J. L. Simpson, formerly of Binscarth, now temporarily resident in Toronto. The call was signed by thirty-five members and thirty-five adherents, and was accompanied by a guarantee of salary of \$700, to be supplemented from the Augmentation Fund. The Presbytery declined to sustain the call on the ground that it was signed by little more than half the members, and scarcely at all by those resident in East Fort William. Leave was granted to the Session of Kildonan to call a minister as soon as, in the opinion of the Session, the congregation is ready for such a step. Dr. Bryce presented a report from the Home Mission Committee, asking for grants from the Home Mission Fund for the half year ending with Sept. 30. It was resolved that renewed application be made to the Synod's Committee for arrears—due on account of last year's services, and for the expenses of Mr. Welsh in visiting Fort Frances to dispense the communion. It was resolved to continue Mr. A. P. Logan at Selkirk until the close of the year. The congregation of Springfield became self-sustaining in July, and is no longer upon the list of augmented congregations. It was also agreed to make application to have the grants for the winter for students sent out weekly, kept the same as in the summer when the students remain continuously in the fields, on account of the considerable expense incurred for railway fare and horse hire. Provisional arrangements were made for the induction of Rev. W. J. Hall, who, it is reported, has accepted the call to Stonewall, but of whose action in the matter no formal information has been received. Mr. McFarlane is to preside and address the minister; Mr. Anderson to preach; and Mr. Lawrence to address the people. An application having been received for assistance in the erection of a building in the western part of the city to be used as a Sabbath school, the following committee was appointed to consult and co-operate with the applicants: Principal King (Convener), Dr. Bryce, Professor Hart, Dr. Duval, Mr. C. H. Campbell and Mr. Thomas Young. Rev. James Lawrence asked the advice of the Presbytery in regard to a member of the Dominion City congregation, who, while under discipline, had left the congregation and united himself with the Presbyterian Church in Dakota. The Presbytery advised that a copy of all the proceedings in the case be transmitted to the Session of the Dakota Church. Five congregations having failed to present their records to Presbytery for review, although repeatedly asked, the Presbytery resolved to make a third request with notification, that in case of further failure the Presbytery will deal with such congregations. The Presbytery adjourned, to meet again on December 10.—ANDREW BAIRD, Pres. Clerk.

PRESBYTERY OF MINNEDOSA.—A special meeting of the Presbytery of Minnedosa was held in the Presbyterian Church, Minnedosa, on Monday evening September 2nd, to consider the resignation of the Rev. Mr. Todd. In the absence of the Moderator the Rev. Mr. Smith was appointed Moderator. There were present Messrs. Smith, Murray, Stalker, Mowat, and Drs. Robertson and Wellwood, ministers, and Mr. Steele, elder. After agreeing to the action of the Moderator in calling the meeting, the clerk read the formal resignation of Mr. Todd, which stated that having been invited to take charge of a congregation in Wisconsin he submitted his resignation to Presbytery. The commissioners appointed by the congregation were then called to appear in its interests. There were four present from Clanwilliam, one from Willow Grove, and eight from Minnedosa congregations. Mr. Todd was then called upon to give his reasons for submitting his resignation which he did in a very few sentences. The commissioners from Clanwilliam were next called, and Mr. Matheson read a document setting forth in terms of the highest praise the services of Mr. Todd among them during the last three years, and the esteem in which he was held by the people, concluding with the hope that the Presbytery would not accept the resignation. Mr. C. Knox, of Willow Grove, was then called and stated that it was the unanimous desire of the people there that their pastor should remain with them, and that the Presbytery would not accept the resignation. The commissioners, who were eight in number, from Minnedosa were next called, Messrs. Steele, Irwin and Jackson spoke on behalf of the Session, and referred to the arduous work done by Mr. Todd and the improved spiritual condition of the congregation during the three years he had been pastor there, and hoped he would see his way clear to remain among them; though, in Mr. Todd's own interests they could not ask the Presbytery not to release him should he see fit to leave. Mr. Myers and several others spoke in a similar strain and bore testimony to the great ability of their pastor and the loss the congregation and the Church would sustain should the Presbytery accept the resignation. The members of the Presbytery were then called upon to express themselves. Dr. Robertson, the Superintendent of missions, said he could not accept the resignation with the present light. He would like to know what Mr. Todd was to gain by it before he agreed to this congregation and the Church losing him, and thereby sustaining a great loss. Rev. Mr. Stalker could not consent to the resignation being accepted. They had heard only one voice from the congregation and that was that God had abundantly blessed Mr. Todd's labours, and the congregation would suffer irreparable loss were he to leave. Then there was the church work. They all knew what he had done for that. His superior ability displayed in the Home Mission work of the Church for the last three years made it imperative that his services be retained, and he, (the speaker) had heard no sufficient reason why the resignation should be accepted. Rev. Messrs. Mowat and Murray followed and referred to the energy and administrative ability of Mr. Todd and believed it was the duty of the Presbytery not to accept the resignation. Rev. Mr. Wellwood bore testimony to his pastor's untiring zeal and marked ability in the congregational and Home Mission work, and to the harmony which existed between him and the congregation, and hoped that unless he was to gain much by the change he would not be released. Mr. Todd then made his statement. He feelingly referred to the many kind words his congregation and Presbytery had spoken regarding him. He had done what he could for the spiritual welfare of his congregation and for the advancement of Christ's cause in His Church and hoped he would always do so wherever his lot was cast. He believed Providence was leading him in the invitation he had received to leave them and that his usefulness and influence would not be impaired while many advantages could be secured to his family should they release him. He could not give any additional light on his future, and notwithstanding all that had been said to the contrary he saw no reason why he should withdraw his resignation, and asked that the Presbytery decide accordingly. Rev. Dr. Robertson reviewed all that had been stated before the court, and endorsed all that had been said about Mr. Todd's worth, and could not consent to lose him for the reasons given. But in Mr. Todd's interests he would move that meantime the resignation be not accepted but be on the table till the next meeting of Presbytery to be held at Birtle on the 11th inst. Mr. Stalker seconded the motion. Mr. Mowat moved in amendment that the Presbytery refuse to accept the resignation, but not being seconded it was not voted on. The motion of Dr. Robertson was unanimously adopted. The meeting, which lasted nearly three hours, was then closed with the benediction. At the close of the meeting the commissioners of the congregation appointed C. Knox, G. McKay and R. H. Myers to represent the congregation at the meeting of Presbytery to be held at Birtle.

Sabbath School Teacher

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS

Oct. 6. } THE TRIBES UNITED UNDER DAVID. } Sam. 5
1889. } GOLDEN TEXT. Behold how good and how pleasant it is }
for brethren to dwell together in unity.—Psalms CXXXIII. 1.

SHORTER CATECHISM.

Questions 39, 40.—It is the same law, however, revealed—by God's works or word. In creation we perceive only "His eternal power and Godhead" (Rom. i. 20). His providence is often incomprehensible (Ps. lxxiii). Therefore He has revealed His will in human language. The word of God is the only rule to direct us. It is a perfect rule. 1. It is the fullest and clearest revelation. 2. Its commands and prohibitions are final. 3. Nothing is sinful which it does not condemn, nor obligatory which it does not require. This revealed law is called moral, because it concerns character, questions of right and wrong, holiness and sin. It is distinguished from (1) natural laws, as of day and night, bounds of the sea, growth and decay, etc., (Ps. lxxiii. 13-17; civ.; Jer. xxxiii. 25); (2) the national law, that judicial code enjoined on the Jewish nation as such (Conf. of Faith, chap. xix. sect. iv.; Ex. xxi.; xxii. 1-20); (4) the ceremonial law, foretelling and prefiguring the redemption of Christ (Conf. of Faith, chap. xix. sect. iii.) Heb. x. 1; Gal. iv. 1-3; Col. ii. 14-17). These depending upon the present order of nature, the temporary condition of the Jews and the preparatory form of the mystery of salvation, all of which are transient, are temporary laws. But the moral law, based on the divine nature and on the fact that we were made in the image of God, is abiding and unchangeable. This moral law was revealed to Adam in the manner and object of his creation, in his nature and in his constant communion with God (Gen. i. 26; ii. 7; iii. 5).—A. A. Hodge, D.D.

INTRODUCTION.

After Saul's death David assumed the sovereignty of the kingdom, but his rule was not undisputed. His future capital, Jerusalem, was in the hands of the Jebusites. Ishbosheth, a surviving son of Saul, claimed the throne, and had established his capital at Mahanaim, east of the Jordan, with Abner as his commander-in-chief. The northern tribes adhered to the House of Saul, while the southern acknowledged David, who for seven years held his court in Hebron. The Philistines were still troublesome. The kingdom was divided and religion was at a low ebb.

I. David Becomes King.—Ishbosheth and Abner were assassinated and the supporters of the house of Saul now saw that their cause was hopeless. Knowing that David had by God's direction been anointed king by the prophet Samuel, and having recognized his eminent qualifications and personal heroism; recognizing also the national injury of faction and division the people came to the conclusion that David was the king under whom they all could unite, and they resolved that he should now be acknowledged as the sole ruler in Israel. The chiefs of all the tribes and whoever of their followers chose to accompany them, came to Hebron to declare the national will in the elevation of David. They declared their confidence in him by reason of kinship, "Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh." The character he had built up at the court of Saul, in the wilderness, and during his seven years' rule in Hebron had shown his eminent fitness for the trust they now wished to repose in him. As a wise and true ruler of men, and a courageous and skilful military commander, he could be followed with enthusiasm. They also understood that God had selected David for the throne of Israel, therefore they said, "Thou shalt feed my people Israel," that is, guide and care for them as a shepherd tends his flock. When David accepted the sovereignty of Israel a solemn league was entered into between the king and the elders on behalf of the people. His rule was not like that common in that age in Eastern lands, but wise and liberal over a free people. The league was made "before the Lord," with solemn sanctions, followed by great rejoicing. David's reign in Hebron began when he was thirty years of age, and at this period he was about thirty-eight. The varied discipline through which he had passed had trained him for the great work to which the subsequent years of his life were to be devoted.

II. The Conquest of Jerusalem.—Hebron served well enough for a capital during the time that David's sway extended only over Judah, but a more central and suitable place was now required when he was to reign over a united people. David with his great army marched to Jerusalem, up to that time possessed by the Jebusites, a tribe of the original Canaanites who had never been subdued, and who had come to think that their city, so favourably situated for defence, could not be taken. So they tauntingly reply to David's challenge, "Except thou take away the blind and the lame thou shalt not come in hither," meaning that so strong was the natural situation of the city that the lame and the blind would be sufficient for its defence. David issued a proclamation offering to the leader who should enter the city by one of the watercourses promotion to the highest military command under the king. The feat was accomplished and the pride and the city of the Jebusites fell together.

III. The Progress of the Kingdom.—David took up his residence in the citadel and named the quarter in which it was placed the City of David. He strengthened the fortifications and built from Millo, supposed to be a fortress on the northern, the only part of the city destitute of natural protection. David prospered, and the kingdom prospered, and the reason of this prosperity is given, "The Lord God of hosts was with him." Whom God blesses cannot but prosper. The prosperity of Israel secured the respect of surrounding peoples. Hiram, king of Tyre, entered into friendly relations with David and sent him materials for the erection of his palace. The king perceived that the blessings attending his reign were God-given, and they were bestowed not for personal ends but for "His people Israel's sake." No longer a shepherd, or singing at court to quiet an angry king; no longer a hunted outcast, but a king on his throne, with a place and a name that should be known and honoured forever. The name of the city so glorious that heaven is called the new Jerusalem, and David so loved and honoured that Jesus was the son of David. He grew greater and greater year by year, not because he was grand or wise in himself; not because he was a great soldier, or singer, or poet. In the tenth verse of the lesson you will find the reason why. "The Lord . . . was with him" in many battles and many hiding-places. He was with him on his throne; and when he "inquired of the Lord" if he should go to battle, he could say, "In the name of our God we will set up our banners." David gave all the praise to the Lord. David knew it was the Lord who had established him king over Israel, and that it was because of his promise to his own chosen people he exalted the kingdom.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

David's patient waiting for God's time was rewarded. The kingdom had been promised him, but long years of privation and suffering had to be endured before the promise was fulfilled.

By the hardships he endured David was prepared for the position God designed him to fill.

David was enabled to accomplish great things, and to be a good king because God was with him.

David ruled righteously because he sought to do God's will.