

HAMILTON LOCAL UNION.

THIRD ANNIVERSARY.

A larger church than St. Paul's should have been chosen for the meeting-place of the Hamilton Christian Endeavor union on the occasion of its third anniversary meeting, held last Friday. The church was not big enough to hold all who came. Many stood throughout the meeting, and not a few went away when they saw the crush. It was a great gathering. The president of the Union, Thomas Morris, jr., was in the chair. The principal feature of the meeting was the address of the Rev. Wm. Patterson, of Cooke's church, Toronto, a speaker of rare power, and of a peculiarly magnetic personality.

Rev. Dr. Laidlaw opened the meeting with devotional exercises, and after the singing of a hymn the secretary, N. M. Leckie, read his annual report. This report contained some very significant statistics, showing the wonderful growth of the Christian Endeavor movement in Hamilton. It began in December, 1887, by the organization of a society in Central Presbyterian church as the result of an address delivered in that church by Rev. Mr. Franklin, an American minister. Then followed in order, the societies in connection with St. Paul's, the Congregational, Knox and Erskine churches in the fall of 1888. A local union was then formed, the organization being completed three years ago last night. Since then the work has gone on rapidly. Since the organization of the local union seventeen societies have been organized in the city and joined the union. The complete list, together with the dates of organization and the membership is as follows:

No.	When organized	Name of local societies	Membership.	
			Dec. '90	Dec. '91
1	Dec. '87	Central Pres.	107	85
2	Sept. '88	St. Paul Pres.	115	71
3	Sept. '88	Hughson St. Cong.	82	53
4	Oct. '88	Knox Pres.	87	106
5	Oct. '88	Erskine Pres.	45	70
6	Jan. '89	McNab St. Pres.	87	71
7	Feb. '89	Wentworth Pres.	101	98
8	May, '89	First Meth.	101	120
9	Jan. '90	Herkimer St. Bap.	64	60
10	June, '90	Wentworth St. Bap.	29	56
11	Dec. '90	Disciples of Christ.	14	22
12	Feb. '91	James St. Bap.	79	9
13	June, '91	Northern Bap.	9	9
14	June, '91	Gore St. Meth. E. L. C. E.	121	
15	Aug. '91	Wesley Meth. E. L. C. E.	44	
16	Sept. '91	Zion Tabernacle Meth.	32	
17	Sept. '91	John St. A. M. E.	27	
18	Mar. '91	Evangelical Assn.	32	
19	Oct. '91	Hannah St. Meth.	27	
20	Nov. '91	Simcoe St. Meth.	43	
21	Nov. '91	Emerald St. Meth.	30	
22	Nov. '91	Locke St. Pres.	10	
			832	1,266

The financial statement of the year was: Receipts, \$91.43; expenditure, within \$2.50 of that sum.

President Morris delivered a short opening address. After expressing his thanks for the good work which had been done during the year, he said that one phase of the Christian Endeavor movement, which appealed to his heart was the spirit of Christian unity which it engendered. It had tended to break down the barriers

which divided the various sections of the Church of Christ, and to enable all Christians to understand one another. Mr. Morris gave high praise to secretary Leckie, and said it was to his earnest, able and cheerful work that the success of the Christian Endeavor movement in Hamilton was largely due. The organization committee had also done good work, six societies having been organized through its efforts. Next year, he hoped, the establishment of Anglican societies of Christian Endeavor in Hamilton could be recorded, also that there would be a junior society in every church in which there was a senior society.

Rev. Wm. Patterson was received with applause and the waving of handkerchiefs when he came forward to speak. The Endeavor movement, he said, began like Christianity, quietly and, like Christianity, it is circling the earth. Christ told His followers that He would make them fishers of men. There are three kinds of fishers. One kind is that class of fishermen who go out with their tackle, and sit down and wait for the fish to come up to them before they try to catch any. That class would catch many fish. Another class of fishermen throw out the unbaited hook and say, "There! if you want to be caught come and take this hook!" He is not a popular fisherman with the fish. At other class is that of the fishermen who give the fish plenty of bait, but no hook, that fisherman may be popular, but he can't haul in any fish without a hook—and the word of God is the hook. There is not a man or woman in the world but there is a way to reach that one; the secret is to find out that way. The grand object of the Christian Endeavor movement is the utilization of the enormous energy and vitality of the young people in the churches and direct these forces into a channel of a good, instead of a cause of evil; for the current must run on—if not in the direction of good—then in the direction of evil. The aim of every society shall be to make every associate member an active member, and every active member a member of the church. You often hear Christians claim credit for not having done any positive evil, but that is not enough; the curse was pronounced of old against those who sinned by simply refraining from doing anything—simply for their inactivity. Every Endeavorer should become a specialist in Christian work—he should adopt some particular line that he is best adapted for. And when that particular sphere is discovered the worker should put his whole heart and soul into the work as if God had specially called him to it. If a man refuses to serve God in the sphere to which God calls him, he cannot serve God in any sphere—he is a nuisance to himself and others everywhere. Jonah disobeyed God, and he was a nuisance to himself, to every other man and even to the fish that swallowed him. But as soon as Jonah went to Nineveh and obeyed God, he was a blessing instead of a curse. The question we have to decide is not, "Am I qualified for this work?" but "Does God want me to go?" God never sends us anywhere alone; He always goes with us and will carry us through.

With regard to worldly pleasures, the speaker said he was often asked "Can I do so and so—dance, play cards, etc., and be a Christian?" That is not the question, he said. There are many who no doubt are able to do these things and be Christians; but the real question should be, "Can I do these things without being hindered in my Christian work?" We are told not only to shun evil, but even the very appearance of evil.

There was a collection, and while it was being taken up, Sidney Grant sang a sacred solo.

The meeting closed with the singing of the Endeavorers' favorite hymn, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again."—Hamilton Spectator.