

CHRISTIAN WORKER

— PUBLISHED MONTHLY: —

Printed by Sauter & McCarter at the
Office of "The Worker," for
the Publisher.

H. B. SHERMAN, EDITOR.

LAW & WHITELAW

— PUBLISHERS & PROPRIETORS: —
To whom all business letters should
be addressed.

Subscriptions 50 cents per annum.

FIELD NOTES No. 3.

Those who have had experience in moving, will know how happily we spent the first week of last month. After settling down at Acton, your evangelist boarded the train for Bowmanville on the 13th. Stopped off in Toronto and had a pleasant talk with Bro. Geo. A. Barclay, who is now well known as one of the managers of the co-operation. Bro. B. is full of hope for the success of our work. He turns neither to the right or left, but follows his convictions of right regardless of consequences, he being a good preacher, and there being so much need for work in the field. It is a pity that his whole time is not taken in the ministry of the word. As it is he speaks at some point nearly every Lord's day. We arrived at Bowmanville at 7:30 p.m., and was domiciled at the home of our beloved brother, E. Sheppard, whom we found quite ill, but he was able to be out and assist in the morning service of the church. Bro. Sheppard's name is a household word all over this land, and he is much beloved by the people in Bowmanville, for whom he has labored so much. He now talks of leaving, but is not quite sure as to what his future course will be. Sister Sheppard was very sick during our stay at B. and fears are entertained of her recovery. Bro. S's pathway has been bedewed with tears—nine children sleep beneath the sod, and now his companion is prostrated and he is rendered almost unfitted for active work himself by sickness of a serious character. May our heavenly father deal tenderly with our brother. Our meetings were well attended on Lord's day, especially in the evening. We continued the meetings until Thursday night. The church at Bowmanville has passed through the fire, and the pure gold has thus been revealed. They now number about one hundred members. If Bro. Sheppard refuses to remain, they will want some one to take his place. They are now well united and working in harmony. Bowmanville has over 4,000 inhabitants, and is beautifully located on elevated ground, and surrounded by a fine farming country, making it one of the most delightful spots in Ontario. The church here has no sympathy with the "anti-missionary idea" which is a controlling mania with some. We made our home with Bro. W. A. Neads, and a real homelike was. On Friday the 19th I went on to Port Hope, some twenty-two miles east from Bowmanville; here I found the little band well united and pushing on in the divine life. Bro. Mundy began to tell me how they, from the time I had first sounded the word here, had not missed a meeting, that they have more converts than all the other churches in the town during the eleven months of their history. They have a nice little Sunday School, and nearly all of the members take part in the prayer meetings on week nights. When I saw what a grand work has been done here in less than a year, I thank God that I had the privilege of preaching the gospel first in this place. What has been done here may be done in scores of places. We had large audiences at both meetings on Lord's day. I wish some of our older churches would visit the little band at Port Hope and imbibe some of

their zeal and brotherly love. Port Hope church is weak and must have help; it cannot be expected that they would be self-sustaining so soon. They have been able to do so much, thus far, by the philanthropic help of Sister Scott, whose praise is in all the churches. Different brethren have volunteered their assistance in the way of public speaking for them, and will continue to do so as long as they can. Here is an example of what can be done through co-operation. That they appreciate what has been done for them can be seen by their report in this issue of the WORKER, of pledges to the co-operation.

On Tuesday, the 23rd, I went on to Cobourg. In another place I have told how I spent three days at that place. One thing I am glad to report of the church at Cobourg is, that their sore troubles of the past are all healed up, and that permanently. They are in perfect unity, as Dr. Wood said, "in better condition than at any time since he had known the congregation." I made my home with Bro. Wm. Pomeroy, who is a faithful, devoted disciple, who through all their trials remained steadfast in the faith.

On Friday, the 26th, I went on to Prince Edward County. At Trenton I fell in company with Mr. Lehman, of Stouffville, who spent most of the summer at Meaford, at work on Mr. Train's mill; this was an agreeable surprise. By dark I was domiciled at the very pleasant christian home of Bro. Hyatt, who lives in one of the most picturesque places in all this county. I cannot give an idea of the immense sand banks here, in words. Just imagine thousands of acres of sand drifted like snow, forming mountains, covering trees until the tops of tall cedars protruded from the mountain top like little bushes. Dig down only a few feet and you come to the last winter's snow. The sand is so clean that it would not soil a white dress, and is as fine as Indian meal; but it must be seen to be appreciated.

The country around the West Lake meeting house is picturesque, and is quite a resort for pleasure seekers. Our meeting began on the fourth Lord's day in October, and continued until Nov. 10. The interest from the first was good and continued to grow until the close of our visit. There were six baptised during the meeting, and we feel sure that many were almost persuaded to become christians. The last days of the meeting were the best.

The church in Prince Edward County has never been an aggressive church, and as a result they have not grown as they should; perhaps there are not as many members in the county as there was in former years. I am glad to say that they see where they have failed, and are ready to take hold of any good work that will assist in making amends for past neglect. They do not have the regular Lord's day contribution as our churches almost universally do, and as we believe scripturally too, but have yielded to the opposition of a few who have been improperly instructed in this matter. The church at West Lake have not supported the Sunday school, and as a result have very little hold upon the children and young people. This is perhaps the worst feature of their outlook. The church that fails to get hold of the children will pass away with its generation, and the children will go to churches that look after them. I am glad that they have decided to go to work in the Sunday school. There is a large membership in the church but no young people.

We have written these words as a warning to all churches. Don't neglect the children.

I shall go from here to the church in Hillier, and from there home.

VOLUME NO. 3.

Again we step to the front and say to our readers that Vol. 2, of the CHRISTIAN WORKER is a thing of the past. It's record is made up, and as editor we must meet it at the Bar of God. Taking a retrospective view, we can see many failures on our part, and we expect to profit by this, another year's experience in journalism. We have tried to, faithfully, represent our cause to the world, and recommend our great Head, Jesus Christ, to a dying world as their only hope; and have carefully noted the items of news that would cheer the hearts of our brethren sending them out in our columns. That our readers would know what is going on among our great brotherhood, in supplying a paper to meet the wants of our Canadian brethren, we are assured that we have been successful in a large measure as the letters commending our course amply testify. We could publish flattering letters enough to fill this entire issue. But what is much more substantial is the increasing circulation of our paper among the brethren, and even among those who are not identified with our people. We here return our thanks to those brethren who have so kindly assisted us in our work by writing for our paper and by helping to increase its circulation. Bro. Ash, has been steadfastly at work supplying our readers with interesting reminiscences which are read with great interest and profit by many of our readers. Some complaining that their paper is completely worn out, so many are reading it. We know of no relief for such unless they turn agent in their neighborhood and get everybody to subscribe for the WORKER.

We come again to our readers to ask their help in the good work. The "Ontario Co-operation of Disciples of Christ," is now moving on, as you can see by our "field notes" and by the treasurer's monthly reports. This we believe is the work of God, and the brethren generally esteem it as such or their cheerful contributions would not foot up so well. The CHRISTIAN WORKER will as in the past go steadfastly forward in harmony with the brethren in their co-operative work bearing on its pages to our readers the good news of our beloved Zion's progress. We will glean from all sources, good things and send them out to cheer our readers. We have the promise of regular contributions from some of our best brethren who will give us the cream of their thoughts. We ask the brethren to send in any item of news that will contribute to the upbuilding of the Kingdom of Christ. We will allow you to say what you have to say in your own way on every thing of general interest but personal wrangles are henceforth barred from these columns. Brethren may discuss their differences sharply as long as principles are involved. Our subscription will remain at 50 cents per annum and we do not think that any will complain at the price. There are many other good papers published which the brethren should take if they are able, but let it be remembered that the CHRISTIAN WORKER is assisting in promoting the good cause in Canada, that it is in sympathy with our co-operative work, with every effort to spread the Gospel of Christ and with our brethren generally. As we need a medium through which we can urge forward our work in Canada, let all put their shoulders to the wheel and help now, in giving the CHRISTIAN WORKER an increased circulation. It now has the largest circulation of any paper ever published for the brethren in Canada.

As soon as we can see our way clear it will be issued semi-monthly, and we will see our way clear as soon as the subscription list is doubled. Now let each reader try to send one new name along with his renewal and the work will be done. "Finally my brethren be strong in the Lord." Let each one set a guard upon his own actions. Let no root of bitterness spring up, but follow after those things which make for peace, and let us so labor that we can say at the end of our next volume that "I have done my whole duty." Pray for the success of the cause of Christ, remember in your prayers those who are leaving their homes and going forth day and night "to tell the story of Jesus and his love."

May God our Heavenly Father bless all in our efforts to do good.—Editor.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION.

On the event of our visit to Cobourg on the 23rd of last month, we were unable to hold meetings on account of the "Canada Sunday School Convention" being in session. I spent three days in convention. There was a diversity of talent present, that of high order predominating. The important questions of Sunday School work were discussed by men of ability in a manner which will be of great advantage to the teachers present, of whom there were many. The principal addresses of nights were "wise and otherwise." The address of Dr. Nelles was of the highest order. I am bold to say, that the address of Dr. Nelles was the best, in thought, in truth, and power, of anything that I have heard for years. He marched on through his subject like a giant dealing deadly blows to the errors and foolishness of the latter day churches. He made a masterly plea for a return to the simplicity of Bible truth. Took a hopeful look over the field of investigation going on in the world to-day. Declaring that truth has nothing to fear. Submit it to the most severe test, and it will come out of the fire of investigation the pure gold that it is, minus the dross." He recommended the "return to apostolic practice, making the morning service a Bible reading and praise service." He wanted a return to the good old days when the churches would sing. "Now we have no congregational singing, it is done by a choir, and sometimes not even the choir will sing, for one of the choir steps to the front and performs like a stage actor, 'A solo.' This effort to give an idea of this masterly address must prove futile, hence we desist, by recommending that our readers invest twenty-five cents in the report of the proceedings, which will soon be ready for distribution. The doctor's discourse would sound well from one of our pulpits, and would take a high rank as an able presentation of our plea, as far as he went. This address contained more sound sense than all the other addresses combined. The address of Joseph Wilde of Toronto had many good points in it. His immense popularity drew out a large crowd, said to be the largest ever assembled at a religious gathering in Cobourg. He only spoke a half hour, and if the chaff was out of his speech there would remain 15 minutes of good sense. Mr. Burnell, D.D. gave some very interesting accounts of his trip through Egypt, the Pyramids and other items of much interest. His was a profitable address. Doctor Parsons of Toronto delivered a powerfully worded address on the Holy Spirit in

Sunday School work. The address had more noise and less Scripture properly applied than anything else at the Convention. He said that "Christ has promised the Holy Spirit to the Sunday School teacher, 'to guide them into all truth'" etc. If the reader is a C. & D. can recollect the most ignorant teaching on the Holy Spirit 50 years ago he will be able to form some idea of the teaching to which we were served. We had vainly thought that God had winked such ignorance out of existence.

The general teaching and drift of the Convention work was good. As to methods of instructing the children in the Sunday School, some of the best points were brought out that I ever heard. Doctor McVicar, Prof. of Christian Didactics in McMaster Hall, Toronto, led on "the teacher before his class. The doctor drew on quite a storm, and I thought winced a little under the sharp fire of questions which he invited. He said that all our work as teachers was futile, unless God by the Holy Spirit opened the way for the truth to do the work." This is old time Baptist Doctrine. "That if the teacher failed to lead the pupil to Christ, his work was a failure."

Just at this point I arose and the following dialogue took place:—S. "I having received the divine ideas through the word of God as revealed, can I not impart that idea to the pupil by the same means?" Mc. "What do you mean by impart?" S. "You are a teacher, and I trust you understand, hence do not ask for information." Mc. "Yes, you may impart what you know, but you cannot make it grow." S. "I accept, but sir, as a teacher, have I made a failure because I cannot make it grow. I am a success so far as my ability goes, if after I have imparted the divine idea through the word, the pupil is not brought to Christ, is it not owing to the failure of God to send the Holy Spirit to prepare the way? Hence not our failure, but God's." Mc. "Oh no, God makes no failures." S. "Does not the theory laid down involve this position?" Mc. "We are getting into deep water, and away from the main question."

The Doctor gave many good points on teaching which each one should read. He emphasized this truth that "information does not make men good." He thought that the devil was one of the best theologians, that a man might have all the information in the world and yet be no better than the devil in hell, and upon this point he strongly urged the necessity for moral training to make other information of real benefit. Hon. H. S. Blake delivered a fine address on Thursday night. His captivating oratory held the vast audience spell-bound for an hour. He reviewed the past of our Sunday School work and success in a masterly manner, making all feel that it was a high honor to be engaged in such a grand work. As he approached the outlook for our work his eloquence rose to fever heat, and a perfect river of words poured forth from his mouth conveying some of the grandest thoughts clothed in classic language, ending thrill after thrill through the audience until the enthusiasm arose to a tremendous height. As he sat down a roar of applause followed.

The "summing up" of the lessons of the convention was good. This was done by Mr. Andrews in a half hour speech, which was delivered in a graphic and eloquent manner. Two or three farewell speeches were made after which the convention closed. Prof. Case from Akron, Ohio, led the singing during the convention.

THANKSGIVING.

Among the many duties to which we are called, as the followers of Christ, few return a richer harvest of blessing than that somewhat neglected one, Thanksgiving. To magnify our trials, and underrate our blessings, may be a mark of nature, but it is surely no indication of grace. We keep the anniversary of our sorrows and our trials, and our disappointments; talk of them to our friends and enlarge on the peculiarities of these trials, and the painful nature of these sorrows, as though they differed materially from the difficulties of those about us. While the days which have been running over with goodness and mercy call forth only an occasional burst of Thanksgiving.

It is not very easy to tell why we mourn over the ills as a somewhat undesired affliction and yet credit much of the good to ourselves and our own industry and tact. It is true we note our larger blessings, and are conscious of a passing feeling of gratitude, but who habitually counts the smaller mercies? Who traces the disquieting ones that come through trial? Who watches and gives thanks for those sweet effects of the "afterwards" of Divine chastisements, that bring, according to God's promise, "the fruits of Righteousness to them who are exercised thereby?" Yet every one of these varied events of our life, sunshine and shadow, storm and calm, are covered by that command of the apostles, "In everything give thanks."

Our own Dominion has kept its annual Thanksgiving day. It is wise to have special thanksgiving for special mercies; it is wiser to cultivate a thankful spirit that shall at all times respond to the giver of all good; and to form the habit of meditating on our mercies, and giving thanks daily and hourly if need be, for daily or hourly blessings. Every day brings temporal good, and protection from danger seen and unseen, deliverance in the hour of temptation, and exemption from it and all is crowned by the full, free gift of eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. Surely this is sufficient to call forth a song of heartfelt thanks, giving here the strains of which shall break forth with fuller power and sweetness, in the new song in the city of our God.

Where can a people be found, who have greater cause of thanksgiving than ourselves? Who have greater spiritual advantages than we? What nation or people enjoy civil or religious liberty as the rightly trained mind can enjoy it here? What land possesses safety and peace in a higher degree than ours? Have any people enjoyed richer, temporal or spiritual blessings since Adam was turned out of Eden? God is leading us with blessings, pouring out at our feet in a perpetual stream the good things of the Kingdom of both earth and heaven. As we run up our mercies, let us raise our Ebenezer and say "hitherto the Lord has helped us" and His mercy endureth forever. "By His mercy therefore, let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name."

J. L. Hillaberg.

Our first annual meeting of the "Ontario co-operation of Disciples of Christ" will be held in June next. We want to make it one of the best meetings of the kind ever held in Canada. We hope the brethren will be thinking over this, and preparing to be present, and contribute to the interest of the meeting. The brethren hope to be in shape to put on or two more men in the field immediately after the annual meeting.