

# The Ontario Evangelist,

A RELIGIOUS MONTHLY.

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## A SPECIAL OFFER.

To encourage more to take an interest in the paper and to increase its circulation, we make the following offer:—

We will send the paper free

(1) To any one sending us four *new* names and two dollars.

(2) To any one sending us six names, new or old, and three dollars.

Now is the time to give the paper a boom.

Brethren, it is your paper, and we look to you to assist us in circulating it.

## TO OUR READERS.

We earnestly appeal to you again in behalf of the ONTARIO EVANGELIST. It is conceded by all that the paper is a necessity and that it is accomplishing not a little good. From the many kind and helpful letters received we have reason to believe that such is the case.

We are trying to conduct it not in the interest of any man or set of men but in the interest of the cause we all profess to love. While we do not claim for ourselves perfection in this, we do profess to be striving that we might attain unto it. Now, dear reader, we would remind you that the paper, though small, calls for not a little money every month. Many, however, of those who are in arrears do not seem to think of this. In the majority of the cases, we believe that it is the result of negligence, but negligence is a sin—a sin of no small magnitude in the poor publisher's eye.

We ask you, dear Christian readers, to do what you can for the paper. We need your sympathy and assistance. We cannot publish a paper without your co-operation. Will you help us?

## APOSTOLIC METHODS OF WORK.

II.

In the July number of the EVANGELIST a few general remarks were made on the subject of *Apostolic Methods of Work*, and an intimation given that in succeeding papers certain of these methods would be pointed out. We have been unable to carry out our purpose until this number, and now we have only time and space for a bare enumeration without referring to the Scriptures by chapter and verse which illustrate the different points. The Acts of Apostles will furnish instances which justify us in denominating the following, "Apostolic methods," and it would be found interesting to give the entire book a careful reading with these before the mind observing where and when the Apostles followed them.

1. They uniformly preached Jesus the Christ,
2. Yet adapted their discourse to the audience,
3. And utilized any special circumstances of the occasion.
4. They reasoned with the people,
5. Did not wrangle,
6. And were not tantalizing.
7. They recognized the principle of division of labor,
8. Exercised care in the selection of officers,
9. And worked "the Centres."
10. They scattered the good seed as widely as possible,
11. Yet gave great prominence to the confirmation of those already disciples,
12. And did not neglect discipline.
13. They were not afraid of persecution,
14. Yet did not dare it.

It is not pretended that these fourteen items exhaust the subject, but they are presented as undoubted Apostolic methods. They might therefore be assumed to be very wise ones, yet a

very little consideration of them will show them to be such according to the principles of human nature. They, no doubt, account largely for the wonderful success which attended the labors of the Apostles. There is nothing local about them, they are applicable everywhere and always. We should therefore give heed to them, and follow them.

G. M.

## PARDON.

That there is much confusion in the minds of many in regard to the forgiveness of past sins cannot be doubted. It is a matter of uncertainty with some professors of religion as to the time when all the sins of their past lives were blotted out; and with not a few it is a matter of doubt whether they have been forgiven or not.

It is remarkable that any one with the New Testament before him should be unsettled in his mind in regard to so vital a question.

If there is no assurance of pardon there is no assurance of Heaven.

Whatever may be the cause or causes of so much vagueness upon this important feature of the remedial system, we are unwilling to admit that it is due in any sense to a lack of perspicuity on the part of the scriptures. That this is evident, is seen from the fact, that those who faithfully observe, in turning to the Lord, the conditions of pardon as set forth in the commission of our Saviour and taught by the apostles do not share in the doubts and uncertainties alluded to.

But from whence do those doubts and misgivings arise? It is when the scriptural conditions of pardon are ignored and inquiring sinners, observing human devised conditions, are taught to look *within* for the assurance of pardon instead of looking by faith to the promises of God's word. Since it is God's prerogative to blot out transgressions, we must look to him for the assurance that he has performed for us that gracious act. We must look outward and upward for assurance and not within. As well might a captain, as a certain writer has said, look into the hole of the ship for the north star as for a sinner to look into his own heart for evidences of forgiveness. Hence while those who consult their feelings upon this important matter can only say, "Perhaps I am a child of God," or sing, "Perhaps he will accept my plea," the intelligent Christian trusting in the divine promises triumphantly say, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

If you do not know *when* your sins were pardoned, you do not know that they are pardoned at all.

This leads to the question: At what period does the sinner have the assurance that his sins are cancelled?

We would most unhesitatingly say that he has the assurance after the transition from death to life—after the old man has been buried with his lusts and the new man has arisen to walk in newness of life. When did the Pentecostians have the assurance that their sins were pardoned? Peter in response to their enquiry commanded them to "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for (in order to) the remission of sins." They believed the words of Peter, obeyed the commands and rejoiced at once in the knowledge of forgiveness.

Paul, declaring the manner of his conversion, says: "One Ananias, a devout man, came unto me and stood and said unto me . . . . And now why tarriest thou? arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins."

It was after the Eurach was baptized that he went on his way rejoicing, conscious of entire freedom from guilt.

"The Corinthians hearing believed and were baptized," trusting in the word of Christ that they would receive what he had promised, even the forgiveness of sins.

Have you "obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered unto you?" If so, you then became free from sin and became the servant of righteousness."

T. L. F.

## NOTES.

Bro. H. B. Sherman has been elected State Evangelist for Pennsylvania for another year.

Bro. J. H. Mundy of West Lake Ont., has decided to move to Camp Hill and preach for Camp Hill and Huntsdale churches.

We have a reply from Bro. Brown to the criticisms in our last of a former article of his, but we cannot find space for it this month.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of names and money from Sister McClurg, of Lobo, and Sister R. Leary, of Toronto.

Contributions from Ontario to Foreign Missions since 1886:— Church, Guelph \$10.00; Church, Dundas Avenue, Toronto \$15.00; S. S. Glenora, \$5.00.

The excellent article in this number upon *Envy* is from the pen of our highly esteemed friend and class-mate, Prof. J. D. Crow, editor and proprietor of the *Bastop Bee*.

Before trying to cure a crank, read and reflect upon this declaration:—"The man who will not listen to reason soon becomes a crank; but trying to cure him is a waste of time."

We have received the very interesting annual report of the Foreign Missionary Society. Its length prevents us from giving it to our readers. In a future number we may present a summary of the year's work.

If you want to be well informed on Temperance matters you should take and read the *Canada Citizen*. You can get it on trial for six weeks by sending TEN CENTS to F. Spence, 8 King St. East, Toronto.

The failure to engage Bro. Parsons for the Toronto Mission is a great disappointment to the Toronto brethren and to us all. The interests of the cause require a first-class man for that field and we must not relax our efforts until such a man is secured.

We learn from our American exchanges that the General Conventions held in Indianapolis last month were very interesting and stimulating gatherings. We have been looking for a report prepared for us by a brother who was there; it has not yet arrived. We hope to present it to our readers next month.

A report by Bro. J. E. Lister of a protracted meeting held at Cape Rich by Bro. Lediard received after some delay. Being wrongly addressed it is crowded out of this issue. Bro. Lister reports an interesting meeting. No additions but good was done to the church.

We rejoice with Bros. Woolner and Lediard and the church in Garafaxa over the glorious ingathering reported by Bro. Lediard in Co-operation Notes. We regret very much that we were unable to attend any of the meetings. We hear from others who attended that they were very interesting.

The American edition of the *Australasian-London News* is worthy of the largest patronage. It pictures events from a British standpoint, and is therefore of special interest to Canadians. The reprint of the celebrated *Illustrated London News* is a remarkable enterprise. Copies of the American edition can be had for only ten cents.

No doubt many of our readers may anticipate the purchase of an *organ* in the near future. We refer such to the advertisement of Bell & Co. in this paper. By purchasing from them you can be assured of a first-class instrument. It is claimed they are superior in some respects to any in the market.

We are glad to learn of the organization of the auxiliaries to the Ontario Christian Woman's Board of Missions. There seems no good reason to doubt the usefulness of such societies. It is more than questionable whether we have been following scriptural precedent in keeping the sisters so much in the background. These earnest workers are cordially invited to use the columns of the EVANGELIST. This month there is an interesting report from Sister Clara Reid, of Toronto. Next month we expect to have an article from Sister Brown, of Warton.

Bro. Richard Hamilton of Erin recently paid a visit to his brother in Muskoka. He found that the people generally spoke in the highest terms of Bro. Crewson and his work. His arduous labors have enlisted the sympathy and admiration even of those not connected with the Disciples. Let us not forget that Muskoka is a new country, that Bro. Crewson is doing pioneer work, and that unless he is largely sustained by the churches throughout the Province the work cannot be continued.

Another long letter received from Bro. Fyfe on the Resurrection. We said in our last reply "If in his two long letters he has not been able to find room for the *scripture* which teaches his theory we will yet give him room to produce it in our next issue. It is *scripture* however we ask for, and not special pleading in support of a man-made theory." He produces no more scripture proof in this article. The passages upon which he relies are before our readers. We are willing to let them judge for themselves. Bro. Fyfe should not find fault for lack of space, for his articles were both much longer than our replies, and the one now at hand is the longest of them all.

Through the instrumentality of Bro. John Stewart of Exeter, a sermon by B. E. Manly on the subject, "The Heart in Conversion" has been printed in pamphlet form and can be had at reasonable rates by addressing John Rutherford, Owen Sound, Ont. This sermon makes an excellent tract and if circulated would do much good. Many who are unable to publicly proclaim the gospel could in this way greatly assist in spreading the truth and in saving souls. This sermon appeared in a recent issue of the *Standard*.

"The heart knoweth it's own bitterness;" most, if not all, houses have skeletons in the closet; and few churches are without their troubles. So before you leave the church you are associated with for trouble's sake, be sure there is no trouble in the one you propose to go to, and that there never will be, so long at least as you live. Such a course may save you the trouble of moving from church to church to find a church without trouble.

Speaking of church troubles reminds us that some of the brethren seem to think the Disciples have a monopoly of them. That they have their share cannot unfortunately be denied; that other people have "a plenty" can unfortunately be affirmed. The fact of the matter is, that so long as people are, as they are, more or less imperfect, there will be troubles everywhere, even in churches, and the part of wisdom is to deal with them wisely, and overcome them speedily. In some places, no doubt, the Disciples have a "bad eminence" thro' the abundance of church difficulties among them; but in other places some other people have the place of dishonor. So, brethren, let us not forget that very wise old saying, "Fields are green away off."

As an example of what can be done in a few years in a large city by earnest, faithful work, read this from Bro. B. B. Tyler's letter in the *Standard* about Denver:—

"The Christian Church is not so large nor so costly as the buildings mentioned, but it is a beautiful and unusually convenient house of worship. It is about as near perfect as a church building can be made. The mortgage ornament is lacking. The congregation is practically free from debt. W. B. Craig has entered on the sixth year of a remarkably successful pastorate. He has built from the ground up. Beginning with a mere handful of intelligent and earnest Christian men and women, without a church house, there is at the end of five years a compact congregation of nearly five hundred communicants, owning a house of worship good enough for any church."

Dr. Joseph Parker in an address delivered in Boston recently said some very startling things. Here are some of them. We commend them to our reader's attention, not because they are startling, but because they are wholesome. We have been called heretics for giving expression to the same sentiments. "Christianity has suffered more from theologians than from infidels." Many men who have been called infidels have had no warfare with rightly understood Christianity, but with what appeared to them to be an irrational, false and vicious philosophy. *I would not sign a creed that any man has written.* What right have we to write down words and say that they are everlasting, unchangeable. I should call such a dogma a Popish dogma were it not an insult to the Pope. If any theologian says men have light enough to be damned by and not light enough to be saved by, I know not that the fire of hell is hot enough to burn such blasphemy. Some churches require that their creeds shall be re-signed every five years. *They had better be revised every five years.*

We continue to meet with people who think the Scott Act is not being enforced in this Province. Such people are not posted. From a late number of the *Canada Citizen* we learn that the record for the five quarters ending July 30th, is as follows:—

	Informations.	Convictions.
1st quarter	463	269
2nd "	562	272
3rd "	373	248
4th "	810	605
5th "	918	692
	3126	2086

Upon this record the *Citizen* remarks that, "the improvement is gratifying and encouraging, and the reasons for it need not be sought for very long. Inspectors are becoming better acquainted with their duties and more thoroughly skilled in overcoming the difficulties that are put in their way; efficient police magistrates have been appointed; Government instructions have been issued and inspectors warned of the neglect of duty; in one county, Leamox, where the inspector was utterly useless, in response to complaints made a Government enquiry was instituted, which resulted in the dismissal of the inefficient officer and the appointment of another in his place. No doubt some of the improvement is to be attributed to the persistency with which temperance workers in every part of the Province, as well as *The Canada Citizen* and other journals, have demanded that the law be honestly carried out." The friends of the Scott Act have no reason to be discouraged.