

the roads and the inclemency of the weather, and partly on account of—well, what will I say?—just to use a Bible term, which our brethren will not object to, they were "neglecting the assembling of themselves together as the manner of some is." It is to be lamented that old intelligent Bible students and Christians should so far forget themselves, their duty to God and to one another as to omit the observance of the Lord's Supper even for a single week. "The disciples met on the first day of the week to break bread." "O," you say, "they had a preacher." How do you know, my dear sir? "Well, Paul was there you know." Yes; and some of them went to sleep while brother Paul was preaching, and one man tumbled out of the window. Brethren, if you feel like taking a nap while the preacher is talking to you about the great and precious truths, you had better close the windows or occupy the centre seats. I wish the brethren, when there are just a few of them, would take the middle row of seats, especially when you number only about fifty in a house that would seat 250 to 300 people. You would hear fully as well, and it would be much easier for the speaker to address you. I am glad to be able to state that the meetings here are increasing in interest. Most of our brethren are in the country, and notwithstanding the condition of the roads, and the distance many have to come, our meetings all through have been fairly well attended. Our brethren, especially the sisters, are thoroughly in earnest. The members just now are about fifty, leaving out the Blenheim people. There are 180 names on the church book. Some have moved away, others have died, and thus the membership is greatly reduced. Brother D. Anderson, formerly of Everton, is superintendent of the Sunday School. The school was inoperative during the winter months. It is now in good working order. Brother J. A. C. Anderson, an excellent Sunday School man, and a great worker in the church, is about leaving the place. The move on the part of our good brother is greatly regretted by the church here as it will be difficult to fill his place, especially in the Sunday school. We are now holding meetings through the country. We call them prayer meetings. There are, however, so few who feel it their duty to engage in the "reasonable service," that the writer finds it necessary and expedient, though perhaps less profitable to occupy the time in speaking. We usually have a very interesting song service, in which most of the young people take a part. I presume they pray at home when they have "shut to the door." It is not to be supposed that our young people neglect this important duty; it would be well, however, if they would take part in the public prayer meeting. I would suggest to our preachers and leaders in our churches that they instruct those over whom they are placed as overseers to offer public prayer; it will do them good, and be a great help to you in your work. It will take some time and a great amount of labor to get things in first-class shape here. I trust, however, that by God's blessing upon our efforts, things will come all right by-and-by. I do not know just how long I may remain here. All depends on—well, if the people—and we will soon be able to test the matter, as the roads are getting good—work in harmony, and heartily co-operate, I shall be with them, probably, for some time. No preacher can succeed without the co-operation of the church. I nearly forgot to mention the Mission Band, which is actively at work. The C. W. B. M. is also at work. Contributions will be sent in in due time.—H. BROWN.

It is recorded of a certain great philosopher that a friend who went to visit him met the philosopher's little daughter before he met the philosopher himself. Knowing that the father was such a deeply-learned man, he thought that the little girl must have learned something very grave, something very deep, from such a father and he said to her, "What is your father teaching you?" The little maid looked at him with her clear blue eyes, and just said, "Obedience." That was what the great and wise man taught his little girl, and his example is worthy of imitation of every Christian parent who has at heart the welfare of the child.

## Manitoba Column.

(Conducted by A. H. Finch, Portage la Prairie, Man.)

We hail with delight the new departure in the EVANGELIST. While enlarged in form and doubled in frequency of issue, we are satisfied it will be more than quadrupled in usefulness; but it will not have entered its proper sphere till it visits us weekly.

When we think of the long weary miles separating us from our brethren east and south, we feel in the position of a foreign mission field, we thus gain some idea of the feelings of those in heathen lands, hence we concluded to take up both the March and September collections for foreign missions. The March call, after writing all the absentees, amounted in Portage to \$44.25.

There is a strong move "all along the line" in Manitoba for prohibition, which we hope to obtain in the not distant future. Over three-fourths of the province is under prohibition now. Then, when Nebraska carries to a successful issue her present campaign, we shall have a belt of freedom 400 miles wide, stretching from the borders of Texas to the pole. This was once known as the great American desert, but which of late years has been flowing with milk and whiskey; again the whiskey streams at least go dry.

We have adopted for 1890, "Prayer-meeting Topics," printed by Guide Printing & Publishing Co. A card containing topics and helpful hints is given to each member, and all come prepared, hence interest and attendance have improved at least 60 per cent. Try it, it will pay.

Are our churches alive to the necessity of sending young men out to the Lord's harvest field? The cry comes from all the outposts, "More men! Send more men!"

It rests with the individual churches to choose and encourage such as show fitness for such work. Whom shall we choose? The recipe for making Canadian Knights, "Take a man—any man will do," etc., will not work here.

First and foremost he must be a good man, morally and spiritually—none else need apply.

Secondly, he should possess as thorough a knowledge of the Scriptures as could be reasonably expected. This backed by a full share of native intelligence and all the acquired ability possible.

Thirdly, he should have a strong, fervent desire to use knowledge, intelligence and ability for the good of his fellow-creatures.

Fourthly, he should not have any special heavy, spavined, wind-galled hobby, to be ridden in and out of season.

Fifthly, let the church encourage him to devote all his ransomed powers to the Master's cause, give him work to do, see that he does it, encourage him, speak kindly but truthfully to him and of him, above all pray for him; never harshly criticize him, but in honesty and love help him to overcome his failings and establish his virtues.

The pure, unadulterated truth, fresh from a pure, warm, loving manly heart, through a sanctified intelligence, gushing forth as a stream in the desert, backed by the great reservoir of eternal life, is what will tell for eternity and will tell for God. This is the crying need of the world today.

In the Standard of April 5th, one preacher says, "I found and visited about thirty-five disciples, all (italics his) of them anxious to have the cause established in their enterprising and growing city." I take this as a specimen of hundreds of places. Why do thirty-five disciples, "all of whom are anxious," anxiously wait for some one to hunt them up and establish them?

Horace Greely has said the best way to resume specie payment was to resume. Why don't they establish? Can you, sir, conceive of thirty-five Christians, trained in youth, in such a school as the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, anxiously waiting for years to be "established"? The first six months they would have a Sunday School, prayer-meeting and Lord's Day meeting established among themselves. Their hearts would be kept warm, their influence felt for good in the community, schoolers after truth would crowd round them, a preacher would be

sent for, a good meeting held, a large number gathered in, and before the end of the year a good house would be built. They would "establish" the cause and not wait for years, "all of them anxious to have the cause established." Brethren, establish a Y.P.S.O.E., or something to produce the same result, and your members will go forth and "establish" the cause everywhere their lot is cast. April 9th, 1890.

## Co-operation Notes.

All contributions for Home Mission work and for the Hamilton Building Fund are to be sent to George Munro, Cor. Sec., Erin, Ont. Those not receiving credit for money paid should notify us promptly.

Any church that would like to have a young man laboring with it during the summer is invited to communicate with the Corresponding Secretary. We have already aided in securing places for some of them and would be pleased to do so for all. The increasing number of young men preparing for the great work of preaching the Gospel is a reason for thankfulness, and the churches should offer them all reasonable encouragement.

The Owen Sound Church, as will be seen from the invitation in another column, is getting ready to entertain everybody at the Annual Meeting. Directions as to the best means of reaching Owen Sound have been prepared and will be published in next issue of the EVANGELIST. Arrangements are being made for reduced rates on the railway, and full directions regarding them will also be given at the same time.

The programme will be inserted in the two next numbers of this paper, that all may know beforehand the principal matters to be considered.

A circular letter relative to the May Collection and the Annual Meeting has been distributed among the churches. It is thought well to present it here, that the brethren may not only have the opportunity of hearing it read, but may be able to peruse it at their leisure.

"DEAR BRETHREN:—The Board of Managers has not troubled the Churches with many circular letters during the present Co-operation year—only one so far, and this shall be the last. Attention is here directed to two matters of special importance.

### "I. THE MAY COLLECTION.

"The Annual meeting at St. Thomas instructed the Board to ask the Churches to take up two special collections for Home Missions during the year, one on the first Lord's Day in November, the other on the first Lord's Day in May. The request for a collection in November was responded to by not a few of the Churches, and the treasury very materially affected thereby. It is very desirable that the present appeal should be cordially received, and liberal collections taken up, in order that the Board may be able to meet all the obligations incurred by direction of the Annual Meeting, and that a comfortable balance may remain in the treasury to begin next year's work with. It should be remembered that in this, as in other matters, there is no thought of dictating to the Churches; all that is intended is suggestion and exhortation. At the same time, inasmuch as the Board is acting by appointment and on behalf of the Annual Meeting, it is felt that it is altogether proper for the Board to urge the brethren to provide the funds to carry on the work. By way of encouraging the brethren to contribute freely it is pointed out that the work is prospering at the present mission, and that the 'open doors' are multiplying. Another consideration that should lead to generous offerings, is that the Board has made arrangements to send two or three young men to Muskegon during the summer to assist Bro. Croswell in that district. The Board is not ignorant that times have been rather hard during the year, but it is not thought that they have been so hard as to render us unable to support the laborers now in the field. It is confidently believed that if the Churches contribute according to their present ability their will be enough and to spare.

### "II. THE ANNUAL MEETING.

"The Annual Meeting will be held with the Church in Owen Sound, and will convene Thursday, June 5th. The Owen Sound Church extends a hearty invitation to the brotherhood and will provide entertainment for all who attend. Those who expect to be present should send in their names in good time to James C. Stephens, Owen Sound, Ont.

"The Annual Report of the Board will be presented and many questions of interest and importance will be discussed. Bro. Robert Moffett, of Cleveland, Ohio,

has promised to attend as chief speaker, which is a guarantee that first-class preaching will be the order of the occasion.

"Full particulars as to programme, facilities for reaching Owen Sound, etc., etc., will be published in due time.

"The Board, as well as the Church in Owen Sound, wishes it to be distinctly understood that a general and cordial invitation is given; no one interested is to consider himself uninvited.

"On behalf of the Board,  
Geo. Munro, Hiram Black,  
Cor. Sec. Pres."

As the reports month after month would indicate, many of our brethren and sisters have contributed to the Mission funds during the present year. Nevertheless some of the sums subscribed both to the Mission Fund and to the Hamilton Fund have not yet been paid. It is presumed that most, if not all, of those concerned read the EVANGELIST and will see this note. Will they accept this word of exhortation and send on their contributions at once, if possible? The Board desires to close the year's work with a balance in the treasury, as well as with all obligations of the current year fully met. This will be done, if none neglect to do what they have promised to do.

The following sums have not heretofore been reported:—

General Christian Missionary Convention.....	\$25 00
Gabriel Wells.....	5 00
Dan. McMillan.....	5 00
H. M. McMillan.....	2 00
Peter McLellan.....	2 00
Eliza Everdell.....	1 00

Those intending to be at the Annual Meeting will take notice that Mrs. LEAVENS is the person to whom notification is to be sent and not to JAMES C. STEPHENS as stated in the circular letter.

Geo. Munro,  
Cor. Sec.

## A Cordial Invitation from Owen Sound.

DEAR BRETHREN AND SISTERS,—The time of the Annual Meeting is rapidly approaching, and the Church here is already making preparation for entertaining a large number of delegates. A hearty invitation is extended to all the brethren and sisters in Ontario to come and spend a few days with us, either as delegates or visitors. We trust that every church in Ontario will be represented, and that all who come will have a refreshing and pleasant visit with us.

We desire that the names of all those who expect to come should be sent in, if possible, by May 24th to Mrs. A. LEAVENS, Owen Sound, who is Secretary of the billeting committee.

When you start purchase a single first-class ticket, and get a certificate from the Station Agent at the same time. When you are ready to return the Secretary will also sign the certificate and then upon presentation of it at Owen Sound or Allenford Station you can get a return ticket at one-third fare.—Fraternal, C. A. FLEMING, Secretary of Owen Sound Church.

## The Annual Meeting.

Time has brought us near our Annual Meeting for 1890. Each year is a witness of those changes which mark our earthly time, opportunities are passing with each day. Our fathers in the flesh and in the gospel are being gathered home one by one. They have fallen on the battlefield and have entered into rest. Others, valiant warriors in the service of the Lord, are nearing the shore. Do we, who are yet enjoying the strength of our manhood and our womanhood, realize that the work of the Lord's cause has fallen upon us? Do we appreciate that the cause of Christ will go forward and increase in honour to the Master and blessings to many hearts by our faithfulness, or become weak and sickly through our indifference? I am not going to introduce any discord nor discuss any plan, but simply say that what we need is more consecration, a greater willingness to do the work committed to us by our Father in Heaven. I venture the plan of work won't trouble us, for we are workers together with God. Surely then there can be nothing wrong for us, as the children of God, to work together.

Our annual meetings are growing in interest and profit each year. I believe those who attended at St. Thomas last year came away with a fuller appreciation of their high calling of God in Christ Jesus, a greater love for human souls, more faith in the ultimate triumph of the Gospel of Christ, more faith in each other and a strong desire to share in the work.

Now, dear brethren and sisters all over our fair Province, do we love the cause of Christ, and have we a desire to see the Redeemer's Kingdom going on prospering and to prosper; is this in word only, or is it in deed and in truth? Come up to the Annual Meeting of 1890 and let us counsel together. The meetings are just what we make them; let us then make the coming June meeting the grandest one in our history. What an unspeakable delight it would be—there would be many tears of joy—if the churches of Christ in Ontario were united and worked together in this great business of preaching "the gospel as the power of God unto salvation"! Your Board would be overjoyed to see every church represented at the meeting. The brothers and sisters of Owen Sound and vicinity are anxious to have the meeting a success. Each church, and all the workers in the Master's vineyard, are invited. Hoping to see a large meeting.

Yours,  
Hiram Black.

## Prayer Meeting Service.

J. R. GARR.

The mid-week, or prayer-meeting, ought to be the people's meeting. The Sunday meetings are spoken to from the pulpit, but here the hearts of the people should not only be spoken to but in some way to find expression themselves. In this way the meeting will be a success, whether few or many be there, though all should be there. Life has its struggles, feelings, thoughts and hopes; out of these let the hearts of all utter themselves in prayer, praise, exhortations and Scripture selections. It is a good thing to have subjects prepared in order, and announced in advance, that all may come prepared to a definite purpose. In Denison Avenue we have been greatly benefited lately by going through part of Luke, taking subjects from the life of Jesus, and making them suggestive and helpful to our hearts. We have been carried through the scenes of His ministry, to the table, to the garden of His soul trouble, the disloyalty and denial of disciples, to His trial, around the cross, to His grave, His rising, and up with Him to heaven.

Here are general topics for May, with some suggestions:—

May 7. The Shepherdfulness of Jehovah.—Ps. xxiii. We are confident, not because we are full, or strong, or self-defended; because God is full and leads us, and is with us. Observe in every verse how He is the helper in every need, and at last it is His house we dwell in.

May 14. God's two Books.—Ps. xix. Two books of Divine testimony. First, the heavens manifesting his glory, from twinkling star to the sun making his circuit of the heavens. Second, the book of revelation; His law or word perfect in soul needs as the heavens are perfect in their purpose.

May 21. Earth and Heaven Connected: or the Wonderful Ladder.—Gen. xxviii. 16-22. Earth and heaven are connected in Providence. God cares for his own. Angels are ministers. In Jesus is the ladder of the soul-life. God and man are united in Him.

May 28. Soul Struggles.—Gen. xxxii. 22-32. The wrestle with the angel is the struggle of the soul with self. It takes fearful wrestling for selfish lives to come out into the change of peace with God. But when self ceases and clings to God the soul prevails.

Programme for the Young People's meetings, Sundays at 10 a.m. May 4th: "What wilt thou have me to do?"—Acts ix. 6. May 11th: "Going about doing good."—Acts x. 38. May 18th: "Abound in every good work."—11 Cor. ix. 8.

This eternal whitewashing don't amount to anything. That is the trouble with man. He whitewashes the outside and thinks he has cleaned the inside. But God don't work that way. He works from the inside.—D. L. Moody.