

Christian Worker.

H. B. SHERMAN, Editor.

WORK WHILE IT IS CALLED TO DAY

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SONGS IN HEAVEN

If music be so very sweet,
While here we plod along,
What must it be when our tired
feet
Shall tread the Shore of Song?

If Christian fellowship can bind
Our hearts in bond of love,
What may it not be when we find
Ourselves at Home, above?

If here we take delight in prayer,
And love God's throne of grace,
Then may we long, without a fear,
To meet Him face to face.

Yes, and, perhaps it may be true,
"Prayer ends with earthly days;
Or rather, that it flows into
One ceaseless song of praise."

When we shall tread the shore of
song,
Where music ever rings;
When we shall join the radiant
throng
And see the King of Kings;

Then shall the worth of prayer be
shown,
The soul of song be given,
And sweetest fellowship be known
To all who're safe in Heaven.

REMINISCENCES No. 16.

—BY—

HISTORY OF THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF OUR CAUSE IN CANADA.

—BY—

JOSEPH ASH

I commence this article with the old church at Owen Sound, one of the oldest settlements on the Georgian Bay. This place is noted for its fine harbor and as a central point of trade and commerce, and having a fine agricultural country around it.

Some of the first to settle there was several of the Stephens family already spoken of in my article on Esquimaux. These were members of the Esquimaux church. Alexander soon engaged in mercantile pursuits. Wm. A. was appointed collector of customs for that part; a position responsible and honorable which he has filled with entire satisfaction to all parties to the present time. Very soon after their settlement they gathered as a church, being joined by Bros. Boyd and Blythe, from Toronto. W. A. Stephens was appointed overseer and has filled that high and responsible position ever since. At times this church had a good membership, who built the first brick house of worship in the village which they still occupy. They suffered very much at one time through a "ravage" preacher; "a wol. in sheep's clothing," who nearly ruined the church, but the steadfastness of the Stephens family and some others carried them through that fiery trial, and they are now in a healthy state. W. A. Stephens is the principal overseer of the church and a good speaker, a strong "practical" vein running through his address. The brethren all over Canada and elsewhere know considerable about his poetical talents. On one occasion he received laureations from the hands of Lord Palmerston, Premier of Great Britain, for one of his poetical compositions. While speaking of this church and its struggles in a new country I know the reader will bear with me in filling a pleasing and profitable circumstance I heard many years ago. When Bro.

W. A. Stephens was getting goods to his new home in Owen Sound over the new muddy forest roads he was driving his team of horses with a wagon loaded, and as is often the case under similar circumstances, got irremediably fastened in a mud hole. Just at that critical moment a man (I think a stranger) drove up with a good team and an empty wagon. Mr. Stephens very politely asked him to unhitch his team and help him out of his trouble. But the man showing out the old human nature paid no heed to Mr. Stephens' position drove on. Mr. Stephens had no alternative but to unload his wagon, get it out and load up again, which was no easy task. But he at last got on and went home.

Not very long after Mr. Stephens found his selfish man, who had so haughtily treated him, in exactly the same position, completely stuck in the mud. Mr. Stephens, just as every true Christian would do, felt glad for an opportunity of exhibiting the spirit of his Lord. He merely remarked to the man, "You are in a bad fix," got out, unhitched his team, hitched on to the man's wagon and helped him out. Had Mr. Stephens appeared before that man with a cohort of Roman soldiers with all their glittering shields, spears, coats of mail, and their terrible fierce countenances threatening the man with almost instant death he could not have so completely subdued him as he did. Then the man would have been subdued through fear of physical force, but now his heart was subdued, and of a consequence the whole man. Result: that strong and selfish man stood up before his kind helper and wept like a sorrowful child. Mr. Stephens cast no reflections; not even hinting at the former transaction; bade him good-bye and went on.

The above is one of the most perfect exemplifications of that grand and leading principle of the blessed Saviour, stated to the world for the first time in the world's history in that memorial sermon on the Mount; Matthew, 5th, 6th, and 7th chapters, and repeated by the Apostle Paul in Romans, 12-20.

At the present time the outlook of the church is good. Wm. A. and Alex. Stephens are the principal men, ably assisted by Bros. Tolten and Finch, and honorable women not a few.

The church in Derby Township, 8 miles from Owen Sound, now called Kilyth, is an offshoot of the Owen Sound church. The charter members were the boys Fleming and Tolten, with their wives, and sister Robinson. It was organized by Bros. Lister and Kilgour, in about 1858, with Mrs. Fleming and Tolten as elders. Lister and Kilgour held a series of meetings with them, and had a very large increase. Bro. Lister has devoted a great deal of time preaching and visiting from house to house among them and with fair results. This church has been very steadfast in the faith and cast a strong and healthy influence over a large district of country. Many of the old members have, in much peace of mind, with a clear view of their heavenly home, gone to rest. Others have grown up to fill the vacancies made by their death. Converts have

brought in and the church is now in a healthy condition; with John and James Fleming and Bro. Donald as leading men. They have one of the most comfortable and commodious meeting houses owned by our brethren in Ontario.

The church in Wharton, like Owen Sound, is in a fine location, it being at the N. W. corner of land adjoining the Georgian Bay; possessed of a fine harbor and the terminus of a railroad. It is comparatively a new place, very picturesque and very attractive for a sojourning place during the heat of summer months. Many tourists from the south seek this and other places around the Georgian Bay and farther up to Lake Superior. A Bro. Hiram Brown and wife, of Meaford, settled there, who were the first Disciples in the place. Then Mrs. Jim Trout went there after the death of her husband, which took place in 1875. She being moved by a genuine zeal for the Master and His cause, sent for Bro. Hertzog at her own expense, who held a series of meetings and had a large increase. He organized the church with Hiram Brown as overseer.

They have built a fine brick meeting house, and are in a prosperous condition. They have had the preaching services of O. G. Hertzog, Sherman, Finore, McFarland and others. Bro. D. Stirling has done much to instruct, build up and touch sinners. Their present preacher is a Bro. George Monroe, whom I was well acquainted with years ago when he was a lad of a boy. I am much pleased to know that he has consecrated himself to the services of our Lord as a preacher of his gospel. I pray he may honor his high and honorable position faithfully and truly till the Lord shall call him home. I am always delighted to see young men faithful and true step out from the world to teach and call poor sinners to the bleeding Lamb.

I do not like to leave Wharton without a word more about sister Trout and her late lamented companion, John Trout. Perhaps I feel more keenly about this than I otherwise should, as her husband had not been a companion in a affliction and trouble among strangers far from home with my dear son John away down south in Florida. I went down with my son, and after getting him in a comfortable position left and came home. Not long after he chanced to find Bro. Trout, and of course being Canadian and brothers in the Lord, a strong attachment sprang up. Soon another brother joined them, a Bro. Sinclair, from near St. Thomas. All down there seeking health, which that foggy, damp, swampy, malarious country cannot give. My son returned only to stop a few weeks with me and die. So did Bro. Trout. So did Bro. Sinclair. My son never tired talking about those fine men in the bloom of life. Being well acquainted with Bro. Trout, and having all those pleasing and yet painful reminiscences clustering about my very funeral, I feel a well of joy springing up in my pained heart when I read and think of the faithful, lonely companion of Bro. Jim Trout. Well, when we get home we can talk these matters all over in joy, as he

The church in Priceville in the Township of Proton, was organized by Bro. John McKechnie, assisted by Elder Jas. Black, Dr. McKechnie was the principal man there, and is now the Elder of the church. The church is in a prosperous condition, sound in the faith, carrying a sound and good influence all around. It is pleasing to realize the fine record of this congregation and strong hopes are flowing from a knowledge of the zeal, activity and ability of the King. It is hoped he may improve upon his talents and so increase them for further usefulness in the Master's cause.

The church in Marchmont was planted by a Bro. Campbell in about 1849. The principal members were Jacob Bowley Clark, Smith, Payne, Gillot and John Beard. I speak advisedly when I say these brethren with others, male and female, are faithful and true to their profession and high calling. In all my experience I have never known a church to fail when its members are faithful, intelligent, prayerful, pious and united in this congregation is. They have considerable talent which they are not ashamed or bashful in using to much advantage to the cause of our Lord. Very much injury is done to many congregations by allowing roots of bitterness to spring up among them. Strife and envy follow, and Satan who is always on the alert gains an advantage over them which at last casts a shadow over them and fills their heart with sorrow. From reliable information, some of those evils are allowed among the members of this congregation of staunch Christians.

The church in the Township of Luther, at a village called Little Toronto, was at first made up of members from the church in Eden. It was organized in 1863 by Bro. Anderson and Kilgour. The Elders were Hugh McDonald and Donald McLellan. They built a house of worship in and are in a prosperous condition. James Anderson, son of Elder Alex. Anderson, preached for them for several years, and is like his father a fine speaker, but I am sorry to know he has within the last year removed to the State of Kansas. A soul saved in Kansas is just as precious as one saved in Canada. But we can ill afford to raise up talented preachers and have them leave us when our country is so ripe for the harvest and so few to reap it. It is hard to find so inviting a field for the spread of the gospel as Canada. Donald McLellan is now the one the church depends upon for public speaking.

The church in the Township of Minto is another offshoot from the church in Eden. This also was organized by Bros. Anderson and Kilgour in 1858. Bro. John Donald was then, and is now, pastor and teacher. A good many of our travelling preachers have visited them from time to time, and a good many have been added to their number. I have no doubt if I was personally acquainted with this church and a number of others in that large district of country I could relate a good many interesting incidents of sterling worth showing the intelligence, fidelity, faith, zeal, and love of their members. Were I in a position to do so it would be a great pleasure to me to visit every one of them, from their respective parts, speak of the glorious times of the Kingdom and the glorious Redeemer. Since writing about Walkerton in No. 13, I have learned that Bro. A. Smith, late of Walkerton is still

Mantola, has become located at that place and is preaching for that church and others in that region. He seems to be a talented young man and it is hoped he will sail clear of rocks, quicksands and gull streams of this one error that now pervades the sea of life he will be a blessing to our race, purchase to him if a good degree, spend his life in honour and usefulness and a crown of glory that fades not away. This is my hope and earnest desire.

JOSEPH ASH.

COOPERATION.

The following is selected from the Scheme of Redemption by R. Milgrom:

It is the duty of every congregation of disciples, as far as they have the ability and opportunity, to preach the Gospel to the unconverted in their midst, and also in other adjacent destitute communities. This may be accomplished.

1. From what has been said of the duties of the several members of the Church. For what is a congregation of disciples but an association of Christians united together for the purpose of doing jointly what they could not so well do by each one's acting in his own separate and individual capacity? Romans xii, 4, 8, and 1 Cor. xii, 4, 27, etc. And hence every congregation of Christians, a really an evangelical society, divinely ordained and authorized to send out missionaries of the Cross whenever and wherever they may have the means and the opportunity to do so.

2. From the example and practice of the primitive Church. The Church of Jerusalem, for instance, sent out Barnabas as a missionary to Antioch, (Acts xi, 22,) and after that Church was truly established and well supplied with Prophets and Teachers they were required to send out Paul and Barnabas on one of the most important and successful evangelical tours recorded in the New Testament. Acts xiii and xiv.

3. It is the privilege, and, I may add the duty, of all the Churches in any given district to cooperate with each other in the full extent of their ability, through their Elders, Representatives, or other chosen representatives, in sending the Gospel to foreign lands, and in making disciples of all nations. This is a work which, of course, requires the united efforts of many Churches, and to the extent of this cooperation there is no limit whatever prescribed in the Word of God. Whether the association should consist of all the disciples within the limits of a village, or a city, or a county, or a state, or a nation, or a continent, or the world is a matter of mere expediency, which God has wisely and benevolently left to our own discretion. For be it remembered that after we shall have made all the divisions and subdivisions that may be thought necessary for the sake of convenience, there is, nevertheless, still, by Divine appointment, but the ONE BODY. (Ephesians iv, 4,) and it has been made the pillar and support of the truth. 1 Timothy iii, 15.

In every such cooperation, however, great care should be taken to preserve no preceptor

line of policy which is inconsistent with the Scriptural rights and privileges of the several Churches. The delegates who compose it are but the representatives of their respective congregations, and they have, therefore, no right to legislate on matters of faith and piety, nor to make names in any way or in any sense a condition of membership, nor to adopt such a constitution or code of laws as will allow unconverted and wicked men to become members of the cooperation. But they have a right, as the representatives of the body of Christ, to transact all their legitimate business by the common rules of decorum and good order, and to use whatever means may be found necessary in order that the Gospel may be preached to every creature.

It is evidently, then, the duty of all Christians to labor and strive together in every way that they can consistently with the word of God for the conversion of the whole world. And if they had all done so from the beginning, how very different would now be the moral, social, and religious condition of our fallen and perishing race! How many of those in heathenish darkness might now be rejoicing in the full light of the glorious Gospel! And how many precious souls that are now in Hell, among the wailings and agonies of the damned—how many weeping, out now in Mercy's sight—oh, how many of those lost souls, might at this moment be tuning their golden harps among the redeemed in Heaven if the Church had but faithfully fulfilled her mission to the world!

Here, then, we have the answer, and the only proper answer to the question, Why it is that the Gospel has not long since triumphed everywhere. It is not, as before suggested, owing to any unwillingness on the part of God, or of Christ, or of the Holy Spirit; it is not owing to any deficiency in the Gospel scheme of salvation which God has so wisely and so perfectly adapted to the wants, capacities, and circumstances of all men; but it is simply owing to the fact that the Church has failed to do her duty. It is because so many of the professed followers of Christ have turned aside to vain jangling and forgotten their mission of love and mercy to our perishing race; that the ways of Zion now mourn, and that the triumphs of the Gospel have been so very greatly retarded.

Wonderful are the resources of the Bible; the wisest and those occupying the highest stations find its instruction invaluable, whilst the most humble and wretched may turn to it for help and comfort.

God has arranged the chronometry of our spirits that there shall be thousands of silent moments between the striking hours—James Macdunn.

Those who have finished by making all others think with them have usually been those who began by doing so, think for themselves—James Macdunn.

"political" connected to "poetical" in June issue

J. A. Smith