

crack. He said to me 'James,' says he, 'I am very sorry to tell you that I must advise you to give up your post, for there are several people complaining that you cannot sing.' 'Weel, sir,' said I, 'I dinna think you should be in sic a hurry to advise me. I've been telt a dizen times ye canna preach, but I never advised ye to gie up your place.' I saw he was vexed, so I jist said, 'Ne'er heed, sir, the rules 'il hae tae hear us till we think fit to stop.'"

### MARRIED.

ASHPLANT—ANDERSON.—On Thursday the 26th ult., Mr. John Studly Ashplant was united in holy wedlock to Miss Lillian Constance Anderson. The rite took place in St. Andrew's Church and was conducted by the Rev. J. Allister Murray, assisted by the Rev. J. G. Scott, minister of the Queen's Avenue Methodist Church. The church was crowded by interested spectators, chiefly ladies. This wedding was an alliance of a Methodist and Presbyterian. We hope such unions may be of frequent occurrence, and that the way may be thus made plain for the larger union of the two denominations. We wish the happy pair long life and happiness.

### THE CAUSES OF FAILURE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER.

On Sabbath morning, April 22nd, our pastor delivered a very impressive sermon on this important subject. His purpose was to speak words of warning to those who had been gathered into the church during the recent revival services conducted by the Rev. W. Meikle, Granville Ferry, N. S. The young converts will do well to give earnest heed to the words spoken. The discourse was founded upon the parable of *The Sower*, Matt., xiii. And the causes of failure pointed out were first: *Roadside seed, want of faith, lack of depth, no want of impressions, but being superficial soon disappear. Shallowness and inconstancy go together;* second: *Dispersion of influence, of energy.* No man has universal scholarship, great men are so on comparatively few subjects. Success is linked with concentration. In the religious life it was not God *and* the world, but God *or* the world. "Ye cannot serve God and Mammon." Care of the world is a petty, trifling distractor. It is possible to be so absorbed in the world that we quite forget God, or delay seeking to serve Him until the fag end of our life. The pursuit of riches was deceitful. In the lives of many men there was fruit, the deficiency was in its not being brought to perfection. The sermon was concluded by the cheering consideration that all was not

failure; we may sow by the wayside and among rocks, but there was also *good ground—steadfastness* and good, honest hearts, which was displayed in earnestness and sincerity. In *thoughtfulness* and having a great purpose in life, and in *patience* and persistence with steadfastness, thoughtfulness and patience, and a constant reliance upon Christ, our lives could not be failures.

Principal Woods has commenced a series of Bible Readings in the Bible Class room every Thursday afternoon, between the hours of four and five o'clock. These meetings are intended to build up believers in their faith.

The young men who came to a decision, during the Evangelistic services, in the all-important matter of religion, have formed themselves into a society for prayer and study, with the view of organizing themselves into a band of Christian workers. Elder Somerville is President, and Mr. R. A. Little, B.A., Vice-President. We trust they will heed the words of our pastor, and be *steadfast, thoughtful and patient.* Why should not the young women have a similar society?

The Rev. J. A. Murray will take a trip across the Atlantic and visit some of the old countries, probably England, Scotland, France and Italy. He will be away three or four months. He sails from New York *via* the White Star Line, on 26th May. We trust he may have a prosperous voyage, and return home in good health, robust in heart, mind and body.

It is rumored that the Young Men's Society of Christian Endeavor has superceded the sister institution, The St. Andrew's Church Institute. There was surely room enough for both societies, and the latter had proved itself useful and popular. Its meetings were well attended, and in some cases the Lecture Hall was crowded. Young men, do not be given to change, but take the pastor's advice, and be steadfast. Changeableness is weakness.

### CHURCH COLLECTIONS.

#### DIRECTIONS TO ENVELOPE CONTRIBUTORS.

- 1st. Write the amount of your contribution on the envelope.
- 2nd. Write your name on the envelope.
- 3rd. Write the number of your residence and street on the envelope.
- 4th. If your contribution is in silver, if convenient, please give it in Canadian money. American silver is not bankable at par. The loss falls on the congregation.

ALEX. MCINTOSH, *Treasurer.*

### THE SACRED CONCERT.

On Tuesday evening, April 24th, a

sacred concert and organ recital was given in St. Andrew's Church. The event is one that will long be remembered by those who had the privilege of being present. As a musical display, both instrumental and vocal, it has never been surpassed in the city. The organ was in good tone, and the singers all in good voice. Where all was so good, it would be invidious to single out any for special remark.

The artists from Toronto have undoubtedly made their mark in this, our Forest City, and Miss Howden and Mr. E. J. Lye will be welcomed at all times. Our own vocalist, Miss McNeil, surpassed herself, and touched a sympathetic chord in every heart whilst singing "That Sweet Story of Old." Mr. W. J. McIntosh fully sustained his past record. The choir had been trained to perfection, and much surprise was expressed that, in so short a time, Mr. Wilson could have produced such excellent results. He must possess both patience and tact in no small measure. The manner in which Mr. Wilson handled the organ and showed its power was convincing proof of his own efficiency as a player, and revealed the fact that St. Andrew's Church had an organist of the first rank. There was a large audience, though the church was not full. The people showed their appreciation, not by physical demonstration, but by wrapt and deeply interested attention, which grew more and more as the concert proceeded.

The following is the programme as rendered:

PART I.—1. Toccata and Fugue in D minor (Bach), Mr. Wilson. 2. Chorus—"Glory, Eternal Glory," (Concone) Choir; solo by Miss McNeil. 3. Recitative and Aria, "And God said, Let the Earth," "With Verdure Clad," (Creation, Haydn), Miss Howden. 4. Recitative and Aria, "And God Created man," "In Native Worth," (Creation, Haydn), Mr. E. J. Lye. 5. Night Song (Jean Vogt); 6. Sonata, Op. 65, No. 2 (Mendelssohn), Mr. Wilson. 7. Solo—"That Sweet Story of Old," (Marzials), Miss McNeil. 8. Duet—"Love Divine," (Daughter of Jarius, Stainer), Miss Howden and Mr. Lye.

PART II.—9. Theme and Variations in A Major, (Hesse), Mr. Wilson. 10. Quartette—"God is a Spirit," (Woman of Samaria, Bennett), Misses McNeil and Boon, Messrs Lye and McIntosh. 11. Solo—"Ave Maria," (Dudley Buck), Miss Howden. 12. Recitative and Aria—"Ye People, Rend your Hearts," "If with all your Hearts," (Elijah, Mendlessohn), Mr. E. J. Lye. 13. Recitative and Aria—"Draw Near, All Ye People," "Lord God of Abraham," (Elijah, Mendlessohn), Mr. McIntosh. 14. Solo—"Consider the Lilies," (Topliff), Miss Howden. 15. Chorus—"Holy, Holy Lord," (Gounod), Choir; Solo by Mr. Lye. 16. Grand Offertoire, (St. Cecile, Batiste), Mr. Wilson.