

## BAND WORK.

The Band movement in the Western part of Ontario grew out of a powerful revival of religion experienced in the town of Petrolia during the winter of 1884. While far from endorsing indiscriminately all the methods of the Salvation Army, it is only due to that organization to say, that their first few weeks of labor in Petrolia resulted, in association with the labor of other Christian people of the place, in a wonderful spiritual awakening through the entire community. Hundreds were brought from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God. It was an unmistakable work of the Holy Spirit. And one proof of this, among many others, was a deep and somewhat general interest in the subject of entire holiness, with an earnest desire on the part of many to enter into the experience of this grace. Hungering and thirsting after righteousness, many, very many, were "filled," "filled with all the fulness of God." It was a time of great rejoicing. The services of the sanctuary were "seasons of grace and sweet delight." Full of zeal for God and love for perishing sinners, the people of my charge were yearning for increased facilities to give expression to their longings for souls.

Just at this juncture, and as I was looking for God's guidance with an impression upon my spirit that some new door of usefulness was about to be opened, I met a notice over the signature of the Rev. J. B. Clarkson, of Belleville, of the organization in that city of what was called a "Hallelujah Band." This was under circumstances very similar to our own in Petrolia. Immediately following Bro. Clarkson's statement, and in the same column of the *Christian Guardian*, was a letter from the Rev. W. Young, of Trenton, giving a most thrilling account of the visit of the Belleville Band to Trenton, and its wonderful results. I took this as a Divine intimation for myself and for Petrolia. Not conferring with flesh and blood, I announced on the following Sabbath my intention to organize a similar Band. The conditions of membership were, 1. The experience of conscious salvation. 2. Consecration to

God and His work. 3. Above the age of fourteen. 4. Abstinence from tobacco and intoxicants. 5. Willingness to bear testimony for Christ on any fitting occasion. 6. To be under the direction of the "Band" leader for service at any point and at any time, circumstances permitting.

I was astonished at the response. Some sixty enrolled themselves for membership the first day. The announcement was made at the Sabbath morning service, and the Band was organized at the close of that service. I appointed myself leader of the Band, with Brother John Murdoch as my assistant. At night we held our first public service, after preaching. Some eleven souls professed conversion at that service. It was a day that will never be forgotten in Petrolia.

The following week, by consent of the Marthaville minister, a strong contingent of the new organization went out from night to night, some three miles, to hold services in the Methodist church there. The effort was tentative. Our work was hardly well in hand, till God gave us a number of souls that week.

Then, by invitation of the Rev. G. J. Kerr, our minister at Bridgen, we went to that village, some eleven miles away, for our second campaign. Here God gave us over a hundred souls in about ten days. The mighty power of God fell on the people. Agonizing conviction, strong crying and tears, and triumphant deliverance were among the features of the work.

From that time to the present we have pushed our lines, passing from point to point, as the Providence and Spirit of God have led us on, enjoying the hearty sympathetic co-operation of many of our ministers, and indeed of Christian ministers and people of other communities as well. In each succeeding number of this Magazine I propose to give reminiscences of our work in the West during the sixteen months of its history.

DAVID SAVAGE.

The next number of our Magazine will contain an article prepared by W. Flint Jones, Esq., on "The organization and early history of the Belleville 'Hallelujah Band.'"