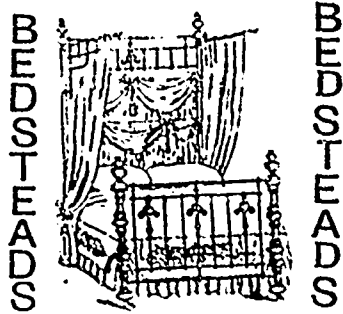


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AN OPEN LETTER.

During the winter of 1892-93, I was covered with Pimples on my right leg between the knee and ankle, and sought medical advice, but getting no relief I tried a bottle of B. B. B., applying some of it to my leg as well as using it internally, and the disease disappeared within three weeks, and I am thankful to say has never reappeared.

N. MITCHELL, Carman, Man.

The fortieth volume of Mr. Spurgeon's sermons has been issued. This brings the number of sermons printed weekly without a break up to 2,393. There are enough unpublished manuscripts to continue the weekly publication for some ten years more. Though dead, he yet speaketh.

MENDELSSOHN CHOIR.

The next concert of the above society is announced for Thursday, the 2nd May. A strong array of talent has been secured to assist the society, as these names show: Signor Campanari, baritone, of New York Metropolitan Opera house; Miss Mary Louise Clary, contralto, also of New York; and Herr Ludwig Bleuer, violinist, of Detroit.

Ministers and Churches.

The Rev. J. A. Davidson has been elected Moderator of the Presbytery of Chatham.

The Rev. M. P. Talling, B.A., at the recent meeting of the London Presbytery withdrew his resignation tendered at a previous meeting.

The Rev. Robert Murray, editor of the *Presbyterian Witness*, Halifax, favored us with a fraternal call on Thursday of last week. He had been attending a meeting of the Hymnal Committee.

The Rev. David Mitchell, formerly minister of the Central Church in this city, but for several years pastor of the Scottish Church, Jersey City, has tendered his resignation on account of continued ill-health.

The Rev. Robert Johnston, B.A., B.D., pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Lindsay, has accepted the call to St. Andrew's Church, London, Ont., and will sever his connection with the Lindsay pastorate on the 10th of April.

The Rev. Dr. Smith, of Kingston, lectured in Melville Church, Fergus, recently, taking for his subject "Boys I have known." This lecture was delivered in a very entertaining manner, and he held the close attention of his audience throughout.

Mr. R. J. Clare, who has been superintendent of the Presbyterian Sunday School, Georgetown, for some time, is leaving that place. On Sunday the teachers, officers and scholars of the school presented him with a splendidly bound Bible and an address.

The people of Knox Church, Ayr (Rev. John Thompson, pastor), find the seating capacity of the Church quite inadequate to accommodate the members and adherents, are adding a few seats in the body of the Church. They are also building eleven sheds.

The ladies of the King street Presbyterian Church, London, held a social the other night, in aid of the city's poor, and as a result upwards of 400 pounds of bread, meat, flour, potatoes, etc., was distributed among London's deserving poor, of whom there are a great number.

The recent revival services in the Presbyterian Church, Collingwood, were largely attended and greatly appreciated. The Rev. Dr. McCrae was assisted by Rev. Alfred Fowler, B.A. At the last communion service there was the largest attendance of members in the history of the congregation.

The death is announced of the Rev. Alexander Urquhart, who, for over twenty years, was pastor at Dunwich, removing to Cornwall four years ago. A wife and one daughter mourn the loss of a loving husband and father. Deceased was in the 48th year of his age, and was held in high esteem by all who knew him.

The pulpit of Knox Church, Millbank, Rev. W. M. McKibbin, B.A., pastor, was occupied on the 3rd inst., morning and evening, by the Rev. Charles Steele, Free Church minister of Cambusnethan, Scotland, who is on a three months visit to Canada and the United States. Mr. Steele was listened to with wrapt attention during both services.

At the preparatory services in Knox Church, Guelph, conducted by the Rev. John McInnis, of Elora, on Friday, March 10th, a statement was read from the Missionary Association by Rev. R. J. Beattie. During the past year the sum of \$1,151 was contributed by this congregation for church schemes, this being the first time that the actual missionary contributions of the members had reached the amount expected by the Presbytery and General Assembly.

A surprise party of about fifty of the young people of Leaskdale congregation took possession of the manse on Friday evening, their object being to pay their farewell visit to Miss VanVlack, who intends soon to take up her residence in Stagner. After spending a most enjoyable evening a very flattering address, signed on behalf of the young people by Miss Crozier, Miss Shier, Mr. J. M. Law, and Mr. Chas. Kennedy, was read, and Miss VanVlack was presented with a beautiful dressing case, Bible, and hymn book. Miss VanVlack responded in suitable terms, thanking her many friends for their kindness.

The Rev. Dr. Cochrane has written a letter to the Rev. W. G. Jordan, of Strathroy, expressive of the high esteem in which the late Mr. Thomas Gordon was held by himself and others. He says: "I have been reading with very great interest and melancholy pleasure your sermon on my long life friend, Mr. Thomas Gordon. The news of his death was to me a great shock. He was, in addition to all you say, and say so well, for many years a member of our Home Mission Committee, on whose calm judgment I ever relied. He was a good man in no ordinary sense, and the word death was taken out of his vocabulary. May God sustain the widow and make this dispensation a means of blessing to your Church."

The anniversary of St. Paul's Church, Warrington, was commemorated by special services on Sabbath, March 3rd, and a social gathering on the following Monday. Rev. G. Munro, of Harrison, has conducted the anniversary services now for the third year, and so popular has he become in Warrington that the church was not only crowded, but many had to be turned away in the evening, the large church having the aisles, pulpit and

every available seat occupied before service began. The offertory was on Sabbath slightly over \$300, and the Monday tea nearly \$100, this being the first year of Rev. Stuart Acheson's pastorate. The progress made, and the harmony is very encouraging. The Episcopal, Methodist and Baptist clergy of the town all took part in the Monday evening tea.

"Presbyterians," says a kind contributor in Victoria, B.C., "were greatly pleased to have a visit from the Rev. Messrs. Goforth and Slimmon on their way to China. On the 3rd inst. they were with us. The Rev. J. Goforth preached in St. Andrew's in the morning, St. Aidan's in the afternoon, and First Church in the evening. The Rev. Mr. Slimmon preached in the morning at St. Paul's, addressed St. Andrew's Sunday School in the afternoon, and preached at evening service in St. Columba Church. The discourses were very much enjoyed, and we look for an increase in interest in Foreign Mission work as the result of their visit. Both ministers were greatly delighted with our balmy weather and beautiful flowers, they were such a contrast to the still winter-bound east they had left. On Monday two of the city ministers and a few others accompanied them out to the *Empress of China* and saw them and Dr. Malcolm who boarded her at Vancouver safely off on their journey."

Woodland Church held its annual service on Tuesday evening, March 5th. The ladies of Woodland supplied the large gathering of guests with an excellent tea, which all thoroughly enjoyed. The speaking was excellent in matter and form, the speakers being the Rev. Mr. Honey, of Conn.; Mr. Martin, ex-mayor of Mount Forest; Mr. Halsted, banker, of Mount Forest, and Mr. Hampton, reeve of Mount Forest, who entertained the audience, especially the younger portion of it, showing that no other people on earth have greater reason to be thankful than we here in Ontario. Messrs. A. Martin and Jamieson of Mount Forest; Messrs. Murdock, reeve of Egremont, Fraser, deputy reeve, and Bye and Hunter, councillors of Egremont, also made brief addresses. The North Luther choir, under the able leadership of Mr. Sturdy, acquitted themselves admirably to the satisfaction of all. The chair was occupied by the pastor, Rev. H. McKellar. After the usual votes of thanks the choir led the whole congregation in singing, "Home, sweet home, there is no place like home," after which the Rev. Mr. Honey pronounced the benediction.

The Presbyterians of Glenboro, Man. (Rev. A. McD. Haig, pastor), lost their church by fire on Sabbath, 3rd inst. The flames broke out at 10 a.m., so that at the regular time for service the congregation assembled to witness the burning of their church home, dedicated but five years since. It was a fine frame building 50 x 30, seated for 225, and well finished outside and within. Through the exertions of the citizens the organ, pulpit Bible, chairs, lamps and pews (the latter imported) and paid for by the Ladies Aid at a cost of \$300) were saved. The loss is felt very keenly, but after evening service it was decided that though the fire had consumed their building the congregation still lived, and Monday morning a subscription list was started, and before the ashes were cold it had been circulated through the greater part of the congregation and arrangements completed for hauling stone at once for the foundation of the new church. Great heartiness is manifested in preparing for re-building and many are offering assistance who never took any interest heretofore. Coming so soon after the organization of the congregation in 1887, building the former church in 1889, the purchase of a manse in 1890, and, added to this, the financial depression, the erection of the new building will be a heavy struggle. The assistance of sympathizing congregations would be gladly welcomed. The Methodist Church has been kindly offered for morning service.

OBITUARY.

Mr. Alex. Leask, an elder in the congregation of Wick, passed peacefully into the eternal rest on February 4th. Mr. Leask was born in Banffshire, Scotland. His parents were both godly people and originally intended him for the ministry, but when he was fourteen years of age they came to Canada, and preparation for the ministry was abandoned. On reaching manhood Mr. Leask settled in Brock on the farm on which he resided until his death. During the long period of forty-five years he was closely identified with all that concerned the well-being of the community in which he lived. Through his father's and his own efforts a congregation was formed at Wick and land given for a church and manse. For thirty-seven years he was an elder in the congregation, during which time he was also session clerk, Sabbath-school superintendent and treasurer; he was ever conscientious and faithful in the discharge of duty. Of a retiring disposition he never sought public notice, but when required his wisdom and experience were freely given, and his judgment once expressed was seldom departed from. Very few ministers or laymen had a fuller or more accurate knowledge of the English Bible; very few could equal him in prayer. Strong intelligence, conscientiousness and zeal characterized all he did. As a professed Christian he was regular in attendance on the public ordinances, was liberal to a fault, and loyal to the truth. A kind parent, a good neighbor, a faithful friend he will be long mourned. The death of Mr. Leask was made doubly sad by the fact that within a few hours from the time he died his amiable wife joined him across the river. She was ill when her husband died, and on hearing of

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his death had no desire to survive him, and soon she too passed quietly and trustfully away. During forty-four years she had been his partner in many joys and sorrows, always bright, hopeful, courageous and resourceful, and when Jehovah changed his countenance and sent him away she too said farewell and her spirit took its flight full of gladness and blessed hope. They were "lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided." The funeral which was very large was conducted most impressively by the Rev. J. M. Cameron, assisted by the Revs. W. G. Hanna, P. A. McLeod and G. McKay. The church was tastefully draped and many were the tears shed. Perhaps the most touching thing of all was to see the Sabbath-school scholars march past the coffin in solemn procession, many of them weeping as they took a last look at their departed leader. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." After the service the procession moved to the cemetery where the bodies were laid in the same grave to wait the resurrection of the just. Would that the Church had an army of elders such as Alexander Leask was.

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