

Church Observer

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"ONE FAITH,—ONE LORD,—ONE BAPTISM."

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Ecclesiastical News.

CANADIAN.

DIOCESE OF ONTARIO.

The occasion of the Rev. C. W. Rawson's leaving Picton for Quebec was one of universal regret to those amongst whom he had laboured during his ministry in that parish; especially was it so to the poor, the aged, and the suffering, to whom he had attached himself by his constant attention and kindly sympathy.

The affection with which he was regarded by the children of the Sunday school was exemplified by the ready response made to a proposal by one of the lady teachers, that they should present him with some slight token of remembrance before he left. Each little scholar eagerly brought his or her small contribution, and with the assistance of the teacher a silver ink-stand was purchased, on which was beautifully engraved his crest and a suitable inscription.

On the last Sunday Mr. Rawson was to attend Sunday school, the following address was presented to him by Mr. Corbould in the name of the teachers and scholars:—

Reverend and dear Sir, we, the undersigned teachers and scholars of the Sunday school of St. Mary Magdalene Church on the occasion of your taking your final departure from among us, desire to express to you the sincere and deep sense of gratitude we all feel for the great interest you have ever taken both in our spiritual and temporal welfare, and also for the benefits you have been the means of conferring upon us. For while your untiring industry, patience, and ability in instructing and improving us, have excited our respect and admiration, your uniform kindness of manner and gentleness in dealing with us have not only won the hearts of the youngest children in our school, but have caused you to be universally beloved and esteemed by us all.

We would also wish to express to you, however feebly it may be, the profound regret and heartfelt sorrow we all now experience, at the prospect of your so soon leaving us. We shall indeed lose an able instructor, an earnest and good pastor, and a kind friend; but we derive some consolation from the reflection, that it would not only be unjust to yourself, but selfish in us, to wish to detain you in so limited a sphere as ours, when so much more extended a course of usefulness and means of doing good is now open to you.

And be assured, dear sir, wherever you may happen to take up your abode for the future, whatever may be the duties you may be called upon to perform, you will always have our best wishes and prayers for the welfare and prosperity of yourself and family.

In conclusion, permit us to present you with this ink-stand, as a slight memento of our regard and affection, which may perchance, we are pleased to think, be the means of recalling sometimes to your remembrance hereafter the members of your Sunday-school in Picton, when you are far away.

We beg to remain,
Ever yours, very sincerely,

[Signed by the teachers and scholars.]

To which the Reverend Mr. Lewan, on the next Sunday, read the following reply:—

MY DEAR FRIENDS, I did not know till last Sunday morning how hard it is to say that little word so often used in this ever changing world, "good bye." How as the lips utter it, the memory gathers up the past, the heart clings to the present, the thoughts fly on to the future. And yet, I had not then to say it to the aged, to those who in all human probability I may never see again in this world, but to those whose bright young faces gave promise of many years yet before them, during some one of which, I might with reason hope to meet many of them once more.

Still the thought would rise, that ere I came again amongst you, there would be some whom I saw then, who would be gathered into another fold; while the others, perhaps all, would have passed out from our Sunday-school, and be either carrying into active life the lessons learnt here, or proving themselves in spite of all their present fair promise, faithless and unworthy children of their heavenly Father.

I remembered, too, that I was then handing over to another a precious trust, one in which I had taken a special interest; for I have ever felt that it is one, if not the most important part of a clergyman's duty, the care of his master's lambs.

These thoughts, and the memory of the many pleasant hours I have spent in this room during the three short years that I have been among you, prevented me thanking you, as I wished to do, for your kind present, and the loving, prayerful wishes which accompanied it.

Let me thank you now, and let me assure you that even though I can be no more with you, I shall carry with me wherever I may be, the fond recollections of the kind teachers and dear children of this my first Sunday school.

That God may bless you all, that He may cause the little seed sown here to bring forth fruit to His glory; and that among the happy number of the redeemed we may all, pastor, teachers and children, meet hereafter before God's throne in heaven, is the earnest prayer of your affectionate friend,

C. W. RAWSON.

Picton, Oct. 23rd, 1870.

SERVICES FOR THE MISSION.

Sermons in aid of the above mission, which has been established for the purpose of giving the Bible to the French Canadians in their own language, also of sending the Gospel to the Indians, were preached on Sunday the 13th inst., in St. James' Church, Kingston, by the Rev. Canon Bond of St. George's Church, Montreal, to a large and respectable congregation. In St. Paul's Church the same gentleman preached in the evening, from Revelations 11th chap. 15 v.—"The kingdom of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever." The sermon was most eloquent and impressive, and was listened to with breathless attention by a very large congregation, the church being densely crowded. The annual meeting was held in St. George's Hall, on Monday evening; the Rev. Jno. A. Mulock, rector of St. Paul's Church, occupied the chair. On the platform and in the body of the hall were observed the Rev. Canon Bond, the Rev. Fras. W. Dobbs, Portsmouth; the Rev. Wm. Short, Wolfe Island; the Rev. Conway Cartwright, Amherst Island; the Rev. Fra. M. Kirkpatrick, St. James, Kingston; Wm. Evans, Esq., Major Wilson, Dr. Mair, &c. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Dobbs, after which in the absence of Neil McLeod, Esq., the Secretary, Mr. Dobbs read the financial statement. The chairman then delivered an interesting address, explanatory of the object of the association, and concluded by calling upon Mr. Bond to address the meeting.

The Rev. gentleman, who was warmly received, stated that the desire of the late Metropolitan was that the association should not unsettle men's opinions without being prepared to give them something better, and that the association was well adapted to absolving the converts from Romanism. He said it was founded literally on the word of God. Two British officers visiting a family in Lower Canada, when going away, presented them with a New Testament in the French language. It was some time before it was looked at. By and by it came to be observed that they did not attend the Roman Catholic church as regularly as formerly. Enquiry was made, and it was found that they had this Testament. They were asked to give it up, but refused.

They were told if they did not they must give up the church; and they gave up the Roman Catholic church. Four members of that family have been given to the church. The Word of God is received and read with great avidity by the French Canadians. The Rev. gentleman went on to show how little had been hitherto done by the Church of England for the Indians of Lower Canada, or of Newfoundland—how that the doctrine of the Infallibility of the Pope has disquieted the minds of the French Canadians. They cannot believe it. The collapse of the French empire, and the establishment of the Italian kingdom in Rome by a plebiscitum, has also astonished them. The idea of the very people of Rome voting the Pope's overthrow is a hard nut for the faithful to crack. Mr. Bond referred to some of the objections which are made of the association, not by those who are enemies of the church, but by members to our own church—such as "requiring all our money at home." He related an anecdote of a number of people who, unable to sustain a missionary among themselves, resolved to aid in supporting a foreign mission, which, after doing for sometime, they found that, by the blessing of God, they were not only able to contribute largely to the foreign mission, but also to the sustenance of a missionary among themselves. "Why disturb them?" It is a matter of life and death for the church in Lower Canada; for Rome, with her numerous priests and nuns, her well filled coffers, and her perfect machinery, is ever ready to take advantage of any opening—is always aggressive. Many Protestants in Lower Canada have gone over to the Catholic religion. In Montreal, at the present day, there are four hundred young women, daughters of Protestants, and some of these, he was ashamed to say, clergymen's daughters, and yet they were to let them alone! So long as the Church of England was a Protestant church, and so long as her ministers subscribed to the prayer book, which spoke of the "sacrifices of masses, blasphemous fables and dangerous deceits," (art. 31.) so long they were bound to go forward. He said there were French-speaking people in Upper Canada who had applied for a missionary. The year before last the Bishop of Toronto had confirmed twenty of those converts, and last year thirty-one had been confirmed. This was not looked upon by them as mere ceremonies of the church, but as a dedication of themselves to God. The Rev. gentleman at considerable length defended the association, and concluded an eloquent speech by appealing for aid from the people of Kingston. The collection was then taken up, and a hymn—"God of Grace; O let Thy light,"—sung by the choir.

The Rev. Francis Kirkpatrick moved the appointment of office-bearers for the year, as follows:—

President—Mrs. Macaulay.
Vice President—Mrs. Kirkpatrick.
Treasurer—Miss Ross.
Secretary—Miss Watkins.
Assist. Secretary—Mrs. Neil McLeod.
Committee—Mrs. Cartwright, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Dobbs, Mrs. Muckleston, Mrs. Mulock, Mrs. Yates, Mrs. F. W. Kirkpatrick, Miss Fowler, Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Corbett, Miss Rice, Mrs. R. J. Cartwright, Miss Kirkpatrick, Mrs. R. V. Rogers, Mrs. G. A. Kirkpatrick, Miss C. Dupuy, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Allen, Miss Mulkins, and Miss Yarker.

Mr. Kirkpatrick spoke earnestly in support of the resolution and of the association.

The Rev. Wm. Short, of Amherst Island, seconded the resolution, which was also supported by the Rev. Mr. Cartwright, and carried unanimously.

The hymn, "Sun of my Soul," was then sung by the choir, and after the benediction had been pronounced by the Rev. Mr. Dobbs, the meeting adjourned.

DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

The convention of the Sunday school association of the diocese of Toronto, was in every sense of the word a success. The attendance at the several sessions was large, the matters under consideration were discussed with ability and vigour, and the effects of the convention will surely be seen in the more successful prosecution of the grand work of training the young for Christ. Our limited space will not allow us to say more than the valuable address delivered by the Right Rev. the Bishop of Western New York.

ADDRESS BY BISHOP COXE.

In the evening the Rt. Rev. Dr. Coxe, Bishop of Western New York, delivered a valuable address on the subject of Sunday schools. After a few preliminary remarks, the bishop observed:—It does seem to me that it is absolutely impossible for any one well instructed in the Old Testament, to entertain a doubt as to the divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, or of his atonement; and therefore it appears to me that in teaching the children the blessed gospel, it should be our part by proper manuals of instruction, to shew them that the gospel is to be found in Moses and in all the prophets—to teach them to search the Scriptures of the Old Testament, because they testify of Jesus Christ. (Cheers.) In reference to catechising, I am sure that since I have gone round from parish to parish, I have learnt many things, and amongst them this, that as a parochial clergyman, I did not fully realize the vast importance of catechising. From the time that the youthful Theophilus was catechised on the history of those things which Jesus began both to do and to teach, until now, catechising has been fundamental in the practice of Christian teaching. Catechising upon the blessed Scriptures is, of course, implied; for you will not suppose that I confine my thoughts only to that form of sound words which is known by us as the catechism, though I think that the teaching of the catechism as it stands in the prayer book, ought to be regarded as fundamental in Sunday school instruction. I am led to think this more and more because of the admission of many pious men who belong to religious systems quite dissimilar to our own. It has been my occupation, certainly not my amusement, at times when I have been detained at wayside inns, waiting for means of conveyance to call around me children and to enquire concerning their religious instruction. Over and over again have I found these children, who have received Sunday school instruction in some form or other, ignorant of the ten commandments. I am sorry to make such a statement. Then, when I have asked, what do you learn at Sunday school—they would mention to me certain things, but very remotely connected with the blessed gospel. Yes, but what can you tell me about the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ? I have sometimes been amazed at their replies, and still oftener at their want of acquaintance with the simplest text and doctrines of revealed truth. I remember once on one of my excursions upon that noble stream which lies between you and our States, as we floated among the thousand isles, I had as a fellow passenger, a little girl some twelve years old well dressed, and in an ordinary sense, well educated. Her little mind was awake and full of observation, and she made many interesting remarks, such as flow spontaneously from the innocent heart and beautiful lips of childhood. Said I,— "Where do you go to church?" I soon found that was a sore point. I then enquired whether she had ever been to a Sunday school, and she said she had. "What kind of a Sunday school?" She mentioned the name of a religious body from which she had received Sunday school instruction. "And what did they tell you about God?" The answer appalled