

The Ontario Evangelist.

A RELIGIOUS MONTHLY.

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APRIL, 1888.

TO OUR READERS.

As we close our second volume we have a few words to say to those who have hitherto supported and encouraged us in this undertaking. Once more we wish in the most hearty manner to express our thanks to those brethren and sisters who have held up our hands during the past two years which we have been endeavoring to publish a paper that might prove helpful to those who are in anxious to save themselves and others. It has been our purpose to keep this high aim before us month by month, believing that no lower standard can justify the publication of a religious paper. How far we have in this direction succeeded our readers must judge; we trust that, at least, our object has always been apparent.

In volume three it is our intention to pursue the same general course as in volumes one and two; though we hope that experience will enable us to improve as we proceed. Particularly do we hope to be able to devote more attention to the editorial department. Not a few times heretofore the pressure of duties having a prior claim upon our time has compelled us to send out the paper with little in the line of regular articles of our own. But we venture to think that the contents of our other departments have never failed to be interesting and profitable. And in this connection it will not be invidious to mention the name of Bro. Sheppard who from the very first in the most cordial way has lent us his aid by furnishing us a series of articles which would grace the columns and delight the readers of any paper published by the Disciples of Christ.

In asking a continuance of that kind consideration and that hearty support which have been given to us by so many of our brethren and sisters thus far in our editorial career, we feel that we have no personal, no sectarian ends to serve, but rather those great ends—those greatest of ends—the conversion of sinners and the edification of saints. And we believe that so long as we pursue those holy objects in a holy way we shall secure the appreciation of our brethren and the blessing of our God.

We have never sought to disguise the fact that it takes money to publish a religious paper, we do not do so now. On the other hand we frankly ask our readers to see that their subscriptions are paid up regularly—many expire with this number—and to aid us, as many have in the past, in increasing our sphere of usefulness, by enlarging our circle of readers.

CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY.

Christianity calls for constant activity on the part of all who embrace it. Unlike arbitrary systems which do little for us but to place us under restraint it incites to activity. Good works are the fruits of Christianity—the natural fruits. This is its glory. Wicked men by embracing it become "fruitful trees"—"trees of righteousness the planting of the Lord." The system is characterized by its transforming power. It leads sinful men first into the presence and fellowship of God, and then with their souls purified, their minds elevated and their hearts enlarged it leads them out, full of sympathy and zeal, to become co-workers with God in helping their fellows to happiness and Heaven.

Inactive Christians is a contradiction in terms. It would be as consistent to speak of a cold heat or a virtuous debauchee. Where there is no activity there is no Christianity; for Christianity is a vital principle—a life the very nature of which is to manifest itself. Christ did not declare an absolute decree when he said to his

disciples: "You are the light of the world," neither did he make an arbitrary demand when said, "Let your light so shine before men." To receive Christ into the heart is to love him and to love him is to serve him—to do his will. Activity in the service of the Lord is then a result—the natural result of living in Christ, or rather of Christ living in us. The apostle Paul sounderstood it. "I am crucified" he says "with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

The sinner as soon as his eyes are opened to a sense of his condition and to an appreciation of the love of God as manifested in Christ Jesus towards him immediately exclaims, "Lord what wilt thou have me to do?" He desires to become obedient and active. This desire, begotten by the love of God, is the voice of the awakened powers of the soul which need scope for development. The sinner is not only called by the gospel to a life of activity but his renewed heart both desires and demands it.

This being true it may be asked, how is it that so many, alas! instead of continuing active in the Master's vineyard become idle and indifferent? We cannot close our eyes against facts. We should have no desire to do so. How many are there who instead of working for the Lord have folded their arms in idleness and stretched their limbs in repose! Many have died and many are dying from having nothing to do. Whole churches have died, and we know of some which are dying as fast as possible for the same reason.

While it is true that Christian activity is a result of the reception of the gospel, it is also true that it is a condition upon which depends the Christian life. This is neither contradictory nor inconsistent. Christ says, "If a man love me he will keep my words" He also says "If you keep my commandments you shall abide in my love."

It may be said again that the Christian is certainly safe, for if he loves Christ he will be active in his service and as long as he is active in his service he will continue to love him, but we must remember that babes in Christ though willing and anxious to be active need to be taught what to do and how to do it. Too many obey the gospel and make no progress. We do not say that they are altogether to blame. It is the duty of the leaders of the church to help new members until they become strong and well started in the use of their newly awakened powers. There is safety only in activity. We would do well to heed the admonition of Paul to Timothy, "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life."

T. L. F.

THE JUNE MEETING.

In another column will be found the announcement that the Annual Meeting is this year to be held with the church at Erin Centre. All further necessary particulars may be looked for in the May number of this paper. It is hoped there will be a large and representative gathering of brethren and sisters from all parts of the Province. It is good for Christians to come together to confer concerning the cause of Christ, and to enquire what they can unitedly do to further it. There is some reason to hope that Bro. A. McLean, the indefatigable and enthusiastic Corresponding Secretary of the Foreign Missionary Society, will be present.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

"The time is at hand when those Sunday Schools which were shut down during the winter should be opened again. No time should be lost in getting in good running order. Arrangements should be made and supplies provided so that an enthusiastic opening may be made not later than the first Lord's Day in May. Those who were interested last year will almost certainly be interested this year, and those who were not interested last year should, if possible, be interested this year. And now two words of exhortation to the church not having a Sunday School,— "Start one."

NOTES.

This is the last number of Vol. II of THE ONTARIO EVANGELIST.

At Bowmanville, March 9th, the wife of Bro. M. Gunn of a daughter.

If you want to know what Prohibitionists are doing in the United States, you should read the *Voice* published at \$1.00 per year by Frank & Wagnalls, 18 and 20 Astor Place, New York. It is a wonderful paper; a mighty power.

We club with the *Christian Standard*. Any one sending us \$2.00 will get the *Standard* and the *EVANGELIST* both for one year.

We are pleased to note that the church at Portage la Prairie has again shown its interest in Foreign Missions by contributing \$19.25.

Will not our agents and friends make a special effort this month to get *renewals* as well as *new* subscribers?

The editors of the *EVANGELIST* take the hand so gracefully extended by Bro. Gaff in another column, and beg to assure him of their continually increasing interest in the work in which he is engaged, and their unchanging purpose to do all they can to keep it before the brethren in the Province.

Contributions from Ontario to Foreign Missions since last report in this paper:—Cotswold, \$5.15; Erin Village, \$10.80; Hamilton, \$20.00; Owen Sound, \$8.00; Stayner, \$8.55; Toronto (Dunson Avenue), \$18.00; Walkerton, \$10.70; S. S., Hamilton, \$12.28; Erin Centre, \$35.00; Garafraxa, \$11.00; Collingwood, \$4.80; S. S., Collingwood, \$1.20.

If you don't get your paper regularly, notify us by post card. Perhaps it is our fault, or perhaps of one of the many through whose hands it passes in going from us to you. For ourselves we try to make no mistakes, and we judge the post office officials are also careful, for comparatively few letters and papers go astray. But mistakes will happen sometimes, you know.

We are grieved to have to record the death, in Neligh, Nebraska, March 16th, of Mrs. Rachel E. Beach. We have received an obituary notice which we are compelled to hold over until next month. Another of the Lord's honorable women has gone home. A peculiarly affectionate circle of relatives has so soon again been broken, but they have the joy of reflecting that as the circle lessens here it enlarges on the other side.

The leading article in the March number of *The Library Magazine* is upon *The Higher Line. How is it to be sustained?* Being a review of an article in the *Nineteenth Century* by Prof. Huxley on *Science and the Bible*. The number is filled with interesting reading upon important subjects. Published monthly by John B. Alden, 393 Pearl Street, New York. Only \$1.00 a year.

Have you taken up a collection yet for Foreign Missions? If not, why not? Don't you intend giving something for this purpose? If so, there is no time like the present. If we should ask some churches: How much did you give during the past year for Foreign Missions? the answer would be, *Nothing*. If we should ask some of the same churches: How much did you give during the past year for Home Missions? the answer would be, *Nothing*. How much do you pay for the regular preaching of the gospel at home? *Nothing*. A religion which costs nothing is not the religion of Christ. The result of our observation is, that such churches will die, and they ought to die. Just think of it. *Not one cent for Jesus*.

GROWTH OF A BIG BOOK.—When Webster's Unabridged was first published in one volume, it was a comparatively small book. Some years after, an addition was made of 1500 Pictorial Illustrations, A Table of Synonyms, and an Appendix of New Words that had come into use. A few years later came an entirely new revised edition of larger size, with 3000 Pictorial Illustrations, then, after an interval of a few years, a Biographical Dictionary of nearly 10,000 Names, and a Supplement of nearly 5000 New Words were added, and now there has come a new and most valuable addition, a Gazetteer of the World, of over 25,000 Titles. The work is now not only the Dictionary, par excellence, but a Biographical Dictionary, a Gazetteer of the World, and a great many other good things in its many valuable Tables.

Dr. Dewart editor of the *Christian Guardian* recently delivered a very able sermon at the opening of a new Methodist Church at West Toronto Junction. His subject was "Christianity Justified by its Record." In speaking of the Bible, among other fine things he said: "Here are offers of rest for the weary and heavy laden; forgiveness for the guilty; peace for those in disquietude and trouble; power over temptation; consolation in sorrow, and light and guidance for the dark and stormy paths of life to all who repent, believe and obey the Gospel." We may not be well informed as to Methodist teachings, but we were not aware that to "obey" was considered by Methodists as a condition of enjoying the

blessings of the Gospel. We have frequently heard Methodists, and even Methodist preachers, find great fault with the Disciples for insisting that obedience is a condition of pardon. We are very glad to learn that Dr. Dewart, who is perhaps the ablest man in the Methodist Church of Canada to day, agrees with the Disciples on that point, for certainly it is the plain and constant teaching of the New Testament. When the Methodists as a body learn to express themselves as Dr. Dewart does on this matter, they will understand better than they now do the position of the Disciples on the subject of Baptism.

After answering a querist the editor of the *Apostolic Guide* has this to say:

We would remark to Bro. Gooch that if he will read exclusively the Revised Version, and wrap up his Old Version in a tough piece of paper with a good strong string around it, and lay it away as a curiosity for his descendants of a future generation to gaze upon, he will meet with fewer perplexing questions of interpretation. So with others.

How many of the readers of this paper, we wonder, are neglecting to use the Revised Version, declared by competent authority to be not only the best English Version yet produced, but the best Version yet produced in any language? We often hear it said that there are not many changes in the Revised Version; for the information of such as think so, we may say that there are over 25,000.

Our attention has been called to a lengthy, but intensely interesting speech delivered at the *Industrial Conference* held in Washington, Feb. 22nd, and reported in full in the *National Reformer*, upon Parties in the United States.

Bro. E. declares himself a "National Reformer" and in favor of a "National Reform Party."

The following is what he says relative to the liquor traffic:—

We will now spend a few moments in the consideration of the four great questions which naturally lead all other questions; viz., Liquor, Labor, Tariff, and Finance!

We place liquor first, because we believe no rest can come to this nation, until this evil is put away. High license in order to suppress this greatest of all curses to the laboring man of this country, is only playing the devil's best card in the interest of the liquor traffic! "Licenses," says the Court of Appeals of the State of New York, "are mere temporary permits to do what otherwise would be unlawful."

Therefore it would become unlawful to carry on this traffic were it not allowed under, and by virtue of a special license law! Therefore we say, *Down with all license laws!*

GOLDEN WEDDING.—Had the Erin *Advocate* been in existence fifty years ago, the following item might have graced its columns:—"Married on March 7th, 1838, by the Rev. D. McMillan, at the residence of the bride's father, John McLean, Mr. Hugh McMillan, to Miss Margaret McLean, all of Erin." Last week the fiftieth anniversary of the above event was duly observed by friends and neighbors. Many of the guests of 1838 are still in existence including the officiating minister, whose parish at that time comprised several townships. The festivities on that occasion were continued for a whole week. However, the young couple set out for the journey of life with health and strength and ambition to carve a home. The place selected was con. 9, lot 22, Erin, containing 200 acres more or less. Here they have remained ever since clearing and cultivating the land and have surrounded themselves with many comforts, reared a large family who, with one exception, are still living. The family consists of Daniel, Charles, Joseph, Duncan, Barbara, and Mrs. Currie, in Erin; Hugh, at Guelph; Mrs. McWilliams, Puslinch; John F. Saugeen; Flora Ann, Wilnot; and Archibald, at Fergus. The venerable couple have passed the allotted three score and ten, and are still in good health and vigor of body and mind. In the midst of all the cares of farm and family, religious life has been a source of pleasure and comfort at all times. During the whole of their united life they have taken an active part in the affairs of the church of their choice. May it be said of them when they exchange life for immortality, the church militant for the church triumphant, "Life's race well won, life's work well done."—*Guelph Mercury*.

CHURCH NEWS.

KILSYTH.—A letter from Bro. Lediard, of late date, informs us that he was engaged in an interesting meeting in Kilsyth.

ERIN VILLAGE.—The sisters in this church organized on March 21st a Mission Band with encouraging prospects of success. They will meet the third Wednesday in every month, and have a monthly fee of ten cents per member.