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A RELIGIOUS MONTHLY.

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MAY, 1889.

TO OUR READERS.

We are reminded by this issue of THE ONTARIO EVANGELIST that time is passing rapidly. It seems but yesterday that the first number appeared, but here is Number 1, Vol. 4. We are glad to be able to say that the paper is growing not only in years but in influence and usefulness.

We take advantage of this occasion to acknowledge our indebtedness to our Father in Heaven and our thankfulness for the many evidences of the Divine favor. It would be ungratefulness on our part should we fail to acknowledge, also, the assistance and encouragement given by the many warm friends of the paper.

It is gratifying to us to know that our brethren who are most zealous and active in the cause of Christ, look upon the paper as a necessity; and it will be gratifying to our readers to know that THE ONTARIO EVANGELIST has come to stay.

It will appear from this issue that we have changed the place of publication. Arrangements have been made with Bro. C. A. Fleming, Owen Sound, to do the printing and mailing.

In closing our contract with Mr. J. J. Kelso, Guelph, who did the printing for us from the first to the close of Vol. 3, it is proper for us to say, and we say it with pleasure, that he did the work to our entire satisfaction, and we found in him an honorable christian gentleman.

THE ONTARIO EVANGELIST will be in the future as it has been in the past, a firm advocate of the truth of the gospel and an uncompromising opponent of error. We wish it to be also a medium for church news and for an interchange of religious views.

We ask for a continuation of your sympathy and support and also for your prayers that we may be guided in all our labors by that wisdom which cometh from above.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

It will be observed that a great part of our space this month is taken up in the matter pertaining to the Annual Meeting and we therefore deem it unnecessary to enlarge upon the subject here. We trust there will be a large and enthusiastic gathering of brethren and sisters from all parts of the Province. The church in St. Thomas is prepared to extend to all a cordial welcome and to provide all with board and lodging during their stay at the meeting. Reduced rates will be given by the Railways. While the special attractions provided by the prospect of seeing and hearing two such noble and consecrated brethren as Bro. R. Moffett and Bro. A. McLean is such as will no doubt make a large number anxious to attend. We would urge our brethren to go to this yearly feast, for their own good and for the good of the cause.

There are many important questions which urgently demand the attention of the Disciples in Ontario, and which cannot be satisfactorily considered unless brethren meet together and have full and free conference respecting them. Our duty to Manitoba and the North-West should be carefully weighed by all. We have so far failed to realize our responsibility to those Provinces of our Dominion. The state of the same in our own Province merits the attention of every Disciple. The great need of more preachers and the possibility of supplying that need should rest upon all our hearts. These and other questions we hope will be discussed, and it is very desirable

that all the churches in Ontario should be represented. The sisters will no doubt send a good delegation and give a good account of themselves. St. Thomas is very convenient of access from all parts of the country. The churches in the Niagara district will find it more easily reached than points in Wellington Co., and those West of St. Thomas will find the Annual Meeting almost at their doors. The Wellington Co. brethren after many years have again an opportunity of going out of their own County to a June Meeting and should be well represented. Those living in the North and the East can quite conveniently reach St. Thomas and will be delighted to meet and to get acquainted with the brethren in the West. Let us have a general convocation to consider the interests of the cause of Christ, to take steps for the furtherance of the Gospel, and to have fellowship one with another.

THE DEFEAT OF THE SCOTT ACT.

We do not need to inform our readers that notwithstanding the fact that we devoted a large part of our March number to matter calculated to induce people to support the Scott Act, the Act was defeated in every constituency in which it was voted upon on the fourth of April. We are sorry that such was the result, but not at all discouraged. The work of temperance reformers is now cut out for them distinctly—National prohibition is now the cry. There may be a fight for High License to put Prohibition a few years farther away, but the time is not far distant when the great question of Prohibition will be submitted to the people of Canada. It seems people will go on fooling with the liquor traffic—trying to regulate it—although the experiment has been a failure for hundreds of years. We must just be faithful and patient and continue the work of educating the people. We all know why the Scott Act did not work—it was not worked. The politicians used it for their own purposes and the temperance people suffered them to do so.

NOTES.

By the request of the church in St. Thomas the date of the June meeting has been changed from the first to the second Lord's Day in June. The meeting will begin on Thursday, June 6th.

We are very glad to learn that Bro. J. R. Gaff, who has been confined to his bed for a few weeks by a very severe illness, is now so far recovered as to be able to undertake some work again.

We would again remind those in arrears that it would be a great favor if they would kindly remember us, not only in their prayers, but by remitting the amount due.

The readers of the EVANGELIST will see that Bro. C. J. Lister has not forgotten the matter presented by him at the annual meeting last year regarding the new church building in Owen Sound. Let all the big folks get their dimes ready, and all the little ones their half-dimes, and help the Owen Sound brethren, for they are worthy.

Any of our readers desiring information as to the best way of reaching St. Thomas are referred to Page 3 of our April number.

The first Lord's Day in June is the day on which the Sunday Schools are asked to take up a collection for Foreign Missions. We trust there will be a general response. Let the children have a chance to help.

Bro. Donald Munro, who is attending University College, Toronto, intends spending at least a part of his vacation travelling among the churches in the Province selling "The Memoirs of Alexander Campbell." Wherever he goes he is authorized to take subscriptions and collect money for THE ONTARIO EVANGELIST.

The season of the year most suitable for holding special meetings among country churches is now at hand. As the expression is among the brethren in the States at present, "Let there be a movement all along the line." May there be a large ingathering in every church. Let us labor for it, brethren, and the Lord will bless us.

Will the Superintendents or other officers of our Sunday Schools who have not done so send a report of the past year's work to the chairman of the Sunday School Committee, C. A. Fleming, Owen Sound, at once. If you have mislaid the blank report sent you at the beginning of the year drop a card to him and one will be sent you by return of mail.

Dr. W. E. Macklin, missionary to China, was married to Miss Dorothy DeLaney, January 16th. Mrs. Macklin is a sister of Mrs. Garst, and a granddaughter of the sainted Jonas Hartzel. The Standard heartily congratulates the happy pair.

We cordially join in the above congratulations

We remind our readers that items of Church News are always acceptable. Send them in, friends.

The following are a few of the many kind and encouraging words received by us from the readers of THE ONTARIO EVANGELIST:

1. "The tone of your paper is commendatory. It has the right ring and it breathes the spirit of the Master."
2. "I would not know how to get along without THE ONTARIO EVANGELIST. I hope it may soon become a weekly."
3. "We thank you for giving us a paper devoid of a captious spirit, free from personalities and silly wranglings—a paper filled with helpful articles and cheering news."
4. "Mrs. — writes me that she is delighted with the paper. Twice in her letter she thanked me for sending it to her. Another sister, Mrs. — wrote me a few days ago: 'THE EVANGELIST comes to me every month and I greatly enjoy it.' These voices from afar (one from Indianapolis and the other from Ashland, Wis.), are in accord with 'my own.'"

We are thankful to have the assurance that the little EVANGELIST is so much appreciated, and that it merits the approval of our most pious, active and intelligent brethren.

We have received volume eleven of Alden's *Manifold Cyclopaedia*, extending from "Debt" to "Dominie." It gives us great pleasure to call attention to the merits of this excellent work, and heartily commend it to our readers. Mr. Alden has a branch office at 30 Adelaide Street, East, Toronto, near the Post Office; at which a full stock of Alden's publications is kept. Any of our readers being in the City will do well to visit Mr. Alden's branch store and see what wonderful bargains are offered in first class literature. A large catalogue is sent free. Send for a copy.

Contributions to Foreign Missions:

Church at Blehheim	\$20.00
" Owen Sound	12.42
" Ridgetown	6.20
" Erin Centre	17.00
" Everton	32.00
" Hamilton	23.00
" Kilsyth	9.00
S. S. at Hamilton	6.00
Mrs. Peter D. Campbell, Balderson	5.00
Church at St. Thomas	10.00
Mrs. T. B. Knowles, St. Thomas	10.00
	150.62

We are very much pleased to observe the way in which the churches in Ontario continue to show their interest in the great work of preaching the Gospel to every creature. We think we state the fact when we say that a larger proportion of the churches in this Province contribute than of the churches of any State in the Union. Let us make up that thousand dollars this year.

Speaking of the collections for Foreign Missions reminds us that if the Disciples in the United States would give as liberally as the Disciples in Ontario, they would raise about \$150,000.00 a year for that work. The call this year is for \$100,000.00. If we should raise \$1,000.00, and the brethren in the States give in proportion there would be \$201,000.00 instead of \$100,000.00. How is that Bro. McLean?

But there is one test of a true church that men are especially prone to overlook—the test of holiness. Whatever the consistency and scripturality of doctrine; whatever the clearness and fulness and certainty of systematic theology, this at least, is certain, if the church be not holy God is not in it, it is not the church of God.—*f. S. Lamar, in Standard.*

J. W. Kilgour and C. A. Fleming were appointed a committee to glean statistics relative to the Disciples in Ontario, and to report at the annual meeting. Circulars to be filled out have been sent to the churches. If any church has failed to receive a circular, send for one to J. W. KILGOUR, Guelph.

The following from around-the-world editor of the *Christian Standard* is more than funny. We reproduce it, not because it is funny, but because it is generally applicable.

Faithful in little, faithful in much, is a sound Scripture maxim, but there are those who simply forget to be careful, honest and faithful in little things. It is reported that a revivalist in the Iowa town recently asked all those in his audience who paid their debts to rise. Nearly all arose. He then requested those who did not pay their debts to rise. One lonesome man arose. He was the local editor, who explained that he was unable to pay because everybody in the house owed him on subscriptions. Rather an awkward outcome that, but think you that congregations were delinquents above all who dwell in the land?

The editor of the *Christian Leader* has made our mild and innocent paragraph in the April number anent his missions the occasion for a vigorous blowing of his own horn and violent denunciation of "Society men" and "Society papers." Among other things he says, "The fact is—and the fact is a burning shame—not one of the Society papers, in alluding to his Ontario paper, has ever given its readers to understand that, while the *Leader* does not favor outside corporate organizations for the promulgation of the Gospel, at the same time it favors and advocates missionary effort to the widest possible extent, according to New Testament precept and example." "This Ontario paper" pleads not guilty to the above charge. Two years ago this month we published what the editor of the *Leader* called "The Scriptural methods" of spreading the Gospel, and called upon him to produce chapter and verse for the same. To our knowledge the request has not yet been complied with. We repeat it now. Let the editor of the *Leader* keep cool and produce the scriptures if he can.

We notice that among the Baptists in the States at the present time there is considerable discussion on several important matters, which make it increasingly difficult for one to know just exactly what a Baptist is. Bro. Darsie in the *Guide* says, that the only peculiarity of the Baptists is restricted communion; but in Canada that is not a peculiarity of theirs—for many of them would allow all baptized believers living orderly lives to commune with them. In Canada we would say, that their great peculiarity is that they have no peculiarity.

After writing the above the *Guide* of May 3rd came to hand with the following. We sympathize with Bro. Darsie in his efforts to discover what a Baptist is and cordially offer him what-ever consolation he can get from our idea expressed above.

"We thank our valued exchange, the *Religious Herald*, for its kind word concerning the merits of the *GUIDE*, but we think that, granting us even ordinary ability to learn, it gives small credit to itself by charging us with being 'a know nothing as to Baptist doctrines.' A few weeks ago the *Herald* tried to enlighten us on the question, 'Who is a Baptist?' But when it defined a Baptist to be one who believes the Bible inspired, who regards Jesus as divine, and his atonement as sufficient, who trusts in him alone for salvation, and who expresses his faith by being buried with him in baptism, we were so obtuse as to say, 'that no more describes a Baptist than it does a Disciple.' The *Herald* then refusing to pity our ignorance, the *Central Baptist* came benevolently forward and ventured to suggest that a Baptist is one who believes in a converted church membership. But here, again, we could only say 'That, too, is number one Disciple doctrine.' As our two Baptist instructors had failed to relieve our ignorance, we ventured, in an effort at self-instruction, to say that restricted communion was the only distinguishing feature of the Baptist church that we could think of. But imagine our surprise when our two exchanges at once began to contradict each other—the *Herald* affirming with thankfulness, and the *Central* denying with indignation, that close communion is a Baptist peculiarity! How can we help being 'a know nothing as to Baptist doctrines,' when two such prominent Baptist luminaries thus differ from each other, and either can not or will not give us the light we seek."

Our readers may have noticed that the Rev. D. J. McDonnell of Toronto proposes that the Confession of faith be revised, or that the terms of subscription to it be altered which amounts to the same thing. When he introduced the matter to the Toronto Presbytery an instructive discussion took place. *Toronto Saturday Night* of April 6th has some rich criticism on the speeches delivered. Take the following as a sample and be thankful that their is a secular editor in Toronto who understands the Gospel of Christ and is not afraid to preach the truth in his paper "more power to his elbow."

"Prof. McLaren felt the same as Dr. Gregg did. 'Mr. Moody' said he, 'was a useful member of the Church of Christ and his labors had been marked with great results for good, but it did not follow that Presbyterians should admit him into full membership. No doubt but that the Lord blessed the preaching of the Baptists, Congregationalists and Episcopalians, but that is no reason why those holding a different doctrine should be admitted into the Presbyterian Church.' Possibly not. Bro. McLaren knows so much more about it than the Lord does that he must draw the lines where the Lord is anxious no lines should be drawn. Whenever a man talks this way argument ceases. Dr. McLaren feels that if Mr. Macdonnell's views should prevail the Confession that would suit them would be reduced to an infinitesimal something and in the end what would it contain? Possibly it would contain this 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God.' This is the infinitesimal something upon which Christ declared he would build his church. Perhaps it isn't enough for Presbyterians, but it was enough for Christ (Matt. xvi, 16-18). Dr. McLaren also made the pertinent inquiry: 'What right has the General Assembly to make a Confession of Faith to suit the whole united body?' Will the learned gentlemen permit me to inquire what right the General Assembly, or any assembly, or any united body, has to make a Confession of Faith at all. Christ made all the Confession that was necessary, and when Dr. McLaren, or anybody else, tries to improve on it he is apt to make a mess of it."