

The Ontario Evangelist,

A RELIGIOUS MONTHLY.

Terms, 60 Cents per Annum in Advance.

T. L. FOWLER, - EYERTON, ONT.,
GEO. MUNRO, - ERIN, ONT.,
EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS.

All matter for publication should be addressed to GEO. MUNRO, Erin, Ont. All remittances should be sent to T. L. FOWLER, EYERTON, Ont.

Remittances sent by Post Office Order or Registered Letter will come at our risk.

A red pencil mark here indicates that your subscription expires with this number. Please renew promptly.

J. J. KELSO, JOB PRINTER, TOVEL'S BLOCK, OPPOSITE THE POST OFFICE, GUELPH. Job Printing of all kinds executed in first-class style and at low prices.

JUNE, 1887.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Disciples of Christ in Ontario for 1887 is now a thing of the past. From the number of delegates and visitors present and from the nature of the business transacted there is much cause for encouragement. It was, we think, in some respects the best meeting of the kind held by the Disciples in this Province for many years.

While trying to guard against unjust conclusions from what we heard from the representatives of the churches, we would say that the missionary spirit is prevailing—that more churches and more individuals are now awake to the necessity of combining together in the interest of the cause of Christ than at any time heretofore. This is certainly a cause for thankfulness. It should be borne in mind, however, that it has not been brought about by accident, but is a result of the efforts which have been put forth for that purpose.

It was refreshing to see the unanimity of opinion existing among the majority of the delegates in regard to the *modus operandi* for the coming year.

The necessity of continuing our efforts at a certain place or places is what is needed and what was demanded by most of the delegates present. "We are willing to do as much as we did last year and probably more, and don't need anybody to come to stir us up," were significant words uttered by more than one when reporting the wish of the churches which each represented. Thoughtful people are sick of the disjointed efforts of the past. The Provincial Co-operation has *ab initio* been a failure for this reason, and will continue to be such unless we profit by past experience.

We admit that it is sometimes difficult in getting out of old ruts and getting "upon the middle of the King's highway." Yet it can be done, and better than that it is being done. Let us not be in bondage to the methods of by-gone days. Common sense in copying after Apostolic methods is what is needed.

It is quite evident, judging from the reports of the delegates, that most of the churches are not only willing to contribute, but to contribute liberally so soon as they are assured that work will be undertaken and carried on upon a proper basis. They seem anxiously waiting to do something.

Those present seemed heartily to approve of the preparatory work done by the Board during the past year, but were anxious to leave the primary stage and go on unto perfection.

Among the many pleasing and promising features of the meeting was the number of sisters present, some from a distance, adding a charm to the proceedings and greatly assisting in the business by their private counsel. If zeal and Christian activity add weight to our words, we are sure that the advice of the sisters in all our churches should be heeded. Another very important feature of the meeting was the number of business men present who are taking an active interest in the work. We could say more, but must stop just here. T. L. F.

JUNE MEETING NOTES.

The services in connection with the Annual Meeting began, according to previous notice, in Guelph on Friday evening, June 3rd. There was a very good congregation for a start. A considerable number of the delegates arrived during the day and helped to swell the crowd. After the usual opening exercises, Bro. James Kilgour, on behalf of the church in Guelph, in appropriate language welcomed the visitors, after which Bro. Hugh Black, President of the Co-

operation, read an address, a copy of which we are glad to be able to present to our readers in another column of this number.

Bro. Cobb, who arrived on Thursday evening, then preached a fine sermon, taking as his text 1 Timothy 1: 15. We are sorry that we cannot give it to our readers in full; it would do them good. The leading thoughts emphasized were these, the Saviour was a missionary, so should His people be missionaries; the Saviour gave Himself for us, we should give ourselves for Him; the Gospel is to be preached, the "how" is left for us to devise. After the discourse the young man who confessed the Saviour at the Wednesday night meeting was baptized. Altogether it seemed to us to be a good meeting, well calculated to put the delegates in the proper spirit to attend to the business which called them together, and to make the church in Guelph feel greatly encouraged as to the success of the special services about to be held.

Following is the list of delegates present:—J. Fyfe and Robertson, Acton; John Mariatt, Aurora; H. Smith and Wm. McKee, Erin Village; M. McKinnon, R. MacMillan and B. Thomson, Erin Centre; J. Royce, Ed. Tolton, Wm. Tovell, Jno. Black and T. L. Fowler, EYERTON; Ed. Kilgour and D. Stewart, Guelph; Wm. Tolton, Grand Valley; M. N. Stephens, Glencairn; R. N. Wheeler and E. C. Jones, Hamilton; Thos. Tolton and Arch. McDougall, Mimosa; G. J. Barclay and R. Butchart, Toronto; John McGill, Oshawa; Jno. A. C. Anderson, Ridgeway; D. Campbell, Blenheim; Thos. Page, Vaughan; Thos. Whitehead, Walkerton; Wm. M. Crewson, Muskoka, and Jno. Hill, Collingwood.

In addition to the list of delegates given above, we give a partial list of visitors from various churches and places in the Province:—From Toronto, James Lediard, D. L. Sinclair, C. C. Pomeroy, John Munro, James Menzies, Clara Reid, W. B. Malcolm and wife, and Annie Black, Blenheim; D. A. Sinclair and Bella Sinclair; Oshawa, Mrs. Barclay and John Henry; Goderich, A. Gerrard and wife; Meaford, H. T. Law; Strathroy, Arch. Sinclair; Warton, Mrs. S. M. Brown and Mrs. James Hunter; Lobo, Miss Mitchell, Peter Mitchell and Mis. McLurg; Lucknow, A. Anderson, Hamilton, Mrs. E. C. Jones and Miss A. Jones, Acton, Wm. Ramsay, Paisley, Mrs. Dowar, Mimosa, D. Stewart, Walkerton, Mrs. James Tolton; EYERTON, John Stewart, sr., and wife; Rockwood, Josiah Stewart; Georgetown, D. McKechnie; Nassagaweya, A. McPhedran and wife.

There was considerable discussion in regard to the proper course to pursue during the coming year, the result of which was the adoption of the following resolution:—"The Board would suggest to the churches through the delegates the urgent need of continuing the work commenced in Toronto, and as soon as a preacher qualified to undertake the building up of the cause in Toronto can be secured, we think a general effort should be made among all our churches to give strong and continued assistance until the church there becomes self-sustaining; also with any funds remaining, aid as much as possible the many mission points needing assistance."

The Sunday meetings were held in the City Hall, and were very largely attended. Bro. Cobb, delivered three magnificent sermons to delighted audiences. The Disciples were never so well advertised in Guelph before. Never before did so many of the brethren break bread together in Guelph, and never did one of their preachers secure such great congregations in the city.

Bro. Cobb appears to be in better preaching form than when he was at EYERTON last summer, and delivers himself with greater force. There is, however, in his preaching, no less of beauty and simplicity of language, nor of Christian tenderness, no less of apt illustration nor of searching appeal, and above all no falling off in the ability faithfully to quote, and rightly to apply, the Word of God. It was a source of thankfulness, not to say of pride, to listen to such a man in such a way not shunning to declare all the counsel of God. He has no other gospel to preach than that Paul preached, no other conditions of salvation to declare than those set forth in the New Testament. May he be long spared so to labor for the Master.

Some action was taken on Monday following the June meeting to organize a Woman's Board of Missions. A Board of Officers were appointed. We hope to hear good reports of their doings in the future.

The report read by Bro. Lediard before the meeting on Saturday was of great value. The information which it contained and the pertinent suggestions which his intercourse with the churches in the Province during the past year enabled him to make are of practical value. A portion of it at least will appear in our next issue. G. M.

NOTES.

Bro. George Moot, of Rosedale, is authorized to take subscriptions and collect money for the EVANGELIST.

Some go as missionaries at their own expense, as of old. All honor to them, but all shame to the churches that let them do it.—*Apostolic Guide*.

Exactly so.

Items of Church News are very acceptable to our readers, and are always welcomed by us. Brethren everywhere will please make a note of this, and send on anything of general interest that they may know of.

The removal of Bro. Munro from Guelph to Erin necessitates the removal also of the office of publication. All matters for publication should hereafter be addressed to Geo. Munro, Erin, Ont. All remittances should be sent to T. L. Fowler, EYERTON, Ont. T. L. F.

We extend our congratulations to Master Robert McKinnon, of EYERTON, for so successfully carrying off the Silver Medal competed for by the Cadets of Guelph Collegiate Institute. May he be as successful in all of his undertakings.

The *Canada Citizen* says that North Oxford law-breakers paid \$800 in Scott Act fines during April last. We judge the Scott Act is being worked in that county. People often say the Scott Act doesn't work, what is wanted is to work the Scott Act.

We appreciate the following from a private letter:

"Thanks for your note on MONEY AND THE KINGDOM. A. McLean sent me a copy of the tract some time ago; I glanced over it, and laid it aside thinking to read it at a more convenient season. I might never have done so, but for reading your notice; I turned it up and read it, and now want to say, 'Thank you' to the Publishers of the EVANGELIST for calling my attention to it."

The following from a Post Card received from Bro. A. H. Finch, dated May 31st, will be interesting: "I start to-morrow for Beaulieu, Dakota, to hold a meeting for a little band of Disciples meeting in a private house. All are from Ontario, and all but two from Erin Centre Church."

It will be of general interest to our readers to know that Bro. Lediard during the past year received in cash and pledges, as a result of his canvass of the churches in the Province, the sum of \$1,742.27. If all the pledges are honored, the sum of \$842.27 will be at the disposal of the Board for needy places.

It appears that the greatest amount of advice as to the proper way of carrying on church work comes from those who have made a miserable failure themselves in the work. The advice of a bankrupt, like the plans of a lazy man, may be good, but then it may not. However, if we cannot profit by their advice, we think we can by their experience.

We give here a paragraph from the *Apostolic Guide*. "It clears away the mists from a question that has troubled a great many people.

Bro. James A. Harding has recently propounded to the editor of this paper through the GOSPEL ADVOCATE, the following question: "When God's people are assembled, and a Pedobaptist minister has come into the midst of them, is it right, according to New Testament teaching, to call upon him to lead the prayers of the assembly?"

As the New Testament has nothing at all to say about Pedobaptist ministers, nor of any others occupying a similar position towards the church, this question cannot be answered very positively. It is proper to ask any man to pray who can pray sincerely on the special occasion, and whose prayers, according to our best judgment, are acceptable to God. It is as certainly improper to ask one to pray, if you have conclusive reasons to think that his prayers will not be heard, or if he cannot sincerely pray as you request him. Were I engaged in a protracted meeting, I would not feel at liberty to ask any man to pray for the success of the effort, unless I knew, that he sincerely desired its success. Otherwise I might tempt him to pray insincerely, and at any rate, I would expect no good from his prayers. As to whether the prayers of a really sincere and godly Pedobaptist are acceptable to God, I have no sufficient ground for affirming that they are not, and I dare not pursue any course towards them which implies that they are not. On any occasion, therefore, on which any neglect to ask one to pray would convey such an implication, I would call upon him without fear of offending the Lord.

The Scott Act is also being worked in Middlesex, as this clipping from the *Globe* of June 1st testifies:—Police Magistrate Noble's quarterly return in regard to Scott Act enforcement in Middlesex shows that during the past three months 124 informations were laid and heard, and 110 convictions secured. The total fines imposed amounted to \$5,500.

H. A. McDonald President of West Kentucky College, delivers an alumni address at Kentucky University June 8th. He expects to visit New York and probably Prince Edward Island during the summer. He will doubtless bring back from the Island a new supply of fish stories.—*The Christian Evangelist*.

If it is fish stories Mac is after he had better come up this way. We have a factory over here.

The *New York Tribune* says "it is stupid to talk about the rights of the saloon. Decent public opinion has resolved that the saloon is a social pest and that it has no rights." Since how long is it that a metropolitan American journal would have had such an opinion to express, or, if it had, would have dared to express it in a way so bold? A very significant indication of the growth of public opinion. The beginning of the end of the rule of the rum power is plainly visible.—*Globe*.

The good lists of names of subscribers sent us by Mrs. S. M. Brown, Warton; Miss Cynthia Thompson, Wainfleet; Miss Clara Reid, Toronto; Bro. James Fleming, Kilsyth; Bro. Crewson, Muskoka; Bro. A. H. Finch, Portage la Prairie, and others that might be mentioned, indicate what might be done in many places by enthusiastic canvassers. It is one of the pleasant things connected with publishing the EVANGELIST that we have the substantial support of so many earnest workers.

According to *The Sunday School Times* there is a Presbyterian Sunday School in Kingston, Pennsylvania, which is a real Presbyterian Sunday School; for, in addition to the International Series of Lessons, it has a supplemental course of lessons, graded for the different departments of the school, which course includes the study of the Westminster-Primary Lessons, the Westminster Shorter Catechism, and the reading of the Westminster Confession of Faith, and the Form of Government and Discipline of the Presbyterian Church. We are often told in this country that Presbyterians do not now teach Presbyterianism, that the great majority of so-called Presbyterians do not believe in Presbyterianism, and that even many of the ministers who subscribe to the Confession of Faith do so with a mental reservation. However it may be here in Ontario, in Kingston, Pennsylvania Presbyterians are Presbyterians, and intend to make Presbyterians of their children. We should be glad if the *Presbyterian Review* of Toronto would tell us what is the position of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in regard to the Confession of Faith.

This extract from Bro. George Darsie's "Boston Letter" in the *Christian Evangelist* will be enjoyed by those who have had a like experience to that aged sister:

We had a very touching occurrence at the Tabernacle last Lord's Day morning. An aged lady, past seventy-two, made the confession and was baptized. She had been for fifty years a member of the M. E. Church. With the best of her ability and to the best of her knowledge she had been trying to follow her Saviour during all this time. But for four years past she has had a painful and increasing consciousness that she had never been baptized. From the study of her Bible and an earnest purpose to do Christ's will in all things, she became more and more convinced, that the affusion she had received in early life was not what God commands and would not answer. In her eager desire to obey the Lord properly in this sacred ordinance, she sought the aid of various ministers of her own church, but they only put her off with evasive promises or sought by argument to silence the demands of her God-enlightened conscience. She wearied of the long delay, and being an old and intimate acquaintance of one of our good sisters—Rebecca C. Percival—she put her troubles before her, and the matter was speedily adjusted. I had a pleasant interview with the old lady several weeks ago, and by arrangement she came last Lord's Day, as already mentioned, and obeyed the Lord. When I asked her publicly "Do you believe with all your heart that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God and your Savior?" She replied in a voice that every ear in the whole Tabernacle could hear, "I do—praise God!" Her burial with Christ by baptism, a few minutes later in accordance with her long felt wish, was to her a source of unspeakable joy. I never saw a happier person. It was the removal from her heart of a burden that had long oppressed her and the fulfillment of a deep yearning of her soul, that brought to her great inward peace. What blessedness is greater than that which springs from the consciousness that we are doing God's will? And what a satisfaction to know that the last days of this sweet and gentle old lady will be henceforth unclouded by the discontent and bitter self-reproaches which have hitherto tormented her.