

# The Canadian Evangelist.

"GO . . . SPEAK . . . TO THE PEOPLE ALL THE WORDS OF THIS LIFE."

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\$1 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.

## THE ANNUAL MEETING.

### ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

The Congregation of Disciples of Christ in Owen Sound to the brethren in Christ assembled in Convention, June 6, 1890; greeting:—

DEAR BRETHREN,—By the grace of our kind Heavenly Father, we have been permitted to assemble again in our Annual Meeting for the purpose of deliberating together regarding the ways by which we can most successfully promote the cause of Christ (in the salvation of sinners and to the glory of God) in the Province of Ontario, also in other parts of our own and other lands.

This event causes us to look back over the year which has fled since our last Annual Convention, and this reflection reminds us of the fleetingness of time and the necessity of present action.

According to the arrangements made at that meeting, the Church at Owen Sound has the honor of your presence and the privilege of entertaining you, and shall, we trust, profit by each of these, as well as from the work which will be done at the meeting.

Being grateful for your fellowship for a brief period of time, we extend to each and all of you a cordial welcome to, 1st, the Town of Owen Sound; 2nd, our Church-house; 3rd, our homes. Although we may not be able to entertain you so royally as we wish to entertain the "servants of God," we trust you will all partake freely of and enjoy our hospitality. Our homes for the time being are your homes; we invite you to use them as such.

We pray that God's blessing may be with us all during this meeting, that much good may be accomplished here, and that on your return to your homes you may carry strength to the various congregations of Christians which you represent.

May the God of all peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Signed on behalf of the Church at Owen Sound.

C. A. FLEMING,  
Sec. O. S. Church.

### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

By the mercy of God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we are again permitted to meet as brethren and sisters in the fellowship of Christ, to counsel with and encourage one another in the great work committed to us by Him who redeemed us and hath given unto us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace. Another year is gone, with all its privileges, its joys and sorrows; and whether we have lived for Christ and His honor among men, or have neglected our privileges and lived for time and self, must now rest until we are called to judgment, where we must all give account for the deeds we have done. During the year many have been called away to higher joys than this life can give. Our brothers and sisters are not lost; they have gone on before to join the redeemed in the eternal home of God; their work is done and they rest from their labors. I make special reference to Bro. John Stewart, of Framoss, whose long life of service for the Master ended with joy and hope, and in the full assurance of faith. He was one of the first few who began co-operative work in this Province about fifty years ago, and to the end he continued a steadfast friend of every missionary effort. May we be reminded

of our mortality, our faith in the promises of God be strengthened and the responsibilities of life press down upon us, that we rest not until our work is done.

At the commencement of the year the Board, in view of the many urgent calls, undertook increased responsibility in promised assistance. I am now pleased to tell you that all our obligations have been met and we close the year with a balance to credit, sufficient to carry on the work until the promises for the coming year are paid. The Treasurer's report will give you full particulars on this point.

And I am pleased to inform you that the most encouraging success has attended the labors of those whom your assistance has kept in the field; particulars in the matter will be laid before you by the report of the Board.

The success, in every feature of our work, attending our efforts leads us to exercise strong hope for the upbuilding and final triumph of the cause of our Redeemer in our country and in the whole world. While we realize that as a people we in this Province are not so strong numerically as we ought to be, and as I think we might be, had we but a measure of faithfulness; yet the increasing brotherly and sisterly affection, so manifestly exemplified by word and deed, leads us to hope and believe that the time is near when divisions and unbrotherly, unchristian contentions shall cease and we will all be one in faith, in obedience, in love, in hope, and in labor for Christ and the salvation of our race.

As individual members and as churches we are rising up to a fuller realization of the obligation laid upon us that work, active and faithful, in the service of Christ is required of us; it is high time that we awake out of our sleep. The world is for Christ, and Christ is for the whole world. And are we brethren in earnest, doing our duty, preaching the Gospel to every creature, thus fulfilling the command of the Master. Let us not rest. Let us never think that our work is done until all people, kindreds and tongues shall hear and know of the love of God and the redemption that is in Christ. Let us see to it that the Gospel of Christ, the pure message from Heaven, is preached in every city, town, village and country section in our Province that many others may enjoy the privileges and liberties of being in deed and truth the "Disciples of Christ." In regard to the hindrances to our work, I am somewhat at a loss just where to place it; certain I am on one point, that it is not on the Divine side—the fault then must be ours. I trust that we may all feel the force of the fact; and let us pray God for forgiveness for our unfaithfulness, and for guidance and strength in the future. In glancing over carefully and seriously the churches in fellowship with us in Canada, I am confident that the Gospel, as we believe and understand it, is now as fully preached and as loyally obeyed as at any time since our plea for a return to Apostolic faith and practice was first presented. I do not believe we are drifting away from the truth, but I realize the fact that the world is moving on, and that by the power of the Gospel in human hearts great things are being accomplished in blessings social and material to mankind. The requirements, the wants of society, socially, our communities, if you please, is changing, for the reasons that our social advantages, our educational advantages, our commercial home and foreign trade and intercourse, in fact our every present surrounding, combine to bring about those changes. But the Gospel is not changed; the church, as the pillar and ground of truth, is not changed; we are not even drifting away from the old moorings in faith, in practice. Yet the require-

ments, the necessity of the congregations of to-day differs somewhat from fifty, forty or even thirty years ago. I regard it as essential to success—yes, to existence—that every church, where possible, have regular preaching by one laboring in word and doctrine. We need churches among us who feel the want of preachers, for as the Great Teacher said, "Behold the fields are white, ready to harvest, but the laborers are few." I will not place myself second to any one either present or absent in admiration of and reverence for our fathers in the Gospel, through whose labors of love and patience of hope we enjoy the blessings of heaven unmingled with human wisdom; there was, indeed, well done; they are being gathered home one by one; who will take their places and carry on the work? You say our young men.

Have we in the past given to our young men the encouragement we should? Have we given them the hope, that if they turned their attention to the ministry of the Word, that we would stand by them and assist them? Our hope is in our young men. I would say to our churches, don't be too critical with our young brethren—they are not our old men, but they love God, love Christ and human souls. And I am persuaded that, if proper encouragement is given and a spirit of helpfulness manifested by the churches, we will soon have a band of active, earnest, God-fearing laborers that will, with our continued co-operation with them and interest in them, plant the standard of our plea where it is not yet known and will make stronger the churches we have. Let us feel our responsibility on this point. I want to see our young men, I pray God to bless you. May He give you strength to do great things in His name. May He give you wisdom, and prudence and sanctified common sense! My brother, do not be a clergyman, or "boss," or try to be; be a laborer, a fellow-laborer in the kingdom and patience of Christ.

A pleasing feature during the past year is the increased and widening interest in our co-operative work. I feel confident that a brighter day for our mission work is dawning upon us; we have no dispute with those brethren who cannot work with us, if they are working, we say labor on, and may God bless your labors abundantly; but to those who work not, but are busy bodies, mischief makers, alienators, suspicion getters, etc., we say, you, with us, must give account to God. May we all, with holy reverence for the authority of the Word of God, work on with increased zeal, and may the strong bond of brotherly love keep us pure. In the language of scripture: "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice, and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

### REPORT OF BOARD OF MANAGERS.

Dear Brethren of the Annual Meeting: In presenting to you the Annual Report for the mission year just closed, the Board of Managers would gratefully and reverently recognize the Divine hand that has led us through another year, and crowned with an encouraging measure of success our co-operative efforts for the advancement of His cause.

### REPORTS FROM MISSION POINTS.

#### Muskoka.

Bro. Wm. M. Crewson, the faithful missionary in that difficult field, is the following account of his labors during the past year:

"I have visited the following places during the year, mostly by fortnightly appointments, which I have been able to keep up regularly nearly all the time, and so I can report with certain-

ty with regard to them, viz., East and Centro Brunel, Ridout, Dorset, Huntsville, Bayville, Monominee, Macaulay and Dufferin Bridge. The last three points I have visited only now and then. The other places in Parry Sound and Nipissing, that I reported on last year, I have not visited, and know but little of how they are getting along. In the places reported on there were ninety-nine members last year, now ninety-six, a falling off of three. I have baptized eleven persons and received four from the sects. Of the baptized, one was at Dufferin Bridge, one was in Franklin, one in McLean, one at Bayville, and seven in Brunel. Of the eighteen struck off, some have removed to other places, a few of whom may return, others have left us, and some even of those included in our membership are away from the congregations with which they were connected, but not near another with which to unite. Two Sunday schools have been carried on continuously and three for a part of the year. I have visited and sometimes conducted the Sunday schools, and preached three times on Lord's Days, and about three or four times on other days in the week. Prayer meetings are carried on in nearly all the congregations where they meet as a church."

Bro. Alfred Harris, of Bethany College, spent some time with Bro. Crewson, last fall. His labors were much appreciated. The Board appropriated \$40 towards his expenses.

#### Collingwood.

Sister A. M. Framo, Secretary of the Church, writes: "I am thankful to be able to report the Church here in a very satisfactory condition, and that the principles for which we plead are steadily gaining ground. During the series of meetings held by Bro. Sinclair in February and March, there were 14 added to the Church, and our brethren greatly strengthened. The interest of outsiders was much greater than formerly. We have not however gained any very wealthy members, so that our financial condition is not much changed for the coming year. We find that we shall not be able to raise more than \$800 towards the support of a preacher, so that we shall still have to ask the Board for \$250 for another year; and then we shall be dependent upon other sources for the necessary balance.

"By the efforts of brethren and friends in different places, the debt on our house of worship is being steadily reduced, but we still have to pay the interest on \$150, so that with our pledge of \$25 to the Co-operation, our contributions to Foreign Mission, and our running expenses—which are managed as economically as possible—we have altogether almost more than we are able to do. We therefore are compelled to ask the above aid from the Co-operation in order that this point may be kept up.

"We would like to retain Bro. Sinclair for the coming year, as our own congregation, as well as many outside, have every confidence in his teaching, and people are being stirred up like the Bereans of old to search the Scriptures, whether these things are so."

"We thankfully acknowledge the assistance rendered us by the Board during the year just closing, and hope that the same amount may be continued for another year. Our entire membership is 62; non-resident, 9; resident, 53."

#### Toronto, Denison Avenue.

The following report is made on behalf of this Church: "Owing to the fact that our Register has not been officially revised since it was opened in January, 1888, this report so far as membership is concerned states the condition from that time till the present—June, 1890.

"(1) There were about 112 or 115

Disciples attending Denison Ave., more or less regularly at the beginning of January, 1888, but the names on the roll of acknowledged members were about 100.

No. of names on Roll, June 1st, 1890.	227
Of these there have been removed—	
By death.	4
By letter.	1
Away without letters.	29
Ceased to meet with us, about	33
70	
Leaving in membership	157

"Of these there are living, or engaged in the West Toronto work, 18. There are also some scattered and uncertain names which we do not feel justified in removing from the book.

"Our growth for the year ending June, 1890, is as follows:—

By baptism.	27
By letter.	11
By statement.	7
Total	45

"There were three baptisms not included in this number; one of whom remained with the Salvationists, and two who came from the country for baptism and returned thither; making the total number of baptisms 30.

"(2) Financial statement for the year ending June, 1st, 1890:—

Received from the Co-operation.	\$713 00
Collections	1,142 04
Total	\$1,855 04

#### DISBURSEMENTS.

J. R. Gaff, Minister.	\$1,100 00
Rent.	300 00
Foreign Missions	12 50
Home Missions	23 18
Owen Sound	14 00
Sundry Expenses	237 61
Total	\$1,787 29

Balance on hand	8 62
Still owing to Bro. Gaff by church	91 00

"(3) The outlook of the congregation is good and hopeful. There is a steady spiritual interest and growth in all departments of our work. Our congregations are on the whole good, our influence is extending and many strangers are hearing our teaching. We have begun the erection of a new house in an advantageous and central part of the city, and hope, the Lord helping, to occupy it in about six months. It will be commodious, seating about five hundred people in the auditorium, and with school and class rooms, which will be added later, will furnish fine accommodation, and will give the cause a large impetus in the city.

"(4) Our Needs.—Were it not that we are paying a rent of \$850 per year at present, and assuming a new building with heavy burden increasing our expense, we would be able to have part of the generous support we have been receiving from the Co-operation dismissed, but taking into view our present financial situation, we are constrained to ask the Board to continue their present liberal aid."

#### Hamilton.

It will be remembered that some \$800 was subscribed at St. Thomas last year to aid the Church in Hamilton to build a house of worship, and that it was arranged that the money should pass through the treasury of the Co-operation. The Treasurer's report will show the present state of that fund, and a statement relative to their entire building fund will be presented on behalf of the church.

The following statement and appeal are made to the Annual Meeting on behalf of the church in Hamilton:—

"Last evening (May 21st) a meeting of the Church here was held to consider the work to be done the ensuing year. A subscription list was circulated and we succeeded in raising \$300 towards the support of a preacher. This, with the sum that must be raised in order to make the debt on the building as small as possible, is all we can do next year. As we are few in number and none of us rich, we would appeal to the Co-operation to consider our case and

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