

ONTARIO THE EVANGELIST.

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"Go speak to the people ALL the words of this Life."

Vol. 4.

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No. 1.

Poetry.

ASPIRATIONS.

[For the ONTARIO EVANGELIST.]

O, to be purer, purer, Lord, from the tainting touch of sin,
To exchange the "filthy rags" of self for a righteousness within.
O, for the garments white, Lord, of Thine own righteousness,
Soft clothes for my naked soul would be that heavenly perfect dress.
O, for a will to resist, Lord, the tendency to wrong,
To break the thrilling bands of sin that have bound me fast so long.
O, for a spirit calm, Lord, to bear unmoved my ills,
While trust in Thy mighty promises my foolish spirit thrills.
I long to strike a blow, Lord, for the holy cause of truth,
O, nerve my arm that it falter not when put unto the proof.
While I long for the heavenly crown, Lord, and to count all else as loss,
Give me a spirit of truthful love for my all-ennobling cross.

Toronto, Feb. 1889.

R. W.

Original.

MANITOBA AND THE NORTH-WEST.

We are quite frequently asked why the Disciples do not try to do something in Manitoba and the North-West, and not seldom we are addressed as though it were our fault that something worthy of so noble a plea as the Disciples make is not being done in those extensive and soon to be thickly settled regions. We do not claim to have done all that we could, but we have done a little to keep the matter before our readers, and have cheerfully published several stirring appeals from brethren in Manitoba. But we do not write to justify ourselves, whatever may be said of our past course in regard to those fields, we purpose, by Divine help, to do more in the future. We shall try to keep our readers from complaining that too little attention is paid to the North-West.

Now what is the present state of affairs so far as we are concerned? In all that vast territory we have but one preacher and one Church, our readers know them well, Bro. A. H. Finch, and the church at Portage la Prairie, and we are glad to know that both preacher and church are in good condition, full of missionary zeal, and determined to do what in them lies to further the cause in Manitoba. But they are far from being able to do all that ought to be done at once in order to minister to the spiritual wants of the Disciples scattered throughout their own province to say nothing of the North-West Territories. Those brethren of the dispersion should not be neglected. And then there is another consideration, and a weighty one, it is, viz.: There will never be such an opportunity in the North-West to present the plea we make for Christian Union as the present, now when the country is being settled by people of diverse nationalities and diverse faiths, there is a greater readiness to receive new truth than there will be even in a few years, when most have made their choice of a church, and are by consequence for many reasons indisposed to give heed to teaching which if received would necessitate the severance of the religious ties already formed. How often we have heard the complaint made here in Ontario that the Disciples would not do pioneer religious work, but would just come in to sow dissension where the country was well settled and churches already established. We do not, of course, hold that our brethren did no pioneer work; we are not ignorant of the labor and the sacrifices of fifty years ago; but whenever there is even small occasion for the above complaint we know it hinders greatly our work, and shall not we, the Disciples of this generation, imitate the zeal and imitate the labors of our grandfathers, by devoting ourselves in the fear of God and for the honor of our Master to the establishment of Primitive Christianity in those great Territories of our Dominion? Let us take counsel together, brethren, and let us "Work while it is called to day."

But some one may be thinking have you nothing to suggest, nothing to propose? Well, we have an idea. If we had a number of strong, energetic, zealous, capable, godly young men who would go up to Manitoba and the North-West, and hunt up the scattered Disciples, select the

best available and most central points, and go to work preaching the Gospel and instructing the Disciples, we think the Lord would bless their labor and give them good success. Who would support them while they were doing that work? We think the church in Portage la Prairie and the scattered Disciples would help to the utmost of their ability, and that the Disciples in Ontario could be stirred up to do the same, and moreover we believe that the Lord who said "The laborer is worthy of his hire," would not forget his faithful servants. We know of a number of wealthy brethren who might bless the cause, and bless themselves by undertaking the support of a preacher in the North-West. What an investment that would be!

We trust this important and urgent question will be fully discussed at the Annual Meeting. In the meantime, brethren, let us be thinking, and praying the Lord of the harvest to thrust out laborers into his harvest.

GOOD NEWS FROM TORONTO.

In our last issue there was a letter from Bro. Gaff containing the pleasing information that the church now worshipping on Denison Avenue Toronto, has bought a building lot on Cecil Street that would seem almost if not altogether the best available lot in the City, for the purpose has been secured, and it is fervently to be hoped that very soon a suitable house will be erected hereon and occupied by the church. The rented house on Denison Avenue, is neither large enough, nor has it the conveniences necessary for the proper carrying on of the work. The church is therefore now laboring under a considerable disadvantage. We understand that were sufficient funds provided the work of building might be proceeded with at once, and we presume that the urgency of Bro. Gaff's appeal to the Disciples throughout the province, is with the view of securing speedily the means to proceed with the erection of a house. We trust therefore the appeal will be promptly, cheerfully and liberally responded to. Let it be remembered that the work being done in Toronto is not a mere local work—it is the work of every Disciple in Ontario—that it has passed the experimental stage, and that the members of the church themselves are contributing to the utmost of their ability. It is no scheme to get country people to do for city people what they are abundantly able to do for themselves. We are able to assure our brethren that the Denison Avenue people are doing all they possibly can; but having done that, they find themselves still unable to do all that, in the interests of the cause, should be done without delay, and so they ask their brethren to have fellowship with them in the work. Nothing could be more reasonable, and nothing could be more Christian than for the Disciples generally throughout the country to take part in the noble work.

Let us say brethren, that it seems to us this is a time for large gifts on the part of those whom the Lord has entrusted with great wealth. We begin to hear of brethren in Ontario proposing to give \$1000.00 or \$500.00 for the Lord's work and it is a most encouraging sign.

We have the warrant of the Apostle Paul for charging them that are rich in this world to do good, to be rich in good works, ready to distribute, to be willing to communicate. We therefore beg our rich brethren to consider the noble purposes to which they may devote their wealth, we warn them against falling victims to the delusion that they need it all for themselves and families, and in particular at this time, we commend to them the work in Toronto.

One other remark we take space to make, the price paid for the lot—\$7200.00—may seem to some needlessly large; but good judges in the city say that the lot is a bargain at that figure. A low-priced lot would be in some out of the way place and would be worthless for the purposes of a church. The fact is, a building lot for a church in a suitable locality in Toronto cannot be obtained at a small price; a large figure must be given or no lot can be had. The brethren who are managing this enterprise in the City are shrewd business men deeply interested in the cause and giving largely themselves, and we may confidently declare that there will be no extravagance and no waste and that the Disciples of Ontario may

send in their contributions to Toronto without fear that they will be mis-applied or unwisely expended.

PRAYER.

Communication with our dear ones brings us thought to thought, stirs up our remembrances of kindnesses done and received; keeps alive the feelings of love and duty; renders us less selfish, less likely to get into a groove; and makes us to grow into a rounder, fuller character.

Intercourse means a knowledge of the inner life, sympathy for and interest in the daily joys and sorrows. Who has not felt the warm glow of heart on hearing from some dear one parted by miles but drawn close by memories and association? As one more fully understands another the greater will be his appreciation of his friend, the more pleasant their intercourse. Distance only serves to increase their mutual love, only makes the tie closer.

These are some of the results of intercourse with men and women who are fighting the battle of life, who are subject to the same temptations—sometimes weakly yielding sometimes gloriously conquering—who are striving to make of their life something grander and better; or it maybe having no ambition beyond to day.

If these conditions are necessary to hearty intercourse, one with another, and if results such as these flow from fellowship with "kindred minds" what results may we not look for when we come to our Father, our Elder Brother, fully realizing the tie that binds.

At times our earthly friends may fail us, and often disappoint us. We are so apt to measure heavenly things by earthly standards that it is no wonder our prayers to our Father are at times constrained and indefinite. These failures and disappointments instead of drawing us to that Friend who never disappoints, who is always willing to take us up when others fail us, very often cause us to say: "there is no one reliable no one sure!" Then too, the knowledge of our failures keeps us from having free intercourse with our Father. What Christian has not felt reluctant to appeal in God's presence unwilling to unveil to his pure eye the blackness and deceit of his heart. We stand in misery aloft, will not bow the heart; shrink from putting our misdoings into words, lest the full enormity of our offence appear to our own conscience. If we could only realize that there is our danger, that this our extremity, is the Devil's opportunity that he is always at hand sowing his seed, and by listening to his words, we are giving our enemy a foothold, are showing distrust in our Father, wounding Him in the house of His friends.

More intercourse with Jesus means more power for good. He never sends away empty the faithful repentant and pleading heart. O that words could express the tenderness, love, nearness of our Father. They seem so poor! But this is one of the things of life that to be understood must be experienced.

Let the tongue be never so eloquent if the Divine Life does not touch the sinner's life then the most burning words are but a foreign tongue "Taste and see that the Lord is good." 'Twere surely foolish to go through life missing such a blessing. In every soul there is a yearning for this intercourse. It is God given and it has been well said: "God never makes half joints—fin for the water, wing for the air." Venture on the Lord's promise and see if there is not a realization to this heart hunger—a something given that satisfies the soul thirst. Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled. This is the divine promise. Test it!

We are so prone to think of God as far from us. Away with this idea! Take Him at His word—"In our midst!" How far away! So close the lowest whisper, the faintest sigh touches the heart of divine love "Infinite pity meeting our infinite need."

Only "Watch ye and pray lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is willing but the flesh is weak." Remember this that when we are weak then are we strong. If the strength of Christ rest upon us then can we go on our way rejoicing bearing the Glad Tidings to those who sit in darkness, making bright the down cast hearts of suffering souls,—in fine, taking Jesus as our model, bringing sunshine and gladness wherever we go. Let us not become estranged from Jesus;

guard carefully the first entrance of carelessness, and remember that the divine safeguard is found in these words: "Pray without ceasing."

Austen.

SOMETHING FOR THE SISTERS TO THINK ABOUT.

Our Annual Meeting is near at hand—so near that we should be laying plans for next year's work. Perhaps the Auxiliaries have already been considering the question and will be ready to discuss it when we meet in June. It is desirable that we should be of one mind and see eye to eye. In the March number of the EVANGELIST our President writes: "We hope to be able to enlarge our work during the coming year." It is very gratifying to know that we shall be able to fulfil our pledge of \$400.00 made last year. We can look forward with confidence to our being able to make a larger pledge this year. Has the time not come when we should undertake a work of our own? To help Muskoka, Collingwood and Toronto was probably the wisest way to use our funds last year, but we can not properly call it *our* work. The Co-operation was assisting those points before and no doubt would have fully sustained them had we not volunteered to help, and in like manner will not allow the work to suffer at those places should we decide to change our method for the next year.

While we deemed it a privilege and found it in reality a labor of love to help Muskoka, Collingwood and Toronto, might we not be stirred up to greater zeal and earnestness by undertaking a new work of our own? From one source and another we hear of the Great North-West. Bro. Finch has kept it before our minds in the EVANGELIST. We all know that Manitoba is a rich country fast growing in population and destined to become a great country at no distant date. Our own brethren are leaving Ontario in large numbers every year and are settled throughout the length and breadth of that land. Nearly two years ago a brother residing in Manitoba writing to the EVANGELIST said, "Now while the country is new and fast filling up, is the best time for special work, and if we neglect the present favorable time for work years of labor when the country is older will not accomplish what much less time will while the country is new." Since that time Bro. Finch has been the only laborer among our people in all that vast region; as he put it himself:—My parish extends from Sault St. Marie to the Pacific Ocean and from the forty-ninth parallel to the North Pole,—rather too large a field for one man, is it not?

Perhaps the claims of Winnipeg could be urged with greater force than those of any other point in Manitoba. It is said that there is now in that city the nucleus of a church. Shall we not hear from others on this matter?

The writer trusts this letter will not be misunderstood. It is not that we are *wary* of the work we took up last year, but the object in view is to press upon our sisters the necessity of concentrating our work, and of fixing upon some place that will meet with the most general favor among our Auxiliaries. The old adage, "Union is strength," is as true in our work as in anything else.

Dear Sisters, let us, as many as can, attend the June Meeting. Let us go with hearts fully consecrated to God, and His work, thanking him for giving us the privilege of being humble instruments in His hands for doing good.

A Sister.

THE LATCH ON OUR SIDE.

"I stand at the door and knock."—Rev. 3: 20.

A minister narrates the following: While walking along one of the London streets, a Paris pastor came forward and accosted me thus: "Excuse me, but were you not in Paris some time ago?" I said, "Yes, I was," and then he inquired, "Did you not, in one of your addresses there, say that the latch was on our side of the door?" "Yes, I believe I did say so," I replied. "Well," he answered, "I always thought it was on the Lord's side, and I kept knocking, and knocking, until I heard of your words, and what a joy came over me! I lifted the latch. Since then all has been changed; my church, my congregation, my work, and everything about me!"

Oh, remember that the latch is on your side of the door!—Selected.