



Vol. 1, No. 4.

BRANTFORD, ONT., JUNE, 1882.

PER ANNUM 50 CENTS. SINGLE COPIES 5 CENTS.

THE METHODIST MONTHLY.
PUBLISHED BY THE
YOUNG PEOPLE'S LITERARY ASSOCIATION,
OF THE
Brant Avenue Methodist Church,

EDITOR, **REV. MANLY BENSON**
 ASSOCIATE EDITORS, **MISS M. CLARK,**
CHAS. S. JONES,
J. S. MILLS, B. D.,
 BUSINESS MANAGER, **MR. J. N. PEER**

All communications intended for insertion in **THE METHODIST MONTHLY** should be addressed to the Editor, Rev. Manly Benson.
 All letters containing payments for **THE METHODIST MONTHLY**, or on business matters should be addressed to the Business Manager, Mr. J. N. Peer.

A REVIEW.

Commendation given to the obedient and faithful child, tends to make the child love more a virtuous and true life. In like manner words of encouragement to those engaged in doing good are joyful and strengthen the purposes of the heart to continue in well doing. With this month closes another conference year. While there is much to humble us, and we regret that so little has been accomplished where there has been so much to do; yet we have abundant cause, as a church, to "thank God and take courage." It may not be unprofitable for us to take a brief review of the year's work just closing. No one can doubt the wisdom of those who under God were the instruments of starting a few years ago, what is now known as Brant Avenue Methodist Church. Then a few earnest Godly men and women set themselves to the building up a cause for God in this part of the city. Now, that cause "small and feeble," when "first the work begun" stands first in every particular, not only in this city, but among the Methodist churches in the Brantford district. The elements composing a congregation have not a little to do with its ultimate success or failure, and in this, Brant Avenue Church has been singularly favored. While differences of opinion have been expressed upon many matters, there has been a unity of action and a christian compliance with the expressed wish of the majority that has assured success in the past and the future certainly looks bright.

With heavy financial burdens at home, the cause of the Master abroad has not been neglected. The appeals made for connexional funds and contributions for missions has met a hearty response from the congregation, and this year this church sends out \$798 for connexional purposes alone. The Sabbath collections for the year show an increase of about \$450 over last year, while the amount of pew rent paid Mr. R. S. Schell, pew steward, is largely in advance of the past, as the annual report soon to be placed in the hands of the congregation will show. The intimations made from the pulpit as to the unwisdom of allowing the pew rents and weekly offerings to remain in arrears, and the satisfaction and improvement that would follow if all would be prompt and business-like in payment of

church claims, has had a ready response from all (with but very few exceptions) and has tended much to bring about the present satisfactory state of the church's finances.

While there is no surplus to report it is very gratifying to the Board to report "no deficiency" not by carrying a balance over into next year, but by the payment out of the receipts of the year all claims to date.

The careful attention of the pew steward and the diligence of the Finance Committee of the Official Board, Messrs. C. S. Jones and W. L. Hughes, together with a desire on the part of the congregation to co-operate in order to this end has given this pleasing result.

This gives proof of what can be done, yet we have not done more than was our duty to do. Our Trustee and Official Board meetings for the past twelve months have been largely attended and much enjoyed. The excellent work of our Ladies Aid Society has had a large place in the hearts of our people and pockets too. This Society has raised and expended during the year a little over \$1,200. This has been applied upon our new parsonage property, inside and out, until the Avenue Church can justly boast of having made for their pastor one of the finest homes in the London Conference. One pleasing feature of the entertainments provided by the L. A. S. has been their high and moral character, in every case we think, leaving an impression for good, and happily free from anything that would mar the religious work of the church.

Our Young People's Literary Society, numbering some 100 members, has had some exceedingly interesting sessions. Their open meetings have always drawn a full house. The Society will meet again for regular work in November. The services of the church have not been without tokens of the Divine presence and blessing. The pastor's heart has been cheered by many saying to him privately, "I feel the services are doing me good, I find myself led out after a purer and better life." The leader's report given at the last meeting was encouraging as to the increased attendance at class. The prayer meeting has filled up until our large lecture hall looks quite full on a Thursday evening. The Sunday School is doing a grand work. Let us, dear fellow-laborers, as we review the past and see cause of gratitude and thankfulness, gird ourselves anew for the work that is before us. While a few have been gathered into the fold during the year, how many who worship with us are still ansayst. While we labor for others a rich blessing will come to ourselves. A physician was once returning to his home, when he saw a little child in great peril in the street, another instant she would have been crushed under the iron hoofs which were almost upon her. At that peril to himself, he rushed forward, and seizing the little one, bore her in safety to the sidewalk. Curiosity impelled him to look into the child's face that he might see if he knew whom he had rescued. Pushing back the little bonnet, what were his feelings to see that it was his own little daughter whose life he had saved. So he who hastes to save the perishing often finds rewards he little dreamed of. "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." As there will be a printed report placed in the hands of the congregation in a short time, giving the receipts and expenditures, we may simply add that the total receipts for all purposes for the past year foots up the large sum of \$5,384.47.

A NOBLE RESPONSE.

It has been the purpose of the trustees of our church to make an effort to reduce our church debt as soon as possible. At a meeting held a few weeks ago the following resolution was passed:—

"That this Trustee Board are unanimously agreed that the time has come when we can, as a congregation, by united action, raise the sum of \$6,000, and that it be appropriated in the following manner: \$5,000 towards the reduction of our church debt, and \$1,000 towards a fund for a new organ."

Not only did the trustees contribute large sums towards the above amount, but have also given personally much valuable aid in securing the subscriptions. Until now the result of the canvass shows the sum of \$6,300. There are a number in the congregation who have not yet been waited upon, who, no doubt, will also take pleasure in sharing in this noble effort. We expect the sum of \$7,000 will be reached when all in the congregation have had an opportunity of contributing. This response to the call of the trustees who have, during the years of financial depression, borne heavy burdens, not only in connection with their own business, but also for the church, must assure them that they have the confidence of those who entrusted this work to their care. A traveller among the mountains of Malveria set out for a distant summit, but was soon lost in a thick mist. He would have given up in despair, but his guide ran on before, constantly calling out: "Press on, master, press on; there's light beyond!" In a little time they had passed the region of clouds and darkness and stood upon the mountain's top, without a cloud to obstruct the vision. It does seem to us if as a church we will only "press on," there's light beyond!

ONTARIO LADIES' COLLEGE. We had pleasure recently in delivering one of a course of lectures to the young ladies in this College, and for the first time to look through the spacious building, and learn something of the superior educational advantages of this thriving institution. We were impressed with the idea that Principal Hare, aided by a large and efficient staff of teachers, does not intend the Ontario Ladies' College to take any second place among the educational institutions of the Dominion. The fine building and grounds are admirably suited for a ladies college, while the large attendance of young ladies from all parts of the Dominion, and also from the United States, shows that the training received in the literary, musical and fine art departments is being fully appreciated by the friends of female culture and refinement.

RECEPTION SERVICE.—A large congregation assembled in the Brant Avenue Church on Sunday evening to take part in the reception service. After a sermon from the pastor from Coll. ii, vii. Rev. Mr. Benson read the names of 37 who came forward and stood around the altar. The beautiful and impressive service of the church was read by the Pastor, and responded to by some 30 who were present. These were welcomed into the church, and the right

hand of fellowship extended by the pastor. This congregation has enjoyed a very happy and prosperous year. The large sum of \$5,384.47 has been the cash receipts for church and connexional funds for the conference year just closing. We understand the Trustee Board are seeking also to reduce the church debt \$5,000. This scheme, we are pleased to learn, is being responded to most heartily.—*Brantford Examiner.*

NEW ORGAN.—The need of a better organ for Brant Avenue Church has long been a felt want. We are sure the announcement by the pastor of the hearty response given by the congregation to the appeal for \$5,000 on our church debt was no more gratifying than that the Trustees had determined to sell the organ at present in use and secure a much larger and superior instrument for the use of the choir and congregation. No pains will be spared to secure a first class organ in every respect.

WHICH

BY A WATCHMAN.

Not, which road shall I take? nor, which farm shall I buy? neither, which ticket shall I vote? nor yet, which girl shall I marry? nor which church shall I join? If the decision is not to be made between these things, is the question of any importance? Four weeks ago a young lady sought religious counsel, and, seeking Christ, she affirmed to all present that she had found "peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Two weeks later she was invited to a home where dancing, which she had very much enjoyed, would be the principal amusement of the evening. She hesitated, and consulted some who were members of evangelical churches who see no harm in dancing. Three things—past pleasure, the opinion and practice of these professed Christians, and the solicitation of her friend—led her to go to the party and to dance.

Last night she spoke in the congregation, in a clear and emphatic way, thankfully recognizing the happy changes of four weeks ago; and then said, "I have dishonoured Jesus, from whom I received the peace and joy, by yielding to solicitation and counsel, and perhaps of inclination, and going to a parlor dance. But I was never so miserable and unhappy as at and after that dance. I feel that I ought to confess my wrong-doing, and I seek pardon of all, and of God. I cannot pray and dance."

My question is now, shall I pray or dance? though I think that is a proper question. But my question is this: Do the preachers and people who claim to be Christians, or "new creatures in Christ, who sustain and patronize dancing schools and approve of and practice becoming active and useful Christians than the drinking saloons? Before you answer this question think of the uncounted multitudes whose departure from the place of prayer, and to the ways of evil and shame, began in the dance.

It is easier to "war a good warfare" against outside than inside foes. Forty saloons are less hurtful to spiritual life in a village of six thousand souls than three dancing churches which claim to stand for Protestant and spiritual Christianity.

DELEGATE TO GENERAL CONFERENCE.—His Honor Judge Jones, of the Brant Avenue Church, was elected on the first ballot as lay delegate to the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada, to be held in Hamilton City in September next.

When will our city fathers improve the roadway of Brant Avenue?

See next page