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GEORGE MUNRO, Editor  
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C. C. CRAWFORD, }

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TORONTO, MAY 1st, 1891.

Volume Six.

With this number THE EVANGELIST enters upon its sixth year of publication. During the first four years of its life it was published monthly and known as THE ONTARIO EVANGELIST, during the fifth year semi-monthly under its present name, THE CANADIAN EVANGELIST. We hear of none of our friends who would like to go back to the monthly, but there are those, and not a few, who want to know when they may expect THE EVANGELIST weekly. The semi-monthly issue is intended as a step between the monthly and the weekly; how long it will take to make the step depends largely upon the friends of the paper and their anxiety to have a weekly as shown by the manner in which, and the extent to which, they support the semi-monthly. The increase of circulation during the last twelve months has been considerable, and, all things considered, encouraging. But there is still a large number of the Disciples in Canada who are not subscribers to THE EVANGELIST, and who, judging from the testimony of those who do take it, would be highly benefited by receiving its visits. We therefore ask the continued and increased assistance of our friends in greatly and immediately enlarging our subscription list, and we would further trespass upon the territory of the business managers by reminding our readers that it is very desirable that all subscriptions should be paid promptly in advance. Paying arrears on a paper, even a religious paper, is as difficult as it proverbially is to pay for a dead horse. Prompt payment in advance saves people from such unpleasant experience. The merciless cheapness with which papers are offered to the public in our day seems to have the effect of fostering the idea that it matters little whether they are paid for at all. While the fact is that no man can better appreciate the truth of the saying that "Many little mak' a muckle" than the newspaper publisher who has many unpaid subscriptions on his list, and it does not help him much to know that the condition of his list is like unto that of many others.

It is our purpose to carry on THE EVANGELIST on much the same lines as during the year just closed. We desire to make such improvements from time to time as our opportunities and abilities will enable us to make and as the need of the work may seem to require. We have received many expressions of commendation of the course hitherto pursued, and we trust to be worthy in an increasing degree of the support and confidence of our brethren, and hope to be able, by the blessing of God, to give them a paper which will do them and the cause of Christ much good and no harm. With such purposes, desires and expectations we begin our sixth year of editorial labor.

Summer Sunday Schools.

Summer Sunday schools usually open about the first of May. A summer Sunday school is better than no Sunday school—a great deal better. Much good can be done in five or six months of faithful work by earnest and consecrated teachers. Such teachers are a prime necessity to a Sunday school; they can make a good school in very untoward circumstances; they can overcome adverse circumstances. This we desire to impress upon those who must carry on Sunday school work amid unfavorable conditions or not at all. We remind them that with scholars, teachers, and the Bible and a place to meet, there may be a school which, if not first-class according to the standards of cities and towns, may do a large amount of good to both scholars and teachers. A well-arranged and commodious place of meeting, all approved helps to the study of the lessons, and all appliances which aid in teaching the lesson are not to be despised, but rather to be obtained and used if possible, but let those who are unable to enjoy these advantages remember that good work was done before such things were known, and may be done where they cannot now be had. Sometimes when we hear people extol the present at the expense of the past, we wonder how our ancestors managed to exist at all, and do religious work. We say, then, let no church hesitate to call the children, and young people, and even older people together for the study of the Word of God because of the lack of all the modern facilities for carrying on a school. Let them use the best means possible, proceed to the work in faith and in prayer and assuredly the Lord's blessing will attend their efforts and eternity toll of good seed sown and bearing fruit in the hearts and lives of even such as seemed headless and unrecaptive. We send out this word of encouragement to our fellow-laborers in the summer Sunday schools, with the prayer that they may have great joy and great success in this season's work.

"To Worship."

There is much of interest and importance in the narrative of "Philip and the Eunuch" in Acts viii. 26-40. Verses 27 and 28 have long had for us a peculiar charm, and we direct attention to them here, in the hope that any of our readers who have not hitherto found them striking may hereafter find them to be attractive and stimulating. Let us write them out in full: And he (Philip) arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority, under Candace, queen of the Ethiopians who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. He had come to Jerusalem to worship; as he was returning he was reading the Scriptures. The purpose of his going to the Holy City and his occupation on his way home are what have furnished us with delightful and profitable reflection. There is something we more than admire in a devout worshipper of the Almighty, and a reverent student of His Word. We feel that all God's intelligent creatures should worship Him and hearken to His voice, and that that is a sadly, nay, an awfully, imperfect life, which disregards God and despises His word. Let us think of that "man of Ethiopia," and ask ourselves whether we are worthy to stand with him.

Distrust a man that cannot look you in the eyes, and a woman that can.

Did you read the article on second page of last number, "Alexander Campbell and the Baptists"? It is worth reading and preserving.

We are unusually favored this issue by having two articles direct from the missionaries in foreign lands. Our interest in and attachment to the work is increased as we learn more of and more from these consecrated men. Another of our Ontario brethren, Dr. Butchart, as page second testifies, is about starting for China. We wish him a very pleasant voyage, and very great success in ministering to the physical and spiritual wants of the Chinese; as Dr. Macklin shows, physicians have exceptional means of reaching the heathen with the Gospel.

THE MAY COLLECTION.—We add a word here concerning the proposed collection for Home Missions on the first Lord's day in this month, or on some more suitable day before June 1. It is really a case of urgency. Even if the brethren think the Board has ventured too far this year, they should stand by them and see them safely through this time. Will our readers carefully peruse and meditate upon the "Co operation Notes" in this issue? The Elders and Preachers can do much if they will. A plain, earnest statement of the case will be kindly received by the churches and generously acted upon. The work must go on; we dare not let it fail.

We commend the statement relative to "Bible Clubs" to the favorable consideration of our readers:—

Referring to the stories of cruelty practised towards Queen Victoria's granddaughter, the Russian Grand Duchess Elizabeth, by her royal husband, in forcing her to renounce her religion and to enter the "Orthodox" church, the *London Times and Echo* declares that "as a matter of fact all the Protestant Royalities of Europe hold themselves ready to change their religion at five minutes' notice, if this be true, Protestantism compares unfavorably with Catholicism, which has the courage of its convictions, however irrational or indefensible those convictions may be. And this constitutes the strength of Catholicism—its consistency and persistency. But there is a good deal of this accommodating, convictionless religion outside of royal families, and it is found with some who have not state considerations to plead as an excuse.—*Chris. Standard*.

There is indeed "a good deal of this accommodating, convictionless religion outside of royal families," and a very poor kind of religion it is. Examples of it are furnished when persons who believe that the immersion of a believer is the only baptism prescribed by the Saviour join Presbyterian churches to please husband, or wife, or other friend. "Voxily they have their reward."

"Church Rounder" of the *Canadian Advance* visited the Disciples on Cecil Street one Lord's day morning. We give here an extract from his account of what he saw and heard:—

It was Easter when I found myself there. The congregation was gathering silently, and the glorious sun shone in on eager, reverential faces, but no flowers. One to whom I spoke of the unusual departure, said that he thought the matter had been overlooked.

The opening exercises were entered into with the true spirit of worship, and I could not fail to notice that the Easter service was attended by many whose age or infirmity prevented a regular attendance at the house of prayer.

The pastor is the Rev. J. R. Gaff, a slender man, with keen blue eyes, a gentle but firm mouth, a persuasive manner and an enunciation which betokens his American birth.

His sermon was thoughtful, earnest, and suited to the day on which ministers, churches and people speak of the

coming up from death in its reality, its fulfillment of promise and its glorious hope.

The rev. gentleman spoke tenderly of the disciples who were full of doubts and fears during the days when death held captive their Lord. In his earnestness he presented this one point excellent, beyond all others—that because the calling of a fisherman trained the eye and the ear to superlative distinctness, the Lord chose those men of humble trade to go forth in His name, not as orators or teachers, but as witnesses to tell of what they had seen and add what they had heard.

Co-operation Notes

CONTRIBUTIONS.

M. N. Stephens..... \$10 00

We do not often "tell upon" our friends in these notes, but we are moved to do so now by an expression in the latter containing the above contribution; it may do the rest of us good to meditate upon it: "It just occurs to me that probably Bro. Stephens has not done all that he could, and as he thinks it best to be on the safe side he sends you ten dollars." We thank Bro. Stephens for that expression, "on the safe side," and for what it suggests. Brethren, are we also anxious to be "on the safe side"? When we all become so, there will not be so many wearisome appeals for money to carry on mission work. Brethren, are we "on the safe side" this year? If not, let us get there.

Those who have never had anything to do with managing mission work cannot enter fully into the feelings of the Board when they contemplate the possibility, not to say the probability of a deficit in the mission fund. It does not relieve the mind of the Board to reflect that they are simply acting for their brethren and trying their best to carry out faithfully the wishes of the Annual Meeting. The fact that stares them in the face and will not down is that, if the money is not forthcoming, faith will be broken with the preachers at the mission points and with the mission points, too, and that frequently leads to hardship, unnecessary hardship. Now, brethren, shall we have that additional \$500 by the first of June or not? Shall we not have some liberal individual gifts as well as large collections?

The brethren must pardon this iteration and re-iteration regarding the needs of the mission fund. If it is monotonous, it is necessary.

The circular letter referred to in last issue has been sent out to the churches, and to a number of isolated brethren and sisters. We give a copy of it here:—

DEAR BRETHREN.—The Board of Managers of the Co operation once more extends a Christian greeting to the Disciples of Christ throughout the Province, and respectfully addresses them with reference to,

I. THE MAY COLLECTION.

The Annual Meeting at Owen Sound directed the Board to ask the churches to take up a special collection for Home Missions on the first Lord's day in May. The necessity for general and liberal offerings will be apparent when it is known that in addition to the sums already paid and subscribed about \$500 more is required in order to enable the Board to meet the obligations incurred for this year. The Board is contributing towards the support of six preachers, two in Muskoka, one in Collingwood, one in Owen Sound, one in Hamilton and one in Toronto. Appeals were received from other points, but the Board felt that it would not be safe to undertake further this year. Latest reports inform us that the work is going on prosperously at all the mission points, and a general study of the situation in the Province leads to the conclusion that there is a

bright future before us, if we faithfully and earnestly preach the Word, and cheerfully and promptly enter the doors opening on every hand. The Board esteems it a pleasure and a privilege to invite the brethren to assist in the glorious work of preaching the Gospel of Christ, and requests the elders and preachers to cordially assist in pressing the matter upon the attention of the churches.

In this connection the Board would ask those who have made subscriptions towards this year's work, but have not paid them, to do so at once, if possible; and would also invite other brethren and sisters who may not be able to meet with churches to assist the good work to whatever extent may be in their power. All contributions should be sent to George Munro, Erin, Ont., who will promptly acknowledge the same.

II. THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting is to be held with the church on Cecil St., Toronto, June 4th to 8th. The church extends a hearty invitation to the brotherhood and will entertain all who attend. Those who expect to be present should send in their names in good time to the Secretary of the Billing Committee, C. W. McMillan, 238 Huron St., Toronto.

Bro. A. N. Gilbert, of Cleveland, Ohio, is engaged as chief speaker. Bro. Gilbert is an uncompromising preacher of the Ancient Gospel. His speech is with clearness, tenderness, eloquence and power. Our aged brethren will be delighted with his beautiful and faithful presentation of the Truth they love. It is to be hoped that a large number of them will be in Toronto to hear him.

Full particulars as to programme, reduced rates on the railways, etc., etc., will be published in due time.

On behalf of the Board,

HUGH BLACK, Pres.

Geo. Munro, Cor. Sec.

Church News.

WEST TORONTO JUNCTION.—Two confessions and baptisms on Sat'y, 10th ult. J. M.

BOWMANVILLE.—A man and wife made the good confession at our Thursday night prayer meeting. E. B. B. April 22.

TORONTO EAST END MISSION.—The work here is moving on very encouragingly. Arrangements have been made with Bro. Ballah to labor with them during the summer. D. M.

WELLAND.—Things are moving on nicely. Repairs are in progress on the building, and by a week from Sunday it will have a greatly improved appearance. ALEX. McMILLAN. April 22.

WALKERTON.—Some three months ago a Young People's Society was organized in Walkerton, and already much good has resulted in drawing out the young people in the matter of taking part in the devotional exercises of the church. Bro. Sheppard has announced the following subjects for Lord's day evenings, beginning with April 19: "What is man?" "A bad start in life." "Eternal Life Insurance"; and "Woman, her influence for good or evil."

EVERTON, April 22.—On Lord's day, April 12, we were surprised and pleased to have Bro. Crowson, of Huntsville, meet with us. In the evening he preached to us on 1 Cor. x. 2. Our faith in Christ is strengthened when we meet men who, like Bro. O., have for half a century been walking "as becometh saints." Bro. Crowson, in all probability, was the first white child born in Erin Township, and it is now almost fifty years since he obeyed his Saviour. His interest in the work of the Lord is manifested by the fact that he is now preparing for more effectual work in Muskoka by having.