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NOVEMBER, 1888.

A MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION.

The Congregationalists of Toronto are about to inaugurate a system which we believe it would be profitable for the Disciples of Ontario to consider, if not to imitate. They propose to encourage young men studying for the ministry to pursue their studies in the University of Toronto, and to supplement the course there received so far as necessary by courses of lectures. Hitherto when young men among us have resolved to devote themselves to the ministry of the Word, and the better to fit themselves for that important calling, have determined to secure more or less of collegiate training, they have usually gone to one of the colleges conducted by the Disciples in the States. And as a general rule they have remained in the States after completing their education; and that too while preachers were badly needed at home. It is not our purpose to seek to account for their doing so, we point out the fact. The churches in the Maritime Provinces have suffered in a similar way; nine young men that have been sent from Australia to America to be educated only three are back there at work, and the churches cannot get preachers. "They feel that their only hope is to establish a Bible School of their own and educate their young men at home. In the Universities of Melbourne and Adelaide they can get all the literary culture they need. The Bible school will supplement the University course and will qualify the young men for the ministry of the Word." If we are to do our duty here in Ontario, we believe, we must adopt a similar course, and as we probably are not at present able to establish a Bible school, perhaps the best thing that we can do is to do as the Congregationalists propose to do—establish a lectureship or two. Five hundred dollars would probably be sufficient to carry out this project for one year; and we believe that such a sum could very easily be raised for the purpose, were the brethren to think it a good one. And we have no doubt that upon reflection the majority of our brethren would decide that something of the kind must be done. For as we all know the cause has suffered long because of the scarcity of preachers. Even the Lord's work requires the agency of competent human instruments in order to prosper—so now, so in the beginning.

We here wish to record our firm conviction that if the work, we as a people, are engaged in, ever becomes largely successful in this country, it will be, under God, through the efforts of an army of devoted preachers, born and educated in this country. And in saying this, it is not our intention in the slightest degree, to reflect upon the preachers of foreign birth and education who have been or who are laboring in our Province, nor, moreover, in any wise to disparage the work done by our Colleges in the States. We are glad that the brethren from other lands who are now preaching in Ontario are here, and we rejoice in the success that attends their labors, but we venture to say that these same brethren would consider it a matter of lamentation if every time a church in Ontario wanted a preacher he would have to be sought outside Ontario. They know well that a cause that does not produce, for the most part, its own preachers is a dying cause.

It ought not to be considered offensive by any one to say that our brethren in this country have not paid much attention to the calling out, development and education of preachers of the gospel. It is nothing but the truth, moreover, to say that the attitude of some brethren has been such as

not only not to encourage, but to very much discourage and dishearten, young men feeling a desire to enter upon the work of the ministry. We need not dwell on this, however. What is our present duty? How shall we discharge it? We should encourage young men of ability to devote themselves to the work of the Lord; we should assist them to secure that special educational training which is so useful, if not indispensable, to a preacher, and which, under the guidance of a truly consecrated soul, so greatly enlarges a preacher's power of doing the Lord's work; and we should not expect of them, in their inexperience, what we have a right to expect of age and experience, but rather bear with them in their failures, commend them when possible and pray for them always.

We shall return to this question again. In the meantime we ask our brethren to consider the suggestion made above. We should be glad to hear from our brethren on the matter.

NOTES.

Our friends will please remember that matter for publication is to be sent to George Munro, Erin, Ont. They will thereby save us some trouble.

We understand that Brother W. D. Campbell, of Dorchester is now holding a series of meetings with the Plum St. Church, Detroit.

Subscribers not receiving their papers regularly will oblige by notifying us promptly by Post Card.

Contributions from Ontario to Foreign Missions since last report in this paper:—Mrs. E. H. Anderson, Hamilton, \$10; Erin Centre, \$25; Erin Village, \$8; Owen Sound, \$5.82; Denison Ave., Toronto, \$9.40; Walkerton, 6 50.

The brethren throughout the Province will rejoice over the good news we publish from month to month from Denison Ave., Toronto. Let us stand by that church for a year or two, brethren; let us help them to build a house. We have brethren who are blessed with wealth, and who can give largely for such a purpose.

We are glad to see the *Kentucky University Tablet* out in a new dress—or new cover, at least. Also to learn that it and the *Bible College Review* will make it a first-class college paper. Glad to know that all departments of the University are in a highly prosperous condition.

We have heard of several packages of the October number of the *EVANGELIST* not reaching their destination. We cannot account for it; they were mailed as usual at the regular time. We are the more sorry because we have no extra copies left to send a second supply. If the like happens again we shall communicate with the Post Office Inspector.

Sister Fleming's report affords the very best kind of evidence that "those women" are doing good. It is pleasing to note the number of churches represented in the report, and there are auxiliaries whose names do not appear in it. It would be interesting, and no doubt a surprise to many, if the Cor. Sec'y of the O. C. W. B. M. would give a list of the auxiliaries now organized. This movement on the part of the sisters is one of the most encouraging features of our work in Ontario; we wish them every success.

We hope no reader will, on account of its length, pass by the selected article on the "Dangers of Conscientiousness." It is a very valuable production. Note the true statement, "The fact that an act is conscientious does not make it right;" Yet how many think otherwise, and what evil follows such thinking! Truly, "A splendid quality is conscientiousness; but it needs to be enlightened, unselfish, just, sensitive and wise."

Brother Frank Talmage who accomplished so much at Tonawanda, N. Y., moved the first of September to New Castle, Pa. From reliable reports we learn that he is making himself felt in his new field. A number have already been added to the church. Three or four weeks are long enough for the most of us to continue a protracted meeting, but Brother T. seems to have the knack of carrying it on through the whole year.

Our readers will be glad to have another letter direct from China in this number. Dr. Macklin is full of zeal for the Lord's work. It seems strange that the call for ten young men for China has not yet been responded to. Have we no young men in Ontario willing to go? Will any of our young brethren now being educated go? It ought not to be counted a hard thing to go even to China for the Saviour. We have no doubt but Brother A. McLean would be glad to hear from any brother who has a mind for the foreign field.

Brother Sheppard's poems with which the *ONTARIO EVANGELIST* has been honored have been highly appreciated by our readers and have been copied by other papers, some of which have not had the goodness to give credit to the O. E. We have received from several quarters words of the highest appreciation for his poem which appeared in our last issue. We were not surprised to see it copied upon the first page of the *Christian Standard* of recent date.

The following young brethren of this Province are now attending College; we understand their purpose is to devote themselves to the ministry of the Word:—E. R. Black, George Black, and Daniel Stewart, at Bethany College; Percival Baker, Bible College, Lexington, Ky. D. D. Burt, Hiram College; John Munro and Donald Munro, University of Toronto.

Evidently the Baptist minister in Meaford thinks there is some difference between the Baptists and the Disciples. We should like to know that there is some difference between the Disciples and a Baptist, viz: the Baptist minister in Meaford. If the Rev. Mr. Guy is a Christian, as well as a Baptist, he is no doubt ashamed of himself by this time; if he is nothing but a Baptist, he is probably very well satisfied with himself, and quite ready to deliver himself further on "The gospel of the devil," or which is the same thing, to grossly misrepresent the Disciples.

We remind our readers again that we furnish the *Christian Standard* and the *ONTARIO EVANGELIST* both for one year for the small sum of two dollars. Those, and they were many, who appreciated Brother H. McDiarmid's writings while he edited a paper in Ontario, are standing in the way of their own pleasure and profit if they do not take and read the *Standard* now. Any one never having seen the *Standard* should send a Post Card for sample copy to the Standard Publishing Co., 22 East Ninth St., Cincinnati, Ohio. But perhaps some readers think the *Standard* is a bad paper, having been told so; let them also send for sample copies; and that will most likely happen to them which happens to sensible people oftentimes in their lives,—they will change their minds.

We have received a copy of the minutes of the twenty-seventh Annual Meeting of the New York Christian Missionary Society held at Troy, N. Y., Sept. 6-10, 1888. It gives an interesting account of the doings of our brethren in the Empire State during the past year. From it we are glad to learn that the work in the city of Rochester is prospering and that the church there is to have a house of its own. The brethren, according to a clause in a report of a committee which was adopted, are satisfied that they acted wisely in concentrating their efforts upon Rochester and they propose, we believe, to pursue the same course for another year. Bro. Hertzog's report as Corresponding Secretary is included in the general report and thus all interested can profit by it, even tho' they were not at the Annual Meeting.

The reading of the following paragraph gave us very great pleasure, and we know it will our readers. We should be rejoiced to hear of Brother Errett's complete restoration to health and vigor.

The editor-in-chief of the *STANDARD* favored this office with a call on Monday, Oct. 29. As this is his first appearance here for five months, and is recorded in evidence of his rapid, and, we trust, permanent improvement, we take occasion to express our gratitude and joy, and to invite his hosts of friends to share it with us. All remarked on his wonderfully improved appearance, and the ample justice he bestowed on a hastily improvised lunch disposed us to hope most cheerfully for its continuance. We hope the visit will prove as beneficial to him as it has to us, and that it is only the first of a long series. This note is written Tuesday (the day after his visit), and we do not know how soon it may be repeated. From the fact that he declined to use a carriage, though obliged to go about on several errands, we conclude that it will not be long.

We learn that some of our readers were misled by a statement in the note in last month's *EVANGELIST* about Daniel Sommer's untruthful declaration regarding the church on Washington Ave., Detroit. They understood from the note that there was an organ in the Plum Street Church. The note however does not say so. It says, what we believe the fact to be, that the congregational singing in Plum Street Church is "aided by an instrument." And it was supposed that the well known opposition of the brethren on Plum St. to the use of such an instrument as an organ would prevent any one from receiving the impression that by the word "instrument," "organ" was meant. An instrument of a simpler character than an organ, one that has not been the occasion of so much strife as an organ, but one which, we believe, is not mentioned in the New Testament, was meant, viz: a tuning fork. It was not intended to misrepresent the brethren worshipping on Plum St., Detroit. If this note misrepresents them, correction will be cheerfully and promptly made.

We notice that some scribes are anxious to have "division declared" among the Disciples and some in fact are counselling such a step. There seems to be some difficulty in determining who should do the "declaring." We would suggest that the witch of Endor be requested to call up the Apostle Paul and let him "declare" a little, unless, of course, what he has "declared" be counted sound, "now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you." And we notice further, and very gladly do we do so, that no one seems to be particularly frightened by the above counsels. If those uneasy brethren want to go, let them go, say, "a day's journey into the wilderness," they needn't burn the bridges behind them, for they would probably be very glad to return. And when they are away let them search and see where our Saviour or His Apostles authorize divisions to be declared over matters of opinion.

We have said very little for some time by way of stirring up our readers to greater activity in the interest of the *ONTARIO EVANGELIST*. The number of kind words received each month from our readers would fill a large part of our paper if we should publish them. As we have not time to reply to all the letters received, we would say just here, that your interest in the paper and your words of encouragement are much appreciated. We would like to say to our readers again, that the paper is not a money making affair. There is not a cent in it for any one. Some might say; why then do you spend your time and energies in publishing it? It is because of the good it is doing. Our best and most enlightened brethren are anxious to have it continued. It is a medium through which we learn of the condition of the cause in our Province, and through which also we can appeal to the brethren in the interest of our missionary work. We need more subscribers. We appeal to our readers to assist us in the matter. Brother J. B. Lister writes saying he will do what he can to put the paper in every family of Disciples in the Province. This is the time of year to get subscribers. You will find that very few will refuse if you lay the matter before them. Please try.

The following extract from Bro. Tyler's "New York Letter" in the *Standard*, concerning the State Meeting of the Disciples of Christ in the State of New York, will be found interesting.

According to the record of the State Meeting of the Disciples of Christ, there is a total membership in our State of 4,313 in thirty-four congregations. The offerings during the last twelve months have been:—To the Church Extension Fund, \$70.66; to the General Christian Missionary Convention, \$240.90; to the Foreign Christian Missionary Society, \$1,623.61; to the New York Christian Missionary Society, \$2,696.02; to the Christian Woman's Board of Missions, \$749.50. Total, \$5,390.69. And this is clean cash. In this statement there is not an ounce of padding. Can you name any other State, district, or province, doing so much in proportion to numbers? And there is not a rich man belonging to the Disciples in the State. This money comes from men and women who are either poor in purse or simply good livers. I can tell of a woman whose wages are \$12 per month who gave that sum to a single one of the societies named above. Another, who will not permit her name to be known, but who is poor, gave \$25 in gold to the New York Christian Missionary Society. A gentleman receiving a fair salary only gave away more than \$1,500 in a single year to the various enterprises of the church. This begins to look something like "the ancient order." I am not ashamed of the work of the Disciples in our State. They are doing well, as giving is done by the Disciples generally, but they can, and must, and will do better. Notwithstanding the small attendance at Troy, about \$800 was pledged for the work next year.

We clip the following paragraph from the very interesting report of the Michigan State Meeting, sent by Brother A. S. Dabney to the *Standard*. We rejoice to know that our brethren in Michigan had so grand a convention and that the prospect for enlarged work is so encouraging.

After devotional exercises in the evening Bro. McLean delivered a thrilling sermon on missions. Such a sermon must be productive of good fruit. Having heard this discourse, certainly any one would be ashamed to admit himself opposed to missionary work—aye, those who have done all in their power feel humiliated that they have done so little. But the dawn of a better day approaches, and the future is full of promise. In an especial sense is this true, as regards our plea in Michigan. During the Convention just closed there was raised in money and pledges for the M. C. M. A., \$575.75, for the C. W. B. M., \$70 and for the F. C. M. S., \$55; total amount, \$700.75. Compared with that of some other States our work in Michigan seems small, yet the results are highly encouraging when we remember that we are small in number in the State, and only for a few years past have there been any attempts at united effort. "The Farewell Meeting" after the discourse Sunday evening, was one of the best possible evidences of the future activity of our people in Michigan. Such loyalty to Christ, such enthusiasm for his work, such unity of purpose, such a spirit of brotherly love, as characterized all the sessions of this Convention and particularly its last, we never before have witnessed. The rejoicing of souls happy in the love of God, the fervent prayers and the earnest exhortations to faithfulness which filled this closing hour deeply impressed the hearts of all, and must inevitably prove a source of lasting inspiration to greater consecration to the Master and more energetic effort in his service. God grant that it may be so.