

The facts in Bro. Lediard's report were presented to the readers of the EVANGELIST during the year, so it would not be necessary to repeat them here now, even if we had access to his report and were able to publish them. Besides a statement of facts, i. e. a report of his year's work, he made quite a number of suggestions which we think should have received attention at the Annual Meeting. We are unable to publish them here, as we only heard the report read once. And right here we beg leave to say that, in our opinion, the practice of simply having a report, which required time and thought and labor in the preparation, read once, and then paying no further attention to it, is neither respectful to the parties presenting the report, nor in the interest of the work. We should like to see a reform in this respect. The Foreign Missionary Society has its report prepared, printed and circulated before its Annual Meeting; that would seem to be a good plan.

The third volume of Alden's *Manifold Cyclopedia*, a marvel of condensed information covers the alphabet between the titles *Artemisia* and *Baptisia*. There seems to be little doubt that it will prove to be the great popular Cyclopedia for the next score of years at least. The embodiment of an Unabridged Dictionary of Language and a complete Cyclopedia of Universal Knowledge in one work, in large type, with thousands of illustrations, and all for a price less than people have been used to paying for a Dictionary alone, is not only a novelty in plan, but to the ordinary book-buyer the fact is hardly less than astounding. Its accomplishments will certainly be creditable to Alden's *Literary Revolution*.

As to the quality of the work, both literary and mechanical, any common-sense reader is capable of judging. The volumes received at this office (which any reader is welcome to call and examine) are certainly deserving of the unstinted praise which they seem to be receiving. The venerable Prof. Day, of Yale College speaks of the work in the following emphatic terms: "The book in all respects more than answers my expectations. It is a very neat volume, of a form convenient for use, firmly bound, of large, clear type, with contents of just that general character which the popular reader requires—comprehensive, accurate, and compact. Its marvelously low cost makes it a prize eagerly to be sought in every intelligence-loving household."

The Publisher, John B. Alden, 393 Pearl St., New York, or Clark and Adams Sts., Chicago, will send specimen pages free to any applicant, or a specimen volume (which may be returned if not wanted) in cloth for 50c., or half Morocco, 65c.; postage 10c. extra. The set of thirty volumes is offered at considerably reduced price to early subscribers.

CHURCH NEWS.

WEST LAKE.—Bro. John Munro will spend his vacation with the church at West Lake.

ACTON.—Bro. Geo. Black is home from Bethany College; he will spend his vacation with the church in Acton. He began his work with them Lord's Day, June 24th.

ERIN CENTRE.—We continued our evangelistic services at the Stone Church three weeks after Bro. Gaff went away. During that time nine persons confessed the Saviour and were baptized.

GUELPH.—Bro. F. W. Baughman, of Lexington, Ky., arrived in Guelph July 7th. He will spend the month of July with the church. We trust such arrangements may be made as will keep him here permanently.

ERIN VILLAGE.—The Sunday School at this place is doing well—increasing in numbers and otherwise. Children's Day was observed and the school contributed no less a sum than \$20. The children were encouraged to bring their own savings, and to deny themselves for the sake of the heathen.

TORONTO.—Five additions recently; two by baptism. Vacation takes away some of our young people. W. B. Malcolm has sailed for Scotland to be absent six weeks. May the Father restore him safe to us. Brother and Sister Stewart of Everton are spending a few days with us. We are glad to have friends come and see how we do. Warm weather has a depressing effect on religion. Therefore the more need for watchfulness lest we "sleep." We hope to secure shortly our contemplated site for building. Our books are open for subscriptions and gifts from \$1.00 to \$1000. Who will send first?

July, 4th, '88. J. R. GAFF.

WIARTON.—Bro. Lediard has just finished a work of nearly three weeks with us here, and we are all rejoicing and encouraged that so much good was done. Eight came to the Saviour, and we are greatly strengthened and built up more in love. The season might have been more wisely chosen to reach the outside, as there are very many in this place who seem to have no thought of God and His love. The evenings were too fine and street promenading too tempting for the thoughtless. But we are more concerned just now about what *was* done. We had for some time been earnestly seeking such a blessing from the Lord, and we rejoice in saying with grateful hearts, God is good. His blessing is abundant. The sound of the glad tidings is sweet to our ears, and Christ is more precious to us than ever. God bless Bro. Lediard, and all who labor thus to make the cross of Christ effectual to give hope and rest to the weary and heavy laden.

J. B. LISTER.

Warton, June 28th, '88.

WAINFLEET AND GAINSBORO.—I have been at these points alternately for some time past; most of the time, however, at Wainfleet. The churches here are doing fairly well. The brethren, especially the sisters, are full of zeal and willing to sacrifice for the prosperity of Zion. They are not "progressive," but do some curious things for which they have no direct "Thus saith the Lord." For instance, they will persist in having Sunday Schools—very interesting ones too; build fires in their meeting-houses and keep them comfortable in cold weather. They will have a "Mission Band," and they sometimes call it by that "unscriptural name," "*Auxiliary to the O. C. W. B. M.*" Yes, they actually contribute to the support of those who "labor in the word and doctrine." They have no muzzles on hand for the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. I have heard it intimated there were some who believe that even the elders are worthy of *double honor*, whatever that means, 1st Tim.: 5th chap. They say like Bro. Paul, "The laborer is worthy of his reward." Are they not "progressive?" Curious to relate, instead of the preacher being a "hireling" he is a brother beloved—his arrival is always opportune. They "set him a chair at the table" and treat him as one of the family. They don't kill all the chicks about the place as soon as the preacher arrives, but they do in the spirit of the Master receive him as a brother. God bless this people, and be unto them like the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. One baptized in Gainsboro since my last report; others will come; the work is steadily progressing. The "United Brethren" here (Wainfleet) are a zealous people, determined on success: Though they advocate sprinkling for baptism, and even sprinkling children, yet, if their converts desire it, and most of them do, just to accommodate them they go down to the lake, because there is "much water there," John 3: 23. And they actually "go down into the water," what for? to sprinkle? nay verily, they bury the candidate in the water, and after the ceremony is complete they come up out of the water just like Christians, "Buried with Christ by baptism." (Rom. 6: 4; Col. 2: 12).

H. BROWN.

LETTER FROM CHINA.

Nankin is a most difficult place in which to preach the gospel, but "in due season we shall reap if we faint not." It is one of the ancient cities of the world; has been several times capital and will probably be so again, as it is better situated for the capital than Peking. Even now, with all the devastation caused by the Yaiping rebels, it is a great city. The people are proud and are seeking this world's goods, thinking very little of the world to come. The "almighty dollar" is the great desire of the Chinaman, and most of them, perhaps 99-100ths, are not at all scrupulous how they obtain it, i. e. judging from personal experience and the opinion of other observers. We work away and try to lead the people to worship the one true God and forsake idolatry. Our main chapel is in the heart of the city, and we have good audiences, and some listen attentively, but most seem to be way-side hearers. My present practice is to go from home in the north suburban part of the city, ride a donkey most of the way through the narrow, dirty streets to the chapel and dispensary, nearly five miles away, and on arrival, at about nine o'clock in the morning, have a Bible-class with my teacher and helpers and patients, and then prayer. After which I study the language for an hour or two, and then open the dispensary. A good many of the patients buy scriptures (separate gospels) from the gateman, and thus bear away the truth to distant places. I have

had cases over 100 miles away. They seem very grateful for the medical treatment, and patients who remain in the hospital have a good chance of learning the gospel story. The main advantage in the dispensary is in the good impression it creates, and the work is quite in harmony with our Saviour's practice. In the afternoons I frequently open the chapel and preach for an hour or two to the crowds as they come and go. I am not much of a speaker, but I have learned by heart a good many of the stirring scenes in Daniel and other portions of the Old Testament, and parables and miracles of the New Testament, and I give these with comments. Sometimes men will come and argue with me and try to support Confucianism or idolatry, but their arguments are weak, and by-and-bye we will leave them not a leg to stand on, when our tongues get around the language better. Sometimes I am called out to visit a case that cannot come to the hospital, perhaps to attempt to resuscitate a suicide by opium—China's great curse! Bros. Hearndon and Saw take their turn in preaching at the dispensary, and when Bros. Williams and Meigs come along with the language, through the blessing of God, Satan must yield and "the strong man armed" must give way before "a greater than he." I have seen 800 or 900 new patients in the few months I have opened, and performed quite a few operations, mainly on the eye. We pray to God for a blessing on the work, and he hears us. We have had so many answers to prayer in our work in China that we feel the Lord intends to prosper us. If the Lord blesses the work, what can withstand it? Answer, Psalm II.: The "Lord holds in derision all those who try to hinder his work." Let us not be weary in well doing. Those who do not understand the greatness of this mission work, and the smallness of wrangling about organs, *et al.* will soon wake up to their duty, and men and money will come to this work. Pray and work, and let our reproach among the "sects" cease, and let them see that we obey the first part of the commission as well as the rest. Let us now emphasize the "Go into all the world" and not leave the rest undone.

Yours sincerely,

W. E. MACKLIN,
Nankin care, Local Post, Shanghai.

May 20th, 1888.

AN OPEN DOOR.

IN THE TOWN OF GALT.

Thinking many of our brethren in Canada would esteem it a privilege to assist in building up the cause of their Lord in this place, I write on behalf of the church of Christ in Galt with a view of obtaining their sympathy and assistance. Having become a Christian three years ago this spring, I was very anxious to have the privilege of breaking bread every Lord's Day, but it was not until the fall when I persuaded Bro. and Sister Carson of Halifax, N. S., who were leaving for Florida, to visit me that the church was formed here. The three of us met at my house to remember our blessed Lord, Nov. 1st, 1885, and although the progress we have made in numbers has been very slight, our congregation numbering eleven, every first day of the week has the loaf been broken that we might show our love to Him who loved us and gave His body to be broken for us.

What appeared to us a very providential circumstance took place a short time ago. It was an offer from a prominent preacher to cast in his lot with our little band provided we were able to give him reasonable support; and it is in view of this particularly that I desire to impress both you and your readers, and obtain if possible your brotherly support.

Although this brother has been connected with the Baptist church for many years, he now sees that the ground we, as a people, occupy, is the true Scriptural one and hence is anxious to sever his connection with the Baptist denomination and take his stand on the Bible alone.

Some years ago this brother went to a place where there were but three Baptist brethren meeting together, and they were so disheartened that they had almost decided to give up their meeting. But in about eight years by faithful preaching and teaching this worthy preacher of the Gospel built up a prosperous congregation of about one hundred and fifty members, who erected a year or two ago a handsome church. As there is now a chance of securing the services of this brother, we believe the brethren will not allow such an opportunity to pass without giving us the needed assistance.

Many having heard the Truth are almost persuaded and under a skillful and trained preacher would cease to halt between two opinions, surrender to the Word and become heirs with us to the glorious inheritance which awaits the children of God.

We beseech you brethren for help and we trust the Lord will open the hearts of many of His children to send us whatever they can spare, that now at this time their abundance may be a supply for our want.

Subscriptions may be sent to R. W. Mc Donnell, Treasurer of the Christian Church Galt, Ont., and will be duly acknowledged in the EVANGELIST.

Galt, July 7th, '88.

A. HUME.

"TO THE WORK!"

As I read the letter of Bro. W. E. Macklin in this month's EVANGELIST, and realize the horrors of the opium habit amongst the Chinese from the outlines so graphically depicted by him,—the wrecked, debauched, ruined father in the grim grip of a vice which offers but the one alternative of death suicidal or otherwise, as the price of its letting go, the starved and neglected mothers and children, it makes me feel. Oh! how inadequate we are to the task before us, if even our very best efforts were put forth, and how much, as Christians, we come short of our duty and privilege of going into all the world to preach the glorious gospel, which might set such poor slaves free and inspire them with a better hope beyond. It brings to me again, with such an intensity of meaning, the grand old missionary hymn as it was sung so impressively at the Convention when Sister Burgess was about to address the meeting. Would that every word of it could carry such an appeal into the heart of every brother and sister, rich and poor alike, as would inspire their most thorough and consecrated efforts for our Master's glory and kingdom, through the raising of our sin-suffering fellow creatures.

Inclining our hearts. Oh! let us hear the many calls for light, and drink in the inspiration, as we follow or recall to memory the beautiful words of hymn 473 in the New Christian Hymn Book, and surely we shall re-monstrate with ourselves, or feel an intense yearning to send the glad tidings, as we read the words of the third verse:

"Shall we, whose souls are lighted
By wisdom from on high—
Shall we to men benighted,
The lamp of life deny?
Salvation! O Salvation!
The joyful sound proclaim
Till earth's remotest nation
Has learned Messiah's name."

R. W. MCD.

Galt, June 24th, '88.

OBITUARIES.

MITCHELL.

Our beloved sister, Nancy Mitchell, wife of Peter Mitchell, sr., died at the family residence, in Lobo, on the morning of Monday, May 7th. The subject of this notice was a native of Argyleshire, Scotland, who with her parents emigrated to this country when she was a mere child. She was brought up in the faith of the Presbyterian Church. She embraced the gospel in its simplicity under the preaching of Bro. T. D. Garvin, in the summer of 1879. Ever since, until her death, the cause of Christ was the chief object of her life. Religion with her was not merely a something to be enjoyed; it was a life to be lived in active service for her Divine Master. She was a noble woman, remarkably candid and honest in her convictions. She could not tolerate duplicity in anything, especially in religion. She was an earnest, active Christian, who constantly took the lead in "good works." She leaves a husband, seven sons and two daughters to mourn her loss. But they sorrow not as those who have no hope. Most of the family are useful, active members of the church. If they are all faithful unto death they will be re-united in the better land, where sorrow and death are unknown.

A. SINCLAIR.

Strathroy, June 19th, 1888.

PARKER.

Edward Thomas Parker died at his father's residence July 5th, 1888. He was the eldest son of Robert and Rebecca Parker, who are both faithful members of the church at Mimosa. The deceased was in his twenty-fourth year, and was a particularly fine young man. He was a miller by trade, and so for the last four or five years of his life was from home the most of the time. During that time, though living in different towns and among strangers, he constantly maintained the walk and conversation of a disciple of Jesus Christ. Not feeling well he came home to recruit about eight days before his death; but as it proved he came home to die. His parents have the sympathy of the entire community, and what is vastly better than that, the comforting reflection that their son who is gone was a follower of the Redeemer. In the absence of Bro. Fowler at Bethany, the writer conducted the funeral services.

G. M.

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