

Proclaim the acceptable YEAR of the Lord.

Isa. lxi. 2.

VALEDICTORY.

AFTER a service of nearly five years in the Toronto Association, and an active Association life of nearly twenty-one years, the General Secretary retires from the work, to enter another field of labor. The sojourn in Toronto has been one of unmixed pleasure. The utmost harmony has prevailed within the Association, and he leaves the work with the kindest and most Christian feelings toward every officer and member, and a heartfelt prayer that God's richest blessing may rest upon them and the work, and that the man who may be called to succeed him may be one upon whom shall rest the Spirit of the Master. In reviewing the past, there is much, very much to call forth gratitude to God. There has been during the whole time of service a marked spiritual interest, and scores of young men have been won for the Master. The staff of workers has been added to each year, and never before were there so many earnest, whole-souled young men engaged with us. These workers are to a man to be depended upon for active duty. They do not belong to that class of young men who have to be nursed and handled carefully lest they take cold, but they are men of strength and bid fair to become stronger, seeing they take healthy food—the Bible, and also take plenty of exercise in going out to seek and save the lost. It is true that we cannot present a tabulated statement regarding the number of additional inches they measure round the arm or chest, through tossing quoits, swinging dumb bells, or climbing horizontal ladders—but we do know that they have "grown in grace," that they are "strong in the Lord," and that they are coming to the stature of the fulness of Christ.

We never felt that God called us to Toronto to amuse the young men

nor to educate them, but to strive by grace of God to save them. With this object in view we have sought the richest fields from which to gather sheaves, and the young men who are the bone and sinew of our land, and those who have done and ever will do the most for it, have been sought out in the boarding houses and factories. Thank God, we have reached many, and the Association Rooms have been to them like the "old homestead," a place to which they delight to turn. We believe that an Association which turns its rooms into a sort of religious club to which but the privileged few may come and spend a spare hour, is failing to do its work and is a disgrace to the name Christian. The Master never turned away from the rich, but, on the other hand, He never put Himself out of the way to please them; and as it was in His day so it is now—the "common people will hear gladly."

We attribute the success which has followed the work during the past five years to the fact that it has been in the line God would have us work, although we know that it has not been the line some officials outside of our Association would like to see taken if they had the control. But we have never aimed "to please man," and would rather have the smile of God upon the work, than the riches of man poured into the treasury for our benefit.

The work however with all our failures, (for they have been many) all our mistakes, and all our blessings is now a thing of the past, and we hand it over to the Brethren with whom we have so often had sweet council, with the assurance that whatever changes may be made in its conduct, will be made with a view to securing greater efficiency, and more glory to God.

"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."

If any man be in Christ, he is a NEW creature.

2 Cor. v. 17.