

A Word of Congratulation.

By the Editor.



WHILE it is not *our mission* to take up and discuss in this paper the merits of candidates for political or civic honors, nor to dwell upon the results of elections and such matters, only so far as such reference may present a basis upon which may be raised some standard of moral and religious truth, still we feel that the words we are about to say are admissible, and deserving of a place in our columns. The Christian gentleman and earnest worker, whose portrait appears at the head of this article, is well known throughout the land as a whole-souled follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. Ever since grace saved him, he has realized that he is "not his own, but has been bought with a price." His aim has therefore been to "live for Him who died for us." His labours have not been confined to any one special department of Christian work, but wherever a word could be spoken for the Master—an act of kindness done to one of His humble followers—there the subject of this article is to be found. As a result of these labours there has gathered about him a large number of like-minded workers, and the united efforts of this band has been owned of God to the reclamation of many fallen ones—the restoration of many wandering ones—the salvation of many lost ones. The "Toronto Mission Union" owes its existence, under God, to his labors in behalf of the neglected classes of the City of Toronto, and hundreds of the poor, bless God for having raised up one to take such deep interest in their welfare. He has also been President of the Toronto Willard Tract Depository since its inception, and as such, he was the person to suggest the publication of "OUR MISSION," and has continued to watch its progress with great interest. Some months ago, at the urgent solicitation of a large number of the citizens, he was led to offer himself as candidate for the office of Mayor, and on the 4th inst. was elected to that office by an overwhelming majority. Toronto, therefore, enjoys the proud distinction of having as its chief magistrate one who is a devout follower of the Lord Jesus Christ—one who never hesitates to take a bold stand for the truth—and one who has never, and we are sure never will

allow any engagement to interfere with his Christian work. We know there was much prayer that God would direct in regard to the election. Now, we trust there will be much prayer that God may direct our brother, so that his actions while in this high office may be such as shall glorify God. We are sure our readers will utter a hearty "Amen" to the sentiments so beautifully expressed by our esteemed contributor, "Katie," in the following lines, written for "OUR MISSION":—

TO OUR MAYOR W. H. HOWLAND, ESQ.

May our Father's choicest blessings
Make thy earthly pathway bright,
May He keep thee now and always—
Holy— noble— in His sight.

In thy newly won position,
Let it be thy highest aim,
As of old, to serve the Master,
Glorify His blessed name.

Worldly honours soon will vanish,
Heaven's joys shall never end ;
Friends may fail, grow cold or leave thee,
Christ is an unchanging Friend.

May His power sustain and help thee,
Whate'er thy hand may find to do,
And His mighty love protect thee,
Keep thee ever, good and true.

So in sunshine, or in shadow,
May His presence fill thy soul,
And thy name be read in glory,
On the Master's honour roll.

Better Be Sure Than Sorry.

"BETTER be sure than sorry!" said a garden-worker, when his employer expressed a doubt whether it was necessary to cover a certain vegetation to protect it from the frost. "Better be sure than sorry!"

A man who is not sure is very likely to be sorry. He who takes things on trust will be quite likely to be cheated and disappointed at last. The business man who treads in uncertain paths, who is not sure of his course, is very likely to be sorry he has taken it.

Keep on the safe side. Be sure rather than sorry. Do not give yourself the benefit of every doubt. Be lenient to others' faults, but strict regarding your own. If there be an act, which in your own mind is doubtful or questionable in its character, take the course of wisdom and prudence. It would be a terrible thing to be mistaken in the final day ; it is better to be sure here than to be sorry at the judgment seat of Christ.

SPEAK truly ; and each word of thine
Shall be a fruitful seed ;
Live truly ; and thy life shall be
A great and noble deed.