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SILVER ANNIVERSARY SERVICES AT SYDENHAM STREET CHURCH

Great Crowds, Eloquent Sermons and Ideal Weather Combine to Make the Day Historic in Annals of the Church.

That the Rev. W. Smyth, pastor of Sydenham Street Methodist church is a preacher second to none in Brantford was the fact borne home on any strangers to Terrace Hill who attended the service last night. The occasion was the silver anniversary of the founding of the church, and crowds were turned away at both services, the edifice being filled to capacity.

A VERY GREAT SUCCESS

The whole day was a very great success, and the large number of people who turned out were more than rewarded. Dr. Henderson of Wellington St. Church, preached in the morning, while in the evening, the pastor, assisted by Rev. C. H. Wolz, of Springford, conducted the service. Many strangers attended the evening service particularly, and were more than agreeably surprised at the eloquence and intellectual power of the pastor. Mr. Smyth delivered a powerful sermon, and in other statements that all people are born belonging to God, showed that not a tincture of Calvinism had penetrated into his theological views.

OLD BOYS' QUARTETTE

A pleasing feature of the evening service, as well as the Sunday school rally, was the rendition of Gospel hymns by the Old Boys' Quartette, composed of Messrs A. McWebb, C. McWebb, A. Gidney and A. Scruton.

DR. HENDERSON

Dr. Henderson took as his text I Kings, 6:14, and based his sermon on explaining the meaning of the symbolism of the temple. It was a wonderful structure, built of the most perfect material, its walls glistening with burnished gold. The temple itself was small, but the grounds about it, containing other buildings were of an immense size.

NOT A SOUND OF HAMMER

The temple was built in silence. A necessary hammering, and planing and chiseling was done miles away in the quarters of Phoenicia, and the woods of Lebanon. So, pointed out the rev. gentleman, in this day the silent forces in moral and spiritual life were the most potent. As the temple was of the best, so all our work dedicated to God should be of the highest. Even our places of worship, while ignoring vainglorious display, should show forth the magnificence of the Deity.

THE SYMBOLISM

In conclusion, Dr. Henderson explained how the chief articles of furniture in the temple were symbolic. Divine justice, law and mercy were there, and the high priest, entering the holy of holies, sprinkled blood to atone for the nation's sins. Christ was the atonement, and the veil separating the innermost sanctuary of the temple from the outer concourse of people was rent in twain so all could enter.

REV. MR. SMYTH

Dozens of people were turned away at the evening service, conducted by the pastor. Mr. Smyth is a splendid speaker, possessing a clear voice, employing correct and simple diction, and makes his whole sermon cohesive and reasoned, without the aid of a note. He was followed closely throughout, and the congregation heard from him a sermon worthy in all respects of the auspicious occasion.

THE TWO SONS

He chose as his text the story of the prodigal son. He dwelt particularly on the son who stayed at home. The prodigal was, at best, a pitiable figure. Scarcely had he arrived at manhood when with confidence and audacity, he demanded his portion, and then going far from home, so as to be free from all restraints, he plunged into the wildest dissipation.

REDEEMED BY HUNGER

Reduced to utter privation, hunger and poverty called him home. It was not so much a change of heart as the thought of his father's wealth which made him repent. And so, declared the preacher, what a sight we have, in body, and carrying in his mind ineffaceable remembrances of his evil courses.

TOO MUCH SYMPATHY

The church-to-day pays too little attention to the steady, faithful worker, who is always true to the cause. There is a tendency to emphasize the redemption of the lost when such a redemption occurs. Children are not taught sufficiently enough that from birth they belong to God, and if they so will their lives they need never stray from home.

MUST REAP THE HARVEST

No matter how great a sinner a man is, he can be redeemed, but he must reap the harvest of his folly. His way is much the harder. Men should ordain their lives like the son who stayed at home, a steady, faithful whose pathway in good deeds becomes daily more easy.

APPROPRIATE MUSIC

Appropriate music was rendered during the services. The choir sang anthems acceptably, while in the morning Mrs. Leeming sang "Nearer

My God to Thee."

A gospel song was sung at the evening service by Sydenham Street Old Boys quartette.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SESSION

The Sunday school session in the afternoon proved to be a most enthusiastic gathering. Perhaps the largest attendance in the history of the school was recorded—238. The superintendent, Mr. Wm. Kinzie, had asked that each scholar bring a copper for every birthday they had had, as a birthday gift to the redecoration fund, thereby hoping to raise \$25. The response was an agreeable reply, it amounting to \$42.35 in addition to the regular collection. To say that everybody were pleased is only expressing a fact that was quite apparent. On the platform were seated the first teachers and officers of the school—Messrs Dr. Lowery, R. W. Brooks, Robt. Hall, A. J. Dungey, E. Brearly, A. Scruton, G. Miller, G. Markie, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Phillips. Also former superintendents, Isaac Hewitson and W. Eascott. The pastor, Rev. Mr. Smyth, and Rev. C. H. Wolz of Springford, a visitor in the city were also present. The opening prayers were offered by Messrs A. Scruton and G. Markie. Mr. Brooks called the roll of those present 25 years ago, and quite a number responded. He also made a few brief and appropriate remarks. Mr. George Alderson called the roll of the present teachers and officers. The Old Boys Quartette rendered a pleasing selection, Mr. Hewitson, read the lesson for the day, followed by a solo by Mr. George Miller. The birthday offering was then received. The speaker of the afternoon, Dr. David Lowery, the first superintendent, and who is looked upon by many as the father of the school, was then called upon. He was given the Catawqua salute, and the reception which was tendered him, must have warmed his generous heart. To say that the Doctor was pleased to be present, was only to do justice to his manner of address and the expression of his countenance, and the feeling was reciprocated by the large audience. He made one of the rare and understandable addresses to the scholars for which he is noted, and the attention accorded him, showed that it was thoroughly appreciated. Mr. David Whyte, rendered a solo, followed by prayer by Mr. Wolz. The afternoon was a thoroughly enjoyable one.

SHORT HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

Sydenham Street church was begun as a mission of the down-town Methodist churches in 1890. The church was opened Oct. 31 of the same year by Rev. John Kay, president of the Hamilton conference, and at the time pastor of Wellington St. church, assisted by the pastor of Brant Avenue church, Rev. James Aude. Within little more than a year the church became self supporting.

WORKINGMAN'S CHURCH

It is essentially a working man's church. It is a fact related with pride that there is not a moneyed man in the church. Nevertheless \$8,000 was raised last year and the church is free of debt. They have purchased a splendid parsonage, and the church is well officered.

TEA MEETING TO-NIGHT

To-night an old-fashioned tea meeting will be held, to be followed by a concert, which judging by the programme will be of exceptional merit. The meeting to-night will close the anniversary services.

The response for contributions to the redecoration fund was liberal and it is hoped that to-night's proceeds from the tea-meeting will be sufficient to take care of the whole expenditure.

A very handsome church calendar was prepared for yesterday's occasion and was distributed freely to the worshippers.

COURIER LOCAL AGENTS

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