

The Ontario Evangelist.

A RELIGIOUS MONTHLY.

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T. L. FOWLER, - EVERTON, ONT.,
GEO. MUNRO, - ERIN, ONT.,
EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS.

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SEPTEMBER, 1888.

THE FIRST PREACHERS OF THE GOSPEL.

The success which attended the proclamation of the gospel at first was due in no small degree to the character of the preachers. The power which they preached was the power of God unto salvation, but it was the power of God unto salvation, only to those who believed it—to those who accepted it conscious of the self-denial and responsibilities in which it involved them.

While this faith was produced by the facts of the gospel yet we must remember that it was through the testimony of the apostles.

It was intended by the Saviour that the gospel should be presented to the world by those whose lives would be a demonstration of the gospel's power.

That this should be the case not only in the beginning of the gospel but to the end of the gospel dispensation is evident from a part of the prayer of Jesus in the seventeenth chapter of John.

If we were asked to mention some of the leading characteristics of the first preachers of the gospel we would say in the first place that they were tried men—tried and true. They were the chosen of God as the first proclaimers of the gospel because they were tried. They were the "survival of the fittest." Many whom he had chosen to be his followers not being able to endure the fire of persecution and the hard sayings of their Master went back and walked no more with him.

They were educated men.

No class of men has been more grossly misrepresented. In justification of illiteracy, awkwardness and even rudeness in the pulpit the apostles and their fellow-laborers have been represented as uncultured—rude, rough and illiterate. It is true that they were unlearned and ignorant men according to the Jewish standard, but they were educated nevertheless—educated in heart and mind—educated in the knowledge of human nature and human wants and in the knowledge of divine truth. Though destitute of a knowledge of letters taught in the Rabbinical schools yet they had been with Jesus and had learned of him. During the three years and a half of their intercourse with him they had been greatly benefited. Their hearts had been purified, their feelings refined and their minds and sympathies enlarged.

The apostle to the Gentiles although versed in Greek and Roman lore and having sat at the feet of Gamaliel, yet not being called until after Christ had finished his mission and had ascended, was subjected to a course of special preparation for a period of three years in the quiet of Arabia.

They were faithful men.

There was no characteristic in the lives of the first preachers of the gospel more important and more conspicuous than that of faithfulness to the commission of the Saviour. It must be remembered that the gospel was to the leaders in the Jewish and heathen religions a great offence and that those who were in power were under the influence of those leaders so that wherever the apostles went bonds and afflictions waited for them. A modified gospel would not have been so distasteful to the Jews. The offence of the cross would not have been so great if they had preached circumcision also. To be faithful under such circumstances was a most commendable virtue. The Saviour had this characteristic in view in making choice of the men to be his ambassadors to the world. "I thank Jesus Christ," says the apostle Paul "for that he counted me

faithful putting me into the ministry." It would have been much better for them humanly speaking if they had preached one gospel to the Jews and another to the Gentiles—if, in short, they had modified the gospel to suit the feelings and prejudices of the different sects and nationalities, but no such temporizing expedients were adopted. They were determined not to make known anything but Jesus Christ and him crucified. They knew the consequences of this to themselves but they had resolved to spend and be spent in the interest of a pure gospel.

They were successful men.

Thousands became obedient to the faith. The gospel which was first preached at Jerusalem soon spread over the greatest part of the world. The secret of this success is not hard to find. They were faithful to their Leader. They shunned not to declare the whole counsel of God. They preached the full orbed gospel regardless of consequences. They told Jew and Gentile the same story—the love of Jesus for the lost. They made known the conditions of salvation and the consequences of unbelief. They were not afraid to say "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved but he that believeth not shall be damned." They were faithful to the Lord and he was faithful to them. He worked with them and in them and added to the church daily such as were being saved through the preaching of the gospel.

NOTES.

Bro. Finch's letter from Manitoba should set us all thinking, yea, more than think—doing.

Does the EVANGELIST increase your interest in, and desire for the advancement of, the cause of Christ? If it does, help us to place it in the hands of all the Disciples in Ontario.

Here is the way a brother concluded his letter enclosing names and money for the EVANGELIST: "I wish you much success with your GOOD WORK, and God's blessing." Such words are full of encouragement to us.

A friend informs us that "Grandma Sinclair, mother of Bro. Colin Sinclair, is dead, and that Elder Kilgour preached her funeral sermon." We are unable to give any further particulars this month; we shall expect a suitable obituary for next month. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

There are 10,000 colored Disciples in Kentucky.

Contributions from Ontario to Foreign Missions since last report:—S. S., Guelph, \$3.09.

There is a colored column in the *Apostolic Guide*, but it is the same color as all the other columns.

Don't forget that by sending us \$2.00 you can get the *Christian Standard* and the ONTARIO EVANGELIST both for one year.

Has your life been less happy than it might have been because of scratching pens? If so, there is no need for further misery on that account; get a box of the "Ball Pointed Pens" and you will feel so happy you will want to write all the time.

An Episcopal clergyman writing in the *Christian Standard* says, that, the weekly communion is becoming the rule rather than the exception in the Episcopal Church in the United States, and it will not be long before this Scriptural practice will be universally adopted.

In this country one of the distinctions between Disciples and other religious bodies is that generally speaking they are opposed to tea-meetings. It is not so in Australia. In the Treasurer's statement of the New South Wales Mission Fund we find this item, "Proceeds Tea Meeting, etc., £3. 15s. 3d". And the Australian Disciples are "sound" too.

In the *Australian Christian Standard* of May 1st 1888 we find an interesting account of the Annual Conference of the sisters in Victoria. We notice that those sisters call their bands Disciples Societies. Their reports indicate that they are doing a noble work. We are glad that the women are taking their rightful and Scriptural position in Australia as elsewhere. The Lord has need of the labors of consecrated women.

What human souls need is not harsh criticism but help to live as becomes the gospel. It is easy to scoff and sneer. It does not require much of intellect or moral excellence to do either. Such conduct does no good and may do much harm. Lowell says that the dull fool's sneer has oftentimes palsied the arm just raised to achieve its crowning deed. It is far better and far nobler to speak well of those who are striving to do their duty. Bid them godspeed. By your gentleness make them great. This is something within the reach of all. The mouse in the fable extricated the lion. The least can help the greatest. All can help, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.—*Christian Standard*.

The National Convention of the Disciples of Christ in the United States will be held this year in Springfield, Illinois, October 22nd—26th. These conventions are full of interest. We would advise brethren and sisters to attend them. Any intending to go this Fall should write at once for reduced rates on the Railways to Robert Moffett, 715 Loyal Ave, Cleveland, Ohio.

There was a grand time at the Annual Convention of Disciples recently held at Harrodsburg, Ky. During the missionary year \$10,603.26 was raised for mission work; and \$9,338.17 for building houses and locating preachers. The total number of additions to the churches through the efforts of the society was 2,216. The Kentucky brethren are rejoicing over last year's work and setting out to do a larger work during the present year. They are reaping the fruits of systematic and enthusiastic labor.

During the past month the remittances received from those in arrears is gratifying. A number of new names has been received also. We hope to hear from a great many more during this month. Brethren, you can make the burden on our shoulders much lighter with little exertion on your part if you only will. Almost every Disciple and many who are not Disciples would take the paper if you would ask them to subscribe. Please do so. It is one way of doing good.

EDMUND S. KILGOUR,

FRANCES BRYANS,

MARRIED,

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST FIFTEEN A.H.

Residence, McTague St.,

Guelph, Ont.

1888.

The above tells its own story. It only remains for us to offer our warmest congratulations to Bro. Edmund and his bride.

I am amazed at the rapid and continuous growth of the Disciples in the West. In some towns they have absorbed almost everything. The grandest report was made to the "Missionary Society of the churches of Christ in Indiana," this year, that has been heard in its entire history. The number of additions gained by evangelists in the employ of the Society aggregates 2,267. Twenty-four churches and twenty-seven Sunday-schools were organized during the year. Sixteen new church houses were built. The amount of money collected and expended for evangelistic services was \$13,132.68; money pledged for evangelists, \$4,087; money raised for church houses, \$34,680.50—making a grand total in Indiana through "the Missionary Society of the churches of Christ" alone of \$51,900.18.—*B. B. Tyler in Christian Standard*.

Dr. Sumners the publisher of the *Octographic Review* has much to say about his brethren whom he denominates Modern Schoolmen. Of course he belongs to the ancient school—to the ancient school of human creeds. He would have his creed or human opinions incorporated in the deed of the church property. He would bring all men to his way of thinking—in bondage to his opinions—if not by the rack and thumb screw by the strong arm of the law. And yet David would like to be recognized as a reformer! Alexander Campbell spent his life battling for the emancipation of Christians from the bondage of human creeds; and now at this late day—the centennial of his birth—a man who claims not only to be a Disciple but a publisher of an eight-writer paper seriously recommends the formation of a creed and the insertion of the said creed in the deed of the church property. It don't require a man (to use one of the publisher's words) of much "mentality" to be a fault finder and a schismatic.

The China missionaries report two conversions. Dr. Macklin baptized the first and E. T. Williams the second. They are greatly encouraged by these first fruits of their labors. E. T. Williams, in describing the baptism, writes: "In the morning the man and his friend came to our house. We had a brief service of song and prayer, followed by an exposition of Romans vi. 4. After this we went out to a large pool in front of our gate. When Dr. Macklin had led him into the water he asked him to confess Christ before the people, who had come together from the whole neighborhood. He said: 'I believe that Jesus is the Son of God my Saviour.' You may imagine the effect on us. I saw Bro. Meigs gulp down a sob and brush some tears from his eyes." A few days later the second baptism took place.

A. McLEAN.

Perhaps the church of which you are a member did not take up a collection for Foreign Missions the first Lord's day in September. Could you not urge them to do so later? Surely you can't read the above paragraph without feeling like assisting the missionaries.

Bro. George Black spoke in Erin Village and at Erin Centre Lord's day Aug. 26th. The brethren in Erin were glad to see and to hear Bro. Black. The writer took Bro. Black's place at Acton and while there was glad to hear a good account of Bro. George. He has devoted himself with great zeal and faithfulness to the work of the Lord. All departments of church work have been beneficially affected by his untiring energy and incessant labor. There have been a number of baptisms recently and altogether we should say the brethren have reason to rejoice over what has been accomplished during the summer G. M.

We are sorry that some of the churches in this Province which we would suppose to be most able seem not to take any interest in Foreign Missions. At least so far as we can learn they give nothing to the support of them. They surely do not believe that the Saviour never said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation." If keeping the commandments of Jesus is the test of discipleship, how can those claim to be His disciples, who, being able, do nothing towards carrying out the commission. A saying of Spurgeon's comes in here, "The question is not so much can the heathen be saved without the gospel, as can we be saved if we refuse to give it to them?" That is how it is, don't you think so?

Let no church plead an excuse for not giving something to support Home Missions. Some may say: "We have so much to do to sustain the cause in our own church that we can't give anything for missions." Every church in the Province might say the same thing. If they did and acted upon it, what would become of the mission points? They, of course, would be abandoned. All churches should have an equal interest in missions. It is as much the duty of one church as another to sustain and carry on the work in weak places. The Board will meet on September 18th, at seven o'clock p. m., at the Church on Dennison Avenue, Toronto. Don't fail to send pledges before that time. The importance of having pledges in before that time will be obvious to all. Send pledges to T. L. Fowler, Everton. Money may be sent either to him or to John McKinnon, Everton, Ont.

It is generally admitted that a good Cyclopaedia is a desirable possession for every home. As to which Cyclopaedia is the best for popular use, the "Doctors disagree." Evidently the matter of choice should depend somewhat upon the use for which it is intended. A customer of ALDEN'S MANIFOLD CYCLOPEDIA writes to the publisher as follows:

"I have been exhibiting the Manifold among my friends and acquaintances, and expatiating on its excellence and wonderful cheapness. There is no reason why every young man in the land who has occasion to refer to a Cyclopaedia should not possess it. The laying by of five pennies a day for six months will put him in possession of a work that will be of lasting benefit. Among those to whom I have shown the volumes I found but one young man who did not need the Manifold. He has a Cyclopaedia; a number of large volumes; he did not know how many, nor did he know the name of the editor or publisher; but they are very large, heavy volumes. Believing he did not frequently consult them, I asked if he ever used them.

"Certainly," said he, "I use them every day."

"What can you possibly do with them?"

"Why, I press my trousers with them."

"My dear sir," said I, "you do not need the Manifold. Mr. Alden publishes books for the purpose of developing and improving the intellect, and not to give shape to the legs. Do you stick to your ponderous, unwieldy volumes; they are well adapted to the purpose for which you use a Cyclopaedia; but the dainty volumes of the Manifold—how delightful to handle, and how beautiful to behold—are made with a view to ease of reference and convenience of consultation, and cannot be successfully converted into a substitute for trousers' stretchers."—EDWARD EBERBACH, Washington, D. C.

The fifth volume of the MANIFOLD CYCLOPEDIA, which has just been published, more than sustains the good reputation of the previous issues, being, especially, more full in its vocabulary, and the entire workmanship, both literary and mechanical, apparently being of a higher grade. It is certainly not only a wonderfully cheap, but a thoroughly excellent, Cyclopaedia for almost any conceivable use except that of a "trousers' press." The publisher will send specimen pages free to any applicant, or specimen volumes may be ordered and returned if not wanted. Reduced rates are offered to early purchasers. John B. Alden, Publisher, 393 Pearl St., New York; 218 Clark St., Chicago.

CHURCH NEWS.

MOSA.—Bro. Lediard commenced a meeting with the Mosa church Aug. 26th.