

## Annual Meeting Notes

(CONTINUED FROM LAST NUMBER.)

The list of delegates and visitors given in last number we find is incomplete. Our attention has been called to these omissions: Miss M. McGill, Erin; Mr. E. Thomson, Wainfleet, and Mr. A. Hill and Mr. S. A. Aikins, Orangeville.

Bro. James Kilgour and Bro. O. Sinclair presided at the Lord's table on Lord's day. It was a very solemn yet joyful occasion. Bro. Kilgour's remarks which were pointed, practical, pathetic and scriptural, were delivered with a vigor and an unction which reminded the older brethren present of his palmy days.

Bro. J. E. Barnes, of St. John, N.B., was present with his wife. It was a great pleasure to meet them and get as well acquainted with them as the circumstances would permit. Bro. Barnes is a leading man among the Disciples in the Maritime Provinces, and uncle, we believe, of Bro. E. B. Barnes, of Bowmanville.

It is safe to say that everybody admired the Cecil Street church building. We were glad to learn that some who had not already done so made contributions to the building fund. As the statement of the Treasurer of the church published in last EVANGELIST shows, there is still an opportunity for the friends of the church to assist, and we trust many of them will do so.

Bro. F. W. Norton, one of our Buffalo preachers, was present during a part of the Convention. He said that he came on purpose and he took an opportunity of stating his purpose, which was to induce us Ontario Disciples to co-operate with him in getting hold of all Ontario Disciples removing to Buffalo. In order to further so good an object, we give here Bro. Norton's address—15 Union Place—and the location of the church—Richmond Avenue and Bryant Street, Buffalo, N.Y. Let all our readers take notice, and when they know of any Disciples, or those belonging to the families of Disciples, going to Buffalo, let them not fail to send a post card to Bro. Norton, giving the names and addresses of the persons.

There was a goodly number of preachers present, old, middle-aged, young and younger. There were Jas. Kilgour and C. J. Lister; O. Sinclair, S. Woolner, J. A. Bronenstahl, T. B. Knowles, J. Lediard, J. R. Gaff, H. Brown, E. B. Barnes, P. Baker, J. K. Hester, Robt. Stewart, W. G. Charlton, D. H. Stewart, M. Putman, J. D. Stephens, A. C. Gray, Amos Tovell, R. W. Ballah, John Munro and Alex. McMillan. Other preachers, as E. Sheppard, W. D. Campbell, W. M. Crewson and R. M. Answorth, desired to be present but were not able to go owing to other engagements.

One of the features of our Annual Meetings that are especially pleasing to us is that in the conduct of the business no question of "minister" or "layman" comes up. The preaching and non-preaching brethren with equal interest and equal freedom take part in the discussions. In regard to pressing money matters our observation is that the business men among the brethren are more urgent than the preachers. Our annual gatherings are no mere preachers' conventions. May they never be so.

It would not be right to pass Bro. A. N. Gilbert by with the meagre

reference that was made to him in last EVANGELIST. Bro. Gilbert fairly devoted himself to the Convention. He attended all the business sessions and gave much help by dropping the right word in the right place as occasion required; he also undertook the task of conducting the Question Drawer Department of the Sunday school programme, which, as a matter of course, was done to the satisfaction of all. His sermons and addresses were all of a high class as to treatment, style and delivery. He spoke as often as he was on the programme and three times besides, viz., on Monday afternoon, on "The Position of the Disciples;" on Monday evening, when he gave a Gospel sermon, and on Tuesday evening, when he generously presented his lecture on "Jerusalem." As Bro. Gilbert in his lecture was describing what he himself had seen in his own clear and beautiful way it is scarcely needful to say that the lecture was a series of word-paintings.

When Sister Jessie H. Brown concluded her heart searching and eloquent address on Friday afternoon, the writer asked some of those standing by whether they thought the Apostle Paul would object to such an address by a woman. They smiled in such a way as to indicate that they guessed not. As she developed her theme, "The Christian's Motive in Mission Work," going from point to point, leaving the lower for the higher, until the grand climax, "The love of Christ constraineth us," was reached, many hearts, no doubt, were filled with shame at the thought of how feebly they had responded to that sublime motive, and many, let us believe, were asking pardon for the past and strength for the future, that the days to come might show a performance more worthy of so high a calling. May the words of the cultured and talented lady, our gentle and modest sister, be an ever increasing stimulus to higher and holier service.

The Committee of legal brethren appointed to secure an act of incorporation for the Co-operation from the Legislature reported that upon making application in the usual way the Law Clerk of the House told them that as the objects of the Co-operation were not specified with sufficient clearness in Article two of the Constitution, the Legislature would almost certainly refuse to pass the desired act. The Committee therefore suggested that the Constitution be amended in the respect mentioned. The Board of Managers thereupon recommended the change to the Annual Meeting, which was adopted by an almost unanimous vote. It is greatly to be hoped that another session of the Legislature will not be held without our securing the act of incorporation. We have reason to believe that our mission fund suffers from the want of such an act.

We think it a matter of regret that time could not be found to discuss fully the lawfulness from a New Testament standpoint of seeking an act of incorporation for the Co-operation. Some of the Disciples throughout the Province seem to think it is entirely wrong and should not be thought of. One brother, at least, who was at the Annual Meeting appeared to be of that opinion. We should like to see the discussion of the question given a place on the program of next Annual Meeting, so that any brethren who may be opposed to incorporation may have an opportunity of stating their objections. For our part, we are confident that the more the matter is looked into the more the propriety and necessity of incorporation will be seen.

It was a liberal Convention. Counting subscriptions and cash collections, and including what the sisters raised for their work, and also the Sunday collections which went to the Cecil St. church, we think the total would amount to about \$1,900. On Saturday night in a few minutes about \$570, principally in subscriptions, was added to the Home Mission Fund of the Co-operation. If the brethren throughout the Province contribute on the same scale as did those who were at the meeting, this year will be a great year for our mission work.

The Toronto daily press gave us a fair amount of space considering how they were taxed to inform the public concerning the dying Premier. The Mail gave us a generous report Monday, June 8. As it deals with some matters of business not reported in THE EVANGELIST as far as we recollect we shall give the major portion of it in this number.

Finally, brethren, if there are any other matters that should be noted in addition to what are here referred to, or were dealt with in last number, if our friends will draw our attention to them, or if we think of them ourselves, we shall make mention of them hereafter.

## TRUSTEES OF EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FUND.

John Campbell, St. Thomas; John McKinnon, Everton; Thos. Whitehead, Walkerton; J. M. Laws, Toronto; M. N. Stephens, Glencairn; D. A. Sinclair, Blenheim; J. D. Higgins, Toronto; C. A. Fleming, Owen Sound; R. Windatt, Bowmanville; L. K. Murton, Oshawa; A. Yule, Aurora; Dr. James McCullough, Toronto; D. W. Clendonan, Toronto Junction. This board afterwards organized with Dr. McCullough, President; John McKinnon, Treasurer; and C. A. Fleming, Secretary. We have not at hand the report of the Committee on Education as we write. We shall try to have it for next number. The selection of the above named influential and representative brethren as Trustees indicates that there is a determination to press the educational enterprise on to success.

(From Toronto Daily Mail.)

## THE CHURCH IN THIS CITY.

The principal mission point of the church in the Province and its growth, which has been favorable, may be taken as an indication of the progress of the Disciples in Ontario. Rev. J. R. Gaff is the pastor of the Cecil Street church, and in connection therewith there are 108 members beside adherents. The present is the largest and most representative meeting of the body ever held in this Province. They hold that they are distinguished from the other churches in that they (the Disciples) advocate Christian Union on the basis of a return to the faith and practices of the Apostles, and they urge that every person who complies with the conditions laid down by the Apostles is entitled to church membership. They also maintain that heartfelt faith in Christ, a genuine repentance to God, a public confession of Jesus as Lord, and baptism by immersion into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is all that any body claiming to be a church of Christ has a right to require of those seeking its fellowship. A continuance in faith with them gives the right to continuance in such fellowship.

## MORNING SESSION.

The proceedings in the morning were opened by devotional exercises, conducted by Mr. J. K. Hector, of

Guelp. A short conference on the question of statistics was held, and the reports from the standing committees were afterwards received. The first presented was on Union, by Elder James Kilgour, of Guelp; it stated that a paper relative to the position of the Disciples and of the question of union between the Disciples and the Baptists, and between the Disciples and the Christian connection, had been published in the Toronto daily papers and in THE CANADIAN EVANGELIST. In presenting the report the speaker gave it as his opinion that the time is still distant when union between the Disciples and either of those bodies can be consummated.

Mr. John Munro, B.A., Toronto Junction, read the report of the Committee on Education. It was reported that three courses of lectures to students were arranged for during last session of the University of Toronto. Two of these were given, one by Mr. T. B. Knowles, of St. Thomas, on "The Evidences of Christianity"; the other by Rev. J. R. Gaff, of Toronto, on "The Bible." After the reading of the report a cordial vote of thanks was tendered to the lecturers and acknowledged in suitable terms. Recommendations by the committee were adopted by the convention as follows: (1) That in the coming year similar courses of lectures as delivered last year be arranged, to begin in the fall if possible. (2) That the effort to raise \$20,000 to endow a chair of Biblical Literature, as proposed last year, be earnestly made this year.

The Committee on Resolutions presented a partial report recommending that a message of sympathy be sent to Lady Macdonald by telegraph. This was adopted by a rising vote of the convention.

## AFTER MIDDAY SESSIONS.

The afternoon session was devoted chiefly to the discussion of Sunday School Work. Mr. James Gillfillan, of Bowmanville, was the first speaker, taking for his subject, "The Teacher, His Work, His Influence, and His Rewards." Mr. O. Sinclair, of Collingwood, then presented the statistical report of the Sunday schools, which showed an encouraging increase in the number of teachers, scholars and contributions. Mr. A. Tovell, of Warton, gave an exhibition of advanced class teaching, which was much enjoyed. Mr. James Lediard, of Owen Sound, spoke briefly on "Sunday School Conventions and their Benefits." He advocated the forming of local associations of schools situate near together. Miss Agnew, of Toronto, showed how she would teach a primary Sunday school class, and Miss Leary, of Toronto, read a paper in which she held that excellent results followed the cultivating of a missionary spirit among the children.

The first part of the evening session was taken up with the conducting of a "Question Drawer" on Sunday School Work. Rev. A. N. Gilbert delivered a splendid address on "The Sunday School Idea." Mr. T. B. Knowles made a short and earnest appeal on behalf of the Home Mission Fund; an immediate response was asked for, and in a few minutes about \$570 was added to the fund in subscriptions and cash.

## SUNDAY SERVICES.

Services yesterday were begun in the morning at ten o'clock by a meeting of the Young People's Society, conducted by the President of the society, Mr. D. Munro. Devotional exercises and quotations of passages of Scriptures bearing on the topic, "Crucified with Christ," were followed by Miss Jessie H. Brown, of Cleveland, Ohio, in an address showing how the Young People's Society of Christian

Endeavor is helping on the movement in favor of Christian union, because: (1) The name "Christian" is Catholic (Epworth League and St. Andrew's Brotherhood are sectarian); (2) in the conventions where societies from different denominations meet the best side of all is kept to the front, and all sectarian strife and bitterness suppressed; (3) perhaps more than all the Christian Endeavor is helping the cause of union because its test is the personal pledge of loyalty to Jesus Christ, not to the society. At the conclusion of Miss Brown's impressive talk the president made a few remarks illustrating the point that the society is a great feeder to the church.

## SERMONS AND ADDRESSES.

At eleven o'clock the regular morning service at which the minister of the church, Rev. J. R. Gaff, presided, was addressed by Rev. A. N. Gilbert, Cleveland, Ohio. His theme was "The Essential Creed of Christianity." He discussed the confession of Peter at Caesarea, Philippi: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God," and declared it to be the creed of the church of Christ. He raised the question whether that is a meagre, bald creed, and pointed out that it contains five distinct propositions, viz.: (1) "The God." (2) "The Living God." (3) "The Son of God." (4) "The Christ." (5) "Thou Jesus of Nazareth." These points were elaborated in such a way as to make manifest that he who believes them with all the heart believes much, and holds no bald nor meagre creed. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper was then observed. Elder James Kilgour, of Guelp, and Mr. O. Sinclair, Collingwood, presided at the table.

The church has two Canadian medical missionaries in China—Dr. W. E. Macklin and Dr. James Butchart—and a meeting was held in the afternoon, at which addresses were delivered on foreign mission work by Mr. Tozo Ohno, a Japanese missionary in this city, and Miss Brown, Cleveland. Mr. Ohno has received an excellent university education in his native country, and since his arrival in this city less than two years ago has made wonderful progress in the study of the English language. He is here for the purpose of studying theology, and in a few years will return to Japan to labor as a Canadian missionary. In his address he dwelt upon the necessity of unity among the various Christian bodies in Japan, and read letters from missionaries to show how the work was progressing amidst all the difficulties in the way both at home and abroad. He strongly held that an interest in missions was beneficial to the church. In fact without the missionary spirit there would be no church, and Christians should be careful to follow the example set them by the Saviour and remember His command regarding the preaching of the Gospel.

Never give a promise which you do not fulfil.

Never fail to be punctual at the time appointed.

Never fail to give a polite answer to a civil question.

We can only obtain the blessings that Christ came to bestow, by receiving Him as our Lord and Saviour.

Not the least important grace which a Christian may display is that of handshaking. Do not wait for an introduction, but when you see a stranger near you on the Sabbath in the church, or in the weekly prayer meeting, greet that person with a word of welcome and a warm shake of the hand. This is important!