

**CHURCH NEWS.**

**CO-OPERATION NOTES.**

Sickness and the snow blockade combined made it necessary that I should abandon the northern churches for a time, so turning southwards, I went to Hamilton; a good audience at both meetings on Lord's Day, and one confession at night. I spoke at Bro. Anderson's house on the Monday night, and the baptism took place at the close of the service. They have a good Sunday School, and could do a good work in this city if they had a house of worship. They are all doing their best under the circumstances, but are hindered by lack of a suitable place to worship and work in. I had a very enjoyable time with our aged Bro. Anderson and wife, and made some new friends. They contributed \$100 to our Home Mission Work.

From Hamilton to Beamsville. Here the cause is improving rapidly. Indeed it would surprise many of the brethren to see the large church building, the large and united membership, and the interest taken in all that pertains to the cause of Christ. Bro. H. B. Sherman it will be remembered labored here, and it was during his stay and largely through his energy that the house was built here. He has been succeeded by Bro. W. D. Campbell, who is respected and beloved by all. Twenty-four have been added since he came here in August last. The meetings are largely attended on the Lord's Day, and so is both S. S. and Prayer Meeting. I would like to write more about this stirring congregation, but cannot at present. They were unable to contribute much to our Home Mission Work, as they have a somewhat heavy debt on their building, which, however, is provided for, the whole amount being distributed amongst the congregation, each doing a fair share. There is a specially bright future before this church.

From Beamsville to Welland. Here Bro. Campbell had been preaching for about ten days, and as he had to leave I took up the meeting and carried it on for another week. A number were added during this meeting, and one or two since. Bro. Moot will, no doubt, report the actual number of additions. He is working faithfully there against difficulties which would dishearten many men, and his perseverance is being rewarded. Welland needs help, and ought to have it, if possible.

From Welland to Jordan. Here, I regret to say, trouble has scattered the brethren, and practically there is no church. A few gathered and I spoke to them one night only, and passed on to the Lake Shore. There are about twenty-five brethren here who do not go to Beamsville to worship. I did not speak to them, as for some reason they did not announce the meeting. In company with Bro. Campbell I made a few visits, and so enlarged my acquaintance with the brethren here.

From Lake Shore to Smithville. Where I had a pleasant visit with our aged Bro. Nathaniel Wardell, and at night I spoke to a small audience. They were heartily in sympathy with our Home Mission Work, but were unable to help to any great extent, as they have promised to raise all they can this year to help the work at Beamsville.

From Smithville to Gainsboro. Here I found Bro. Pardee, from Suspension Bridge, in the midst of an interesting meeting, and, Bro. H. Prown, from Warton, helping him. I stayed and preached three nights, and greatly enjoyed my visit, both with the church and with these brethren. The meeting still continues. They could not do very much to help others just now, as they need to begin by helping themselves, and they are intending to do so by engaging a man to preach the gospel here and in Wainfleet. The brethren are waking up to this important matter, let us rejoice over it: a church that does not preach the gospel to the world, will soon itself die.

From Gainsboro to Wainfleet. Here large audiences were gathered, and there is a large degree of life and interest maintained that is truly refreshing. I preached twice on Lord's Day and on Monday night; two persons confessed their faith in Christ at the close of the meeting. Their Mission Band is alive and active. Each sister contributing 20c. per month, of which one-half goes to help the church at home, and the other to missionary. They are devoting the missionary half to the Manitoba work. Their meetings are held monthly, and consist of prayer and praise, with readings, addresses,

Scriptural recitations, all bearing on missions and missionary work. The church pledged \$37.65 for the work of the Lord.

From Wainfleet to Selkirk. Here good audiences met me, and I had a pleasant visit amongst the brethren. I preached two evenings, and to my appeal they gave a hearty response, considering their other obligations, \$31 in cash being the amount subscribed.

A very cold and uncomfortable stage ride, and a somewhat long one in the cars, and I am in Stratford, and must close at this point. I go north from here, and call on the churches I failed to reach before. J. I. Feb., 1887.

**TORONTO.**

DEAR EVANGELIST.—As a year has elapsed since we left "Occident Hall" and began work in our present house of worship, we deem it proper to acquaint your readers with what we have been doing, and what we have accomplished during this time, as many of them have so kindly and generously contributed of their means to aid us in our work.

After considerable labor and care, mingled with much earnestness and enthusiasm, we completed the preparation and furnishing of our church house, and opened it on 21st Feb'y; 1886. To us this was a day of gratitude, and much hopefulness for the future of our work in this city.

The cost of the repairs, and furnishings at that date was \$1,024.80. We have received from individual friends and churches (as reported in the "EVANGELIST" and "Worker") the sum of \$445.25. Our debt has been reduced to \$365.00. Our current expenses, for Rent, Coal, Gas, Water, &c., for the year, was upwards of \$340, this does not include \$35.00 paid for painting the outside front of the church building last June.

We began in our present house (a year ago) with a membership of 46, during the year this has been increased by 57, making a total of 103. Of these, one has passed "over the river" into rest, 7 have removed to other places, and 8 have gone from us, and are not now of our number, leaving a present membership of 87. Of the number added 12 were by "faith and obedience," and 45 by relation, several coming to us from beyond the sea.

None of our members are rich in temporal things, but many are abounding in faith, zeal, and good works to such an extent, that we expect to do much more—by the divine blessing—the coming year. Beside our current expenses which will not decrease, we have determined to raise (over and above the \$50 pledged as our contribution to the Co-operation) the sum of \$300.00 to aid in carrying on evangelistic work in this city this year.

While we pray for the increase of Zion, we determine to work as we pray. We feel deeply thankful for all the help we have received. It has been a source of much encouragement to us. By some we have been assisted beyond expectation. Ours is the best objective point for encouragement of this character in Ontario, hence further help in our present circumstances, will do great good in the Master's cause. The outlook is good, our meetings are full of interest. We have two services, School and Bible class on Lord's Day, congregational singing practice on Tuesday. Prayer meeting Wednesday, and Bible class on Friday evenings each week. The result of this activity, is much spirituality, and "growth" in favor, and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Sincerely your Co-laborer,  
GEO. J. BARCLAY.

"Church of Christ,"  
Danison Ave., Toronto, Feb. 28, 1887.

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