

Anniversary Services at First Baptist Church

83rd Anniversary of the Church Celebrated Fittingly on
Sunday; 60 Years in Present Building

The sixtieth anniversary of the erection of the First Baptist Church was fittingly commemorated on Sunday by services of an exceptional character, distinguished by special sermons of a particularly compelling and effective power and by music of a beautiful and inspiring nature. Dr. Brown, of Toronto, a brother of the pastor, took charge of the service in both the morning and evening and addressed the Sunday School in the afternoon on the mission work of the Baptist Church in India.

In the forenoon, the minister chose his text from the second chapter, "And the Lord added daily unto the church such as were being saved." In his opening remarks, the speaker thought that in the congregation, as they looked back over eighty-four years of service in the community, a feeling of gratitude should be present for the way in which they had been guided by the Lord during all that time and for the splendid influence that had been made on the community, by the existence in it of such an institution. At the present time, there were over six hundred members, and they were possessed of a beautiful church, although sixty years old of which they could be justly proud. Since the opening of the edifice, innumerable lives have been benefited and thousands more had passed through the doors better qualified to meet the battle of life.

The speaker referred to the first church at Jerusalem, as it was described in the passage just read by him, and proceeded to point out the various ways in which it was identical with the Baptist Church of modern times. This first church throughout all the intervening time has stood out as a model, a pattern, and an ideal to be followed by all other Christian churches. One of its outstanding features at it appealed to him, was that it was composed solely of saved people, every member being "a child of God." He considered it to be the purpose of God that all the members of his church should be saved people. There are many churches that hold the doctrine that they should be open to the unsaved, but the speaker was glad that such views had never been held by the Baptist denomination.

In spite of this, however, there was some doubt in his mind if laxness were not creeping into the church in this respect, and that the regulations governing the acceptance into the church of those professing Christianity were strict enough.

Another of the prominent characteristics of the church at Jerusalem was that not a day passed without some saved people being added to it, and that the activities of the mem-

bers were constant, ever seeking new conquests of souls. It was a church in which the spirit of the Holy Ghost was free to hold sway, being the real directing force guiding the destinies of the people. This condition was possible only through the close fellowship that existed between the people and the apostles.

The new converts were brought under the spell of the personality of the apostles and through this medium were drawn closer to a full realization of the principles of Christianity.

The communion service was also highly esteemed by these early people, somewhat of a contrast with the attitude of modern people to this important sacrament. It was a heart-breaking experience to sit in a pulpit and announce that communion would be observed and then watch a large part of the congregation file out the door, declared Dr. Brown, who compared this to turning their backs on Jesus Christ.

Fear, a righteous and holy awe of God was ever present in the minds of the people and was expressed not only in reverence to God but in a deep horror of sin. In short, spiritual values were completely eliminated, and the people lived with the sole object of assisting each other. They had a passing for the House of God, in which beautiful and sweet social relationships were formed, and in which there were no cross purposes to disturb the even tenor of events.

Dr. Brown then summarized the main elements that entered into the success of this early institution, claiming that, unity, holiness, deep abiding and a great and wonderful unselfishness were the chief features responsible for the respect in which the church was held by the people of the surrounding district. "Do you wonder that any but saved people would dare to join such a church? But what about the First Baptist Church of Brantford? How do you compare with this first church at Jerusalem?" were the final remarks of Dr. Brown, that brought to a conclusion an extraordinary and powerful appeal for purity in the church.

While the sermon itself was of a stellar calibre, the musical numbers were equally good and in keeping with the general high standard of excellence maintained by the First Baptist in this department of devotion. The choir, assisted by Mrs. Leeming, exceeded their usual brilliancy and contributed several anthems, "Come Into Me" (Hymn); "Come Into Me" (Bowles); and "Hallelujah Chorus" (Handel); which were especially appropriate to the occasion. A beautiful solo, "As the years are rolling on" was sung by Mrs. Leeming, which was

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particularly adaptable to the circumstances.

The Evening Service
Four potent reasons for being a Christian were assigned by the Rev. Mr. Brown in the course of his evening sermon, based upon the words of Agrippa to Paul in Acts, XXVI, 28, "Almost Thou persuadest me to become a Christian."

These words of Agrippa's were no doubt spoken, the speaker observed, in a cynical, sneering tone; the King was impressed by the words of Paul, but was unwilling to be convinced by them and hence sought to turn the matter off with a sneer and an ironic jest. But Paul answered him in earnest, regardless of the mockery of the King, "Would to God that not only thou but all that hear me this day were both almost and altogether such as I am except these bonds."

The speaker expressed his intention of speaking not so much to the Christians in the congregation as to those not yet in the church who might chance to be present, and to give them reasons why they should become Christians. Of these, one of the most potent was for the sake of Jesus Christ Himself, to whom we owed all in this world; by becoming Christians we were merely giving to Him what was His. His was His by creation, by preservation, by redemption.

The second reason was for our own sakes, for the great need of Christ felt by all of us. In youth, we needed Him as a guide to lead our footsteps in the path of safety; in middle-age, as a help to bear our burdens of responsibility. And more than ever in old age, when the powers begin to fail and the shadows commence to fall, do we need Him. For the sake of others near and dear to us, we should embrace Christianity. Any man with a Christian mother should become a Christian in order that he might not lay a heavy burden of sorrow upon her. The same applied to the case of husband and wife, for religion is essential to the true spirit of domestic happiness, and in the family where one member is not a Christian, the sense of unity is shattered.

The fourth reason for being a Christian was found in the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom established over 1900 years ago and still spreading its banners throughout the world which had so great need of it to-day. The soldiers of the Kingdom of the Allies, were at the front to-day because the Kingdom of Love, the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, was not established in the Central Monarchies, and the thing which could most hasten the war to a successful conclusion was our manner of life throughout the Empire. The speaker expressed his strong belief that every sin committed in this country rendered the winning of the war more difficult for the Allies, and that our manner of life would determine how the war went, by either adding to or taking from the forces of righteousness in this world. "What," demanded the speaker of his audience, "is your contribution to the betterment of the world? The greatest contribution you can possibly make will be in talking Christ for all that He is, Master, Guide and Keeper to you. You cannot become like Christ without receiving Him." Special and appropriate music for the closing service of the year 1916 was rendered, including the solo "Ring Out, Wild Bells" by Mrs. Leeming and the Anthem, "Lead Kindly Light."

Children Cry
FOR FLETCHER'S
CASTORIA

The Only Son of Harry Lauder Killed at Front

Was Captain in Argyll Sutherland Highlanders and Had
Been Twice Wounded Previously

London, Jan. 2.—Capt. John Lauder, of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, only son of Harry Lauder, has been killed in France. In late years all Harry Lauder's hopes and ambitions have centred in his son, who was graduated from Cambridge and was about to begin his training as a lawyer when the war broke out, although Lauder, writing in the Sunday Herald yesterday, said: "When my son comes home from the war I hope he will take kindly to thoughts of sheep farming and become established as a decent Scots laird, growing the nation's meat. That's the life that is a reality, but most of you doing in town are just a cinema show."

When Jack Lauder came of age in December, 1912, there was a banquet at Dunoon to celebrate the occasion. The Provost was there and the chairmen of the various local bodies and leading ministers and public men friends of Harry Lauder from all over the country. When war broke out Capt. Lauder, then at Cambridge University, joined the

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, training some months at Bedford He was visited there in camp by his father, who delighted the regiment by singing the Scottish songs they loved. Lieut. Lauder went to the front and was wounded at Festubert. He soon went back to the trenches after recovering, but in September, 1915 was invalided home. Shortly afterwards he was promoted to captain, and went back. He was again wounded. He spent some weeks in England last August. Father and son were in a box at the Alhambra. With them was Miss Mildred Thomson, to whom Capt. Lauder had just become engaged. She is the daughter of a well-known Scottish farmer, retired.

Harry Lauder will feel the blow harder, because it comes at the moment of triumph, when he crowned all his achievements in vaudeville by appearing as an actor at a revue. Owing to Capt. Lauder's death there was no performance at Shaftesbury Theatre last night, and it will not re-open until Thursday night.

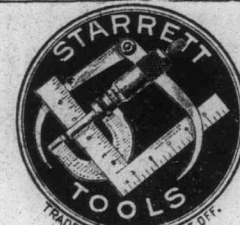
CHILDREN'S AID BENEFIT CONCERT

Was Held in Grand Opera
House Last Evening

While the concert given in the Grand Opera House last night, in aid of the Children's Shelter, did not come up to expectations as regards attendance. When considered on the merit of the numbers offered by the artists on the programme, the concert can only be described as a complete success. So much so indeed that it has been decided to repeat it in the near future, some Sunday night after the services in the different churches have been concluded. The rather poor house that turned out to greet the local talent that provided the entertainment was due doubtless to the many other counter attractions, as well as to the short notice given of the concert itself.

To those who participated in the programme nothing but the highest praise is due, the quality of the numbers contributed being exceptional, and the various selections being of a uniformly excellent calibre. The programme in detail was:

Part One
Song: "The Gallant Salamander" Mr. Walter Carpenter.
Violin Solo: "A Spanish Dance" Miss Mildred Sanderson.
Song: "Your Eyes Have Told Me So" Miss Oldham.
Reading: "The Busy Body" Miss Pearl Pile.
Song: "Down the Vale" Miss Agnes Heath.
Part Two
Violin Solo: (a) "Canzonetta," (b) "The Butterfly," Miss Mildred Sanderson.
Song: "There's a Long, Long Trail," Sergt. H. Oldham.
Reading: "Watching" Miss Pearl Pile.
Song: "Up from Somerset," Mr. Walter Carpenter.
Song: "Calling Me Home to You,"



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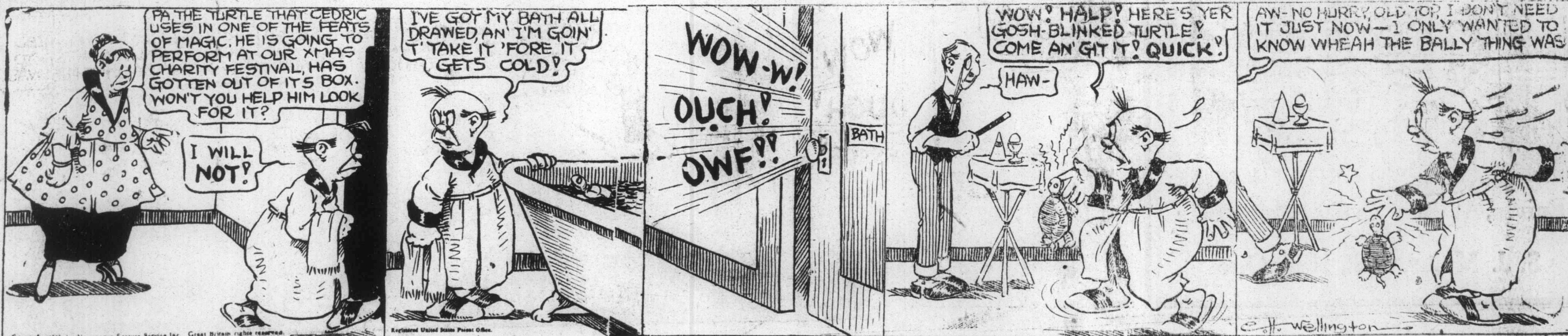
This is to tell you that we have removed our offices from 103 Colborne Street to the Royal Loan Building, 38 and 40 Market Street.

This move betokens progress. It is made necessary because Brantford has been selected as the centre from which the business of a large surrounding territory shall hereafter be conducted, and the consequent need of more space to accommodate our agents and office staff. In these larger and more commodious offices we are better equipped than ever before to render service to our policyholders in this district.

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