

THE Canadian Evangelist PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY AT 85 WELLINGTON ST. NORTH, HAMILTON, ONT.

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HAMILTON, APR. 1, 1893.

James Kilgour.

On the first page of this paper will be found the announcement of the death of one of the fathers in our Israel, together with a biographical sketch, which we are given to understand is a faithful outline of his outward life.

Brother James Kilgour belonged to a class of men not well understood by this generation. We live at such a distance from the days of their services, successes and sacrifices, that unless we take pains to inform ourselves accurately, we shall under-estimate their abilities and undervalue their services to the cause of Christ. The Editor of this paper has sought for some years, by such means as were available, to gain an insight into the history of the pioneer days of the Disciples of Christ in Ontario. He counts it his good fortune to have had the opportunity of becoming pretty well acquainted with a number of the pioneer preachers, and as a result he finds himself respecting them for their ability, admiring them for their extensive knowledge of the Scriptures, honoring them for their self-denying labors, and loving them for their Christian character. It is to be regretted that there is not in permanent and accessible form a record of their efforts to propagate primitive Christianity in this country. It has been suggested that the present would be an opportune time to carry out a project we have been considering for a good while, viz: to open a department in the EVANGELIST with this heading: "Our Pioneer Preachers; their services, successes, and sacrifices; personal reminiscences." We adopt the suggestion, and invite our brethren and sisters to send us for next paper their recollections of striking incidents in the career of Bro. James Kilgour in his capacity of a pioneer preacher. We shall be pleased to hear from a large number in time for our April 15th issue.

In anticipation of receiving for publication estimates of Bro. Kilgour's preaching power from those who knew him well and heard him frequently, we deem it unnecessary to write at length of what we could only do so at second hand. But we cannot refrain from mentioning the fact conceded by all who had opportunity and capacity of judging, that he possessed in an unusual degree that much to-be-coveted combination in a preacher, the power to enlighten the mind by clear and forcible exposition, and to move the heart with warm and stirring exhortation. Many a preacher has regretted his lack of one or the other of these talents.

It may well be thought superfluous to say that Bro. Kilgour had a clear perception of the fundamental position of the Disciples of Christ, that as Christ is the Head of His own church, no human being has a right to meddle with its constitution, and that it is gross presumption for any person or any society to add to or take from the conditions of membership laid down by the Lord and His inspired apostles.

There are many who accept this principle as sound who greatly err in applying it, and so practically set it aside. Such people place themselves in opposition to every proposed change, whether it be a matter affecting this fundamental principle or not. We have often admired the way in which Bro. Kilgour met such questions and assigned each to its own department, as an essential or non-essential. It is an indication of a sound mind in a sound body when a person growing old in years continues young in feeling and maintains his power of adapting himself and his ideas to changing times and circumstances. This was conspicuously true of Bro. Kilgour, and so he was the warm friend and wise counsellor of his younger brethren in their efforts to carry on the good work inaugurated by himself and his contemporaries.

It is the desire of parents to see their children grown up and settled in life, or in a fair way to become so, and still more to retain the respect and affection of their children to the last. It must be a painful experience, and it appears to be a not uncommon one, for a parent to find that his own sons and daughters have ceased to love him and even to respect him. Bro. Kilgour was singularly happy in this regard, for the most friendly and affectionate relations existed between himself and all the members of his family and of his sons' families. This of itself will show that thoughtfulness and kindness were prominent in his nature, for with parents as with others the rule applies, "He that hath friends must show himself friendly."

Bro. Kilgour lived to a good old age and yet was not tired of life. This life was to him a precious gift from God, and he believed in gratefully opening his mind and heart to its manifold blessings, and to him the greatest of life's blessings was the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. He has left those behind him who loved him dearly and who would fain have detained him longer here, but they hope to meet him on the other shore and with him to be forever with the Lord.

"Improvement in congregational singing is being encouraged in Central Presbyterian church. Prof. Aldous has organized a class which meets in the schoolroom on Friday evenings for the study of vocal music and sight singing. A large number of the congregation take advantage of it."

The above is from the Hamilton Times. That is the way to improve congregational singing, as we take occasion to remark now and again.

Our Omnibus.

A large amount of matter is unavoidably held over this time, including "Critic's Corner," and an interesting letter from Bro. Finch, on the Manitoba public schools.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.—In addition to the sums reported on another page, the following sums have recently been sent from Ontario to the Foreign Mission Fund:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Church, Glencairn... \$ 45 81; Church, Hamilton... 46 50; A few brethren, Nassagaweya 34 42; R. Arntson family, Acton... 25 00; D. F. Kilgour and wife... 4 00; C. W. B. M., Ontario and Maritime Provinces... 100 00

ELDER KILGOUR'S FUNERAL.—The remains of the late Elder Kilgour were laid to rest in Everton cemetery on Thursday afternoon, the pallbearers being his five sons and his grandson, J. F. Kilgour. After a brief service at the house, the remains were taken to Zion church, where an hour's funeral

service was participated in by Rev. Geo. Munro, Hamilton; Rev. George Fowler, and Rev. Dr. Torrance. The former spoke in terms of high tribute of the deceased. The funeral then took its way to Everton cemetery. There was a large attendance of friends. The mournful procession was met on the way by many of the acquaintances of the deceased, some being present from Luther, Orangeville, Hillsburg, Marsville and intermediate places.—Guelph Mercury.

Church News.

LONDON, March 29, 1893.—The work is moving along encouragingly. There have been three additions recently by primitive obedience.

T. I. FOWLER.

ST. THOMAS, March 21, '93.—Bro. Z. T. Sweeney was with us on 17th, and delivered his lecture on "Going up to Jerusalem," to a good audience. All were delighted with the lecture. We hope to have Bro. Sweeney lecture here again next June. One baptism to-morrow evening. T. B. KNOWLES.

WELLAND, ONT., Mar 24, '93.—The Trustees of the Welland Church met last night, and appointed Bro. Young as Secretary Treasurer. Kindly, therefore, allow it to be known through your paper that any help towards the debt of the church may be sent direct to Mr. Daniel Young, Welland, Ont. The Church Secretary, Miss Richardson, will receive and acknowledge all help towards the support of the preacher and current expenses. Bro. G. D. Shriner is our Church Treasurer.

G. W. JACKSON.

AYLMER, ONT., Mar. 21, '93.—DEAR EVANGELIST: It may be of some encouragement to our sister churches to learn that Aylmer and Dorchester congregations have made their first contributions for the cause of foreign missions. Dorchester contributed \$4.50, and Aylmer \$24.00. Aylmer is weak in numbers and means, but has much of the spirit of self denial and faith. Dorchester is comparatively strong in numbers and wealth, but weak in effort. Still we have reason for gratitude that some of the obstacles that have blocked the wheels of progress in Dorchester since the days of Elder Shepherd have been removed. Those who mean to serve the Lord in the practice of primitive Christianity are now the Church of Christ, of Dorchester, and have been organized for aggressive work. It will doubtless require years to out grow the odium that has attached to the church there. It has been a blot upon the fair name of Christ and a great hindrance to the progress of truth. I trust every such useless association, called by the undeserving name "Disciples of Christ," will soon be buried. For dead things pollute the atmosphere and spread disease if left unburied. The Church of Christ, of South Dorchester, now wish their fellow disciples in Canada to understand that they stand in close sympathy in all work in which their sister churches are engaged "for Christ and the Church."

E. R. BLACK.

BLENHHEIM, March 22.—Bro. Merry was with us last Lord's day, and will remain for a time. We have also been having a treat in listening to four addresses from Mrs. Hitchcox, of Paris, the temperance lecturer, her themes were "The Sin of Neutrality," "The Power of Influence," "License," and "Stumbling Blocks." She also sings solos at each meeting. Crowded houses listened to her, and over three hundred signed the pledge. While not sparing those engaged in the liquor

business, she drives home personal responsibility on the individual voter. She does not spare the Christian either, but very forcibly states a fact—that if the Christian people would unitedly say so, we could banish ever bar-room in our land. It is well to know the truth. COM

Cecil Street Anniversary.

TORONTO, CECIL STREET.—We have passed two years in our new church home and on Lord's day, March 19, marked the fact by our usual anniversary services. The house was crowded; some judicious advertising and the fame of our preacher for the occasion, Bro. Zach. T. Sweeney, did it. We had, however, very few brethren from a distance. But the result showed that an able man can fill Cecil street church, and it is still our hope to do this in this city of churches. It is safe to say that all were pleased, even delighted, with Bro. Sweeney's ability as a speaker. That he is truly an orator in the first degree no one can deny; his appearance and methods to say nothing of the effect of his utterances prove this, and we were proud of him. In the morning he held our attention for an hour and a half on the subject of the Christian Law of Greatness. The greater the Christian, the greater the servant, he said. The world honors its heroes, but adores its servants. He who would be chief among you must be the servant of all. With such thoughts set amid vivid and oftentimes thrilling illustration did he stir our hearts. In the evening he spoke a powerful and logical sermon on fundamental principles. On Monday evening came the "treat" of the occasion. To a crowded house Bro. Sweeney gave his celebrated lecture, "Going Up to Jerusalem." At this event Rev. Dr. Stewart presided and the proceedings were slightly shared in by Rev. Mr. Hunter, of Erskine Presbyterian church, and Sheriff Widdifield. The lecture was a brilliant effort, full of much information and fine description of persons, places and things to be seen on a trip from New York to Jerusalem, but to the regret of his hearers Bro. Sweeney stopped outside of the walls of the city. Privately he says that is "continued in our next," but we all felt we got all we could retain and probably more. On the road "up to" Jerusalem we experienced the landsman's joy and fears over his first ocean voyage and the strange fellow-travelers he meets. We saw Liverpool docks and shipping; we traveled thro' "merry England's" storied places and sweet pastoral scenes, not omitting Stratford-on-Avon, where lies the great bard of nature and England—William Shakespeare—and stopped to moralize a moment at Bedford jail, where John Bunyan suffered for preaching what it is now a crime to pervert—the gospel of Christ; and then the great city of the world, London, which contains more Scotchmen than Edinburgh, more Irishmen than Dublin and more Jews than Palestine, next claimed our thought, with its historical buildings and wonderful heaping together of the material, literary riches of the globe. Then we crossed the channel, more comfortably than Bro. Sweeney did, and took a peep at France with its volatille people, visited the great health resort of Europe and Italy—the Riviera—and laughed over foreign menus and the language of signs. Next we visited Rome, the ecclesiastical mistress of the world, and then on rapidly to Joppa by sea and by land to that mount to which Abraham made his first great journey with a son for a sacrifice. Bro. Sweeney closed with a brilliant and eloquent description of John's vision in Patmos of the heavenly Jerusalem coming

down out of heaven to earth which we were all journeying and where he trusted we would all meet. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Bro. Sweeney. It may be of interest to know that the trip described, of which this conveys but a very slight intimation of its wealth of eloquence and humor, was one taken by him in 1887 in the company of our late great brother, Isaac Errett.

REUBEN BUTCHART.

Co-operation Notes.

BOARD OF MANAGERS.—Pres., Hugh Black, Rockwood; Vice Pres., John Campbell, Erie Mills, St. Thomas; Rec. Sec., J. W. Kilgour, Guelph; Cor. Sec., Geo. Munro, Hamilton; Treas., John McKinnon, Everton; R. Windatt, Bowmanville; Thos. Whitehead, Walkerton; John Black, Rockwood; Edward Tolton, Osprey; Enos M. Campbell, Toronto Junction. All contributions to the funds of the Co-operation should be sent by Registered Letter or Post Office Order to Geo. Munro, Cor. Sec., 85 Wellington St. North, Hamilton, Ont.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

Levi Thomson, Ellisboro, N. W. T. \$ 5 00 Y. P. S. C. E., Bowmanville (for Welland) 10 00

It is time to remind the churches that the Co-operation asks them to take up a special collection for Home Missions on the first Lord's day in May.

As usual the Board depends upon preachers and elders to lay the matter before the churches and impress upon them the duty of cheerful liberality. The signs of the times show that the Disciples of Christ have not yet fulfilled their mission in Ontario.

The Board was instructed by the annual meeting to prepare a series of questions to be answered by churches desiring aid from the Co-operation after the next annual meeting. All the present points, and any others wishing assistance, are asked to take notice. Blank forms will be sent to all applying for them to the corresponding secretary. It is intended that these forms properly filled out should be in the hands of the chairman of the committee on missions by May 1st.

Reminders are being sent to those who have not yet paid their subscriptions to the Co-operation this year. It is hoped that all who can will pay promptly.

GEO. MUNRO, Cor. Sec.

Woman's Work.

From the Maritime Provinces.

The foreign missionary work in the Maritime Provinces seems to have taken on new life since our sister has gone to her field of labor and has been sending back her loving messages; thus stimulating to more activity the home workers, and awakening in others a desire to have a part in this grand work. We believe that Sister Rioch has what she desires, the love, the sympathy and the prayers of the sisters in these parts. In the Coburg Street Church, St. John, we have started a Monthly Missionary Meeting in connection with Sunday school. The scholars are already becoming deeply interested in our missionary and her work as well as other fields. We try to always have an interesting program of missionary exercises, missionary readings, recitations and singing with something especially for the little ones, also giving them something to do to make these meetings more enjoyable. We trust that many in this way are being educated for earnest missionary workers, and perhaps some for missionaries. Certain it is that the mis-