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JULY, 1888.

A TRIP TO OLD BETHANY.

On the 18th ult. we (more than the editorial we) started for dear old Bethany—dear to Mrs. F. as the home of her childhood, and to us as the seat of our *Alma Mater*.

At Detroit we were met by Miss Christie-McKillop, of West Lorne, Ont., who accompanied us and helped to swell the number of visitors which came to Bethany from all quarters.

The name of Bethany College awakens pleasant memories in many minds. The faces and voices have changed since many of us ceased rubbing against her classic walls, but the walls and walks the trees and hills are there the same, and so is the old corridor upon which we used to march and sing our College songs. The winding Buffalo and the shady ravines with their sparkling waterfalls are there as in the days of yore, and so are also many of the names which have been written upon the sheltered rock.

To a Disciple wherever he may be, whether in Canada or in the United States, in England or in Australia, if he be acquainted with the life and work of Alexander Campbell the name of Bethany College is familiar. No other institution is so intimately associated with the Reformation of the Nineteenth Century, and it is not likely that any other ever will be.

Bethany College, like many other institutions, has had its seasons of depression, occasioned by changing circumstances, many of which seemed enough to crush an institution with greater vitality, but Bethany College, like the memory of its founder, is immortal. It was not born to die.

The graduating class was thirteen in number. About half of them will become proclaimers of the gospel. The class was fully up to the average. From their bearing and addresses on commencement day, we judge it was one of which the faculty had reason to be proud.

The exercises in connection with the centennial of Mr. Campbell's birth were held on the afternoon of commencement day, and were greatly appreciated. There was no hero worship in connection with it; no extravagant allusions nor sickening eulogy. We wish that those who think, who honestly think, we are Campbellites had been there.

Addresses were delivered by Pres. Woolery, R. Moffett, S. M. Cooper and others. B. J. Radford, associate editor on the *Christian Standard*, read a poem which he had prepared in honor of the occasion. Those who are capable of judging said it was good. Everybody was disappointed that W. K. Pendleton, son-in-law of Mr. Campbell and his successor as president of the College, did not deliver his address. There is no man living we presume who knew Mr. Campbell, his noble character, his exalted aims and high purposes better.

The most significant feature of the exercises was the prominence given, not to Alexander Campbell as a man, but to the principles which he held and the truth which he taught. We were never more convinced that Mr. Campbell had grandly succeeded in the work which he had undertaken. He did not create a following for himself, nor give to the world another sect, but was, as he desired to be, an instrument in the hand of the Lord in leading us up to a higher appreciation of the divine calling and to a greater respect for the Word of God. Through his teaching the respect for human creeds has been lessened, the bonds of sectarianism have been weakened and the whole Christian world made to sigh for closer fellowship.

The noble countenance of Mr. Campbell, ex-

pressed in the marble bust which occupies a prominent place on the rostrum, and which was during the entire proceedings suffused with life-like colors by the sun light streaming through the stained glass windows, seemed more hopeful and inspiring than ever, and at the mention of the name of the college of which he was the founder great enthusiasm prevailed.

In the evening we were all treated (all who could crowd within the walls of commencement hall) to a lecture on "Progress" by Prof. B. J. Radford. It was a lecture of unusual power and depth.

W. H. Woolery is President of the College, and is a gentleman of culture and erudition. His reputation as a powerful preacher is as great in Bethany where he ministers to the church as it is abroad. We had hoped to have heard him or President Pendleton preach on Lord's Day, but a Canadian preacher occupied the pulpit, and we were disappointed.

Mrs. Alexander Campbell is remarkably hale for one of her age, she was able to attend nearly all of the exercises. Her presence is a constant source of inspiration in every circle in which she moves.

The outlook of Bethany College is more hopeful than it has been for several years. There is an earnest and efficient faculty willing to work and sacrifice in the interest of the College and students.

S. M. Cooper, the Financial Agent for the College, is meeting with success in raising an endowment fund. Several thousand dollars were subscribed for that purpose on commencement day.

Let us give Bethany College an adequate endowment, and she will educate our sons and daughters and send them out prepared to do battle for truth and righteousness.

T. L. FOWLER.

"THE WORK OF THE LORD."

There is a great danger that besets us as professed followers of the Lord Jesus. It is that we should forget the meaning and purpose of Christianity. It seems to be quite easy to allow the church of Christ to fall from its high estate, and to give it a place little if any above that of benevolent societies. We are very liable to forget that Jesus came into the world "to seek and to save the lost," and we have difficulty in remembering that our work as His followers should be the same, not to gather a large congregation of people together, not get for ourselves a name, not to have influence, but to be fellow-workers with God in the great work of saving men. And what an inspiring, thrilling thought it is! The eternal welfare of men! What a work is "the work of the Lord"! Not to gain a man to a sect, or a party, or to us, but to Christ. Not to win a man for the sake of his influence or his wealth, but for his own sake; as Paul might say, "Not his but *him*." Not to be more anxious for the salvation of a rich man than of a poor man. Perhaps it is hard—nay, it is hard, to have our hearts right in this respect, but it is surely possible, and being possible we should labor earnestly for this great grace. For what a miserably mean, contemptible conception it is: A man professedly working for God, yet, really, working for self; professedly anxious for men's salvation, yet really anxious for the gaining of some lower and personal end! Let every Christian examine himself and see whether he is truly devoted to "the work of the Lord."

THE SPIRIT OF THE TIME.

One does not need to be very old to remember well the time when to advocate Christian union was to incur the hostile criticism of the large majority of professing Christians. Whereas now to oppose Christian union is almost unpopular. The public mind is every year getting a clearer preception of the truth that sectarianism is a great hindrance to the work of the Lord—in fact, is utterly out of harmony with the spirit of Christ, and entirely incompatible with the highest success of the gospel. Sectarianism has fewer advocates now than ever before, and the number will grow rapidly less. This is a step, and a long step too, towards the primitive order. When once the wrong is clearly seen by those who love the Lord, there will be no peace so long as divisions continue to exist. That there is at present so much uneasiness, and an increasing unwillingness to defend denominationalism is a very encouraging sign. This union spirit so largely prevailing in our day must be a source of high gratification to the old men among the Disciples of Christ who were opposed, ridiculed and denounced for declaring sectarianism to be a sin. To find their old-time opponents now on their side must be a great joy. It would be

more than could be reasonably required of men to expect them not to rejoice at finding the views which formerly made them unpopular now complacently held by the vast majority of believers. And, indeed, they ought to rejoice because the truth is thus prevailing.

We think it may then with truth be said that one principal position the Disciples have contended for has been gained, viz:—that sectarianism is wrong, and should be given up. At least, if everybody does not yet so believe, so many do that the conversion of the remainder may be left in the hands of our "religious neighbors." And as the Disciples have been pioneers in that work, so should they be in the furtherance of the next position—the basis of union. They have, of course, from the first been forward in this matter; but as, we presume, will be understood, what we maintain here is, that as the desirability of union is now generally conceded, it is now the duty of the Disciples to concentrate their strength on the way in which that union can be effected,—in other words to faithfully and constantly direct the attention of the people to the Scriptural foundation of Christian fellowship, "the unity of the Spirit," as set forth by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 4: 1-6.

NOTES.

John A. Brooks of Missouri, nominee of the Prohibition party for Vice President of the United States, is an able preacher among the Disciples.

If you do not get your paper regularly notify us by Post Card. When we mail the papers we take it for granted they reach their destination unless we hear to the contrary.

P. A. Dickson and Geo. T. Walden, two of our Australian brethren, and both highly esteemed for their Christian character and promise of usefulness, left for Australia last week. Their many friends in Kentucky and elsewhere wish them a safe voyage and a happy reunion with their loved ones.—*Guide*.

The greatest feat of baptism in the history of the Baptist Church in modern times was that performed in July, 1878, by J. C. Clough, a missionary who, with the assistance of five native preachers, immersed 2,222 persons within six hours.—*Ex.*

And still some of our pedobaptist friends will continue to maintain that the Apostles could not have immersed 3,000 on the day of Pentecost.

We learn from our American exchanges that Children's Day was more largely observed this year than ever before. We have not yet seen a report of what our Sunday Schools in Ontario have done further than the following: S. S., Galt, \$2.00; S. S., Warton, \$10.00; S. S., Erin Centre, \$3.00; S. S., Erin Village, \$20.00, and S. S., Glencairn, \$10.00.

Brother and Sister Gunn, and baby Gunn too, all attended our Annual Meeting for the first time this year. We are glad to know that they enjoyed themselves. Those who heard Bro. Gunn in the Methodist Church, Lord's Day morning, were highly pleased with his discourse. Bro. Gunn is doing good work in Bowmanville.

We again take pleasure in calling attention to *Literature an Illustrated Weekly Magazine*, published by J. B. Alden, 393 Pearl St., New York. It is only \$1.00 a year. Young people of a literary turn of mind will find much to interest and instruct them in each number. Send for a free sample copy to above address.

Bro. Wm. McGregor, of St. Williams, Canada, and a graduate of Newton Theological Seminary, has sought a home among us, and is now visiting the churches at Poestenkill and Eagle Mills with a view of locating. This makes the third Baptist preacher to come among us from Canada during the last year. Another has been on the ragged edge for some time, but has quieted his conscience for the time being.

The foregoing is from Bro. Hertzog's New York Items in the *Standard*. The *Canadian Baptist*, we presume, is still unable to understand such a statement. By the way, the *Baptist* still refuses to exchange with us, and also to define for us the name "Regular Baptist."

We are glad to note the continued prosperity of the *Missionary Tidings*. It has recently been enlarged and otherwise improved. It is only 50 cents a year. It will be found interesting to all Christians, but especially to those sisters who are engaged in organized work. We heartily commend it to them as a means of aiding them in their work. All communications should be addressed to MRS. SARAH E. SHORTRIDGE, 358 Home Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dr Robert Moffatt, the heroic African missionary, after his return to England, having been 54 years a missionary in South Africa, on being asked by a friend for his autograph, wrote the following:

Mine abum is the savage breast
Where darkness broods and tempests rest,
Without one ray of light.
To write the name of Jesus there,
And point to worlds all bright and fair,
And see the savage bow in prayer,
Is my supreme delight.

H. A. McDonald, late president of the college at Mayfield, has decided to re-enter upon his labors as a preacher of the gospel. Bro. McDonald is a good man with an excellent record. He is a worker and such are always in demand.

—*Apostolic Guide*
Bro. McDonald has been very successful as a teacher and has filled the position of President of West Kentucky College to the entire satisfaction of the authorities and patrons of that institution; but we are glad he is about to devote himself anew and entirely to the preaching of the gospel. That is his work.

Bro. C. Sinclair made a statement on behalf of the Collingwood church. He said, among other things, that he was sure no church in the Province is making greater sacrifices, that the members are devoted and zealous, and that he believed a few years of help will make them self-supporting. There is still a debt of \$700.00 on their house. The membership at present numbers thirty-four.

The following facts from the report made at the Annual Meeting by Bro. Crewson will be interesting. Ten were baptized during the year; there are fourteen places in Muskoka where the Disciples have met together to break bread, at five of these they meet regularly; there are also seven or eight other points where Bro. Crewson has preached occasionally. It will readily be seen that Bro. C. needs aid in that region. We are glad to hear that Bro. Baker and Bro. J. B. Lister are to spend the summer there.

By invitation from the sisters of Canada, Mrs. O. A. Burgess recently attended their first Annual Meeting, held at Erin Centre, in connection with the brethren's convention. As we expect to have a full report of the proceedings to lay before our readers next month, we will only say that Sister B. was most cordially received by both brethren and sisters, and was much pleased with her visit. Her return was hastened by a telegram received at Detroit announcing the serious illness of her father. We are happy to say that he is now recovering. Had it not been for this sudden recall home she would have visited Ann Arbor on her way.—*Missionary Tidings*.

The Presbyterians of Canada are taking advanced ground on the Temperance question. The general assembly of this year passed the following by a vote of 149 to 10:

That the Assembly declares that the general traffic in intoxicating liquors is contrary to the Word of God and to the spirit of the Christian religion; that total Prohibition would be the most effective form of Temperance legislation; that it is in the highest degree expedient that the State should pass an efficient Prohibitory law, and therefore the Assembly urge upon all the members to use all legitimate means to secure such legislation.

Evidently the Assembly is not dismayed by the defeats sustained by the Scott Act last spring. A Prohibitory law may be accounted one of the certainties of the not very distant future, but that such a law will at once settle the liquor question is perhaps not altogether certain. Nevertheless let the trial be made.

The Appeal of the Board to the Disciples in the Province, published in the June EVANGELIST, has been issued as a circular letter, and sent to all the churches in the Province. It is to be hoped it will receive the prompt attention of the churches. It is evidently of the highest importance that the Board should know as soon as possible how much money they will have at their disposal during the year. The recommendation made at the Annual Meeting was "that the churches be requested to appoint canvassers as soon as possible to solicit subscriptions from every member for Home Mission Work." Every Disciple should have a chance to give.

Bro. R. N. Wheeler at the Annual Meeting made an appeal on behalf of the church in Hamilton. A meeting house is very badly needed there; at present the church meets in a hall upstairs in a business block. Bro. Wheeler thinks if they had a house they would prosper rapidly. Those who have given attention to the subject know that the brethren in Hamilton are a liberal people; they have long been generously helping others; we hope the day is not far distant when they will receive that assistance from the Disciples of Ontario which will enable them to place the cause on a proper footing in the Ambitious City.