

was spent; and when the time came for retiring we found ourselves the recipients of many valuable presents. This is only one of the many tokens of Christian love and esteem we have received from the brethren and sisters of Westport. The evening being a disagreeable one, a number who could not attend occupied another evening of the following week with a like result. With thankful hearts we say: God reward you for your kindness.

H. E. COOKE.

BOWMANVILLE, ONT.

Beginning March 10th and ending April 13th we had one of the most successful meetings ever held in the history of this church. We were ripe for it, and I doubt if a more propitious time could have been found. We began in the midst of intense opposition; sectarianism was doing its worst or best to make our meeting a failure, but the efforts were futile and only served to hasten the meeting to a beginning sooner than we had intended. The brethren took hold of the work as if all depended on them, and this accounts in a large measure for our success. They attended the meetings, talked about the meetings, prayed for the success of the Gospel, laid their worldly cares aside, invited their friends to come, in fact made everything else subservient to the meeting. As a result we had good audiances and on Lord's days chairs were put in the aisles for the accommodation of the numbers who came to hear. We preached the first week and endeavored to get the church enlisted, for what was to follow. Bro. F. M. Rains, then came to our help and remained with us two weeks. He is an able preacher and delivered some good discourses, his words being aimed at the heart as well as the head, and generally they hit the mark. He is wonderfully earnest and his enthusiasm is proportionate to his earnestness, while at the same time his fidelity to the Gospel is unquestionable. During the second week of his stay the majority of those who came in at this time made the good confession. Many influential men of our town now wear the scriptural name—Disciple of Christ. Services were held in the afternoons as well as at night, and I think some of our best meetings were in the afternoons. In the two weeks that Bro. Rains was with us twenty-nine were added. The writer continued the meeting another week with more additions, when Bro. Gaff, of Toronto, accompanied by the Misses Joy, who possess rare gifts as singers, came to our assistance. Bro. Gaff remained from Monday until Thursday and preached some excellent sermons. Others were added during his stay. We then continued the meeting a few nights longer, and although the interest would warrant our continuing, we thought it advisable to close. In all thirty-nine were added, all but one by confession and baptism. The church is greatly strengthened and we are hopeful for the future.

If in order just now I would like to tell what we are doing in Bowmanville. In the first place the church paid off the \$3,500 debt on the new house of worship; paid out more than \$200; gave to Foreign Missions, besides keeping up current expenses. All our obligations are promptly met and we are free of debt. Besides our regular prayer-meeting, which is well attended and very interesting, we have a young men's prayer-meeting, which meets every Sunday morning at 10.25 for half an hour's devotion. This has been but recently organized and starts out under favorable circumstances. The Christian Endeavor has about fifty members and is a great source of strength to the young Christian. The Endeavor gave \$50 toward extinguishing our church debt; raised money enough to pay for the carpeting of the church, which cost \$220, besides giving \$25 to purchase the curtains which hang back of the pulpit. I think this is a good showing. All this money has

been raised, except \$50, and we have till November 1st to do that. We also have a Ladies' Aid Society, which will do good work. This is a new feature, but starts out promisingly. The Sunday-school is vigorous. The Bible class has nearly fifty members. All the seats in the new church have been taken and we are talking of putting in another row. We are alive and are going to make great efforts to have our cause in Bowmanville firmly established. Brethren, pray for us that our efforts may be successful.

E. B. BARNES.

HOME MISSION BOARD.

On account of illness of the Secretary no letters have been answered during the month, but all correspondence will be answered in a few days.

RECEIPTS FOR APRIL.

Previously acknowledged.....	\$349 70
Cornwallis—	
Per R. Stevens.....	5 00
Bowmanville, Ont.—	
E. B. Barnes.....	2 00
Westport—	
Per Miss Payson.....	2 00
Halifax—	
Per Mrs. Carson.....	4 10
Milton—	
Per Miss Freeman.....	5 00
St. John—	
Y. P. Mission Band.....	1 95
Total.....	\$369 75

A RARE CELEBRATION.

On the 15th ult., ninety persons met at the house of Jacob Ling, New Glasgow, to attend his golden wedding. The aged couple and family were prepared to meet relatives and friends, and things moved on without a ripple to disturb the serenity of the occasion. There were present five daughters, three sons-in-law, one son, one daughter-in-law, and twenty-three grand children. Their two children, Mrs. Turple, of Halifax, and Mr. Horace Ling, Denver, were absent. The groomsmen of fifty years ago, Mr. James Proctor, was present, hale and hearty. The bridesmaid, Mrs. Harding, now lives in Boston. A sumptuous supper was served, and the evening was spent in agreeable conversation interspersed with suitable music, vocal and instrumental, with Miss Ella J. Bagnall at the organ. The children seemed to enjoy the meeting as much as any one, and performed their part modestly and well in the way of singing, recitations, dialogues and stump speeches.

Friends at a distance that could not attend sent their letters and offerings. Besides valuable articles, there were handed in \$70 in gold and silver, and precious paper. After midnight the festival board was again surrounded, but although they did their best at it, there was still bread enough and to spare.

The following papers were read, the first by Mr. Crawford, the other by Mr. Ling, after which was sung, "Happy Day," and prayer was offered. Several persons remained till two and three o'clock and not a few till daylight. Thus ended a happy meeting, many inwardly wondering if they would have a golden wedding:

ADDRESS.

DEAR FRIENDS,—We are met to celebrate an event of long ago. Fifty years ago, to-day, the heads of this family rejoiced to hear the Bible declare them no more twain but one flesh, and that what God had joined together no man might put asunder. Such meetings as the present are "few and far between," because death so often stops the happiness which marriage brings. The death of a partner is like no other death. By it a part of one's self is gone, and the surrounding survivors are strangers. We are glad that a kind Father

has permitted our friends to enjoy their union so long, and hope that for many years they may yet live to counsel, cheer and help each other. They have lived to witness many changes for the better all around. "They have tasted of the good word of God and of the powers of the world to come," and can rejoice to see their children and grand-children choose the "narrow path" and "lay up treasures in heaven." These are among our many reasons for pleasurable emotions.

The difficulty of travelling to this meeting at the season between sleighing and waggoning is a slight interruption, but of this we cannot feel in our hearts to complain since brother Ling has all but promised that should he again marry, it will not be on the 15th of April.

We sometimes hear talk of annexation. But we are well satisfied with our own flag, and especially when the subject of marriage comes up. We admire much that is noble in our cousins across the line, and heartily wish them prosperity, and that they may have few divorces and many golden weddings.

This meeting suggests these thoughts: There is One who loved us and gave Himself for us, who is intensely anxious to secure our hearts and hands in those nuptials which death cannot divide. It is a happy, happy day when we are married to the Lamb. It will be still happier when the dawn of the resurrection shall roll back the gloom of the grave and announce the grand jubilee. When the principalities and powers in the heavenly place shall meet to witness the Lamb present his bride without spot or wrinkle before His Father's throne.

MR. LING'S RESPONSE.

DEAR FRIENDS,—To say that I am very happy to meet you all on this occasion is about the best I can say to indicate what I am unable to express.

Both Mrs. Ling and I feel glad to know that we are thus remembered by relatives and friends. For your presence and very generous offerings we ask you to accept our hearty thanks.

We are sorry that this happened at a time of year so unfavorable to travelling, but as old heads cannot be expected on young shoulders, I have to confess that I was so engrossed with the events of fifty years ago that I never thought of this golden wedding. It is a high privilege, when we are on the declivity of life, and must soon leave our positions for others to fill, to look forward to the grand jubilee where all who love the Saviour will meet to part no more. May we all, by grace divine, have a part in that great meeting.—*Com. to Patriot.*

I cannot fill my life with the glory and love of God, but my part is to stand with surrendered will before my Saviour and He will do the rest.

If I only remember that "there is a Saviour for me" and never say to another "There is a Saviour for you," God's plan in my redemption has not been fully carried out.

If I have been allowed to fall into affliction in order that I might be prevented from falling into temptation, then I should not murmur but should rather take comfort in the falling rod.

Ruskin says: "You may assuredly find perfect peace if you do that which your Lord has plainly required, and be content that he has required no more of you than to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with him.

"Ask, and ye shall receive." Solomon received wisdom because he asked for it, and he received wealth because he did not ask for it. And from this I gather that God showers upon us rich spiritual blessings only because we seek for them, and he blesses us in temporal affairs because we are faithful to the duties—whether great or small—to which he has assigned us.

If any act, however humble or insignificant, becomes my duty, then it ceases to be either humble or insignificant, but becomes an important work upon which the eye of God will rest either in approval or in condemnation.

The question from which I most shrink, but which, in the hour of eternity I will have to face, will not be, "What great deed have I performed?" but, "how have I performed the little duties that have met me every day?"

"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Being faithful to-day and faithless to-morrow will not win for me the promised crown of life.

If I am always faithful to the present duty, I need have no fear but what He, whose name is Love, will uphold me in the last solemn hour.