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EDIFICATION.

From a glance at our ecclesiastic vocabulary we find we have in it about as many kinds of edification as some of our religious neighbors have kinds of faith in theirs. It is well-known that some of our churches hold to "mutual edification," others seem to prefer "self-edification"; while others again have adopted a kind opposed to the "one-man-system" kind of edification.

These different systems have received, at our hands, as careful, and we think as thorough an investigation as their respective merits deserve.

As far as our observation goes, we find the mutual system (mutual properly applies to only two persons) is almost a success, and we can truly say, also, if a small audience is an indication of success, that the self-edification system has certainly achieved it.

Just what is intended to be understood by all of these qualifying terms, when applied to church edification, we do not know, neither have we ever found any one learned enough to fully and satisfactorily explain them.

Self-edification certainly does not mean that every individual disciple is to be left to himself in the matter; and if the term is applied to the church, it can have no distinctive meaning, unless some one has proposed going out of the church for edification.

There is nothing remarkable in all this. It only teaches us that we, like other religious bodies, get confused somewhat in our ideas, and are as fluent in the language of Ashdod as they, when we allow our imaginations to carry us away from the plain teachings of God's Word.

The prevailing idea in regard to the subject of edification is, by no means, commensurate with the idea attached to it in the New Testament. Like many other words, it has been lifted up by the New Testament writers from its literal use, and given a higher and much more important signification. The literal meaning of the word in the original is a *building* or *edifice*, and the verb from which it comes, whether used in a literal or figurative sense, means to *build*. Nathan used it in his instructions to David, to build a house for the Lord, so, also, did Moses in the account given us of the origin of our mother Eve, "The Lord made (*builded*) a woman from the rib which he took from man." It was a word of very common occurrence, and many illustrations of its use, both literal and metaphorical, might be given, if necessary, to show that the word always expressed the idea of building. It is important to remember that this idea is as prominent in the word when applied by the apostles to the church or the members of Christ's body as when used by Nathan in reference to the building of the temple. The materials are different, but the radical meaning of the word is the same whether applied to men or things. That the apostles so understood the matter is clear, from a reference to the passages where the word is used.

From this the necessary inference is, that a church properly edified is also built up—that it is strong, and becomes stronger, spiritually, and active in every good work. The members continue to lose their pride and worldliness, and become more and more zealous in extending the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom, but if coldness and indifference characterize the members, if they are negligent in the performance of Christian duty, and make no progress in the divine life, we can safely conclude that edification in that church is below par. There can be no surer evidence that a church is deficient in this respect than if it is satisfied with its condition. A church, no matter how prosperous it may be, should never be content with its present attainments. Paul did not stop and rest satisfied with his great attainments, but up to the very end of his life he pressed eagerly forward to obtain the prize.

The means employed in this great work—the building up of souls "in the beauty of holiness"

is the Word of God. A part of the Paul's farewell address to the Elders Church at Ephesus, among whom he had laboring for the space of three years, was now brethren I commend you to God and word of his grace, which is able to build you (edify you), and give you an inheritance among them which are sanctified." It is the sword hand of the servant of God, which, if used, will not only defend him from the darts of the wicked, but also defend the and give them confidence while they feed the bread of life, and consequently grow in the Lord.

The admonition of the apostle Paul is: all things be done unto edifying, but that might edify some might not edify others, the necessity—the great necessity of all who fess to be teachers in Israel to "study to themselves approved unto God workmen need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the of truth." The religious teacher occupies a position, fraught with the most serious responsibilities.

T. L.

NOTES.

We have been sending the EVANGELIST to those living in Ontario and Manitoba we names we find on the subscription list of Worker. Now, while we want as many readers as possible, we do not mean to force our paper upon any, and therefore we enclosed, in the No., a small printed slip to all those who were not paid in advance, or who had not indicated their purpose to continue on our list, desiring them to communicate with us at once on this matter. We have heard from quite a number, and we repeat here that we shall esteem a great favor if those who wish to be considered subscribers will inform us of their desire as soon as they possibly can.

Those who may not find it convenient to send the money now, will only need to send a Post Card stating that they wish to take the EVANGELIST.

We are thus particular on this point, because we have heard of a good many people being very indignant on being presented with a bill for a year, or two years subscription to a paper for which they had never subscribed. Though, at the same time, they should remember that the Post Office, is, by law, held responsible for the payment. But we do not wish to take advantage of the law in that respect, unless people say distinctly they want the paper.

Some papers have been returned; for what reason or reasons we are not informed. We should be sorry to think that our paper is not acceptable to any of our brethren. We ask a fair trial from all. Our desire is to publish a paper which will be helpful to our brethren in every department of church work, and which will be unfalteringly loyal to the Master. It is our steadfast purpose to present a full-orbed view of the religion of Christ Jesus our Lord.

We are gratified to receive so many words of commendation from those whose good opinion we value. They stimulate us to go on toward perfection. We thank these friends, one and all.

We are encouraged by the number of renewals and of new subscriptions that we are receiving. We take them as substantial, and financial tokens of approval.

Mrs. C. N. Pearre, whose article on *Women's Work in the Church* appears on the first page, was, we understand, one of the founders of the C. W. B. M., and has had a great deal of experience in that department of church work of which she so beautifully treats. We count ourselves fortunate in being able to present her matured views to the sisters throughout the Province, and we are sure they will be glad to observe that the present article is not to be the last on the same subject. Sister Pearre resides in Lexington, Kentucky.

Bro. H. T. Wood, the author of the article *The Apostolic Mode of Spreading the Gospel*, one of the Elders in the Church at Cobourg. He has held the same views for thirty years, and naturally takes very strong ground on the subject, but not any too strong in view of the Scriptural examples he cites. "There can be no doubt that our neglect of the Towns and Cities is one of the reasons for our slow progress in Ontario."

An editorial on "Inquirer's" article concerning the work of the Holy Spirit is unavoidably crowded out this month. It will be understood that we do not hold ourselves responsible for or any of his views.

We regret to hear of the death of Bro. J. C. Whitelaw's youngest child. It is particularly sad seeing that Bro. Whitelaw is away from his family, being, as our readers are aware, in Portage La Prairie preaching for the church there.

Bro. A. H. Finch, of Owen Sound, has also been called upon to part with his youngest boy—a bright, cheery little fellow he was.

We extend our sympathy to these bereaved parents, and we trust that, in the midst of their sorrow, they may realize more than ever the preciousness of Christianity.

We have seen the Photo Engraving advertised by C. A. Fleming, but we don't know how he can sell it for six cents. It is, indeed, well worth framing. And this gives us an opportunity of saying that Bro. Fleming has a good Business College in Owen Sound, founded, we believe, by himself, and carried on with increasing success from year to year. Owen Sound is a live town, and any one desiring a good business education would not, we are confident, regret placing himself in Bro. Fleming's College.

The *English Pulpit of To-Day* for July, contains the late Hugh Stowell Brown's last discourse, and sermons by Archdeacon Farrar, R. W. Dale, Alex. McLaren, Dr. Joseph Parker, Dr. Cultross and Mr. Spurgeon. The Prayer Meeting Service is by Archibald G. Brown, and the Framework by Stephen Gladstone, son of the "Grand Old Man." Yearly subscription, \$1.50. Clergymen, \$1.00. Single number, 15 cents. A. E. ROSE, Publisher, Westfield, N. Y.

CO-OPERATION NOTES.

The need of united effort amongst us has long been felt, but never as keenly as at present, as witness the testimony of the churches at the late Everton meeting. Each congregation has, in the past, lived its life too much alone. Isolation is not healthful. We need to get nearer together, nearer in our sympathies, and nearer in our activities. Co-operation will help us as nothing else can. United in one common cause, laboring for one common end, we shall know each other better, and move forward as one people, strong in our unity, and God will be glorified and souls saved.

Co-operation means power; power for what? *Think of our number some six or seven thousand at the lowest estimate; what an army!* Think of the Captain of that army; Christ and every Disciple in Canada in the field against sin. Not like Gideon's army reduced to three hundred men, but all held responsible by the Captain, and each expected to do his duty: praying, working and sacrificing for Christ's sake.

"Five thousand dollars for Christ this year," said a brother at the Everton meeting. No one said it was too much; can it be raised for the preaching of the Gospel? Certainly it can; one dollar from each member will more than provide it. Shall it be raised promptly and cheerfully? Yes; certainly, and more if it is needed, will be the response of a thousand tongues. Let every disciple participate in the good work, young and old, rich and poor, up to the measure of their ability. Shall we raise \$5,000 before the next annual meeting, for Christ and His Gospel. "Let all the people say amen."

Toronto, Collingwood, Guelph, Welland, Stratford, Galt, Hamilton and other places, are needing help. They are important centres of usefulness, and should be occupied at once in a manner that would insure success. There are small congregations in each place, yet not strong enough in either place to make themselves largely felt for good. They need help and need it at once. In some of these places they need help for two or three years to place them on a strong footing and give them the means to work, at the best advantage, preachers are sorely needed at these points. Others of them have competent preachers, but these should be remembered and encouraged, and not allowed to make the financial sacrifices they do. \$5,000 will help them all. Shall we have it? Certainly, you say, and more if it is needed, for we owe that and more to the Lord.

The Churches will be visited, at an early date. The aim will be to quicken your interest in the spread of the Gospel at home and around you, to stimulate your liberality for this good work of building up the weak churches and spreading the truth. To stir you up to a greater desire to carry out the commission of the Saviour, "Go into all

the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," and to aid you in the broadening and deepening, of your own spiritual life.

Time passes, we are advancing in years, our opportunities are slipping by us, never to return. The Lord will not hold the next generation responsible for our work, but he will hold us responsible now. We have wasted our time in the past, wasted it in sinful sloth, wasted it in excusing ourselves, wasted it in wordy warfare over plans and methods. Now the time for work has surely come, let us be up and doing, then success is certain, reward is sure.

J. LEDIARD.

CHURCH NEWS.

GUELPH.

Bro. Kilgour enjoyed his visit in Muskoka, and looks quite refreshed after his travels and labors in that northern clime.

The young people in the Guelph Church have recently formed themselves into a Mite Society. There is now a membership of over 20, and they agree to pay five cents a week each. Those of an arithmetical turn of mind can calculate how much 20 would raise in a year by that method. We hope it may become a "might-y" Society, and that the young people in other churches will follow their example, and do something on their own part for the spread of the Gospel. The old people should not have all the giving to themselves.

MIMOSA.

The meetings held at Mimosa by the writer, to which reference was made in the July EVANGELIST, closed with six baptisms. The congregations were good throughout, and the meetings taken altogether were quite encouraging to the brethren as well as to the speaker. There can be no question but that a strong, active church could be built up there, if there were regular preaching at short intervals. It seems a great pity to see such a grand opportunity passing away. Surely the church will not neglect to seize the favorable circumstances, and improve them. The Mimosa brethren, like many others, do not know their own strength, because they have never tried it.

G. M.

BAPTISING IN THE DAM.—Some weeks ago on account of a misunderstanding regarding the history of the Salvation Army Soldiers to meet for Bible study, the connection of a number of soldiers with the army was severed. These, having publicly declared that the Bible and the Bible alone should be their guide and final authority, have continued to meet for Bible study every Lord's Day morning. As a result of Scripture study, one young man, finding it his duty so to do, was baptised in Cranston & Scrimger's dam on the afternoon of Sunday last. A brief but appropriate address was given to the people who had assembled to witness the baptism, by T. L. Fowler, M. A., pastor of the congregation of Christians at Everton, who also gave an excellent discourse in the evening, in the Sons of Temperance Hall, to a small but appreciative audience.—*The Galt Reporter*.

RODNEY.

Bro. Campbell has left us. I try to keep things moving. Brother Sheppard was here and preached last Lord's Day, (18th), and is to be here again on 25th. On August 1st brother Keffler is to be here. All these helps give me quite a rest. It is hoped we shall have a permanent helper in the not far off future. My age and infirmities demand quiet rather than so much mental labor, which, indeed, is harder on me than bodily exercise, and I am not fit but for little of that. I feel I am nearing my eternal home. My Christian life began in 1829.

JOSEPH ASH.

WELLAND.

We learn through a private letter from Bro. Silas Moot that the Welland Church (meeting house, of course,) is being repaired outside and inside. We are glad to learn of that for it was badly needed. Buying old, dilapidated houses is not over-wise, but when the deed is done, then it is wise to make the best of a bad job; and the Welland brethren are doing that. It will be remembered that there is a debt of \$600.00 yet on the house, though the impression got abroad that it had been bought and paid for, and presented to the church by one individual.

We greatly hope the Co-operation will find it in their power to help Bro. Moot to help the brethren in Welland to do the Lord's work. It would astonish many were they to learn of the sacrifice made by that young man.

RIDGETOWN.—Bro. Lediard closes his labors at Ridgetown and Blenheim August 1st. We have not been informed who is to succeed him at those points.