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Don't Say Paper, Say The Evening Telegram.

Evangelists in Newfoundland.

A Review of Their Work.

L. C. MORRIS.

ARTICLE IV.

Our next date is that of 1899, when our popular friends, the Revs. Crossley and Hunter came to our city. Many of our readers have a fair knowledge of those good men, and of their ability as preachers, and of their acceptance with the people. For some five weeks they labored in our city, and in all their ministry they proved themselves "workmen that needeth not to be ashamed."

These Evangelists had been invited here at the unanimous request of the four city Methodist Churches, and they also had the co-operation of the Presbyterian and Congregational pastors of that date, viz., the Rev. Dr. Robertson and the Rev. Joseph Thackeray. As Evangelists they had made a very deep impression throughout the Dominion of Canada, and far and wide their fame had spread. They were both regularly ordained ministers of the Methodist Church, and they always reported their work to their own Conference. Their home was in St. Thomas's, Ontario; but they afterwards removed into Toronto.

Mr. Hunter was the principal speaker of the two, and his wit was as remarkable as his companion's singing. In physique he was tall and lithe; with clean shaven face, and a quite prominent nose. As a preacher he was interesting, though not profound. His addresses were not what would be called sermons in an orthodox sense. His longest discourse was thirty-five minutes, but he seldom over-stepped the half hour; and sometimes finished within the comparatively short space of twenty-five minutes. He had the ability of putting much in little; he would tell a story, and apply its moral, in the brief space of a minute or two. His preaching was quite rapid enough, but he made excellent points all along, and his perorations were clear and convincing. In all this he had the rare gift of combining apt wit, with common sense gravity; and it was in this particular feature, that much of his success to draw the people, and hold them, lay.

Besides being witty he was also very pathetic, and in almost the twinkling of an eye he could change smiles into tears, and vice versa. But he had still a rarer gift, though he apparently looked upon it as being secondary to his preaching. It was in his Bible readings that this gift lay. When his co-worker, Mr. Crossley, preached, Mr. Hunter would lead—and both those good men were leaders. As leader of the meeting, Mr. Hunter would, of course, read the scripture lesson. The lesson was usually a well-chosen one, and one directly bearing upon the subject of his companion's address. As he read he commented upon the lesson; and usually put in ten or twelve minutes at it. His comments were all clear; and if there had not been any further address, there was sufficient in what he said, to reward the people for the big price which they paid by being on hand at seven o'clock, so as to secure a seat; although the meetings did not begin till eight.

Mr. Hunter's Bible readings added a new light to Bible study; and it showed how much of depth and beauty there is in the Old Book, when it is read as it ought to be. If I were asked which of the two I preferred, the address or the Bible reading, I think that when all the evidence was adduced, the latter would have my support. Much of his preaching was along the lines of anecdotes; and while these all bore upon "the text,"

and conveyed the lesson intended, they were of modern date. Not so his Bible readings; they were scripture pure and simple, and they imparted such continuity of thought as revealed the harmony of the Gospels in a most beautiful manner.

As a preacher and a reader, Mr. Hunter was a success; and in all that he did he showed himself master of the situation. Some people thought that he displayed the inclination to master a little too much; and that his fellow-Evangelist had to play second fiddle to him. But whatever people thought of him, or whatever they did not think of him, certain it is, that as an Evangelist he was a master, and therefore a success. But being an Evangelist, did not imply that he was perfect, nor that he did not make mistakes; for like all other people, he had his weak points. Perhaps he knew his weak point; but I do not think he did. He is a strong man who knows his weak point.

Another good feature of Mr. Hunter was seen in the order and system of his meetings. At half-past nine they were ended, and the result was, that by ten o'clock, the church was closed, and all the people were comfortably at home. But Mr. Hunter made one statement in one of his addresses which I never could, nor can I now, take in. He was speaking about retiring at night, and said that all he had to do was to go to bed, and say "Good-night, Lord Jesus," and in a few minutes he was asleep. Perhaps that was quite possible; but somehow, I have not yet been able to literally accept it. Of course it is an easy matter for a speaker to sometimes give utterance to things in an abstract manner; and in the warmth of his zeal to make mistakes; but in the remark above quoted, there did not seem any latitude for any misunderstanding, nor for the least misinterpretation; hence the mystery of the statement through all those years. But what difference when the good man went to sleep; and if he had the good fortune of going to sleep right off, why all the better for himself; for certain it is, that the lack of sleep is one of the causes of many of the nervous break-downs of the day.

So much then for Mr. Hunter. Our readers, many of them, still bear him in mind; and the good work which he did, has told upon many a life, and has helped many a one to "Look up and Lift up."

Items of Interest.

The statement of a Chicago authority that a recession in prices for men's clothing is already under way will be welcomed by a multitude of people who have been wearing their suits to the fraying point.

Frank Gottwalles, and old resident of Postoria, O., tucked away somewhere in his home \$54,000 worth of Liberty Bonds. He could not remember where he had put them, and searched frantically in his home to no avail. When his clock stopped, he found that the bonds were hidden inside the timepiece.

The German mark, which was worth about 24 cents before the war, is now valued in foreign exchange in this country at about 11 cents. The exchange rate of an American dollar in Berlin is about \$2.40.

Hr. Grace Notes

The reception given by the W.P.A. to the returned sailors, takes place this night, at 7:30 in the Masonic Hall.

A dancing assembly will be given at St. Joseph's Hall, River street, Monday night. These pleasant evenings are well patronized and enjoyed.

Miss Fannie Reynolds, daughter of the Pumpfrey and family here, died on Monday morning at her home, Mrs. Wm. Hennessy, aged 75 years. Miss Reynolds was a faithful servant, and received great kindnesses from the families, and she very much enjoyed the same in her own way. The funeral took place yesterday.

To-day being a Government day, the Post Office and the courts are closed, the former being at 2 p.m. for the benefit of the public. How kind of our postal department.

A young seal was shot in the harbor on Saturday by Mr. Payne. The pelt was sold to Murray & Crawford. Let us hope that this is a good omen of a successful sealfishery.

Hr. Grace, Feb. 19, 1919.

OPENS STORE—Ext. Lane, postal J. J. Ryan, the writer of our regimental deeds, and fought in Gallipoli, France. Flanders has opened a grocery at 32 Holdsworth St.

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