

The Canadian Evangelist.

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"GO . . . SPEAK . . . TO THE PEOPLE ALL THE WORDS OF THIS LIFE."

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THE Canadian Evangelist

is devoted to the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ; and pleads for the union of all believers in the Lord Jesus in harmony with his own prayer recorded in the seventeenth chapter of John, and on the basis set forth by the Apostle Paul in the following terms: "I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beseech you to walk worthily of the calling wherewith ye were called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love; giving diligence to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all."—Eph. iv. 1-6.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Time has, by the mercy of our God, brought us to our Annual Meeting of 1891. I trust we realize that another year of earth has gone since we last met. All the labors and sacrifices we have made for the furtherance of the cause of the Master, and all of our forgetfulness, and neglect of duty, our selfishness which is idolatry, our every shortcoming, and all our sins are recorded in heaven, our Saviour who is on the right hand of God, He who is touched with a feeling for our infirmities, who knows us altogether, advocates our cause with God. In Him we trust for forgiveness, and enjoy hope for blessings to rest upon our efforts in the future. During the past year the work by your Board has been done under the pleasurable influence of the co-operation of an increasing and earnest brotherhood, who recognize the fact that they are stewards of God's blessings to them, and who have contributed liberally for the support of the laborers in the different fields. I feel satisfied that, while in the past we may have neglected our duty, forgotten the cause of Christ in our calculations, we in Ontario, as a body of people, are fast coming up to a clearer understanding of our duty as individuals, and as churches, toward the cause of the Redeemer's Kingdom; and I believe we realize that God will hold us responsible for the time we waste disputing over plans of work, neglecting the admonition to work while it is day, for the night soon cometh when no man can work. It is in the neighborhood of fifty years since our Co-operation was organized by our fathers, who desired that the fulness and clearness of the Gospel might be known beyond their immediate localities. Few now remain who were engaged in the work at that time; many have gone to that "rest that remaineth for the people of God;" they are at rest from their labors and their works follow them. It is a source of pleasure to know that, almost without exception, our fathers, those who have gone, and those who remain, were, and are, in sympathy with the work of the Co-operation. While it is human to differ in opinion, we must all rejoice that the Gospel of Christ is preached, and the church drawn nearer to the

Son of God, and sinners are made to rejoice in His salvation. The oneness of the faith of the gospel, which enabled our fathers to cooperate, to advance the cause of Christ, is clearly leading us along the path of duty today. The inspiration of our work, as a religious people, is this: the oneness, the union in faith and practice of all God's people. The prayer of the Saviour is not yet answered; divisions mar the power of the church. The dear Saviour saw the danger of coming divisions and prayed "that they all may be one; as thou Father art in me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us, that the world may believe that Thou hast sent me," (Jno. xvii.—). How can the professed Christian world of to-day attain to this desired object? By a return to the authority of Christ and His apostles, by which the oneness of the church was preserved in the beginning. For "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." I am not in doubt, yet I trust and hope that nothing will ever move us, in the least, away from that grand old Book, the Bible, the Word of God, which changeth not, but which liveth and abideth forever.

A deep religious awakening, is manifest throughout the world; man appears to be reaching out toward God. Ecclesiastical and priestly power is losing its hold upon the masses, and the races of men who dwell on the earth appear desirous to know and participate in the joy of that holy communion through Christ, of man coming nearer to his Creator. I trust we realize that we have a high calling of God, to the high and holy privilege of being co-laborers with God in the great work of bringing the world to Christ,—work is the order of heaven. I don't think either earth or heaven has any place for a man or a woman who will not work. Through every age God has conditioned his dispensations of mercy and blessings to man, by making man a co-worker, a partner in the labour, in order that he might participate in the blessings promised. Shall not we, upon whom God has bestowed His richest blessings, devote our lives and all that He has entrusted us with in striving to further the cause of the truth we believe.

No cross, no crown, should be ever before our minds. The missionary spirit must be cultivated, enlarged and invigorated, before we can understand, realize and enjoy its fruits. There are no downy cushioned beds of ease in the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus. From the commencement of His public ministry to the last scenes of His life, our Saviour went continually about doing good and healing those whom Satan had oppressed. Let us not neglect our exalted privileges; let us work, work while we have such grand opportunities that we may have joy and rejoicing in the triumph of the Gospel of Christ.

I am glad to refer to the work done during the year by your assistance; the outlook is very hopeful at all points; wherever work is done under the guidance of the Word of God, our

Divine and Holy Father will assuredly give His blessing. The future for the cause of Christ is exceedingly hopeful for many reasons.

(1) The churches in Ontario are becoming imbued with the missionary spirit. We are awakening to the fact that we have a work to do that is not being touched upon in the broad, catholic sense, that *the people of God should be one*, by any other body of professed Christians.

(2) We have a number of excellent, earnest, young brethren, who have devoted themselves to the ministry of the Word and are actively engaged in furthering the cause. The world hopes much from the youth of our land; should not the church of God hope in our "young men because they are strong and have overcome the wicked one?" I pray that God will richly bless our young brethren with His wisdom to guide them, with pure hearts, an earnest desire to strengthen the feeble, preach the Gospel of the Crucified One to a perishing world, and a constant, living, loyalty to the word of truth.

(3) Our sisters, who a few years ago were doing but little for the work of spreading the Gospel, have now an active band of God-fearing, earnest, soul-loving women, in nearly every church in Ontario. They are to-day doing a great work in this Province; they are contributing systematically and liberally for the furtherance of the Master's cause; and they are training and teaching the young in our churches the duty of consecration to the cause of Christ.

(4) We have in many churches "Children's Mission Bands" where the children are being trained to be useful, by doing work, and are taught their duty in the grace of giving for the cause of Christ; which will most assuredly, when these boys and girls become men and women, give an army of trained, consecrated workers, to carry forward the plea to "preach the Gospel to every creature."

(5) I feel it a duty and a pleasure to refer to THE CANADIAN EVANGELIST, which is doing indispensable service in our mission work. It is a constant advocate of the cause we plead; an able auxiliary to the work being done by the Board. Without the assistance of THE EVANGELIST it would be a matter of great difficulty to carry on the mission work in which we are engaged.

I trust we may enjoy while together here a foretaste of the lasting joy that is awaiting the faithful, in the land beyond. And that a spirit of harmony consistent with active work may prevail in all our deliberations.

REPORT OF BOARD OF MANAGERS.

Dear Brethren of the Annual Meeting.—The Board of Managers rejoices to be able to meet you in this commodious and substantial house in the city of Toronto, and has pleasure in presenting an account of its efforts to carry out the recommendations of the last Annual Meeting, and also of the way in which it has dealt with the unforeseen and unprovided for matters, which have arisen during the year now closing. The Board has sought with all faithfulness and dili-

gence to carry out the instructions received and believes that the results of our united efforts in this co-operation will be acknowledged to be such as to lead us to thank God and take courage and to stimulate us to increased activity during another year.

REPORTS FROM MISSION POINTS.

Muskoka.

As arranged for prior to last Annual Meeting three young brethren went to Muskoka last summer and spent the coll-ago vacation preaching there; their names are A. O. Gray, D. H. Stewart, J. D. Stephens. As the treasurer's report will show that the Board paid their travelling expenses, it is a pleasure to record that their services were highly valued and that they enjoyed the work among the somewhat primitive circumstances of the district. Strong pressure was brought to bear upon Bro. Gray to induce him to remain until the first of June of this year, and an earnest appeal was made to the Board to assist in supporting him. One hundred dollars was promised, whereupon Bro. Gray was engaged. The following statement of the result of his labors is here given:—

Report of the Southern District of Muskoka.—In the southern district we have three places as mission points, viz., Macaulay, Ridout West and Ridout East. In Macaulay we have to meet in a dwelling-house, as there is no public building central enough for worship. In Ridout West we have a snug, neat little church building of our own. In Ridout East we meet in a school-house. The present membership in Macaulay is 18; in Ridout West, 8; in Ridout East, 7; total number of additions, 17; losses, 7; net gain, 10. I may say that the greater number of these additions took place during the labors of Bros. Crowson, Stephens, Stewart and myself last summer. Since my return in October, 1890, four have been added—three by confession and baptism. Money raised in Macaulay during the year, \$18.61; Ridout West, \$6.14; Ridout East, \$1.20.

Of the mission point in Ridout East I have nothing more to say. In Ridout West there is quite a number of those who once were in full fellowship with the church, but have fallen away. There is a fine prospect for doing good at this point. We have good reason to believe that there is a desire among those who have fallen away to return to Christ.

Macaulay is the best mission point we have in all Muskoka. We have very staunch members here. They live in perfect harmony and have nothing to mar their good feeling to another. It is true that this vicinity is in more comfortable circumstances than any other at which we have a mission point in Muskoka, yet it is my firm belief that our work here can never become self-supporting unless we are able to build up a congregation in the town of Bracebridge. Let us get into the towns if we can. We can use them as radiating centres. The prospects for building up a congregation in Bracebridge are good, but to get even a fair start in the town, a considerable outlay of money must be made. From a financial point of

view the prospects here are not good. But from every other point of view they are encouraging. The people are kind-hearted and willing to give all they can, but, unfortunately for themselves, they are not able to give much.

Bro. Crowson sends the following account of his work: "My work at present is mainly in Bruce Tp. and Huntsville village—going occasionally to other places; Baysville, Menominee, Emberson, Ridout, Dorset, McLean and Macaulay, come in for a share of attention. But Bro. A. O. Gray has been in charge of Macaulay, McLean, Ridout and Dorset for some time. We have had about twenty additions during the year by confession and baptism. The young men who came to assist me last summer did good service by their earnest work and good conduct. The outlook is encouraging; the people are coming to value our presentation of the truth, and to look favorably upon us and give us a better hearing; so we get a better chance. Hope the Board may be sustained in its efforts to maintain the footing already gained here and elsewhere."

Collingwood.

The church in Collingwood sends the following statement:—

"The church in Collingwood has to report for the year about to close: First, that we have great reason for thankfulness. Besides the regular Lord's day services, morning and evening, Bro. Sinclair takes charge of the Sunday school and the Bible class. He also takes a series of meetings during the winter, assisted for two weeks by Bro. Lediard. On account of the elections taking place at that time and interfering with the interest of the meetings they were not so successful as we could have wished. However, we had a great deal of good teaching and as prejudice seems to be gradually giving way we hope for greater success in the future. Bro. Sinclair is greatly respected both personally and as a preacher and our new converts as well as our old ones are being "built up in the faith." We have had several additions during the year, but we, like some other churches, have lost a number by removal, which leaves us numerically much the same as last year. We are pleased to acknowledge from the Co-operation to the extent of \$182.50 to date. There is still a balance due us of \$67.50 on their pledge which we hope the Board may have funds enough to meet. The fact of our congregation's contributing to the Co-operation does not indicate any particular ability to do so, but it is thought well to educate our people in the matter of giving as well as receiving.

If this point is to be sustained we require a preacher or some one who can speak to a congregation and lead in church work; consequently we are still compelled to ask the Board for \$250.00 for next year, and in asking this it is something we cannot do for ourselves, as our congregation can only raise \$300.00 for the year. We regret exceedingly having to ask for so much again, but we do not see how we can get along without it."