

THE
Canadian Evangelist

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HAMILTON, APRIL 16, 1894.

Important.

This closes volume eight, which means that another year for our paper ends with this number. And it also follows that the time of a large proportion of our subscribers expires now. We confidently expect them nearly all, if not all, to renew. They have been with us since 1886; they have paid for the paper year by year, and many of them have spoken cheering words from time to time. We would say to them that it is especially desirable this spring that all our friends should renew at once. The EVANGELIST is not yet a money-making institution. It is conducted in the interest of the good cause. It does not complain if the actual expenses of publication are met month by month, although the time and labor and anxiety involved in carrying it on are not inconsiderable. It therefore appeals to its friends, to those who believe it is furthering the cause of Christ, to rally to its support this season as never before. All old subscribers should renew and three hundred new names be added to the list in order that the paper may be in easy circumstances.

Home Missions.

Our exchanges bear witness to the fact that mission funds among, we may say, all the denominations are feeling, and that seriously, the pressure of the prolonged period of hard times. We note that in some cases the prospective deficits amount to many thousands of dollars. As is natural, the various managers are particularly urgent to their people that there may be general and liberal contributions, notwithstanding the dull times. In our work in Ontario we are liable to have a deficit, June 1st, of several hundred dollars. But we need not have, if the brethren and sisters who have authorized the work will exert themselves as they should. We wish to say that what is most necessary in this connection is that all the congregations should give, and that every member in each congregation should give something. A large number of comparatively small gifts is better than a small number of large ones.

We feel confident that if the leaders of the churches will state the facts in the case the collection will not be disappointing. The facts in the case are briefly these—that the Co-operation represents an effort to establish in Ontario churches of Christ, pure and simple, according to the well-understood principles of the Disciple of Christ. Mark that well! In furtherance of this good object the Co-operation is assisting congregations in Toronto, Hamilton, London, Owen Sound, Collingwood and Georgetown. In all of these places the churches are hopeful and devoted, are determined by the help of the Lord to establish self-supporting churches as speedily as possible.

In no case is there a disposition evinced to ask from their brethren

what they can do for themselves. They feel that, even where the numerical strength is not growing as rapidly as they would like, there is a constantly increasing influence which they believe will bear fruit in due time. Bro. Lediard speaks for Owen Sound, and Bro. Sinclair for Collingwood in this paper; the reports published from London and Georgetown are most encouraging. The outlook at Cecil St., Toronto, now that Bro. W. J. Lhamon is engaged as preacher, is really good. And here it may be observed that the Cecil St. people are carrying a load of financial obligation with a patience that should evoke the admiration and sympathy of their brethren. We must have a good cause in Toronto, the capital city of Ontario, for reasons that have been repeated in these columns for years. As to Hamilton, where the writer lives and labors with the church so far as his other duties will permit, it is believed that there is continual, if not rapid, progress, and it becomes more and more apparent every week that with faithful work there is a bright future in this city for the cause we represent. We are well assured that if any friend of the Co-operation were to come to Hamilton and were to investigate the condition of things in the little church, he would say this is a company of Disciples that well deserves to be assisted. And the same, we are sure, would be said of all the other missions.

Another word may be serviceable here. We sometimes hear of it being said that there are other churches in the province which are as well deserving of support as the present missions. And that is true. But it does not follow from that that the present missions should be dropped and some of those other churches taken up. A little reflection will show that that would not be wise. We have not means now to aid all worthy churches needing it. A selection had to be made, and has been made, whether the best possible need not be affirmed; but being made it cannot lightly be set aside. A reasonable effort must be put forth, and a reasonable time given to enable us to determine whether self-supporting churches can be made out of those missions. And moreover let it not be forgotten that some of the present missions waited long, and, while waiting, contributed to the Home Mission Fund.

We trust our brethren and sisters will take a large and generous view of the present situation, and make offerings worthy of a great cause and not dishonoring to our blessed Lord.

The O. C. W. B. M.

We do not propose, at present, to take a hand in the interesting discussion our sisters are engaged in with reference to their future work. They are evidently very competent to deal with the question themselves. But we do take pleasure in the fact that all who have yet written are deeply interested in our Home Mission Work, and the reason is because they are intelligent and devoted Disciples. Such people, whether they be women or men, are always anxious that the plea for the rejection of all man-made creeds and tests of fellowship should be widely and persistently presented here in Ontario.

And is it not the fact that the very reasons which justify our separate work in foreign lands, justify it here?

Notes.

The letter from the Baptist brother on page two exhibits somewhat of the same spirit as the following:

The pleasant negotiations for union between the Disciples and Baptists in the States will not amount to much besides talk if the spirit of the *Christian*

Inquirer prevails, which says: "There can be no organic union unless the Campbellites abandon the old, mischievous and unscriptural position of Alexander Campbell. We should be glad to have the Disciples converted to our views, but we do not want them until they are. We have heresies enough without shouldering a part of theirs."—*Independent*.

Indeed the Baptists have heresies enough; every well informed person knows that. It is getting to be difficult to determine which are the "views" and which are the "heresies." One of the most discouraging things in this part of the world is the unwillingness of even Baptist editors to set forth the "views" of the body called Baptists. Will Bro. Clarke oblige us?

We have pleasure in giving the following from the *Christian Evangelist* a prominent place in our columns, and shall be happy to hear from our Baptist brethren in the way suggested:

"If only one hundred leading men in each of the two bodies would agree, for one year or more, to receive and read one of the representative religious papers and the quarterly published by the other, and would freely and fraternally point out, in the columns of such periodicals, any teaching regarded as of evil tendency, or emphasize such truths as they might feel were not receiving sufficient emphasis, in such manner as intelligent, courteous Christian men would know how to do, it would have a most powerful influence in promoting unity and sound doctrine. Speaking for the Disciples, we are sure they would welcome such contributions from their Baptist brethren and treat them in a most courteous spirit. If they really believe us to be in error on some points—and we lay no claim to infallibility or perfection, either in doctrine or practice—what better opportunity could they have to teach us the way of the Lord more perfectly?"

Our Omnibus.

The *Canadian Baptist* has not yet responded to our request for an exposition of Acts ii. 38.

"Jimmie State" couldn't come this time. Look for him in next issue. "Jimmie" is a great favorite.

Bro. R. W. Ballah discontinues his labors with the churches at Erin Village and Erin Centre. Any one desiring to engage will please correspond with M. McKinnon, Hillsburg, Ont.

We bespeak for the article copied from the *Christian Standard* on our first page a careful reading. It illustrates the fact that the Disciples have no need to fear an investigation of the reasons that led to the Disciples and Baptists becoming separate peoples.

Mrs. Thomas Sissons, Sr., who removed from the Township of Howard, County of Kent, to the North-west, a number of years ago, died at Portage La Prairie, Man., recently, at the ripe old age of over 90 years. She was among the oldest inhabitants in that part. She was a member of the Disciple Church. She leaves her husband, who is nearly 90 years of age, and two sons and three daughters.—*Blenheim News*

The *Catholic Record* objects to the Roman Catholic church being called the Romish church, and intimates that it is bad manners to so designate it. But it is in the habit of referring to the people known as "Disciples of Christ" by what they consider a nickname, viz., "Campbellites." Please remember the Golden Rule, neighbor.

We have received a copy of a call for a reception to Gen. Neal Dow, in honor of his ninetieth birthday, and for an international temperance congress at Prohibition Park, Staten Island, N. Y., June 3rd to 5th. Delegates are invited from the United States and Canada. It will no doubt be a great occasion for prohibitionists. Joseph

A. Bogaidus, secretary, 167 Chambers street, New York City, will answer any inquiries directed to him

The March number of the *Missionary Intelligencer* was devoted to the recent conference on City Evangelization held in St. Louis, Mo., by our United States brethren. That was a most important occasion, and the addresses read and discussed throw much light on the problem of how to evangelize a city. J. H. Hardin, Y. M. C. A. Building, Cincinnati, O., will send copies of the March number or any other number of the above periodical for ten cents.

Rev. Dr. Hugh Macmillan, in his closing Cunningham lecture, touched on the work of the Palestine Exploration Fund, whose researches, he said, had corrected many mistaken notions, one of which was that the country in the time of Christ was obscure, with inhabitants that made no figure in the world. It was now known that no other country could have afforded so public a theater for the exhibition to the world of the life and death of our Lord.—*Christian Guardian*.

"How much owest thou the CANADIAN EVANGELIST?" Read what a Peterborough editor saith:

"The wind bloweth, the water floweth, the farmer soweth, the subscriber oweth, and the Lord knoweth we are in need of our dues. So come a tunning' ere we go a gunnin', this thing of dunnin' gives us the blues."

Now, dear delinquents, you can't resist that, surely. We need every dollar that is coming to us to meet our obligations; therefore we need your dollar. Send it along, please, right away. You'll make the editor feel better, and you'll feel better, too.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, April 2nd, 1894.—On Saturday, March 31st, I closed a seven-year term of service with the church in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, having previously served for three years in Owen Sound, Ont. As to my fitness, etc., I would refer to C. A. Fleming, elder, Owen Sound, Ont., and to T. Sissons, Sr., and A. D. Yuill, elders, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. Have had, as shown above, experience in town work, am 39 years of age, have a wife and five children who require food and raiment like ordinary mortals—for which I humbly apologize. Am ready to go at a moment's notice anywhere the world over, but would prefer work in Canada or Australia. First come first served.

A. H. FINCH.

Church News.

RODNEY.—Bro. E. Sheppard expects to move from Walkerton to Rodney about the middle of this month.

COLLINGWOOD, April 9.—Three good meetings yesterday and one baptism in the evening. Brethren, pray for the work in this town. C. S.

TORONTO, CECIL STREET.—We hear that very interesting meetings are going on under Bro. Moffett's leadership. From divers sources we learn that the people are greatly edified by Bro. Moffett's magnificent preaching. What a privilege to listen to such a series of gospel sermons as Bro. Moffett can give! Since March 18th eight have been baptized, and two or three added by letter.—We are very much pleased that Bro. W. J. Lhamon will begin work as regular preacher May 6th.

RIDGETOWN, April 10, 1894.—The church at Ridgetown has not made any report through the EVANGELIST for some time, not because we have been idle, but possibly rather through neglect to do so. We have had four added by confession within the last

month or five weeks. The interest is growing steadily and attendance increasing. Bro. Ainsworth has been with us for about four months and is accomplishing a good work. We have completed putting in a baptistry and dressing room into our church. We have now a convenient and comfortable place to perform the sacred and sublime ordinance of baptism without detraction by anything indecorous. Our people here are contemplating some projects for the furtherance of the cause, which we hope to be able to report progress on within a short time.

J. A. C. A.

Letter from Collingwood.

DEAR EVANGELIST:—Time is passing at a surprising rate. We can hardly realize that more than one fourth of the year 1894 is numbered with the past. But so it is. The longer one lives, and the busier he is in the vineyard of the Lord, the more precious time becomes to him. He not only counts the weeks as they pass, but sets a value upon every hour, as he finds not time sufficient on his hands to do the work which the honor of the Lord and suffering humanity demand. Time indeed is short. "The harvest truly is great, and the labourers are few." Could every member of the Christian church but be brought to realize the weight of responsibility resting upon him, as one to whom the Lord says, Go, work to day, and do so worthy of the cause we plead, what a harvest of souls we might gather in during this year to the honor and glory of God, and what a source of comfort to the individual Christian to know that the world was the better of his life! But I find my pencil has run off from my intended course.

Knowing you are always anxious, as also are your readers, to hear of the prospect of the work, and especially from mission points, we send you a few thoughts upon this subject as they appear to us here.

We are thankful that we are able to say that upon the whole the cause has a decidedly upward tendency. The church itself never has been in as good working condition. If you can but get the members of a church to take an interest in the different departments of church work, it is one of the best indications of its spirituality and success. The attendance at our regular meetings since last fall—though not large—has quite surpassed that of any previous year. We are getting a hearing from some who formerly frequented not our place of worship. The additions we have had during these months are all from families not before represented in the church, which we take as a very hopeful feature; and there are other families that we fully expect soon to be brought under the influence of the simple gospel.

We have opened up a Mission in a village, Duntroon, seven miles out. We are hopeful of this point, though laboring under several disadvantages. The hall we have rented is anything but a desirable place for meetings, but is the only place to be had in the village, and we are thankful to be able even to get this.

Hitherto we have been preaching here every second Lord's day, but purpose in the near future—if possible—to have meetings there every Lord's day afternoon. May the Lord crown the effort with success.

C. SINCLAIR.

Collingwood, April 10, 1894.

The world we're passing through is God's world as much as any we're ganging to. . . . Dinna think o' the milestones; think o' the step.

EDWARD GARRETT.