

THE ACADIAN.

WOLFVILLE, N. S., APRIL 2, 1897.

The Evangelistic Services.

The report given in last issue of the evangelistic services, conducted by Rev. H. L. Gale, included the meeting on Wednesday evening.

Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock, a large congregation assembled in the Baptist church where all the day meetings were held. A helpful service of song occupied the opening moments, Miss Blanche Burgess presiding at the organ. Mr. Gale gave a well conceived address from the words, "My God shall supply all your wants." The words of the leader made a deep impression on many hearts.

In the evening in College Hall, the subject for consideration was one of vital importance to the Christian worker—the endorsement of the Holy Spirit. The need of the Holy Ghost with us to ensure success in all character building and soul winning was clearly shown and the results of the divine indwelling were fully indicated. Then the Evangelist with his own peculiar power, forcibly appealed to his Christian hearers to surrender their lives to the blessed Spirit and "from this day to be wholly His." There was a cheerful response in many hearts.

Friday afternoon, the subject brought before the people was "Workers together with God." In the treatment of this thought, practical application was made of the truths presented in connection with the study of the previous evening—the relation of the Christian to the Holy Spirit.

The hall and galleries were filled Friday evening, as previous announcement had been made that then for the first time the invitation would be given to any to take a stand for Christ. A portion of the 3d chapter of Joel was read. The topic for the evening was taken from the 14th verse, "Multitudes in the valley of decision." On this occasion, as always, Mr. Gale did not appeal to sentiment, nor seek to move upon the emotions, but in a plain, straightforward manner, sought to lead the judgment to decide for God and the right. When the opportunity was given, several resolutions to indicate this as their desire and purpose. An efficient corps of "workers" placed in the hands of each enquirer a card for signature, containing simply the statement, "I desire to become a Christian" and the name of the pastor into relations with whom the signer wished to come. Before the meeting closed the leader urged upon each who had given the great value and importance of confession and desired them to respond to the promise "to obtain from all known sin, and to follow Jesus wherever He would lead," with "God helping me, I will." The cheerful and hearty responses gave hopeful indication of sincerity of purpose and as was but natural, had a marked effect upon the entire audience.

Sunday morning at 9.45 there was a mass meeting for prayer. This continued for one hour, during which a number of fervent petitions were offered and genuine religious enthusiasm experienced. A real spiritual uplift was felt.

At 11 o'clock the usual preaching services were held in the different churches addressed by the respective pastors.

A meeting for women only convened in the afternoon in the Baptist church at which after heartily commending the work of the W. C. T. U., Mr. Gale gave a most appropriate address. He read the touching story of Rebecca and then proceeded to speak, using as a basis for his remarks the words of Gen. 24 : 68. A very effective plea was presented to the large congregation to accept Christ and be willing to go with Him wherever he should lead. The speaker fittingly emphasized the influence of women in the social circle, in Christian work and in the home. "The moral and spiritual standard" he said, "will not be higher than that made by the women. The religious tone of this town and this College will be largely what the women make it." Those to whom so many talents of influence have been committed were urged to take the very highest place in Christian service. A goodly number gave indication that they desired to be Christians; and upon all hearts there came in a very marked degree the constraining power of the Holy Spirit.

In the evening again in the same place another meeting for women was led by Mrs. Kempton. Mrs. Livermore, of Boston, gave a short but touching address. The hour was one which the ladies felt was exceedingly helpful. Many earnest prayers were offered for the meeting for men being held at the same time on the Hill; and there was abundant evidence that their prayers were answered, through the gracious influences which moved upon the large assemblage of men only in College Hall, which for over half an hour listened with marked interest and attention to the words of the Evangelist, growing out of the practical truth, "Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." The preacher stated at the outset that he had no sympathy whatever with a manly woman nor desire to appeal to any weakly sentiment, but to the strength of manly reason and judgment. The law of sowing and reaping was shown to obtain in the moral realm no less than in the intellectual and physical worlds, the law of cause and effect is seen to prevail. What a man sows he must reap. Many facts in illustration of the operation of this principle were brought from life with which

the speaker himself had come in contact. By vivid contrast the life of purity, of noble service, of usefulness and the nearest possible approach to Christ-likeness, was held up as being in every sense by far to be desired over the selfish and unsatisfactory life apart from harmony with the laws of God. The words of the Evangelist were reinforced by earnest appeals from each of the pastors. Even among strong men there were many whose eyes could with difficulty repress the tears. The power of God was manifestly in operation on many lives. Gladness and praise were in every Christian heart when a large number yielded their wills to God and said "I will serve the Lord."

Monday afternoon suggestions as to the way in which to help men to God, were presented. It was stated that in many cases where help was attempted men were led farther into the dark. Every Christian ought to be a soul winner. This was possible only through the use of the Word of God. Then in an informal way, as different conditions of objection were suggested, appropriate passages of Scripture were cited and timely methods of illustration noted. The hour was one of profit and edification.

During the first week of meetings the condition of weather and roads was extremely unfavorable. As the second week of effort was reached the elements assumed a more friendly attitude and as a consequence the congregations became largely increased. By 7.30, Monday evening, College Hall was well filled, both on the first floor and in the galleries. Rev. Mr. Trotter made announcements for the week which were to the effect that meetings would be held every afternoon and evening with the exception of Saturday, and that Mr. Gale would remain and conduct the services next Sunday. The theme discussed by the evangelist was the New Birth. A few moments were taken up in showing the extreme importance of a clear understanding of this subject, and right relations to it. It was clearly shown that regeneration is not morality and is not feeling. It cannot be reached by any steps or series of efforts at self-improvement. It is a complete change of heart—the importation of the life of Christ to the soul, and can be experienced only by the surrender of heart and life to God. Several hearty testimonies as to the reality of this experience and the fellowship with Christ were given by members of the audience, and the meeting closed with the manifestation of desire to find this new life, on the part of not a few.

The interest in the subject "The Bible, and how to study it" drew an unusually large number together Tuesday afternoon. In opening, Mr. Gale said the unity of the Bible was organic, symbolic, historic, prophetic, didactic, Messianic. The book must have been written either by good or by bad men. It is inconceivable to suppose that it was written by bad men—for many and severe are the condemnations it pronounces upon those who do wickedly, and the whole purpose of the Bible is to point men to the way of truth and righteousness. The Bible must have been written by good men. This is settled by the distinct declaration of Scripture—"Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Spirit of God." The real author then is the Holy Ghost. Continuing, he proceeded to show that the Bible was interesting as a book of science, of literature and of ethics. It is the most interesting book ever written and it may become exceedingly interesting to any one. The great theme of the Bible is the life, mission and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The great preachers of our day are those who adhere closely to Bible truth as witness—Pierson, Spurgeon, Gordon and many others. It would be a good thing if all the commentaries were taken away for 5 years. We need to study and to know more of the Bible itself. The reason a greater number do not find interest in the Bible is that they have no acquaintance with, nor love for, the Author. As to how to study the Bible, the Evangelist said: (1st) Get a general survey of the whole book (2d) Study it topically (a) Take one word, such as love, or grace, and follow that through the entire book and see what the teaching of the whole Bible in regard to it is; (b) Read a single book through at one sitting and then at subsequent periods read it over fifteen or twenty times; (c) Study prophecy and the marked accuracy of its fulfillment; (d) Believe the whole Bible. Do not cut away any part of it. Regarding certain matters to which in the popular mind there may be a disposition to object, the speaker showed that Christ set his seal upon these objections such as the "serpent in the wilderness," "Jonah and the whale," etc. Voltaire once said that in a little while the Bible would be out of existence. But the very promises which printed those words afterwards sent out Bibles. In closing Mr. Gale urged careful study to learn its teachings concerning the second coming of Christ. Whatever our theory of this might be, the anxious desire to be in readiness for the Master when he should come would prove a strongest incentive to the most careful and earnest Christian living.

Tuesday evening the words taken for consideration were "Where art thou?" Gen. 3 : 9. This pointed interrogation coming in connection with the reading of the story of the prodigal son by Rev. Mr. Hale was calculated to arouse concern of mind regarding the way in which from the present standpoint it would be necessary to answer. It makes a great difference what we believe. It is of vital importance to believe the truth and to know that we are standing on the solid foundation. The address was directed to

three classes—the professed Christian worker, the backslider and the person out of Christ. The remarks to the first two classes were brief but stirring and practical. To the third class, the Gospel appeal was brought (a) in the light of eternity and (b) in the light of influence, apt and telling illustrations were used as occasion required. The whole address was one of marked fervor and power. The power of God was present and as a result a large number took a decided stand for the right. The many hearty "I wills" caused joy not only in the presence of the angels but in many, many hearts in Wolfville as well.

There was not sufficient accommodation in the main room for the large congregation on Wednesday afternoon. Quite a few found seats in the galleries. Mr. Gale discussed what he said was to him a practical subject—Heaven. He said in effect: Some one has said there will be three surprises when we get to heaven. We shall see some whom we expected not to see; we shall see some whom we did not expect; and the greatest surprise of all will be that we are there ourselves. To the speaker it would not be a surprise that he got to heaven. He was building his hope on God's eternal truth and it would be a surprise to him if he did not reach heaven. He said he would like to speak in this connection somewhat at length regarding this important matter but as the subject of Assurance was to be treated on Friday evening, he would leave that for the present. He believed that heaven is a place. One of the most blessed conceptions is that it is a place of rest and peace—where no sorrow can enter. He was of the opinion that there will be occupations in heaven. It is a beautiful place, not so much because of the beauty by which it is adorned as because of the loved ones there. He did not believe it was far away. It is a great reality. When we reach the happy place we shall desire most of all to see Jesus. With tenderness and simplicity the speaker urged upon each of his hearers to make sure of a good title to a home in the by and by to which we are all hastening. And as the people dispersed there is no doubt that the truth as presented was leading the thought and aspirations of many to heavenly concerns.

The meeting of Wednesday evening was one of marvelous power. The hall was completely filled. Instead of the customary Scripture reading, texts which had been found personally helpful, were quoted by many in the audience. The Evangelist spoke upon the extreme importance of taking the one step into the light. He showed that a very small thing may keep one away from God. Judas came near enough to kiss the Master, but he was lost. "The chief young man"

lacked only one thing. Some are kept back by moral cowardice; others simply by failure to act; others again by pride; still others stumble over the inconsistency of those who bear the name Christian; while many are hesitating about taking the last step. With careful argument and helpful illustrations, the wisdom of prompt and decisive action was urged. When it was asked who would "turn away from known sin, take Christ as a personal Saviour and ever seek to follow Jesus"—there was a large number from all parts of the hall ready to respond with "God helping me, I will." A season of testimony followed in which the moments were filled with hearty words of praise and recommendation of the Gospel, from those who as one were able to say "Jesus is precious." Announcement was made that next Sunday afternoon at 8.45, Mr. Gale would speak on "the relation of the Christian to amusements" and in the evening on "the unpardonable sin."

The second quarterly session of the Grand Division of Nova Scotia will be held at New Glasgow, on Tuesday, May 4th, a week later than at first contemplated. The session promises to be of much more than usual interest. It is forty-six years since the Grand Division declared for prohibition. It is the foremost question in the public mind to-day and these facts lend importance to the work of the coming session.

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