

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.

This paper, while not claiming to be what is styled an "organ," may be taken as fairly representing the people known as Disciples of Christ in this country.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Through the mercy of God we are again permitted to meet in Annual Convention. We thank God for the fellowship in Christ by which we become brothers and sisters in the Lord. There is one body and one spirit, even as we are called in one hope of our calling. We realize in some measure, at least, the value, the helpfulness of the fellowship of those whose aims, whose joys, whose hopes are one. We cannot estimate while here below the full measure of the comfort and peace that have been given unto us because we are the children of God; but we shall know hereafter.

It is now seven years since we met here in Everton to plan and purpose how more should be done for the furtherance of the cause of our Saviour; how the time lost by the neglect of past opportunities might be redeemed; and those who felt discouraged and the hearts that had grown cold might be helped to enjoy again the warmth and zeal of their first love. We made up our minds at that time that we would not hang our harps on the willows and sing mournful songs, but that we would thank God for all the joys and hopes of life, and go forward in His name, guided by His word, and labor to build up the cause of the Saviour of the world, by striving to restore the faith, the obedience, the practice of primitive Christianity, not in this province only, but also assist in sending the Gospel to heathen lands. In looking back over these seven years, what great blessings have come to us; God has permitted us to be co-laborers with Him in this great work, and He has accepted of our offerings.

Our work in Ontario has grown rapidly—exceeding our highest expectations; and an active, hopeful spirit has been developed in our young people, and has inspired a zeal for Christ that will certainly, and soon, bring more encouraging results than the past has shown. Many new and expensive church edifices have been built during these years, and new congregations have been organized. And notwithstanding the fact that new church buildings together with the employment of regular pastors is taxing the ability of the churches, the contributions are growing year by year, both

for the work in the province and in the foreign fields. For all these evidences of the success of the cause we plead, and for the encouraging earnestness of our young brethren and sisters, we thank God and take courage.

Those acquainted with the condition of things with which we had to deal seven years ago, will kindly bear with me while I mention the fact that at that time the Disciples of Christ in Ontario were largely strangers to each other. We had more than one Co-operation, and were not working in that harmony of either object or method that is so desirable in the Lord's work. How pleasing to think of the change that has taken place; we know each other better now; our joys and our hopes have grown brighter; we have formed many new and precious friendships in Christ. We have become acquainted with the difficulties and successes of our sister churches, and we are all encouraged and strengthened thereby. And a healthy Christian emulation has been developed in the churches, and we have all been helped to do better service for Christ and His cause. To-day I feel justified in saying that the Disciples of Christ in Ontario compare very favorably with any people known to me, in their contributions for the Gospel. It is, about, or over, fifty years since our fathers met and organized the first Co-operation in Canada, and ever since we have continued to co-operate, often in a very limited way, and have had regular annual meetings.

Realizing the fact that we are, even feebly, striving to be co-workers in spreading the knowledge of the glory of God, and the comfort of the Christian hope brings pleasure that is unknown to those who are not partakers in this labor. The past has taught us valuable lessons in relation to this work. 1st. That the work is the Lord's and if we desire to joy and rejoice in the triumphs of the gospel we must be co-laborers together with God in the work. 2nd. The quality that fits man for service in the work of the Lord is the willing service of all the abilities that God hath bestowed. 3rd. That good business methods applied in the management of the Lord's work generally lead to success. I firmly believe that if the church of God was fully under the influence of the gospel of their salvation would pray to God for his wisdom to guide, and contribute for the gospel as God has prospered them and would expend the means with the same business prudence which leads to success in worldly matters, that soon all the dark places of the earth would be lighted by the light of the Son of Righteousness; the islands of the sea would rejoice in Christ and the Kingdom of our Redeemer extend from pole to pole. Then will the cup of Christian joy be filled.

During the year the Board and especially the Treasurer and the preachers at the mission points have felt that a more systematic contribution of funds to the treasury was very desirable. Irregular and uncertain receipts with regular and certain demands place the Board often at their wits' end. I do not complain of you, far from it, I praise you and I think we are quite able and will meet all the obligations

undertaken at the last annual meeting, and also able and willing to reach out a helping, brotherly hand to the waiting, patient brethren at points, who for years have been appealing for assistance. How many of our brethren and sisters throughout Ontario are giving as God has prospered them? I appeal to you present here and to those absent, how much of your time, how much of your money have you given to the Lord? How often do you pray to God that he would bless and prosper every means for the furtherance of the cause of Christ, and then try to honor yourselves in God's service by working and giving, that your prayers may be answered? The Lord of Glory came to earth and gave himself to redeem a lost world. What have you done for him? Each heart must answer this serious question.

During the past seven years the number of our preaching brethren has greatly increased. We have a worthy band of young men coming up to take the places of those who by reason of years are laying their armor by, and also ready to occupy new fields. In this we feel greatly encouraged. The condition of the cause at the various mission points is in every way encouraging. Full particulars on these points will be given in the report of the Board.

Christian union is the most important question before the religious world to-day. It is certainly an assurance of the strength of our position to know that the arguments for the union of God's people, the only basis upon which union can be reached, are the arguments which have been used by our brethren during the past sixty or seventy years.

Our duty as a people, on this question, seems clear. Let us remain loyal to the word of God; let us teach what the Scriptures teach, nothing less and nothing more. I believe God has given us a work to do in presenting the only basis upon which union can be possible. May God bless His truth, and hasten the day when all who believe in Christ shall be one in faith, one in obedience; when there shall be one fold to shelter the flock, and one shepherd; that the world may believe that God sent His Son to be the Saviour of the world.

At our annual conventions we greatly enjoy to hear of the success of the Gospel, to learn of new fields waiting for the laborers to enter and reap. Let us pray that God may prosper our efforts for the furtherance of His cause, and let us labor to answer our prayers—with this mind in us the future is full of promise. I trust that all our preachers, elders of congregations, and every brother and sister in sympathy with this work will exercise the gift that is in them, and teach and exhort on this grace of giving, until all are partakers.

During the past year many have passed over the river of death, and are at home, at rest in that land of eternal delights. We thank God for the faith and hope He has given unto His children. We miss from our gathering to-day the venerable form of Father Kilgour; although absent, yet he is present in precious memory. I believe Father Kilgour was never absent from our Annual Meeting until last year,

when he was compelled on account of his failing strength to remain at his home. He was a true and constant friend of our mission work. No one among our young men excelled him in warm hearted zeal for the prosperity of the cause. His presence at our meetings in late years was a pleasure and encouragement to us all. God is taking our fathers unto himself; may we strive to imitate their faith and patience, their zeal for the cause, and be as willing to make sacrifices for its furtherance. Let us not think that our work is done, the command to go and preach the Gospel to every creature is for you and me. I could wish that the command would burn itself into every heart, and influence every life; then the whole world would soon hear the glad tidings of the gospel message. I trust that our meeting shall be pleasant to all, and that our deliberations will be marked by kindness, by patience, by love for one another.

"Now the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect, in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."—HUGH BLACK.

THE CO-OPERATION OF DISCIPLES OF CHRIST IN ONTARIO.

Annual Report of the Board of Managers.

Dear Brethren and Sisters.—The Board of Managers of the Co-operation at the close of another mission year begs to present to you herewith an account of the way in which the affairs of the Co-operation have been managed during the year, and also the reports from the various mission points:

REPORTS FROM MISSION POINTS.

Winnipeg.

The Board is sorry to have to report that the effort to establish a church in Winnipeg did not prove successful. The preacher, John McKee, referred to in last year's report, only remained in Winnipeg a few months. As the Treasurer's report will show, our Board paid the amount of our pledge due for the time Bro. McKee was in Winnipeg. We understand that some effort was made by brethren in Manitoba to find another man to take up the work in that city, but they were not successful. It would appear that sufficient provision had not been made for carrying on a work in a place like Winnipeg, as our Board was assured was the case before our pledge was made. It is a great pity that the Disciples of Christ are not well represented in the chief city of Manitoba, and it is much to be desired that a well managed attempt should ere long be made to found a church there.

Toronto Junction.

According to the instructions of the last Annual Meeting \$200.00 was paid immediately to the church at Toronto Junction. We have not yet received from that church a report with regard to its present condition, but we were assured some time since that a far more hopeful feeling prevailed than

one year ago, and that the church is very grateful to the Co-operation for the aforesaid payment which enabled them to meet a very pressing demand.

Welland.

The fruits of last year's protracted meeting, held during the month of May, by Bros. P. A. McArthur and D. Munro, have been garnered during this year, four having been received into local fellowship and one into the Franklin Ave. Church, Buffalo, N. Y. Four members have received letters of transfer and one name has been removed from the roll. Several others are now non-resident, but, as they have not applied for letters, are retained on the roll, which contains forty names. Regular meetings have been held every Lord's day morning and evening. The Sunday-school has maintained its position, and the Y. P. S. C. E. has been re-organized with great benefit to the weekly prayer-meeting. The weekly collections are larger than for some time past, and in addition to the payment of current interest on mortgage we have been able to pay that for 1888 and 1890, thus leaving only the principal to be met. We are hoping, by making a special effort, to secure the sum of \$300, and then to re-mortgage for \$700. Thankful for past aid, we ask for increased aid in both prayers and gifts, that we may speedily attain a more healthy state, both spiritual and financial. G. W. JACKSON.

Owen Sound.

The history of our work since last Annual Meeting is marked by no great advancement in the number of our membership; indeed, it has not met our expectations. There has been no cessation of effort, but a larger effort has been made, we think, than last year; yet our additions, by obedience to the Gospel, have been smaller, and fewer have come to us from other places; even our student members are for some reason not so numerous as they have been. We have also suffered to some extent from removals. Yet we are thankful to say that in spite of these things we are not losing ground. Our Sunday services are generally well attended; our Sunday school is in excellent condition; our prayer-meetings well attended and specially profitable, while our influence for good as a people in our town is steadily increasing.

Two short series of special services were held during the year; one in the summer by Bro. A. P. Cobb, which proved somewhat disappointing, and one in the fall by Bro. Lediard, assisted by Bro. Ballah, of Erin, adding several new members to our congregation.

Our financial matters have received the careful attention of Bro. C. A. Fleming and Bro. J. Tolton, which is a guarantee of them being conducted on the best and most economical principles, and the total amount raised for all purposes nearly \$800.00, shows that Owen Sound is doing its very best in this matter. Of our preacher, Bro. Lediard, it is enough to say that his place in our affections and esteem is what it has always been. His sermons are always a clear, strong and affectionate presentation of the truth. His interest in all departments of our work leads him to see that nothing is missed