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HAMILTON, MAR. 1, 1894.

A Missionary Convention.

As announced in our last paper, a missionary convention was held in Hamilton, February 19, 20, 21. The principal attraction was the presence of Dr. Gordon, of Boston, and Dr. Pierson, of Philadelphia, each of whom delivered a number of able addresses bearing on the subject of Foreign Missions.

A converted Jew, Herman Warsawick, of New York, made a very strong speech in which he roundly charged Gentile Christians with not taking much stock in the Jew; but Mr. Warsawick said God takes a great deal of stock in them. Mr. Warsawick has gathered round him a large number of believing Jews in New York, and he maintains that the times are opportune for special efforts to reach them with the Gospel.

Mr. Saunby, a Methodist missionary to Japan, now home on furlough, explained the situation there much as our own missionaries do.

Spencer Walton, of South Africa, an ardent and devoted man, gave an account of the condition of things in that field. Mr. Walton and his co-laborers are no kid glove clerics. He said that if he were now in Africa he most likely would have his coat off and his trousers rolled up, and would be tramping the clay to make the brick with which to build a church.

Dr. Gordon and Dr. Pierson, as is well known, are eminent men, the former a Baptist, the latter a Presbyterian. They are both powerful speakers who have always something stirring and stimulating to say. From our standpoint, their interpretation of Scripture are not always correct, they generally are; and in some respects surprisingly in advance of what we have observed in orthodox religious circles. They are men of earnestness and power, and have the faculty of making it appear to be a very mean thing for professing Christians to neglect to send the Gospel to the heathen.

Some of the good things said we transcribe here:

"There is not one instance of civilization preceding the Gospel."

"It is the church's duty to forego the luxuries of worship at home to provide the necessities of the heathen abroad."

"We should bring into the house of God the simplicity and Godly sincerity of primitive times."

"The best prayer book to pray for missions by is a map of the world."

"Apostolic preaching, apostolic praying, and apostolic living will re-produce the Acts of the Apostles."

Dr. Gordon has for twenty-four years been pastor of a Baptist church in Boston. He tells, in a most delightful and thrilling way, how that church has given up rented pews, paid choir, questionable methods of raising money, and all sensational methods of attracting the masses. He says that the choir of the church are all Christians,

and, instead of costing \$3,500 a year, they themselves support a missionary in foreign lands.

The sessions of the convention were all well attended; the interest deepened from day to day; and it may be confidently affirmed that the religious life of Hamilton has received an impulse which will bear fruit for many days to come.

Ontario Baptists.

We have thought it would be in the interest of the cause of Christ to present to our readers the correspondence, which will be found on another page, between Mr. Spencer, of Centre street Baptist church, St. Thomas, and the pastor and deacons of the Aylmer Baptist church; and we think it better to give it entire, although it takes up a good deal of room. Our readers will thus get a clear insight into the diverse feelings of Baptists with regard to us, and the question of the union of immersed believers.

A few remarks with reference to the letters before us will not be out of place here.

1. It is exceedingly gratifying to find a Regular Baptist minister making an overture for a conference on union. And we Disciples are particularly pleased when our Baptist friends know us well enough to feel kindly toward us, and to evince a desire for union with us. We are very sure that when such Baptists and Disciples meet in conference, they will at least have an agreeable and profitable time.

2. We note with pleasure Mr. Spencer's statement that on the question of union he is following the lead of the important ministers of the Baptist body in Canada. We are not surprised that his Aylmer brethren challenge him to produce the proof on that point; for we would be skeptical of it ourselves, if we had not confidence that Mr. Spencer would not make the assertion without having good grounds for doing so. And so we rejoice in the assurance that leading Baptist ministers are as well disposed to union as Mr. Spencer himself.

3. It is very evident that the Aylmer Baptist pastor and deacons are not happy because of Mr. Spencer's kindly and Christian overture. And it is not difficult to perceive that they have special animus against the Disciples. The reference to the action of the Baptist Convention at Ottawa proves that. We remember well the unceremonious proceeding referred to, and we have ever since held a very warm regard for one "leading" Baptist minister who spoke a good word for the Disciples when other "leading" Baptists were maligning them. And we have a vivid recollection of the assumption of the infallibility and unchangeableness then made; of which Mr. Sowerby and his deacons remind us, and which they declare still possesses the Baptist denomination in Ontario.

4. "We do see immense and all-important differences in the case mentioned by you." We should be obliged to Mr. Sowerby if he would state in the EVANGELIST what he considers to be the "immense and all-important differences" between the Regular Baptists and the Disciples, or, if he would prefer it, to lay before our readers what are those principles, doctrines and practices which differentiate the Regular Baptists from all other bodies professing to be Christians.

5. It amuses us to see Mr. Spencer referred to the *Northwest Baptist* for proof that there are "grave differences" between Regular Baptists and Disciples. We suspect Mr. Spencer understands the Disciples better than the Editor of the *Northwest Baptist* does and is, moreover, too wise and too generous to

receive as proof a charge which the maker of it is unable to prove and unwilling to withdraw.

We believe that the Lord's prayer for the unity of His followers will be answered. We believe that all who love Him should also pray for that grand consummation, and not only pray for it, but work for it. We therefore hold out the hand of cordial fellowship to Mr. Spencer and bid him God speed in his efforts to bring together some of the divided followers of Christ.

Memoirs of Isaac Errett.

It has long been our conviction, and we have frequently given expression to it, that the "Memoirs of Alexander Campbell," by Dr. Richardson, should be in every family of Disciples and that the young people should be induced to become familiar with them. And now we wish to say that the "Memoirs of Isaac Errett," by J. S. Lamar, in our judgment are worthy to stand on the same shelf with those of Mr. Campbell and of occupying an equally high place in the estimation of the brotherhood.

It is but stating the simple truth to say that in the inauguration of the effort carried on by the Disciples, to bring together all believers in the Lord Jesus, Alexander Campbell was there recognized and honored leader—as we believe, by the will of God. He was leader because of his pre-eminent abilities and great force of character, and not by reason of being elected by any body of men. He steadfastly maintained the only basis upon which Christian union can be secured, viz., "That nothing must be demanded as a test of fellowship, or a condition of membership, in a church of Christ, for which we have not a 'Thus saith the Lord' in express precept, or approved precedent." And this was no small matter, nor was it an easy thing to thoroughly indoctrinate a people with this revolutionary principle and so guide them that they would not violate it among themselves. So well were the Disciples taught that lesson, that there was no division among them at the time of Mr. Campbell's death, although the great strain of the slavery question in the United States came upon them; a strain which Presbyterianism and Methodism with their elaborate creeds could not endure.

And now, almost thirty years after the death of Mr. Campbell, it can still be said, that the people known as Disciples of Christ have not split up into sects, that they are still one people, and this is due, humanly speaking, to the masterly leadership of Isaac Errett during several very critical periods, and at a number of great emergencies, when it seemed that division was inevitable. This will not appear extravagant to the generality of our readers; they have long held the same opinion. Those who may think differently would most probably find reason to change their mind, if they could read Mr. Lamar's charming account of Mr. Errett's life. We say, charming account, as describing the first impression, and the continuous impression, received from perusing the two volumes referred to on page five of last EVANGELIST.

But they are more than charming. They stir the mind and warm the heart. They are intellectually and spiritually edifying. They tell the story of Isaac Errett's life on earth in a way that vividly reveals the secret of that noble man's mighty influence over men. He was strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. He was a good man and full of the Holy Spirit. What transcendent power is given to the man of many talents, when they are all devoted to the Master's use!

We have not now space for all we wish to say regarding these books. We simply add here that we shall consider

that we are doing a great kindness to any brother or sister who by our notice is induced to purchase the "Memoirs of Isaac Errett," by J. S. Lamar. All the preachers, especially the younger ones, should procure them at the first opportunity.

Notes.

Read every line of "Facts About the March Offering." We hope to see the churches go forward in this work.

The *British Weekly* is informed that Dr. Pierson's name will again be brought forward in connection with the permanent pastorate of the Metropolitan Tabernacle and that he has been immersed and is now working along with Dr. Gordon, the well known Baptist minister of Boston. That he was working along with Dr. Gordon in Toronto last week is a fact, but we hope the immersion part of the story is not correct. Dr. Pierson has a perfect right to get immersed if his mind runs that way; but to get immersed as a stepping-stone to Spurgeon's pulpit would seriously discount those fiery speeches he delivers on worldliness in the church.—*Canada Presbyterian*.

For our part we hope the whole story is true. After listening to Dr. Pierson for three days, we believe that if he has been immersed, it has not been as a "stepping-stone to Spurgeon's pulpit," but to please his Master.

Our Omnibus.

A quantity of matter, editorial and "contributorial," is unavoidably held over until next number.

Do you not find much interesting reading in this paper? Would you do without the EVANGELIST's semi-monthly visits for one dollar a year?

"The March collection for foreign missions," we are in the habit of saying. Let us think of it, brethren, also, and chiefly as an OFFERING—an offering to the Lord.

We are very glad to know that Bro. E. Sheppard is so much improved as to be able to leave home and preach. We trust that with the return of spring his health will be fully restored.

"Hard times," did you say? Have you missed a meal from necessity all winter, or all your life? Have you ever lacked warm clothing? Have you ever been without a comfortable bed to sleep in?

After a pastorate of three years, I have resigned my work at and with the church in Lobo, Ont. If it is desired that I shall still remain in Ontario, to labor in the Lord, will those interested please correspond with me at once? Address, Poplar Hill, Ont.

J. A. BRENNENSTUHL.

A very happy event took place last Wednesday, Feb. 21st, 1894, at Elm-brook Farm, Eramosa, the home of Ernest Parkinson, the occasion being the marriage of his sister Ada to Robert Armstrong, of Glenboro, Man., by Geo. Fowler. After the wedding a sumptuous repast was served, of which guests to the number of sixty partook. The presents were both useful and beautiful, and attested to the high esteem, in which the bride is held by all who know her.

Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong leave for their home in Man. about the middle of March.

GEO. FOWLER.

The *Missionary Voice*, devoted to world-wide evangelization, published quarterly by the Foreign Christian Missionary Society, Cincinnati, Ohio, A. McLean and F. M. Rains, editors, the first number of which has recently come to hand, is full of just such information as the members of the

churches need in order that they may do their duty intelligently and fully in the March collection for foreign missions.

Church News.

HAMILTON.—Another baptized believer added to our fellowship, Feb. 18.

HARWICH, ONT., Feb. 19, 1894.—5 confessions at our meeting in Northwood last night. We also organized a Sunday-school with 35 scholars.

R. BULGIN.

Bro. J. H. Mundy, whose address is Wellandport, Ont., is prepared to hold a protracted meeting for any church desiring him to do so.

TORONTO JUNCTION, Feb. 17th.—About 35 members of the Disciples' church repaired to the residence of John Marritt, their pastor, Willoughby avenue, last night and presented him with an address and well-filled purse. Mr. Marritt replied in appropriate terms. A pleasant evening was spent.—*Toronto Star*.

WAINFRET and ROSDEN.—My work at Winger has been slow since I took charge of it, owing to the beautiful mud. We have had it broad and deep. The attendance is good when the roads are passable. Lately re-organized the church. We have now a competent board of officers. We are talking of building a new meeting house this summer, which I earnestly hope will be accomplished.

Rosdene is moving on in her quiet way; good interest, young people enthusiastic and earnest.

What about the March collection for Foreign Missions? Let us think of what Christ suffered, yea, sacrificed, and then let us make a sacrifice by giving for His cause.

J. H. MUNDY.

St. THOMAS, Feb. 26.—Bro. Sheppard, of Walkerton, occupied the pulpit of the Church of Christ for the past two Sundays. He was greeted with large and attentive audiences, and although weak in body, his mind is still fresh and vigorous, his memory retentive, and it is an inspiration to listen to him unfold his theme and establish the truth of the proposition by weaving together text after text of Scripture. As a preacher and scholar, Bro. Sheppard is held in high esteem in the hearts of the people of Elgin, not only of Elgin, but of the western peninsula, to whom he was the pioneer in the current reformation. COR.

Notes from Owen Sound.

It is some time since we have sent you a line from this field.

First, as to our "Missionary Rally" which we held last Wednesday night, Feb. 14. It proved a meeting of great interest to us all; it was well attended and the addresses were bright and profitable. Bro. Trout gave us a good address on China; its condition, its needs and our own work there. Miss M. Stevens followed with an excellent paper on India, and Mrs. Lediard with one on Japan. An address was also given by Mr. Norton, pastor of the Baptist, and one by Dr. Waits, of Knox Presbyterian church. Missionary songs and earnest prayers for the laborers already in the field, for more laborers and for a larger liberality for the support of the work, all made up an evening long to be remembered by us. As a practical result we propose to try and double our last year's offering.

and Our Sunday school has a steadily growing attendance, and much attention is being given by the teachers to their work. The result is our Sunday school was never in better con-