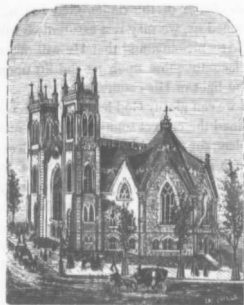


The Christian Helper.

A BAPTIST MONTHLY JOURNAL.

"Not for that we have dominion over you, but are helpers of your joy." II. C. 23.

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OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH, MONTREAL.

Through the kindness of our much esteemed friend, the pastor, we are privileged to place before our readers a representation of the handsome edifice now in course of erection for the above church.

Since their organization into a separate body, our "Olivet" friends have met in what they have suggestively named the "tabernacle," no doubt in keeping with a determination that its occupancy should be of very temporary duration. It is expected that their new temple will be completed and dedicated to the service of God within a year from the present time.

The following description is taken from a recent number of *The Olive Branch*, a very excellent and useful monthly paper, published in the interests of the church by the ever-active and devoted pastor, Rev. John Gordon, B.D.

By the way, *The Christian Helper* is the grand-child of *The Olive Branch*: for the latter gave birth to *The Shoaf*, whose offspring are we.

The following is the description —

"The building will be constructed of what is known as rough mountain lime-stone, and will be 109 feet in length by 84 feet wide. Fronting on Osborne street, there will be two towers, each 100 feet in height. The main audience room will be octagon in form, with semi-circular seats, capable of holding

about 900 persons, and, with the aid of galleries, will seat 1400 persons. The basement will be light and cheerful, and perfect in its arrangements for Sunday school and prayer meetings. The cost of the building will be about \$50,000—organ and furnishing extra."

The present membership of Olivet is very nearly if not quite two hundred; and the Sunday school, under the efficient superintendence of E. V. Mosely, Esq. numbers some three hundred and fifty scholars, and is very rapidly increasing.

We look forward with prayerful and hopeful interest to the future of Olivet church and Sunday school.

May abundant blessing rest upon the head of the devoted pastor who a few months ago declined a very pressing call to another field of labour in connection with the Bowdoin Square church, Boston, content to labour on with his loving and beloved people in Montreal.

In our next we hope to have a cut of the St. Catherine street church, of which the Rev. J. L. Campbell is pastor.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

In another week we shall have reached that

"Best season of innocent mirth,
When a glory ineffable rests on the earth,
Since Bethlehem witnessed Emmanuel's birth."

The season when, by mutual consent, workshops, warehouses and schools are closed; and merchant and clerk, and artisan and scholar, all unite in celebrating the birth of Emmanuel. It is the world's tribute to the Messiah, and is a standing proof that the great mass of its civilized inhabitants recognize in Jesus the Saviour of mankind. We know not how it is, but as it seems always as if the world were on its good behaviour during the Christmas season: for then, if ever, crusty people become genial, stingy people generous, disagreeable people bearable, while loving humanity becomes doubly attractive. We always feel that the influences of that heavenly benediction have not yet passed away, but that still the angels' song echoes through men's hearts and thrills them with that wonderful melody of praise,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,
good will toward men."

And as we gather around our festive boards with thankful, joyful hearts, and bask ourselves in the sunshine of harmony and love, let us not forget that there are

those around us whose hearts we can gladden by some small act of kindness and consideration; let us not forget that wonderful benison of the Master himself who said, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye did it unto me."

And now, in this season of kind words and compliments, the HELPER extends to its readers, one and all, a friendly hand, and as we feel your warm whole-souled grasp, we wish you all the compliments of the season—a merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

"THOSE GRAPES."

In these days of enlightenment and scientific research, we have often been puzzled to know whether Christianity received more harm from its out-and-out enemies, or from its half-hearted friends.

From its avowed enemies, the friends of Christianity,—and even the world—expect nothing else than opposition, and whether it come from the polished RENAN or the philosophical MILL, it is judged upon its merits and generally taken at its true value. But with its avowed friends the case is an entirely different one. While we expect opposition from enemies, we look for support and sympathy from friends; and if these be either entirely wanting or rendered in a half-hearted or apologetic manner the effect is more damaging to the cause of Christ than the determined opposition of those who really believe our religion to be a sham, and fight it boldly out on that line.

We find plenty of Christians, who while generally accepting the principle that the Bible is the inspired word of God, yet hold that they are not bound to believe its entire contents. In other words they believe what coincides with their own ideas and reject the part which does not suit them. Some of them take exception to its historical facts, some to the scientific subjects, and all can prove conclusively (to themselves) that they are right, and God's inspired word is wrong. But even these—bad and injurious to Christ's cause as they may be—are not half so hurtful as another class hardly so bold, who, while accepting the truths and facts of the Bible, do so in such a half-hearted and apologetic manner, as to give colouring to the