

we baptized a young man at Simonds, and gave the hand of fellowship to two last night.  
March 28th. A. H. HAYWARD.

**GIBSON.** One young man was baptized since our last report. Our Sunday School in spite of bad weather and sickness has been doing excellent work of late. Bro. Bradley enjoys the co-operation of a fine corps of teachers, officers and large attendance. Recently on the eve of departure from home for a few days, an envelope containing a goodly sum of money found its way through the parsonage door. Such thoughtfulness does not make the pastor here feel as though "some strange thing had happened" unto him. This is good environment for the cultivation of appreciation of kindness that wears not out.  
J. B. CHAMPION.

The showers of blessing are falling on the people of the Carleton Baptist Church. Pastor Higgins had the pleasure of baptizing two believers at the close of the evening service on the 8th inst. Others have expressed their desire to follow their Lord in baptism on Easter Sunday. Still the good work goes on.

#### Arrows from a Hunter's Quiver.

It was the privilege of the scribe to take an extended trip among several of the churches of Western Ontario, after the New Year, to engage in special services. The churches, in many cases, while not large are of a strong type. And though not so ready to respond to religious movement as the Maritime churches, are nevertheless moveable and aggressive. The standard of church life and the quality of its ministry is higher and better every year in Ontario, and thus it should be.

#### THE THEOLOGICAL BEST TIME.

The most pleasing social function of the year was the Theological Rally held at the residence of the Chancellor some time ago. With the hard grind of study, many engagements to service and the whirl of city life it is even difficult to get acquainted with University companions. Hence the need of the rally where all the Theological students with their wives and prospective wives meet and mingle for a long evening's social enjoyment. In this capacity a feature and quality of life discover themselves and make a place in life and memory never to be given to anything else.

#### THE GRADUATES OF 1900.

Thirty-five will graduate in Arts, and twenty will either graduate or finish in Theology at McMaster in May. What reaction will result for good in society when these personal factors are in action no one can presage. But if evil should manifest itself it will not be the fault of this University training. Chancellor Wallace has toiled hard all the year in the forward movement with the result of enlarging the hearts and the constituency of the patrons of the University.

J. HARRY KING.

Toronto, April 2nd, 1900. —M. & V.

#### Friends of God.

"Ye are my friends." O friends of God, why do you not make more of your transcendent privileges? Why do you not talk to him about all that worries and worries you, as freely as Abraham did, telling him about your Ishmaels, your Lots, and his dealings? Why do you not fall on your faces while God talks with you? Life should be one long talk between God and us. No day should elapse without our talking over its history with our patient, loving Lord; entering into his confessional; relieving our hearts of half their sorrow, and all their bitterness, in the act of telling him all. And if only we get low enough, and be still enough, we shall hear his accents, sweet and thrilling, soft and low, opening depths which eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, but which he has prepared for those who love and wait for him.—F. B. MEYER.

#### Christians Should be Healthy.

Dr. Cyrus Edson, New York's most famous physician, was recently asked what are some of the ways in which the highest health may be maintained. He replied.

"We find in religious teachings the highest hygienic rules that have ever been devised. He who really lives up to the teachings of Christianity will keep his body in perfectly healthy condition. It has been truly said that the wages of sin is death, and death is caused by the effect of vice. A vicious person contains in his body the seeds of his own destruction. The Christian is the best fitted of all persons to withstand disease and live healthily."

#### Honey Out of the Rock.

BY THEODORE L. CUYLER, D. D.

The traveller through the wildest regions of ancient Palestine was sometimes surprised by coming upon a thrifty olive-tree growing on the scanty earth that covers the flinty rocks. Or in the clefts of the rocks he would find a busy colony of bees; and the comb would be dripping with the delicious outflow of wild honey! All the more welcome to him would be this liquid sweetness because found in an unexpected place. Rare, bald, bleak rocks may furnish a perch for eagles, or a nesting place for wild conies; but golden wheat never waves over them, nor does the vine mantle their tough cheeks with purple clusters. Yet out of these very rocks came the fuscious honey-comb; and out of their crevices grew the fruitful olive tree! To these facts the song of Moses refers—in the Book of Deuteronomy—when he says that the Lord's people shall "suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock."

Beautifully does this fact in natural history illustrate how the Christian often finds rich blessings in unexpected quarters. No season may be so honey-yielding and oil-producing as the flinty days of adversity. At such times his religion is more prized, and the things of earth lose their lustre. When earthly cisterns dry up, and earthly treasures vanish, the soul finds in Jesus a truer possession and a sweeter satisfaction. The honeycomb does not fail. All precious graces—the godly contentment—the sense of assurance in the Beloved—fellowship with the Comforter—hopes of heaven—all these flow forth from the inward union with Him who is the fount-head of the life everlasting. A believer with the Bible in his hand, and the Saviour in his heart, can even in the seasons of sharpest trial, draw "honey from the rock."

How wonderfully God discovers to His people their perennial comforts and consolations in the flinty places of sore troubles and bereavements! Do we lose our property? Then we go up to our divine treasurekeeper, and inquire after our soul's investments, and find that they are all safe. Do our fair-weather friends drop away in the dark days of adversity? Then we draw up closer to Him who said, "I will never forsake thee." Do we bury up under the turf the darling of our cr. b, or the sweet-voiced wife that filled home with heart melodies, or the dear old mother whose armchair was next in sacredness to our family altar? Then our thoughts fasten more closely on that homestead beyond the clouds into which the spoiler never enters. The unseen things become visible. Christ becomes nearer and infinitely dearer. Prayer takes stronger hold on the promises. Faith has a clearer vision; and life becomes more disentangled from the harassing worries and absorptions of worldliness. Probably we were very loath to be driven away into these rock-regions of trial. We pray to be kept out of them; for there is not a living Christian—even the best of them—who covets affliction. But when we were forced into the flinty places of adversity or bereavement, how delicious was the honey which faith drew out of the rocks!

What a happy thing it is for us that we cannot choose our own lot! What awful blunders we make when we think that the most desirable places are the rich alluvials of abounding prosperity—and the best days are the cloudless days, and the best air is the soft, vernal air of worldly success and popularity! Do we ever ask God for a hurricane? Yet many a hurricane of trial has driven a sinner to Calvary, and many a back-

sliding Christian back to his forsaken posts of duty. Do we thank God for a deluge? Yet stubborn hearts have been softened, and barren lives been made fruitful by such down-pours. Very much of the choicest, purest, deepest, and strongest portions of a Christian's character have been engendered in these seasons when worldly friends were pitying him or condoling with him. If angels could speak, they would congratulate him.

He who orders our pathway into regions of trial conceals the honey-comb for us in the rocks, and makes the oil olive to grow out of flinty clefts. My fellowpilgrim, instead of listening to the murmurs of unbelief, listen to the music of the promises; instead of complaining at a hard lot, seek for the honey that lies hidden within it. Selfishness chooses velvet paths, and flowery meads; but where Jesus puts you, He goes there with you. He can make desert places blossom with roses. This life will look very different when you study its geography from another world. As you look back upon it from the realms of glory, no portion of your earthly pilgrimage will appear to have yielded such unexpected mercies and benefits as those days of trial, when you drew honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock.

#### Pulp and Pluck.

This is not an age of heroic Christianity. There is more pulp than pluck in the average Christian professor when self-denial is required. The men and women who not only rejoice in doing their duty for Christ, but even rejoice in overcoming uncomfortable obstacles in the doing of it, are quite too scarce.

The piety that is most needed is a piety that will stand a pinch; a piety that would rather eat an honest crust than fare sumptuously on fraud; a piety that works up stream against currents; a piety that sets its face like a flint in the straight, narrow road of righteousness.

We need more of the Christianity that steadily sets its face towards Christ's word and holy will. An ungodly world will be compelled to look at such Christly living as at "the sun shining in its strength." God loves to look at those who carry Jesus in their faces. Of such is the kingdom of heaven.

#### What am I Doing to Make the Church Prosperous?

ALBERT C. APPELGARTH, PH. D.

It is said that the ancient Pharisees put on others burdens which they themselves would not bear. In no such spirit do I approach this topic. The preacher is only a member. The question applies to the pulpit as much as to the pew.

In the beginning, we should know that God's Word makes it plain that the greatest power of the Church has not passed. I believe it is yet to come in the future. To-day, we have only to meet as Jesus desires. Then we can claim the promise—greater things than these shall ye do.

God wants his Church to prosper in the future more abundantly than it has in the past. Why should we not? If we do not, where rests the responsibility? Sometimes we imagine that the success or failure of a church lies absolutely with the pastor. Such opinion is error. Of course, the minister has his share. But God never regards the under shepherd as a mere scapegoat for the sins of the people. In every city there is a mayor. But what can he do without the co-operation of the citizens? Is it not true that every resident must contribute his part towards the success of the community? Why should the matter be different with the church?

It is to be borne in mind, also, that the gifts of men vary. Some are called to one thing; some to another. The talent of some may be singing. For others, it is speaking. To still others, it may be praying. But it is possible for all to do something. Hence the question arises, What am I doing to make the church prosperous? I cannot, of course, even outline all the ways in which you can help your church. I must mention a few.

While God gives us health and strength we can attend the appointed services of the church.