

THE
Canadian Evangelist
PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY
BY THE
Evangelist Publishing Co.
65 YONGE ST. ARCADE, TORONTO

Terms \$1.00 per annum in advance.

EDITOR: MUNRO
DONALD MUNRO
Business Manager.

All matter intended for publication, and all exchanges to be addressed to George Munro, Erin, Ontario, Canada.

All business communications and remittances to be sent to the EVANGELIST PUBLISHING CO., 65 Yonge St. Arcade, Toronto.

Remittances sent by post office order or registered letter will come at our risk.

No paper discontinued without express orders and payment of all arrearages.

In ordering change of address be sure to give the old post office as well as the new.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER 1st, 1890.

The Bible Neglected.

It is the common doctrine of Protestant Christendom that the Bible is the Word of God, that it contains a revelation from God to man, and that man is under obligation to make himself acquainted with its contents that he may place himself in harmony with the Divine will. Consequently it is maintained and urged that it is a great sin to neglect the study of the Scriptures. Notwithstanding it is unquestionable that even among those who profess to be Christians the proportion of diligent, reverent students of the Word of God is shamefully small. While the Bible is theoretically revered, it is practically contemned by the great majority of those who claim it as the rule of their faith and the guide of their life. Hundreds of those who sing:—

Holy Bible, book divine,
Precious treasure thou art mine,

while they possess a copy, or copies, yes, expensive copies of the Bible, make less use of that sacred book than they do of the local newspaper, which, though all right in its place, does not contain, and does not profess to contain, the knowledge of life eternal. Why is this so? Many would, no doubt, allege as a reason want of time. They would say that the necessary cares and labours of life are so pressing and so engrossing that much as they feel it to be desirable, much as they believe it would be spiritually beneficial, they can not find leisure to devote to the reading of the Word of God. It is doubtful if there is a Christian in the world who can read, who can honestly say he has not time to read the Bible. He may not have time to study it thoroughly from Genesis to Revelation, or to read large portions of it daily, but that does not justify him in neglecting it altogether. One of the finest Bible scholars we have ever seen is reported to have said that some days he would only get over one verse of the Bible. Even one verse a day would make a person mighty in the Scriptures in the course of an average lifetime and certainly no Christian is so busy that he can not give that much attention to what he esteems the Word of God. Let us be frank with ourselves and acknowledge that the plea of want of time is naught but a flimsy excuse. This the busiest Christians must concede. What shall be said of the great host of young Christians and even old Christians, who have abundance of time for idle gossip, and useless pleasures, for the reading of daily papers and weekly papers, for devouring current fiction, much of which is audaciously corrupting? Verily, that they love the things of this world more than they do the things of God.

We believe that if many Christians would confess the truth in their case they would say that the reason they do not study the Bible is because they find it an uninteresting book. We shall consider their case in a future article.

A Bold and Candid Baptist.

Rev. A. Grant said he had felt more in his element since coming to the meeting than ever before since he had come to Manitoba. A Hom. Mission atmosphere seemed to agree first rate with his constitution. In vigorous language he enforced upon the audience the duty of the Baptists. Baptists, he said, believed, first of all, in conversion, the new birth as the prime essential to membership. They did not believe that baptism had anything to do with salvation. They believed in Congregationalism, or the independence of the individual congregation. No other people had been so true all along for centuries to the absolute separation of church and state. He was not at all mealy mouthed about being called a Baptist. People must know what Baptists are to respect them. Baptists wanted to have an aggressive spirit.

The above is clipped from the *Canadian Baptist* and is a partial report of an address delivered by Mr. Grant at the Baptist Convention in Brandon, Man. We admire Mr. Grant's outspoken way; he means that people shall know what a Baptist is and he is right in that. If a man is a Baptist he should not be ashamed of it, nor unwilling to tell his neighbor what it is to be a Baptist. May the spirit and example of Mr. Grant be multiplied exceedingly. But, as we have known for some time, he imagines that the Baptists excel all others professing to be Christians in their insistence upon a converted membership. Our observation is that the Baptists, in their eagerness to build up churches, are just as liable as any other people to take in those who are not truly converted. We think they have as large a proportion of backsliders as other denominations. We do not think they, as a people, are superior spiritually to the Presbyterians. For example: Mr. Grant's words relative to conversion and the new birth express a conceit which is injuring the Baptist people; it tends to generate that pride which goeth before a fall. Mr. Grant is, we believe, a leader among the Baptists in Canada and one of their most aggressive men. He may fairly be taken as a representative man. Let us hear what he says of baptism: "They (Baptists) did not believe that baptism had anything to do with salvation." We take it that Mr. Grant states the position of the regular Baptists of Canada, and we make bold to say it is a position which, if adhered to, will ruin the Baptist church. If the leaders among the Baptists are wise in their generation they will re-consider the question from a scriptural standpoint and not from that of traditional Baptist theology. And by way of assisting them in so profitable an exercise, we direct them to the words of the Lord Jesus, Mark xvi. 16: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;" to the words of the apostle Peter, speaking as the spirit gave him utterance on the day of Pentecost, Acts ii. 38: "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit;" to the words of Ananias, specially sent by the Lord to tell Saul of Tarsus what to do, Acts xxii. 13: "And now, why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord;" to the words of the apostle Paul, Rom. vi. 3, 4, 5; Gal. iii. 26, 27, which passages will the reader who is not familiar with them turn up and carefully read? Other scriptures might be quoted or referred to. But these are sufficient to prove beyond peradventure that Mr. Grant is against the truth when he says that baptism has "nothing to do with salvation," and that if he, as we suppose he does, represents the Baptist Church, then it is also against the truth, and to be against the truth is to be against the Lord.

Bro. J. K. Hester, of Guelph, is attending the General Missionary Convention at Des Moines, Iowa. We hereby invite him to give us a good report for next issue of THE EVANGELIST.

We remind our friends that items of church news are always acceptable. One of the most useful functions of a religious paper is the publication of good news. We shall be pleased to hear from every church in the province.

Our readers, no doubt, are curious about that article of W. O. Moore's which we have twice informed them was in this paper. We expect it to be in this number. One of the disadvantages of editing a paper at long range is that the editor is liable to find things otherwise than he expected when the paper comes out.

"There are in this loud, stunning tide
Of human care and crime,
With whom the melodies abide
Of the everlasting chime;
Who carry music in their heart,
Thro' dusky lane and wrangling mart,
Plying their daily task with busier feet,
Because their secret souls some holy strain repeat."

Personal Mention.

Bro. E. J. Hart and daughter called on us several times at our office.

Bro. A. Yale, of Aurora, was in the city Saturday, and wanted to get a young man to take up with him: for Sunday, but—was too late.

L. K. Merton, of Oshawa, was in the city last week and gave us a call, together with some good ideas of work. Every time I see him I feel annoyed at Bro. Henry for urging at the St. Thomas convention that Bro. Merton be left off the Board.

Tozo Ohno has a few engagements to speak in different towns. A number of churches have expressed a desire to have him speak to them. Any such who have not his address can write to us and we will see him for them. He is now taking lectures at Toronto University.

It does us good to have Disciples who are isolated from their brethren call and show that although alone, still their heart is in the work. Bro. E. D. Munro, of Auburn, Huron Co., called on us and states that there are no Disciples within miles of him. Will this always be?

Bro. M. Putman passed through this city while on his way from Owen Sound to Bowmanville, where he now is. We were sorry to have been away when he and his wife called on us. We are pleased to learn that Bro. Putman has such an amiable person for a help in his most important life work.

We had a very pleasant visit from Bro. A. C. Gray, who was on his way to Muskoka. He evidently intends to do some good reading while up there, as we had the pleasure of loading him with a small library. We were more than delighted with having a talk with him about the work and bid him God speed.

Our readers who are afflicted with deafness should not fail to write to Dr. A. Fontaine, 84 West 14th Street, New York City, for his circulars giving affidavits and testimonials of wonderful cures from prominent people. The doctor is an ardent of worldwide reputation. See his advertisement elsewhere.

Co-operation Notes.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

Hamilton Building Fund.

James Dewar \$5.00

Home Mission Fund.

Church, Collingwood . . . \$12.50

Alfred Batt 5.00

S. S. Walkerton 2.25

S. S. Ridgeway00

A circular letter relative to the November collection, has been prepared and sent to the churches throughout the Province. The Board trusts that the elders and preachers will heartily assist in laying the matter before the congregations.

"The Lord loveth a cheerful giver." "A Cheerful Giver" sent the following note the other day: "Dear brother,—Please find enclosed five dollars, to be used in the good work." What a wretched kind of a Christian, "a cheerless giver" must be!

Contributions have been received so far from two Sunday schools that did not give last year. We hope to hear of others also, as well as from all those who assisted last year. Will the superintendents kindly not omit to give the children an opportunity to aid our Home Mission work?

Bro. A. C. Gray is at work in Muskoka. There is a good prospect, especially near Bracadribe, in the township of Macaulay. We pray that the Master may richly bless our young and devoted brother, and that a self-supporting church may shortly be established through his labors.

It may not be out of place to remind the brethren that it is desirable that our Mission Fund should continue to be gathered with the least possible expense. At present the only outlay is for postage and the small cost of printing circular letters, so that almost 100 cents of every dollar contributed goes directly to those doing the work of preaching the Gospel. This is as it should be. Let the friends of the work send in their gifts promptly and freely, and it may continue so for many a day.

TO LIFE MEMBERS.—Those who were enrolled last year as life members of the Co-operation, and made the first payment last year, will please send in the second payment at their earliest convenience, and those who have been enrolled this year the first payment. Do not forget, friends, that the money is needed now, and pay now if you can.

We have not yet received any more \$100 subscriptions to the Home Mission Fund. GEO. MUNRO, Cor. Sec.

That those readers of THE EVANGELIST who have only heard the circular letter read, and those who have not even heard it read, may have an opportunity of perusing it at their leisure, we give it in this department in full.

DEAR BRETHREN:—In calling your attention to the fact that the Annual Meeting held at Owen Sound this year suggested that the churches be asked to take up a special collection for Home Missions on the first Lord's Day in November, the Board of Managers has great pleasure in being able to say that the work is in a prosperous and hopeful condition. In Muskoka where Bro. Crewson has been laboring for a number of years, the needs and the interest of the cause have so enlarged that it is deemed necessary that another preacher should go to that district. Bro. A. C. Gray has agreed to go, and the Board has promised to assist in supporting him. In Collingwood steady progress is being made. In Toronto (Denison Ave.), the new building on Cecil Street is in course of erection and it is expected will be ready for occupation about the

first of January next. This enterprise is a large undertaking for the church, shows that the members are thoroughly devoted to the work, and is therefore well calculated to elicit the sympathy of their brethren throughout the province. The church does not ask the Co-operation to contribute to the building fund, but only to assist in supporting the preacher a little longer. The church in Hamilton requests help to keep a preacher. Their house was recently opened, and there is a fine prospect of a good work being done in that city. It seems almost certain that if the church is aided for a short time it will become self supporting. The brethren in Owen Sound have also asked and been promised assistance. Those who are well acquainted with that town say that there is now a great opportunity there, and the church is naturally anxious to make the most of the opportunity and has employed Bro. James Lediard. An appeal comes to the Board from the city of London. In the first place, to aid in carrying on special services and in the second place, if a church be organized to assist in maintaining a preacher constantly. After looking into the matter carefully, the Board feels warranted in promising the desired help and believes that the Disciples in Ontario will approve of the resolution. There are other points soliciting assistance and where it is reasonable to believe good could be accomplished, but the Board does feel justified at present in undertaking more than has already been done. However, as a matter of course, should the contributions to the Mission Fund make it possible, the Board will be more than glad to do what it can for those other points. Those places which the judgment of the Annual Meeting specially commended to the Board must of necessity receive the first attention, for (1) the Board is acting for the Annual Meeting, and (2) as all the churches desiring help cannot be granted it, it follows that a selection has to be made of those where the demand is most urgent and where the largest immediate results may be expected. It is not pretended that the Annual Meeting and the Board always do what is wisest and best in this respect, but it is affirmed that to the best of their judgment and ability they seek to do so, and they ask their brethren who may think they have reason to criticize their action to bear this in mind.

It has frequently been said that the Disciples in Ontario are not doing anything and not trying to do anything. That cannot truthfully be said now. When it is observed that the Co-operation is undertaking this year to render assistance in churches in three of our cities, Toronto, Hamilton and London; in two of our most promising towns, Collingwood and Owen Sound; and to contribute towards the maintenance of two preachers in Muskoka, those who are acquainted with us will not say that we are unwilling to "undertake great things for God," and when it is further considered what is being done by those brethren who do not see fit to work with the Co-operation, and what is raised for building meeting-houses and other local enterprises, together with the liberal collections given by many of the churches to Foreign Missions, while there may be found no occasion for pride, there certainly will be found none for shame. The Board finds it to be no unpleasant duty to appeal to the Disciples of Christ in behalf of the work referred to in this circular letter, but rather esteems it a privilege to invite the brotherhood to contribute according to their ability, that the Gospel may be more widely preached in its primitive purity and simplicity and that true churches of Christ may be established on a permanent basis where they are now unknown.

It is scarcely necessary to say that there is no dictation to the churches in this matter, either on the part of the Annual Meeting or of the Board. The work is laid before the brethren, and they are asked, if they think the work to be good, to do all they can to further it.

If the collection cannot be taken up on the first Lord's Day in November, some other day soon after will do. Will the elders and preachers use their influence to secure liberal offerings? All contributions should be sent to George Munro, Erin, Ont., who will promptly acknowledge the same.