

THE DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

AND CANADIAN EVANGELIST.

Duncan Robertson m 96

"If ye abide in my word, then are ye truly my disciples."—JESUS the Christ

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The Disciple of Christ

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.

Notice.

The College of the Disciples will open in the school room of the Church of Christ, Railway St., St. Thomas, on October 1st.

Courses of study are being arranged to suit all classes who desire to qualify for the best usefulness in the Sunday-school, Endeavor Society and in the Pulpit. A preparatory course will also be provided. T. L. FOWLER.

Union at the Christian Church Conference.

The report on Church Union, which we clip from the *Ontario Christian Magazine*, will be perused with attention by the Disciples who read this paper. The people known as Disciples of Christ always take an extraordinary interest in the subject of union among believers in Christ, and they are always ready to confer with any other people who wish for a better acquaintance, and especially with a body which feels that a better acquaintance might lead to closer fellowship. They accordingly note with hearty interest the little courting expedition on which Bros. Lediard and Lhamon went, in response to overtures from brethren of the Christian Church of Ontario. The joint report will be carefully scanned, and whatever in it indicates that the two peoples are drawing together on Scriptural grounds will be the occasion of pleasure and satisfaction.

We have a few remarks to make, which we think will help to a good understanding of the situation.

1. We regret to find in the report the curious and disagreeable combination, "Church of Christ (Disciple)" to designate our brethren. It makes us shiver whenever we see it. That certainly is not scriptural style. The New Testament will be searched in vain for anything of the sort.

2. Bros. Lhamon and Lediard are declared in the report to have been sent by "The Ontario Co-operation of the Church of Christ." We cannot see how that was allowed to slip in, when the name of the body that sent them is, "The Co-operation of Disciples of Christ in Ontario."

3. It is important to remember that "The Ontario Christian Church" is an organized incorporated denomination, while the Disciples, as a people, are not. The "Co-operation" which sent delegates to the Christian Conference is merely a voluntary association for missionary work, has no jurisdiction over the churches, desires none, and can only speak for them in a general way. We presume the action of the Ontario Christian Church Conference would bind the Christian Churches in Ontario; we know the action of the Annual Meeting of the Co-operation of Disciples of Christ in Ontario would not bind a single congregation of Disciples.

4. There is no present prospect that the Disciples will become an organized incorporated denomination in Ontario. So far as we can judge, the prevailing impression is that such organization would be unscriptural, and we are inclined to the opinion that wherever individual Disciples exhibit a tendency in that direction, such tendency would be removed by a consideration of fundamentals.

5. We feel sure that the Disciples would not even agree to an arrangement whereby a Conference would have to be consulted before a church could buy a lot or build a meeting-house.

6. The Disciples would not recognize as a true Church of Christ a body that would receive unimmersed people into its fellowship.

Further reflections are deferred to a later issue.

District Meetings.

It is natural that those interested in a common cause should desire to be in communication with one another. In Prov. xxviii. 17 we are told, "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." Paul wrote "To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to the saints," "For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established, that is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me." Human nature is the same now as in the days of old. Common aims, anxieties and interests draw people together for association, conference and co operation. It is in harmony with this principle that the Disciples in the western part of the province have arranged to hold a district meeting in St. Thomas, October 3 and 4, as stated in last paper. Education, Endeavor and Sunday-school matters will be discussed, and also the ever important topic, how the cause can be fostered in places where now it is weak or unknown. The churches in the west are expected to send large delegations, and the St. Thomas church has generously offered to provide entertainment for all. There are open doors in Western Ontario, and a general gathering of the brethren in those parts cannot fail to greatly further the enlargement of the work.

It would be well if the churches in other districts were to consider the propriety of following the example of those in the west.

With regard to the change in the location of the Bible College, as announced by Bro. T. L. Fowler in this number of the DISCIPLE, we have just space here to say, that though we were very anxious to have had it continued in Toronto, we believe it can be successfully carried on in St. Thomas, and that it will be of great service to the churches in Western Ontario. We do not understand that any one looks upon St. Thomas as a permanent location of the College. For our part we still hope to see it find in Toronto its home. But whether in St. Thomas or in Toronto, or at some other point in the province, it is an institution which we need, and which, we trust, will receive from our brethren very hearty encouragement.

Editorial Notes.

Most people who read the papers these days will be more or less interested in the yacht race at New York, and, of course, British folk will wish that the Valkyrie may win. We have a second reason for feeling friendly towards her: her owner, Lord Dunraven, is not a betting man.

A friend in the east seems to object to sundry references in these columns to the Manitoba School question, because he avers it is a political one, and the parties care not for the principle of the thing at all. Perhaps they do not. But why, therefore, should not those who do care for the principle say something about it which they think may help to a wise solution? That is a point worth considering.

Sir Charles H. Tupper, speaking at the Director's Luncheon at the Toronto Exhibition the other day, used these words:

"I believe the day of doubt has passed from this land of ours. I believe that in the Liberal and Conservative ranks there is to-day, in Canada, a healthy feeling. I believe that Canadians realize that they have not only a magnificent heritage, a great country and the better half of the North American Continent, but that there is, after a time of despondency, a feeling of joy and hope in the breast of the majority of our countrymen. The future of this country is assured, no matter what men are at the helm of affairs. One party or another may promote in a speedier manner, may accelerate the prosperity of this country. Canada has a sure and certain foundation for future prosperity, and marvellous prosperity at that."

That's the kind of talk we like to hear, especially from a prominent party politician. It would be a grand thing if the rank and file of the parties would entertain like charitable and patriotic sentiments.

FRESH OUTRAGES—Five Armenian Villages Pillaged—Monasteries Sacked—Men Tortured—Women and Children Suffer Atrocities. Such is the heading of a press dispatch in the daily papers, Sept. 10th. Is it not about time the British Lion was getting his teeth sharpened? How long would Joshua have put up with the like of that?