

We have had an interesting year in this church. We have gained twelve members, and three have left us. This is not what we had hoped for in the way of growth, nor what we look for in the coming year. There are influences against which we have to contend here which we think are growing less, and we feel that our ability to make a decided forward movement is much greater than it was a year ago. The Disciples are becoming well known in Hamilton, and we trust that their reputation is as becometh the Gospel of Christ. We have had large audiences at our Sunday evening meetings, especially this spring, and the papers have given us an amount of notice which is very flattering to a small church. All this encourages us to hope that we have overcome in a large measure one of the great difficulties incident to the work in this city—the difficulty of getting a hearing.

Without reflecting upon any past year in the history of this church, it may be said that perhaps in no previous year has there been so much activity in all departments of church work. The whole tone is healthy and aggressive.

We are laboring here to build up a church of Christ pure and simple, and we send a hearty greeting to our brethren who are engaged in the same good work. The forces of sectarianism are strong, but the power of the Gospel is greater, and on that we rely, only anxious that it may not suffer through any lack of ours.

We wish to express our high appreciation of the untiring efforts of Brother and Sister Munro. They freely and fully share with us our financial burdens, and that means much sacrifice on their part. In season and out of season, they are always active, working with a will in all the departments of our church work. The hope, faith and devotion manifested by them are truly inspiring, and give the little church great encouragement. We hope and pray that God will crown their efforts with great success.

We feel grateful to the brethren all over who have assisted us in this work, and we hope they will see their way to help us still to build up the cause we all love so well.

Signed on behalf of the church,
R. N. WHEELER, Sec'y.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

Bro. John Munro is now in his second year with this church. This period has been one of growth and encouragement. Bro. Munro's labors have been extended over a large field. He has preached the gospel at various

places and has added several to the church. There are several places not far from the Portage where the cause could be built up, if men could be secured for the field. The church at this place is a liberal contributor to the funds of the Home Mission and is anxious to co-operate with the brethren in Ontario in the spread of the Gospel.

LONDON.

In many respects the past year may be regarded as the most prosperous in the history of the church. Seventy have been added, all at our regular services, and nearly all by baptism. The membership stands as follows: Net membership, 1st June, 1895, 165; increase, 70; decrease, 33; net membership at date, 202. Besides, a number were baptized who did not take membership. A gratifying feature of the year's work has been the large ingathering of young men who are rapidly developing into earnest, efficient workers in the church.

During the year our Sunday-school has doubled its membership, the roll now numbering 228, and the usual attendance from 160 to 170. A mission prayer-meeting is held weekly at the home of Bro. and Sister Hill, east of the fair grounds, and a Bible class is conducted at the same place every Sunday afternoon by Bro. D. F. Kilgour. A prayer-meeting, conducted by the younger brethren, is held every two weeks at the residence of Bro. Garfat, in the northern part of the city, where there are good prospects for building up a strong mission.

We have further reduced our debt by \$200, leaving \$2,000 unpaid. Although the amount raised for this purpose is not as large as we would wish, it may be considered as satisfactory in view of existing conditions. Within two years our appropriations from the American and Ontario Boards have been cut down from \$800 to \$450, and that in the face of probably the most severe financial depression the country has ever experienced. In this respect, last winter was, perhaps, the hardest that London has passed through.

Our board have decided, if finances will permit, to add 25 feet to the rear of the church building. This step has become imperative owing to the fact that on Sunday evenings numbers have frequently been unable to obtain seats and were obliged to go elsewhere. The Grand Trunk Railway Co. have decided to remove their car works from Brantford to London East and erect extensive shops in the latter place, in which about 500 men will be employed. This will, naturally, increase the attend-

ance at our services, so that the question of enlarging at once is all the more urgent.

Bro. Fowler has proclaimed the whole truth clearly and forcibly, giving due emphasis to first principles. His efforts to build up the church have, as hitherto, been faithful and untiring. The members are working together in harmony, and we look forward to a continuance of that prosperity which has attended the church from the first.

F. MACDONALD, clerk.

London, Ont., 14th May, 1896.

UNION.

The attitude of the Disciples of Christ on the ever fresh and interesting question of the union of Christ's followers never changes. The position taken by the Campbells near the beginning of this century is the position of all true Disciples yet, and will continue to be until the prayer of the Divine Christ is realized. That we understand the subject of Christian union and are able to define the only true basis upon which Christians can unite, there is no doubt; but candor compels us to admit that we as a people come very far short of practising among ourselves that which we recommend to others. We believe that it devolves upon us as upon no other religious body, to give to the world a practical exhibition of what it means to be "perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment," and in the same determination to take this world for Christ. Let union in theory be crystallized by us into union in practice, and the stagnant pools would soon become sweet with freshness, the mountains and hills would break forth into singing, and all the trees would clap their hands.

THE COLLEGE.

The last two conventions decided in favor of establishing a college in this country, under the auspices of the Disciples of Christ. In a matter in which there is so much involved, and in which there are many unforeseen difficulties to be met and adjusted, it is no surprise that the disposition of this question should be in some respects somewhat different to what was anticipated.

In a meeting of the Board of Co-operation held in Toronto, September 12, the following resolution will indicate the action taken:

"Resolved, that inasmuch as in the judgment of this Board circumstances are such that we cannot carry out the recommendations of the convention in London, we will as a Board and as individuals give any brother or brethren, church or churches, our hearty moral support and sympathy who will endeavor to carry on our educational work at St. Thomas."

THE WORK IN GENERAL.

The number of protracted meetings held throughout the province the past year has not been large. The number of additions to the churches, however, has been fully as large as any preceding year. Encouraging results followed all the special efforts put forth.

The church at St. Thomas, and I believe also at Erin, has set a good example in permitting the preacher to assist another church in meetings which resulted in much good to the cause. Let all the churches having preachers employed do likewise, and a much better report could be made at the end of the year.

Some of the churches are dispensing with the protracted meetings and are making an effort to keep the evangelistic fire, like the fire upon the altar, burning throughout the year. In such churches converts are worked for and looked for at all services. It will take some time for some of the churches to adopt this method of work. Wonderful changes have been wrought and can yet be wrought in the interest of the gospel. The kingdom of Jesus Christ calls for much thought and earnest study, for hard work and the spirit of enterprise.

A CRITICAL PERIOD.

The present, in the judgment of those who give much thought to the cause of the Disciples, is a critical period. The spirit of indifferentism, not only to the prime features of our plea, but to the claims of the Gospel, is alarmingly manifest. This is a more insidious and a less curable evil than infidelity itself.

The spirit of compromise is altogether too prevalent. This evil genius has the form of a serpent with the face of an angel. Let us exorcise it from the body religious. Let us imbibe much of the heroic spirit of the Divine Christ, and constantly and fearlessly manifest our loyalty to him and his cause.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

HUGH BLACK, Pres.

T. L. FOWLER, Cor. Sec.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

ON UNION.

Mr. President and Brethren:

Your Committee on Union, appointed at the Convention in London to visit the Conference of the Christian Church of Ontario, held at Altona, June 13th, 1895, beg leave to report as follows:

We attended the Christian Conference and were kindly received by that people. We were introduced to the President by Rev. A. D. Prosser, and