

Young People's Work.
FOR CHRIST AND THE CHURCH.

The town of Welland is situated on the Welland canal at the point where it crosses the Chippewa river. It is about twenty miles from Port Dalhousie and fifteen from Niagara Falls, being thus centrally located in the rich Niagara peninsula. It has two railroads, the Grand Trunk (Welland division) and the main line of the Michigan Central, and is thus easy of access from many points. The town itself has two thousand inhabitants, standing next in importance to St. Catharines among all the towns of the Niagara district.

Besides Welland we have in this district eight churches—Wainfleet, Gainsboro, Smithville, Beamsville, Jordan, Tintern, Sweet's Corners, and Selkirk, and also the lately organized congregation at International Bridge.

From a numerical point of view the Disciples of Christ are comparatively strong in this section of country and in most of the congregations they are not without a fair share of this world's goods, but from a missionary standpoint they are woefully weak. The Niagara churches, with perhaps one exception, have not been accustomed to devoting much of their means to the spread of the gospel, and this circumstance has brought its inevitable result—a gradual weakening of their home forces.

The Welland church itself was founded about nine years ago by Bro. H. B. Sherman, who continued to labor there for some time with considerable success. Bro. O. G. Hertzog also spent six months in the town, and Bro. Silas Moot devoted more than two years to the work. The self-sacrifice and endurance of Bro. Moot in this cause were such as preachers now-a-days are scarcely ever called upon to exercise, and if, as some say, self-sacrifice will certainly have its reward in the up building of the church, Welland must have a grand future before it. But evil days came upon the little band, and through many misfortunes which it is unnecessary to detail here the congregation dwindled to almost nothing. Appeals had been made to the Co-operation for help, and in March of last year the writer went to Welland, the Board guaranteeing his expenses up to June 1st. So soon as the members of the congregation saw a prospect of something being accomplished they rallied to the cause manfully and when June came we had got into fair working order. An appeal was made to the Co-operation at the Annual Meeting in Toronto, but nothing definite was done, the whole matter being left to the judgment of the Board. Eventually one hundred dollars (\$100) was granted toward the five hundred (\$500) needed for the year, and with this assistance the church managed to struggle through, although unable to make the yearly payment on the one thousand dollars (\$1,000) debt. As stated in last issue Bro. P. A. McArthur was with the church from January last until June 1st, and very satisfactory progress was made during that time. Bro. Donald Munro is now in charge and will remain until a man can be found to take the pastorate.

What are the prospects? I say unhesitatingly that if we, the young people of Ontario, do what is asked of us the prospects are excellent.

We are sometimes asked, "why cannot those other eight churches in the Niagara district set Welland on its feet?" We reply that they could if they once made up their minds to do it, but the missionary spirit must have time to grow. Last year these churches contributed nearly two hundred dollars (\$200) to this work, but

as this was done generally with the expectation that the Co-operation would do more for Welland this year than last, we cannot feel at all sure that they will do so much this year. But, looking at this question from another standpoint, we can easily see that our success in Welland will have a splendid influence on all these other churches.

Now, fellow-endeavorers and young people in all the churches, let us realize this missionary responsibility which the Lord lays upon us and see to it that the banner of Christ and his church in Welland shall not droop through our failure to do our duty.

We are sorry to take up all of this paper with missionary work, but everyone will, of course, be anxious to know all about our mission point. It would be a good plan to lay this paper (and likewise the last number) by for future reference. Any further information will be gladly furnished by private correspondence, or if anything worth mentioning has been omitted in this paper a post card calling our attention to it will be considered a favor.

For future issues we would like to have frequent reports from all our young people's societies. Be sure to inform us of any new societies organizing, and give names and addresses of officers with the number of members, active and associate. Short, pointed articles on any feature of young people's work will also be welcomed. Since writing the above we learn by a private letter that at the Welland county C. E. convention, held in Welland, on June 9th and 10th, the Disciples of Wainfleet are credited with having the largest and best society in the county. Now who will say that great things cannot be done in the Niagara district?

Alvinston. ALEX. McMILLAN.

Children's Work.

DEAR CHILDREN,—We are now standing at the beginning of a new missionary year. You will all have seen or heard the Annual Report, and will know what the other bands have done during the past year, as well as your own. I hope you will all feel encouraged to go on and do as much better for the future, as you have in the past. Our lady missionary, Miss Riach, will soon be leaving for Japan, and so we will have an added interest in, and motive for, work when we think of her away from home and friends toiling away to learn the language, and getting used to the strange ways and customs of a foreign country. She is going to provide herself with a stock of books, and pictures and anything which will help her in her work with the children in Japan, as a present from the Children's Band in Ontario. We must all think and pray for her, and work harder than ever to get the money to pay her. The children are pledged to pay \$150 towards her salary next year. The Sunday school superintendents have been asked to give us the collections for Foreign Missions this year, which will add considerably to our funds, if they decide to do so. The total amount raised by the Sunday schools for Foreign Missions last year was \$110. I think we may expect reports from new bands at an early date. You will all be interested in the report in this column.

The following report reached me since the Annual Meeting, and will speak for itself. The "Daily Workers" of Milton, Nova Scotia, are heartily welcome to our band. J. E. L.

DEAR FRIEND,—I, the president of the Milton Children's Band of Daily Workers, have been requested to write in behalf of the band to you, informing

you of our wish to unite with you in this mission work. We have been standing alone, working and sending our money away to assist in the converting of the heathen. Our band is small, but active; we number about thirty, but I think about twenty, on an average, meet once a month. We pledged ourselves to try and raise eighteen dollars a year. The year will be up this month, and I think we will do it. If you would like us to unite, please let us know and give us information in respect to the way you are carrying on the work. It is very important, and as we are young in the work we feel like having all the help possible. Our good Sister Daret was here at our Annual, and we received much encouragement from her. May the Lord prosper all the mission bands and all other good work, and may we all be ready for every good word and work and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is the prayer of your friend.

CLARA J. REMPTON.

Milton, Queens Co., N.S., March 11.

How I Decided to Become a Missionary.

Ever since I can remember, that has been a little dream of mine, and now it is to become not only a dream, but a reality.

Many little things have been coming up in my life to turn my thoughts in that direction. In the first place, during the past year and a-half I have been thoroughly disgusted with myself; and my way of living. It seemed to me so aimless, nothing accomplished; one continuous round of eating, sleeping, teaching.

I tried music, but that did not satisfy me, not having much natural ability. It was too hard work, with nothing to show for it. This last winter, a member of our church met with an accident, and as her home was not in the city, she was taken to the hospital. The school in which I am teaching, being just across the street, I ran over very frequently, as she seemed rather lonely. When I saw the nurse going from this bed to the next, I thought, what an immense amount of good they might do; how much suffering they could alleviate, not to mention the gospel seeds they could let fall, that with God's blessing might spring up into everlasting life; while my life seemed so empty, so useless. A sermon here, a little thinking on what Christ had done for me, an article there, all helped to point in the one direction. One article in the *Young People's Standard* especially took possession of me. It told of a certain Duke, who while passing through an Art Gallery stopped before the picture of "Christ on the Cross," by one of the great masters. The Duke seemed to be fascinated by the picture. Never before had he so realized the love Christ had for him. At last he exclaimed "Henceforth he shall be my only passion; he and only he." He went out from that gallery to become a missionary and to give up his vast wealth for the furtherance of the Gospel.

One day a thought took hold of me, how, why, or in what particular connection, I cannot say. But it came, and not to be trifled with. The thought was: "Why don't you go?" Why don't I go? Oh, nonsense! And so dismissed the thought, or rather thought I had. For the next two weeks, whenever my mind was not thoroughly taken up with other matters, that was the question that stared me in the face, "Why don't you go?" I never worked so hard, in school, or out of it, as I did during those two weeks, in order to keep my thoughts from going in that direction. I did not want to go. I

did not want to leave home and friends. At last I grew hot and impatient, I turned and faced the question, Why don't you go? Do you not love Christ well enough? Anything that you might leave, is it to be compared with what he gave up for you? No, my heart answered, not even as dust in the balance; and I felt that I loved my Saviour well enough to give up all for him. Then I took up the question both pro and con. I brought up every possible reason why I should not go; and looking at them there as they stood, I seemed to see nothing but the little word *SELF*. When I looked at the other side of the question, there seemed many things in favor of my going. I may not have realized the qualifications a missionary must have, but still that is how it appeared to me when I did not want to go. So, after a hard struggle with self, I answered the question, Yes, I will go, God helping me. I felt then as if a great load had fallen off from me. The next thing was to tell mother. She looked at it as I did. So it was decided. Thinking it was better to become a medical missionary, I made inquiries, with a view of making application for admission into one of the hospitals.

I might say, I was in no hurry to apply, as I thought there was plenty of time. However, some time later I picked up THE CANADIAN EVANGELIST, and the first thing I read was Miss Sinclair's letter asking for one of her sisters to volunteer to go to Japan. I showed it to mother, and asked her if she did not think that was meant for me. She thought it was. The next day I sent in my application to your Board. Miss Sinclair sent an acknowledgment, with a letter of introduction, to Mr. Meigs. I had a long talk with him. He told me all that I would have to encounter, and that I ought to feel pretty certain that it was God's will that I should go.

Talking over the matter a few days later with one in whose judgment I have the utmost confidence, he told me that I might know that, if God opened up the way for me. And as no difficulties have arisen so far, I feel confident that it is his will I should go. Now, in conclusion, before saying good-bye, there is only one thing I would ask of you: Pray for me. Christ has said that "If two of you shall agree as touching anything they shall ask, it shall be done of my Father who is in heaven." How much more, then, shall the prayers of so many Christians as I have here before me be answered. It is not possible for my mission to be a failure, if so many prayers go up for it; and what strength it will be to me to feel that so many prayers are going up to God for my guidance and strength.

And now, good-bye, dear sisters in Christ; if we meet no more on this side of the river, I pray we may meet in that glorious home which Christ has gone before to prepare for those who love him. M. M. RIACH.

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