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A DELICATE POSITION

Wedding presents are frequently distinguished for their usefulness and gift-making at any time is always attended with some danger, but there is a contractor near Albany who realizes that the most generous intentions are likely to turn out disastrously. The Albany Journal tells how it came about:

A faithful Irish employee announced his desire to take a month's vacation in order to visit his brother in the West. He had worked so well and steadily that his employer not only granted the request, but made him a present of a new valise. The night before Tim was to leave he received the gift, accompanied by a few appreciative words.

Tim stared at the valise for a minute and then asked: "What am I to do with that?"

"Why put your clothes in it when you go away, of course," answered the contractor.

"Put a clothes in it, s' it?" said Tim, "an' phwat will Oi wear if Oi put me clothes in thot?"

MILDMAY EVANGELICAL CHURCH: CELEBRATES JUBILEE

The completion of fifty years of Christian service by the Mildmay Evangelical Church, was appropriately marked by the congregation this week. On Sunday morning, Rev. M. L. Wing, the presiding elder, preached an eloquent sermon, and in the evening, Rev. E. D. Becker, of Hanover, a former and well-beloved pastor took charge of the service. Both preachers commented upon the great work that had been done by the local church in character building in this community.

On Thanksgiving morning Rev. F. Meyer of Elmwood, also a former pastor, preached a fine sermon appropriate to the occasion, and in the evening, Mr. Nicholas Schwalm, one of the oldest and most faithful members of the local church, presented the following very interesting history, covering the activities of the church during the past fifty years. Mr. Schwalm has the sincere thanks and appreciation of the congregation for his compilation of this historical data.

Dear Friends: You know that we are in these days celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of our congregation and also of the erection of our church.

We are now going to review and present to us these fifty years that have gone by.

This presentation shall bring to our minds some or all the important events that have taken place in this congregation during the fifty years.

In order to get a right beginning it is necessary to go back a little further than the first year and we will begin with the year 1873.

At this time some members of our church had located here. They had come here to stay, to do business, to work, and as we say, to make a living.

But they wanted to do more than that. They also wanted to worship God. Not only in their homes separate and privately, but also united and publicly.

For this purpose, they went together and formed a prayer meeting class with Wm. Schneider as their leader. The names of these members can be seen on card No. 1. They also started a Sunday School of which our S. S. now is a continuation. It never froze up in the winter and dried up in the summer.

Not long after this was done they sent the Leader to the Quarterly Conference Board of the Carrick circuit with the request that their pastor should come and preach to them occasionally, and a little later it was arranged that Rev. P. Alles, pastor of that circuit, should come and preach to this class in the afternoon of every second Sunday.

For this, and for the Sunday School they rented the Methodist Church. In the spring of 1874, Rev. G. M. Graff became the successor to Rev. Alles and continued to preach for this small Mildmay class.

During the summer more members came here and in the fall they desired to become a congregation and build a church.

On the 11th day of December in this same year of 1874 they held a meeting at which Rev. Joseph Umbach, at that time P.E. of this district, presided, and Rev. G. M. Graff acted as secretary. Eleven other members were present, whose names can be seen on card No. 2. Now at this meeting and upon a motion of J. H. Thomas, and seconded by Chris Eckel, this our congregation was established and received its name. Yes, on the 11th day of Dec., 1874, it came into existence, and Rev. G. M. Graff was the first preacher. At his meeting three trustees were appointed, whose names can be seen on the card which presents the 3 committee.

And it was also resolved that a subscription list should be prepared to raise money to buy lots for a church site, and the trustees and the preacher were authorized to buy the same, subject to the approval of the congregation.

Now, whereas the congregation was established, so near the end of the year 1874 we call 1875 its first year and will proceed to its presentation and to the history thereof.

In the spring of this year, Rev. G. M. Graff was taken from the Carrick circuit and Rev. S. Krupp was sent to be his successor.

Along this time the congregation held a special meeting in which steps were taken to proceed with the building of the church. A Building Committee was appointed, consisting of the trustees and two other members. Their names are on Card No. 3.

In an astonishing short time all preparations to build were made and

Jacob Hesch, at that time one of our Catholic neighbors, was engaged to do the mason work. In the meantime, Geo. Schwalm, my brother, had taken the contract of the carpenter work, and he and I started at this work as soon as the foundation was ready. A few more hands were employed and the work went rapidly ahead. When it was ready for lathing and plastering, Schmidt Bros. of Balaklava went at it and did their work, and Peter Dierlamm, a brother of Rev. H. Dierlamm, did the painting.

While the carpenters were working at the tower, one man fell from a height of about 20 ft., but was not seriously hurt.

One day when Rev. Joseph Umbach came along he noticed the somewhat peculiar ornamental work on the transom in the outside door frame he said "Nun da sollen Pflie geschossen werden gerade aufs heartis Das ist schen." Meaning "Here shall arrows be shot right upon the heart. That's fine."

You can see the heart and arrow if you look up as you go out.

All the work of the church was completed about the end of the year and it was dedicated in the month of January in the year of 1876, which will now be presented.

An important occurrence in this year was the dedication of this church, at which Bishop Yeakel, a very tall man, officiated. The singing was led by a man who was a great singer, not by name, not the father of our present pastor. No, his name was J. H. Thomas, and he was a good singer. Some other good singers were here too. Mrs. Wm. Helwig was one of them, and if you will pardon me, I will say that Nich. Schwalm was also there, and he was a bass singer. There was to some extent a choir.

No particulars regarding the number of preachers that were present, and so forth, are available, but we suppose that when this church was dedicated to the Lord, He was near, and the people had a blessed time.

Soon after this a great revival took place at which about 50 people were converted from the power of Satan to God. Yes, it was a remarkable revival.

We will now turn to the years 1877 and 1878.

Up to this time this congregation belonged to the Carrick circuit. In spring of 1877, the conference put the congregations of Walkerton and Mildmay together and called it the Walkerton Mission, and J. A. Schmidt was its first pastor, and he was here until conference in the year of 1879.

During this term J. Bechtel was recommended for the ministry.

During this term something took place which sounds like an allegory. A man who at one time had been very happy, began to associate with people that were not of the best and he got like them. A little later he went with some that were worse and he himself got worse also. And finally he got so that he could mock and scorn at that which was good and sacred and in this way he did much that was wrong, and he became liable to severe punishment and got in a sad condition. He came in this church that was built 50 years ago, and among the congregation that was established on the 11th day of Dec. in the year 1874. He saw that he had done so much that was wrong. It troubled him. He became very sorry for it, and confessed it. Upon this he was informed that one had been punished for him, and in his place, and for all his wrong doing. This he believed and he got happy again. This is, however, only one of the many instances like that that have taken place.

We will now turn to 1880. In this year Rev. S. Weber, an aged man was the pastor, and was assisted by J. Bechtel and Chas. Eby, two local preachers. The annual conference was held here in this year for the first time. Whereas our membership was now 115 and Walkerton only 32 the name of the mission was changed and called Mildmay Mission.

We will now turn to 1881 in which Rev. Wm. Schwantes was the pastor. Along this time there were four cottage prayer meeting classes, two in Mildmay, one in Balaklava and also a Young People's Class. All held their regular meetings and they were well attended. They were a blessing to the members, especially to new converts.

Years 1882-83. During these years, the Presbyterians held their services in our church until they had built their own. Rev. G. Herlan was our pastor.

Years 1884-85-86. During these years, Rev. S. Krupp, who had the

remarkable revival just 10 years previous was again our pastor. In 1886 the third house to the south was bought for a parsonage and was used as such for a number of years.

1887. This was an average year. Rev. D. Dippel, an elderly man, was the pastor. He is remembered as one that held class meetings and asked every member how he was getting on spiritually.

1888-89-90. Rev. Geo. Brown was the pastor. During his term, especially in 1888, good improvements were made. The gallery which was much needed for S. S. room, was built and the Church was repainted.

Referring to another thing, you know that sometimes something is done in a congregation that you hear from a long time. Sometimes sounds good and sometimes not. In this year the congregation did something from which we have heard ever since, and still hear from it. Perhaps some one knows about it and can tell what it was.

During this term there was also a great revival and in 1890 the conference again was held here, it being the second time.

1891-92. A. Y. Haist, pastor. These two years might be called average years. In the year 1892 the Mission was changed to a station.

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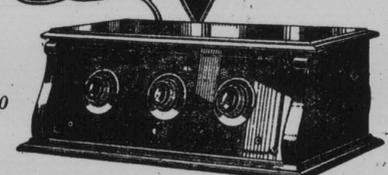
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The membership at this time being 198. 1893-94-95-96. Rev. G. H. Haist was the pastor during these four years. In 1894 there was a good revival and in this year two Mildmay boys, Wm. Beese and Henry Haist, were recommended as candidates.

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