

# THE DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

## AND CANADIAN EVANGELIST. U. W. O. LIBRARY

"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.

### Report of the Board of Managers of the Co-operation of Disciples of Christ in Ontario.

(Concluded from last issue.)

#### THE UNION QUESTION.

At the Annual Meeting, in St. Thomas, in 1889, a committee was appointed and some steps taken looking to a union between the church known as the Christian Connection and the Disciples. The matter was allowed to drop. A letter received recently from D. Prosser, President of the Christian Conference, informs us that they have not forgotten the matter, but are ready and anxious for further conference upon the subject. We are requested to appoint a committee to attend their conference, which convenes at Altona from June 12th to the 16th. Upon the receipt of this letter, an invitation was extended to Bro. D. Prosser and others to attend this annual meeting, when an opportunity for some discussion upon the subject would be afforded.

It is recommended that a committee be appointed and requested to attend the Christian Conference at the above specified date and place for the purpose of considering the question of union between these brethren and the Disciples.

#### GENERAL WORK.

In the concentration of our efforts in certain places in the province, the general work has of necessity been somewhat neglected.

It was thought by some that those brethren who do not share with us in our Co-operative efforts would show their hand in general evangelistic work. It is now apparent that this is a vain hope.

During the latter part of the year, there have been not a few calls for evangelistic meetings, and the number held has been unusually large. These meetings, with few exceptions, have been productive of good results by way of additions. This, in view of the experience of last year, is particularly gratifying. It is not only gratifying, but instructive. We have learned that success in evangelistic work depends upon a knowledge of the characteristics of the people as well as upon the ability to preach the gospel.

Under this head, we recommend to the incoming Board more attention to this kind of work.

#### EDUCATION.

At the annual meeting last year, the question of establishing a school in the province for the education of young men for the ministry of the Word was discussed. The convention recommended that at least one teacher be employed and a school opened. The Board of Managers, after much careful deliberation, acted upon this recommendation. A teacher was employed, and, on October 3rd, *The School of the Disciples* was opened in Toronto. The Cecil Street Church of Christ fitted up a class room and furnished gas for light and other conveniences—all free of charge.

In the estimation of the principal of the school, the number of students in attendance during this initial session, though small, was sufficiently large to justify the step taken. This is but a beginning, but we confidently hope that it is the beginning of an institution from which, in a few years, efficient young men may go forth to fill the many openings in the province.

#### RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT.

In looking back over the work of the past, we find, that while no large step had been taken during any particular year, yet, on the whole, substantial progress had been made. The things which have given us the most concern and occasioned us the most anxiety are

small receipts and lack of competent preachers for the existing churches. To stimulate a greater interest in the former, the progress of the work has been kept constantly before the brethren and a faithful account given of the disbursements of the funds contributed. To remedy the latter defect, an effort has been made, in establishing a Bible College, to create within our borders a supply of efficient workmen adequate to the demand. This is no new device but one begotten by the wisdom of Christ when he chose His apostles "to be with Him," and one that has been acted upon by every successful religious body. The number of churches, Sunday-schools and Young People's societies contributing this year is equal to the number which contributed last year, but the contributions, with a few exceptions, are smaller than heretofore. Among those exceptions is the church at St. Thomas, the liberality of which is worthy of special mention.

The long continued commercial depression is given as the cause of smaller contributions on the part of some. It is a sad commentary upon the professed followers of Christ that, in the event of a financial depression, retrenchment often begins in curtailing the revenue which should flow into the channels of Christian activity. Let us hope that with the revival of business there may be a corresponding revival in the interests of Home work.

All of which is respectfully submitted.  
T. L. FOWLER, JOHN CAMPBELL,  
Cor. Sec. Vice-Pres.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

#### On Young People's Societies.

In presenting this, the third annual report, your committee feels that the year just closed has been one of activity in all departments of religious work, and the part taken by the Endeavorers has been no small factor in the success that has attended the proclamation of the gospel of our blessed Master.

Only a summary can be published here. A detailed statement was presented to the Convention.

Twenty-two Societies reported this year with an aggregate of 520 active,

163 associate, and 68 honorary members; total 751. Forty-two accessions to the church were reported from the C. E. societies during the year. The amount of money reported as raised was \$201.36 for Home Society; \$392.69 for Home Church; \$110.57 for Home Missions; \$73.30 for Foreign Missions; \$11 for Educational Fund—a total of \$788.92—an average of \$35.86 for 22 societies, an exceedingly good showing.

A comparison of the report just read with those of preceding years will show that more interest is being developed in Home and Foreign missions. The amount contributed this year for Home missions is six times the amount given in 1893, and four times that of last year. No comment is needed on this.

Again, from the reports and from pastors who are favorable to the Endeavor movement and alive to the interests of the Church and the spread of Christ's kingdom come the assurance of the deep interest that the Endeavorers take, not only in their own Prayer-meeting, but in all departments of church work they are most active—in the Sunday-school, in regular attendance at the mid week Prayer-meeting, in leading others to Christ, visiting the sick, caring for the needy, etc., etc. In fact, the practical part of Christianity is part and parcel of the make-up of the true Endeavorer. We are also pleased to notice that the number of societies contributing to both Home and Foreign mission work is steadily increasing, and the end is not yet.

And now let us glean from the reports what are some of the special works carried on by the societies. One society is educating a boy in China, and, during the past year, has contributed \$30 on the church debt. Another has joined with the Sunday-school and purchased an organ. Still another is giving one quarter towards supporting a girl in Miss Rioch's school in Japan; have sent one of their number, who is preparing for the foreign field, for a two years course in Hiram College; and the visiting committee of that society made sixty calls last month. Another society has organized a mission Sunday-school, about a mile and a half from their place of meeting, which is