

The "Spectator" May 10:

ELOQUENT SERMONS BY REV. W. T. HERRIDGE, OF OTTAWA.

At the McNab Street Presbyterian Church—The Proper Attitude of Christians to the World—The twenty-fifth anniversary.

The members of the McNab Street Presbyterian Church are fittingly celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of Rev. Dr. Fletcher's induction. Yesterday the services were continued, Rev. W. T. Herridge, D. D., of St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, preaching in the morning and evening. In the afternoon there was a special Sunday School gathering at which the ex-superintendents of the school were present. The congregations at the church services were very large, chairs having to be placed in the aisles at the evening service. The pulpit was profusely decorated with flowers and foliage plants.

In the morning Rev. Mr. Herridge preached from the text, "Cast thy bread upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days."—(Ecclesiastes XI. : 1). In the course of the sermon he referred to the anniversary occasion, and said it was unusual in these days of change and general restlessness and caprice to find a Minister and congregation between whom the ties of mutual regard and affection were so strong that they continued not only unimpaired, but to knit, more closely as the years rolled on.

In the evening the text was: "Come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord."—II. Corinthians VI. : 17). The subject of the discourse was the proper interpretation to be placed on this command in the light of modern times. When the gospel was written Corinth was one of the most shamelessly licentious cities of the age and, as one writer has put it, it was indeed a great and joyful paradox that the Church of God could have found a home in the midst of this mass of corruption. If the members of that church were to remain faithful there could be no halfway measures in the regulation of their own conduct. "In these modern days," said the preacher, "our surroundings are in many respects not at all the same. This land is not given over to heathen idolatry. We have passed away from anything like technical heathenism, at least from the frank heathenism of early days. Nevertheless the time may not have changed so much as we suppose, and Christian duty has changed not at all. In what way are we to read this injunction to-day? The proper attitude of Christians towards others has often been greatly misunderstood. Men have taken strange ways of emphasizing the exclusiveness to which religion called us all—some by the color of their dress, a somber cast of countenance, a rolling of the eyes heavenward, by monastic zeal or self-inflicted bodily tortures; these things marked an honest attempt to separate themselves from the world. The nun's veiling or the monastic cowl might be excellent things even in these days for some undoubted Protestants, but they are, nevertheless, not the ideal way of fulfilling the injunction. Another type of separation might be found in the Jewish pharisees; their descendants survive even to our own days, and they are as ready as of yore to thank God they are not as other people. We are sometimes inclined to thank God we are not like them. When a man is very certain of his own salvation and very doubtful of that of a great many other people, he should go to school to learn true humanity. To put on airs because we are