

# "First Church Endeavorer."

"FOR CHRIST AND THE CHURCH."

VOL. I.

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## First Church Endeavorer.

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### Editorial Notes.

WE wish all our readers a very HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR. We presume there are not many who look back through the days and months of old '90 without regretting that they have so poorly improved its opportunities. It is well that while our real life does not grow old with the lapse of years, the natural divisions of time as they occur afford us occasions to take frequent soundings and ascertain where we are. We have either grown in the past twelve months or we have gone backward. We do not remain in one place morally, spiritually or intellectually.

The past year has witnessed the growth of a home missionary spirit in our church and we look forward with interest to the carrying on of this work to the development of a very grand home mission cause by the close of the present year. Our Mission Band is also expecting to do equally well in the line of foreign mission work, and looking at all our church interests we close the old year with thankful hearts to the "Giver of

all good and perfect gifts," looking with hopeful anticipations for still greater things than we have yet seen in 1891.

### New Year Thoughts.

Farewell, Old Year! the rustle of whose garments,  
Fragrant with memory, I still can hear,  
For all thy tender kindness and thy bounty  
I drop my thankful tribute on thy bier.

What is in store for me, brave New Year, hidden  
Beneath thy glistening robe of ice and snows?  
Are there sweet songs of birds and breathe of lilacs,  
And blushing blooms of June's scent-laden rose?

Are there cold winds and dropping leaves of Autumn,  
Heart searching frosts, storm clouds dark and drear,  
Is there a rainbow spanning the dark heaven,  
Wilt thou not speak and tell me, glad New Year?

As silent, art thou, of the unknown future,  
As if thy days were numbered with the dead;  
Yet as I enter thy wide open portal,  
I cross thy threshold with glad hope, not dread.

If joy thou bringest straight to God the giver,  
My gratitude shall rise: for 'tis his gift.  
If sorrow still mid waves of griefs deep river,  
My trembling heart I'll to my Father lift.

So hope-lit New Year, with thy joys uncertain,  
Whose unsolved mystery none may fortell,  
I calmly trust my God to lift thy curtain,  
Safe in his love for me, 'twill all be well.

J. B. C.

"Sculptors of life are we with our  
souls uncarved before us."

(Continued from last month.)

TWO letters came to Miss Willard in one day soon after this, one offering her a position as principal of a leading Ladies' College in New York City at a salary of \$2500 a year. This was a position that would have been accepted, for among the dreams of her life had been that of living in New York, but the crusade had hold of her heart. The other was from a lady in Chicago telling her that the thought had been impressed on her

mind that God had selected her as the leader of the work in Chicago, and asking her to take charge immediately. A voice whispered to her there is the open door, and with gladness of heart the position was accepted.

There was no money in it but Miss Willard's bible had a promise for her which said trust in the Lord and do good, so shalt thou dwell in the land and verily thou shalt be fed, she took this as her guarantee. Before going to her work in Chicago she visited Pittsburg and there had a glimpse of the real crusade. The women about thirty in number gathered together and formed a line outside a saloon to which they had been refused admission and commenced singing "Jesus the water of life will give." Tears came to her eyes as she heard them, and she felt the doom of the liquor traffic though it might be delayed was sealed, kneeling on the pavement prayer was offered, and then the procession moved on to another saloon whose keeper invited them in, they entered and there with the fumes of liquor and tobacco filling the air, the floor covered with saw-dust and filthy with cigar stumps and other refuse these women held their meeting, men were standing at the counters drinking, but a feeling of reverence seemed to be in all their hearts.

The leader asked Miss Willard to lead in prayer, and while lifting up her soul to God in these surroundings she received the baptism of the crusade. Arriving at Chicago she took hold of the work with characteristic energy, for a few months she knew what it was to be on short allowance, oftimes went without a meal for the want of money to pay for it and for the same reason walked long distances instead of taking the car. During this time she was testing the Lord and He was testing her, and she says she was learning something of the hardships of the world and the riches of the Lord, and felt somehow as if she owned Chicago.

A State Union was formed in the fall of the same year and afterward the National W. C. T. U., Miss Willard holding office in each. The World's W. C. T. U. was also formed from which missionaries have been sent out to carry the Gospel Temperance all over the civilized world, one of their number has been away for seven years on this glorious mission, and many others are being sent out.

The sister of the late John Bright was made the first President of this society and visited America when upwards of seventy years old to show her interest in the movement. A publishing house has been founded from which comes forth their weekly paper, *The Union Signal* which has a circulation of seventy-five thousand. Temperance liter-

ature to the amount of one hundred and thirty million pages was also published last year. Petitions have been sent to the Legislature and great good has been the result. Prohibition is what the women are working for and they feel they will yet reach the goal. Their motto is for God and home and native land. Truly the thought impressed on Miss Willard's mind when but a child that woman is a central figure in the happiness resulting from temperance or the misery from intemperance is proved every day.

"Character develops in the stream of life" a writer has said; and as God has been leading Miss Willard and the women of these societies onward, there has been developed not only in themselves but in the women all over the country a grander character and they are aiming at a still higher ideal. We are looking for the time when women will be no more down trodden by this terrible evil, when they will not listen at night for the unsteady footstep or fear for father, son, or brother, the blight of this curse, but the whole evil will be swept away and we will look back and wonder why as a people we allowed this evil to hold sway so long. Whatever will lead to this result we hail with delight and pray that the lessons taught in the past may not be forgotten, but profiting by the experience of the past we may move with steady step onward.

## German Student Life.

(Continued from last month.)

THE present "Burschenschaften" are the descendent of the original Burschenschaft an organization which had its origin at the university of Jena in 1815. Germany at that time was divided up into many petty kingdoms and principalities, and the aim of the "Burschenschaft" was to cultivate a German patriotic sentiment and the formation of one great German nation; and it put itself in direct opposition to the Landsmanschafts or national clubs whose tendency was to keep up the old political divisions of the German speaking states. In 1819 the Burschenschaft was suppressed, but secretly reorganized in 1827, splitting up into two parties; the "Germans" who had as their aim, practical effort toward the unification of Germany and the "Arminians" whose ideas were of a more visionary nature.

Since the revolution of 1848 the Burschenschaften have been tolerated, and have split up into many sub-divisions or clubs. In Heidelberg they were represented by the 'Alemcenia'

and "Franconia," who lived on very much the same footing with each other as the corps-students among themselves. To sum up the difference between Corps and Burschenschaft roughly, the former represented aristocracy and the latter democracy. Even old school-friends and blood-relations were not supposed to have anything to do with each other if wearing the colors of these rival organizations, and I can remember keeping a sharp lookout while a corps-student friend of mine wished to exchange a few remarks with an old school-chum who happened to belong to the "Franconia." To a casual observer, the life of the Corps-student or Burschenschafter would not appear very favorable to anything in the shape of hard study, and yet from my own experience I must say that when it came to examination time the members of these organizations held their own, and many of the most distinguished scholars and statesmen of Germany are old Corps and Burschenschaft, "Burschen" "the man of iron" Bismarck was once one of the wildest members of the "Hannoverania" Corps at Gottingen, and earned the epithet of "Achilles" from his wonderful fencing powers; for although he is said to have fought no less than seventeen duels during his student days, the only wound he received was a cut in the cheek inflicted by a flying fragment of his antagonists broken sword.

The two worst features of Corps Burschenschaft life are undoubtedly the "Kneipe" and the practise of duelling. The "Kneipe" is a room in some tavern or other reserved for the use of one of the clubs, and serves as a place for social re-union of the members.

Here they meet two or three evenings in the week and spend several hours in singing, chatting, imbibing of beer and smoking. Beer is the only beverage tolerated at the "Kneipe," and if this the amount consumed is simply amazing. Many of the duels are arranged at these club-meetings. An emissary from a rival Corps puts in an appearance and is most hospitably received and entertained. Before taking his leave, however, he produces a list of members of his club who are desirous of trying their skill as swordsmen with members of the club visited, and the day is fixed for the "little affairs" to come off. This important business having been transacted, the visitor takes his departure.

But a Heidelberg student can have all the fighting he desires, he has only to politely raise his cap to a member of another Corps and address him as "Dummer Junge!," and the result is a duel. A "Fuchs" must fight at least three times before being exalted to the dignity of a "Bursch," except in certain

special cases; for instance, if the "Fuchs" is a member of a Royal house, he is exempt from passing through this ordeal, the present Emperor of Germany was a "Bursch" in one of the Bonn Corps.

A member of the "Schwaben" Corps invited me once to accompany him to the "Hirschgasse," and see a number of duels fought, between members of his own Corps and some "Vandals." We crossed the old bridge over the Neckar, and after walking a short distance up the north bank of the river, we turned up the "Hirschgasse," a road running up into the mountains. We soon came to a large white tavern that for time immemorial has been the duelling ground of Heidelberg students. Going upstairs we found ourselves in a large room stripped of everything in the shape of furniture, and filled with a large number of students belonging to the various Corps and their friends.

The duellists were duly bandaged up, leaving nothing exposed except the head, face and upper part of the breast, and each had a pair of heavy iron spectacles to protect the eyes, the surgeon and umpire took up their positions and the contestants were led to their places. "Auf die Mensur!" cried the umpire, and the seconds made their men place their right feet to toe two lines chalked on the floor. "Fertig!" and the swords were placed in the principals' hands, "Los!" and the duel commenced. The umpire held his watch in his hand to time the "passes" (four to the minute), and the seconds stood ready to knock up the swords of the duellists, whenever time was called. The time for each duel is a quarter of an hour, but very often half a minute is enough to settle the business; for a wound may be inflicted at the very beginning of so serious a nature as to incapacitate the receiver of it from doing any more fighting for some time to come.

In the three fights I witnessed there was not much damage done, and the men were so evenly matched that they all fought the full fifteen minutes. But the captain of the Vandals was rather roughly used by my friend v. Pfeuffer, the "Schwaben" Senior; and it was only by the exercise of considerable will-power that he was able to hold out to the end. Pfeuffer managed to escape with nothing worse than a slight scratch on the nose whilst his opponent was bleeding from at least a dozen wounds in different parts of his head and face, the worst one being a formidable blow across the forehead, the blood from which must have almost blinded him for the time, for it poured out in a regular stream over his face, giving a most unpleasant appearance.

(To be continued.)

## Y. P. S. C. E. Correspondence.

*Edited by J. W. Hamilton.*

### KNOX CHURCH SOCIETY, Y. P. S.

C. E. This society is increasing in numbers and usefulness as the months go by, and taking a survey of the past year, we can truly say that God's blessing has rested upon us. Recently two new committees were formed, viz:—Flower and Temperance, the former of which has already done some good work, and under the enthusiastic leadership of Miss Megaw, promises to be the means of still further extending the Master's kingdom in our midst. We are pleased to notice the presence at our weekly prayer meetings of some of the older scholars of our Sunday School, and we hope their numbers will increase.

At our last business meeting we adopted the voluntary system of raising money for carrying on the work of our society, hitherto each active and associate member gave five cents per month, which we thought was hardly fair as some were willing to give much more. Since our organization we have not had an entertainment or concert for the special purpose of raising money, and for this record we are justly proud. It is pleasant to be able to state that the utmost harmony exists in our society and with our officers and committees appointed we look forward to another term of hard and successful work for "Christ and the church"

### ON Tuesday evening Dec. 23rd, the C. E.

Society of Central Church held an interesting meeting to commemorate its organization which took place three years ago. The society now numbers sixty-seven active and forty-three associate members and though not so strong in this respect as we hope to see it, as never before, the members realize the necessity laid upon each to do to his utmost what he can best do, and that as their President remarks they have the mind to do it.

During the evening Miss Edgar from Congregational Church; Mr Best from the society in the Baptist Mission on Herkimer Street, and Mr. R. R. Wallace of St. Paul's gave very instructive and helpful addresses. Mr. J. J. Evel in thanking the speakers reminded the members that it is not a bad thing to have our good qualities pointed out to us once in a while, as a little encouragement of this kind incites us to more earnest work in the future. Another feature of the

evening's entertainment were the solos sung by Misses Sinclair and Russell. The meeting was closed by repeating together the C. E. benediction, "The Lord watch between thee and me when we are absent one from the other."

**ST. PAULS PRESBYTERIAN**:—Our society is progressing and we have much to be thankful for but we long for greater things. While many of our members give evidence of the second birth and in many ways show that they desire to grow in grace, we have some who appear to be satisfied to remain in a state of uncertainty, this, however, may be only in appearance, and we trust that those who do profess to know Christ, may be constant at the throne of grace, pleading for themselves and our luke warm members.

Our prayer meeting committee or some of the members of that committee meet either for an hour on the day previous to our meeting or for fifteen minutes prior to hour of meeting. At that committee meeting a course is decided upon, which generally results in a warm, bright meeting. One of the difficulties we encounter is in trying to get our active members to, in turn, lead the meeting, this feeling on their part would, we feel sure, be speedily overcome, were they to try and forget themselves and remember others, if they looked up and not down, were they like Mrs. General Booth, willing to be thought fools, for Christ's sake. Get up young people, the success of this work depends largely upon you, each individual member.

Believing as we do, that, the cause of Christian Endeavor is worthy the hearty and undivided effort of all in this city who claim to follow Christ, we have adopted the plan of securing leaders, from and outside of other societies, and are satisfied that the good feeling thus expressed is doing much towards bringing the young people of the different churches to active harmony, and with determination, in suppressing our common enemy.

We have reason to thank God for His continued goodness to us. While some in our membership are, like Lot's wife looking back and consequently are getting cold, others continue to look Zionward. O! we pray God for the time to speedily come when every Christian, young and old, will be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the love of the Lord.

R. S. WALLACE.

## Committee Reports.

**A**T the regular business meeting of the Y. P. S. C. E., held on Tuesday evening, Jan'y 6th, the following officers were installed for the next six months:—President, Mr. Thos. Morris Jr.; 1st Vice President, Mr. John Calvert; 2nd Vice President, Mr. F. W. Gayfer; Corresponding Secretary, Mr. Jas. Hamilton; Recording Secretary, Miss N. Raycroft; Treasurer, Miss J. Harvey; Conveners of Committees:—Lookout Committee, Mrs. M. S. Lounsbury; Prayer Meeting, Miss I. Lavery; Social, Miss A. Raycroft; Flower, Miss J. Sarginson; Music, Miss L. Murray; Temperance, Mr. G. F. Fisher; Visiting Committee, Miss Bastedo; Publishing Committee, Mr. A. Davis; Mission Committee, Mr. Harris; Dorcas Committee, Miss Jarvis.

### REPORT OF THE TREASURER:—

#### RECEIPTS.

|                     |                             |         |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Oct. 30             | Balance on hand.....        | \$ 7 40 |
| Nov. 21             | Proceeds of Concert.....    | 26 70   |
| " 27                | Consecration Collection.... | 1 90    |
| Dec. 25             | " " " " .....               | 1 82    |
| Total Receipts..... |                             | \$37 82 |

#### EXPENDITURE.

|                        |                            |         |
|------------------------|----------------------------|---------|
| Nov. 4                 | Rent for Mission House...  | \$ 5 00 |
| " 7                    | To 60 Postal Cards.....    | 60      |
| " 24                   | To Orchestra.....          | 3 00    |
| " 25                   | To Advertising.....        | 4 50    |
| " 25                   | To Flowers for Pulpit..... | 7 50    |
| Dec. 1                 | To Printing Programs.....  | 4 25    |
| " 3                    | Rent for Mission House...  | 5 00    |
| Jan. 3                 | " " " " .....              | 5 00    |
| " 3                    | To 50 Postal Cards.....    | 50      |
| Total Expenditure..... |                            | \$35 35 |
| Balance on hand.....   |                            | \$ 2 47 |

AVESA RAYCROFT, *Treasurer* Y. P. S. C. E.

**R**EPORT OF THE LOOKOUT COMMITTEE:—As this is the last month in which this committee will be in their present position, it will be well to look back and see what progress the society has made. In comparing the reports of the last six months with those of the six months before we see nineteen new members added, one associate member has become an active member. But many who were once active members rarely appear at our services. The present membership is 88 active members

and 20 associate. We hope the members of this society will make a good beginning in the new year so that the new committee may report a marked improvement both in the attendance and the activity of the members during the next six months.

Respectfully submitted,

A. JARVIS.

### PRAYER MEETING COMMITTEE—

This Committee in presenting their last report for 1890 beg leave to thank those who consented so willingly to act as leaders of the prayer service during the past six months. The Christian Endeavor prayer meeting for Tuesday, Jan'y 6th, will be combined with the union service held in connection with the week of prayer. For the remainder of this month the program of services is as follows:—

Jan'y 14th, "Union Service." Leader, Rev. W. H. Laird. Jan'y 20th, Leader, Mr. Fisher. Jan'y 27th, "Consecration Service," Leader, Mr. Morris Jr. Feb. 3rd, Leader, Miss Henry. Feb. 11th, Leader, Rev. W. H. Laird.

Respectfully submitted,

N. RAYCROFT, *Convener*.

**S**Ocial COMMITTEE:—During the past year we have had eight socials, and have raised in this way \$142.95. Nearly all to whom we have appealed for assistance in making out our programs, have responded willingly, some having gone to a great deal of trouble in connection with them. We earnestly thank all who have aided us in entertaining our friends. We believe that the socials have aroused a greater interest in our work, have furnished an opportunity for getting acquainted with strangers, and have promoted a more cordial feeling among the members of the society itself. The new committee have prepared an interesting program for the monthly social, to be given on Tuesday, Jan'y 13th, and have ordered five hundred programs, at three dollars, to be distributed on Sunday, Jan'y 11th.

L. MURRAY.

### REPORT OF MUSIC COMMITTEE

for the month of December, 1890. Your committee wish to thank all those who kindly assisted in the singing both on Wednesday and Thursday evenings during the past month. We realize that there is a great power for good in the singing of God's praises at all of our devotional gatherings. We would that more of our society would become

more interested in the choir for Wednesday evening prayer meeting, as it assists and pleases our pastor very much, and one of the aims of our society is to do what our pastor wishes us to do.

We feel truly thankful to all those who so kindly assisted us in this good work during the past six months and earnestly ask for the blessing of Divine providence upon the Music committee during the six months upon which we have now entered, and that the songs of Zion as sung in the society may be the means of leading many into the fold of our blessed Master.

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIE HARVEY.

**TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE:**—Your committee on Temperance beg leave to submit the following report:—We are glad to report that the arrangements for making the last union service in each quarter a Temperance service, have been completed. The first service will be held in March and a profitable time is expected. It is encouraging to note the increased interest on this question in our own church, and in many of the other churches in the city. It is to be hoped that when the petitions are being circulated in the city, which are to go to the Dominion parliament asking for the submission of a Bill for "entire prohibition," that our people will respond liberally. According to the resolution passed by the General Conference, all persons over sixteen years of age can sign. The fact that the Methodist and Presbyterian churches of Canada are taking united action in this matter means a great deal, and large results are expected in due time. When the Christian people can stand united on this question, the victory is ours. Let us pray and labour that the time may come speedily.

GEO. F. FISHER, *Convener*.

**REPORT OF VISITING COMMITTEE** for the month of December:—The Visiting committee in presenting their report for December record eleven calls made during the month. We were sorry to find that sickness had laid its heavy hand on several of our people, but trust in the good providence of God they may soon be restored to their wonted health and strength. We are glad to report that this committee is doing good and faithful work. As the New Year opens before us with all its possibilities for good or evil, we wish to fill it only with those deeds which shall in truth be "golden," and bring their blessing in the consciousness of

duty well performed. That our feet may be "swift and beautiful" in this part of the Master's work is our desire

M. E. BASTEDO, *Convener*.

**PUBLISHING COMMITTEE:**—Our paper which will be out next week completes the first six months. So far we have very great reason to feel encouraged, we believe that our efforts are appreciated by the members of our church as is shown by the list of subscribers which has now increased to 135. We desire to thank the following, who have helped us by handing in their tees since our last paper was published:—Mrs. Cotton; Mrs. Crawford; Miss Follick; Mrs. Jones; Mr. Kendall; Mr. Laking; Mr. W. H. Irwin; Miss L. Muir; Mr. L. Moyer; Mr. J. Ross; Mr. Sparks; Mr. Smuck; Mrs. Sealig; Mrs. McFeren; Mr. W. G. Wright; Mr. A. Waters and Mrs. W. C. White.

ALLAN DAVIS, *Convener*.

**REPORT OF MISSION COMMITTEE** for the month of December:—It is with a deep sense of gratitude to Almighty God, that we report the work at the Mission, in a very prosperous condition. Truly we can say it is God's work, and He is wonderfully blessing it there. During the month we held two special meetings, one on Christmas day, the other on New Year's Eve., which proved beneficial to all those who were present, as some prepared to commence the New Year as Christians. We have seen the power of God manifested, by working on the hearts of the people, causing them to confess, and express a determination to forsake their sins, and find Christ as their personal Saviour.

We are very much encouraged by the very large attendance at all our meetings, but the room is so small that we cannot accommodate the large number that come. There are five classes in the Mission S. S. composed of one mixed Bible Class, one of young men, and three large classes of smaller scholars. The Band of Hope which has been organized is doing a good work in this place under the direction of Mrs. Powell, with Miss J. Mathews and Miss D. McIlroys assistance, as a goodly number of young men and boys are signing the pledge, something that is very much needed in that part of the city, (as well as others.) Your committee is very thankful to all those who have so kindly assisted at all the meetings, and to those who have done so much visiting from house to house, this we realize is doing a large amount of good, because we find we have to win the affections

of the people before we can expect to win their souls for Christ. We would not fail to recognize the kindness of those who sent well filled baskets to thirteen different families at Christmas time. The bounties were very thankfully received as some had nothing to supply their wants, except one kind of vegetable. We earnestly ask you to aid us in every possible way to carry on this good work, especially by your prayers.

Respectfully submitted,

J. C. HARRIS, *Couvenor.*

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT from the Mission at 152 Walnut Street South:—

##### RECEIPTS.

|                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Donations from friends..... | \$ 4 81        |
| Collections to date.....    | 4 87           |
| <b>Total.....</b>           | <b>\$ 9 67</b> |

##### EXPENDITURE.

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| One Desk.....            | \$ 1 50        |
| Five Pews, @ \$1.00..... | 5 00           |
| Hymn Books.....          | 3 18           |
| One Music Book.....      | 80             |
| Wood.....                | 1 25           |
| Fixing Organ.....        | 25             |
| Class Books.....         | 30             |
| Account Book.....        | 25             |
| Coal Oil.....            | 42             |
| Caretaker.....           | 2 25           |
| <b>Total.....</b>        | <b>\$15 10</b> |
| Balance.....             | \$ 5 42        |

### Our School.

DURING the past month our school has been progressing both in numbers and interest. The average attendance being 49 1/2 much in advance of last month. The average collection was \$6.35. The classes of Misses Jarvis and Kappelle held a most successful bazar and Christmas entertainment during the holiday week, the school-room was very tastily decorated with flags and evergreens by the scholars and made to look bright and cheery. Last Sunday was the time for the public quarterly review but it was decided that each teacher should review the lesson. Rev. Mr. Oaten, son of one of our respected Sunday School teachers, addressed the school on Jan. 4th, and gave a very interesting account of his work in the North West.

On Christmas day, two of our teachers decided to test the old saying "in union is strength," we wish them many happy years of usefulness.

### In Memoriam.

OUR beloved friend and pastor Rev. W. H. Laird suddenly passed away from his earthly home to the better land on Sunday morning, Jan. 11th, aged 55 years. Those who have known him best are reminded by this event of the many times he mentioned his expectation of being called suddenly to the life beyond and will also remember that in our last love feast, with much emotion he gave utterance to the thought which always seemed to be in his mind that possibly he might not be spared to meet again on such an occasion. How little have we known what was in store for us. A deep sorrow has fallen upon us immediately connected with him, and upon the entire church with which he was prominently connected.

We can hardly realize that we shall no more in the flesh see his kindly face or hear his voice in our midst. Our leader has fallen in the midst of the conflict, but the work must be carried on and we trust our Heavenly Father who has ordered all things will keep us precious in his sight. We shall carry with us to the end of life the remembrance of his words of instruction and loving admonitions as well as the earnestness with which he always endeavored to impress upon us the necessity of being ready for the hour when the Son of Man cometh, his going away, though sudden, was a glorious transfer of his life from time and fleeting things, to immortal and never changing, and we do not mourn him as dead but as living in Christ whom he loved to honor and serve.

We have no parting words from him, but we have as a constant memorial of our dear friend and pastor his precepts and example as an inspiration through life. To his grief stricken loved ones our hearts go out in sympathy which words fail to express and we can only pray the words may be richly fulfilled to them "My grace is sufficient for thee"

## "A Merry Christmas."

THE Christmas season was made unusually pleasant this year to our S. S. scholars by the Christmas tree in connection with the Bazar, and a visit from Santa Claus. The Bazar was in every respect a very great success, the movers in the matter whose names have frequently appeared in our columns, in this connection are entitled to great praise for their untiring zeal in carrying out the work to such a successful issue. There will be we understand fully \$100.00 above all expenses to apply to the S. S. Improvement fund which leaves only about the same sum yet to be raised, as each class is adding its mite weekly to this fund, it is expected that the entire amount will be paid before many months. We imagine some of the boys who read this article will say Santa Claus has not received as much credit for some of this money as he ought to have.

We have no doubt but the presence of the venerable gentleman did add many dollars to the treasury, every one is interested in such a very important and mysterious personage, the presents he bestowed were highly appreciated and the evergreens and trees which decked the room made it quite a bower of beauty, it was a "Merry Christmas" to all persons. Time would fail us to enumerate the variety of useful and ornamental articles which adorned the trees many of which were made by the young ladies and sold during the afternoon. The young ladies and their scholars who were responsible for the bazar and Christmas tree have received the thanks of the superintendent on behalf of the S. S., but it is not amiss for the ENDEAVORER to add its thanks including Mr. Santa Claus on behalf of the friends of the S. S.

## The Meaning of Music.

OFTEN after some instrumental solo or orchestral piece we hear some one ask, "What does it mean?" The general idea is that music has no definite meaning, yet this has not been the opinion of all composers and musicians, as the following quotation from one of Mendelssohn's letters written in 1831 will prove:—

Music is more definite than words, and to seek to explain its meaning in words is really to obscure it. There is so much talk about music, and yet so little really said. For my part, I believe that words do not suffice for such a purpose, and if I found that they did suffice, then I would compose no more music.

People often complain that music is so ambiguous that what they are to think about it always seems so doubtful, whereas everyone understands words. With me it is exactly the reverse, not merely with regard to entire sentences, but also to individual words; these, too, seem to me so ambiguous, so vague, so unintelligible when compared with genuine music, which fills the soul with a thousand things better than words.

What any music I love expresses to me is not thought too indefinite to be put into words, but, on the contrary, too definite. I find in all attempts to put such thoughts into words something commendable, but there is yet something unsatisfactory in them all; and so it is with yours. This, however, is not your fault, but that of the words, which do not enable you to do better. If you ask me what my idea was, I say just the song as it stands; and if I had in my mind a definite term or terms with regard to one or more of these songs, I should not like to disclose them to anyone, because the words of one person assume a totally different meaning in the mind of another person—because the music of the song alone can awaken the same ideas and the same feelings in one mind as in another—a feeling which is not, however, expressed by the same words.

Resignation, melancholy, the praise of God, a hunting song—one person does not form the same conception from these that another does. Resignation is to the one what melancholy is to the other; the third can form no lively idea of either. To any man who is by nature a keen sportsman, a hunting song and the praise of God would come pretty much to the same thing; and to such an one the sound of the hunting horn would really and truly be the praise of God, whereas we hear nothing in it but a mere hunting song, and if we were to discuss it ever so often with him, we should get no further. Words have many meanings, but music we can all understand correctly.

## The Mission Band.

THE Mission Band in connection with the First Church gave a very novel entertainment on Dec. 2nd, called a Pullman Car Social. The musical program was exceptionally good and the presence of a professional elocutionist from Toronto, made the program one of unusual excellence. The supper which was served in Pullman Car style, afforded much amusement. All together it was a very enjoyable evening, the financial results were fair considering the number of entertainments in the church about that time.



## Life on the Prairies.

By Thos. Morris, Jr. (Continued from last month.)

OCASIONALLY you hear people remark that the extreme cold in Manitoba is no harder to bear than the moderate cold in Ontario, they invariably explain it in this way: "the air you know is so much clearer and drier so rarefied and invigorating that 20°, 30° or 40°, or even 50° below zero is really not so severely felt after all."

Well I suppose these people know all about it, and have had abundant experience, possibly they may have lived in Manitoba a season. Yet after roughing it five winters on the prairie, all I have to say is, that to me 1° or 50° of cold is the same in either province. Zero at Lowestoft, on the prairie, is much the same as zero at Hamilton, under the mountain with this difference, however, on the prairie there is no shelter of any kind, no elevations of land, no clumps of trees to break the wind, or temper the storm. I am prepared to admit though, that it is not at all difficult to winter in Manitoba if one has a comfortable home in the town, a cosy office in which to work, and warm furs to protect oneself in going from one to the other.

But to the hundreds of settlers who live in shanties and dugouts on the bleak prairies, and who are obliged to team their grain to market and draw wood from the bush, a distance of thirty miles, you can easily understand that the cold must be intensely felt by them and the long winters justly dreaded. I remember well the last experience I had in going to town with a load of wheat, not only on account of the cold, and the snow-drifts which I had to plow through, but because the remuneration which I received for the load of grain was so small. I left home one afternoon, the thermometer registering 20° below zero and a pretty stiff breeze blowing, I had taken my oxen because the trail was heavy and oxen are much better in breaking through the snow than horses, I got six miles that afternoon and remained over night with a neighbor. Next morning I started many hours before sun rise and by pressing my oxen and not stopping long enough even to feed we got into Morden some twenty miles further by nine o'clock that night, I had gone without any food myself and I assure you that I was tired and hungry and nearly stiff with cold.

Of course it was too late to sell the grain then so I put up for the night. Next day I went to the elevator and the buyer told me he had all the wheat he wanted but to oblige

me he would take it in and give me twelve and a half cents per bushel or twenty-five cents per bag, you can imagine my feelings perhaps as unconsciously my mind ran back over the cost of plowing, seeding, harrowing cutting, binding, stacking threshing and marketing. Why the last item alone I felt was worth far more than the amount I was offered, but I could not help myself, it would not pay to take the grain back home, so I must submit. I received from the buyer just \$4.00 in exchange for my load of wheat. Out of this amount I had to pay travelling expenses, I was three nights away from home, I had travelled fifty-two miles, it did not require much figuring to find out that I had less money after paying my expenses than when I started.

Settlers are necessarily so much exposed in Manitoba that it is no unusual thing to hear of them losing their toes or their fingers or hands or legs by frost. The general hospital in Winnipeg is generally filled in the winter time with unfortunates who have lost some of their members. The second winter I was in Manitoba I worked beside a tall, raw boned, simple Scotchman, just out from the old country. I noticed that he wore ordinary leather boots at which I was surprised. I told him he ran a risk of having his feet frozen and that he should wear moccasins with three or four pairs of stockings and a wad of hay or straw inside. One morning Duncan did not come to work as usual and on inquiring I was told that he had been taken to the hospital and that both of his legs had been amputated. On going home after an extremely cold day Duncan found it impossible to get his boots off and it was found necessary to get a knife and cut them to pieces, then his friends attempted to take off his stockings but the skin and flesh stuck fast to the stockings and came off in such a sickening manner that a doctor was sent for and poor Duncan was taken to the hospital.

One other case comes to my mind, though the circumstances are not so sad. I had a young Englishman by name Thomas stopping with me one winter, I had no particular use for him but he had no home and he asked to stop with me until spring, so I consented. I was taking my grain to Morris that winter, and I usually got up about twelve or one o'clock in the morning, fed my team, got my breakfast and was on the road by two, and reached town by nine. By the time I sold my wheat, bought my groceries, etc., it was noon and it took me all my time to get home before night.

(To be continued.)

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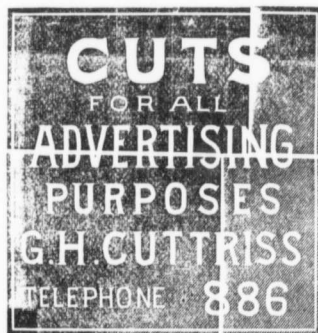
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