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WESLEYAN CITY MISSION

PRESIDENT:
REV. W. MORLEY PUNSHON.

ANNUAL REPORT. 1871.

THE THIRD year of the benevolent and popular labours of this mission having closed with Sept. 1871, the Committee issue their Annual Report, with thankfulness to their friends and sincere gratitude to the Inspirer of every good and perfect gift, who hath directed and blessed the design of his servants.

The evidences of conversion and the believer's victory over death and the grave, securing through the past year in direct connexion with the mission labours, evince the special and abiding regard of the Saviour and Judge of all, whose solemn and salutary words are refreshing as a spring in the desert: "I was sick and ye visited me;" "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren ye have done it unto me." Secluded intellectual selfishness, the nurse of vanity, death of the spiritual affections, and deliberate violation of a pledged oath to seek after the sheep of Christ's flock scattered abroad, induces a ministry barren of saving results, while pastoral visitation conducted with prayerful wisdom and earnest love, receives the cheering witnesses of Christ's ability to forgive and save on the stormy waters of life, and when the wrecking billow of sin gathers its final strength to hurl the praying, trusting and departing spirit into the dark abyss. To the affectionate offices of the Missionary-pastor, D. Farrell, Hagerman St., E. Ernest, Richmond St. West, T. Greer, Sumach St., and S. Hall, Adelaide St. West, first responded in the sympathies of grace, professing the assurance of salvation by faith and the peaceful hope of eternal joys through the merit of Christ.

Two years before D. Farrell exchanged mortality for life, his sister, Mrs. Patterson, died rejoicing in Christ Jesus, a ripe fruit of this mission gathered to the feast above. This opened the pathway to his confiding attention, while instruction was imparted to his mind and prayer made to God for him. Months of spiritual darkness yet of gently dawning light marked his affliction. The day star from on high at length arose, and it was delightfully strange to perceive its radiance. The proud, self-willed hater of the ways of God, gave thanks for the knowledge of salvation by the remission of sins, exhorted his family to walk in the ways of Christ, and professed his certainty of being for ever with the Lord. He often broke the silence of his last night on earth by the audible expression of his inwrought effectual conviction of that truth, "The blood of Jesus

Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." A similar ministry of instruction, faith and prayer was afforded to S. Hall during the lengthened period of her decline. With a heart clinging to beloved earthly objects, she was slow to appropriate the promises of grace; to launch her spirit from its rest on the sands of time and commit it to the peaceful bright ocean of the love of Christ appeared difficult; but the shadows fled away; prayer and contemplation brought confidence. "He will save me" became the language of her trusting heart, and with this testimony she passed within the veil.

To direct the attention of those who love souls to the sick and dying has been a branch of mission duty conscientiously discharged and esteemed a privilege. J. Marshall and M. Sparks resided west of Spadina Avenue and were discovered by the Mission in a state of suffering. They and their friends, strangers to experimental religion, required the aid of spiritual counsel and sympathy. They were brought under the notice of those who, by the blessing of God, led them to the sinners only hope,—the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in one saving grace shone with peculiar lustre. To others in the City, General Hospital and Yorkville who died in the Lord, the services of this mission were promptly given in common with various servants of Christ.

The General Hospital has received a large amount of service. With scores of the patients prayer has been offered, kind enquiries and religious converse gently and indiscriminately addressed to the sufferers, and well chosen tracts presented. In every ward, to every willing recipient, these kindnesses were cheerfully shewn and arrangements made to perform funeral services to the deceased when required. Six sermons were delivered in the lecture room to the assembled convalescents on Sabbath afternoons. While these lines are writing, S. Bassett, who two years since received in the weekly meeting the prayerful exhortations of the Missionary Pastor, lies an inmate in a ward, happy in a Saviour's love, softly dropping her clay tabernacle and on the wing for heaven. Sudden and appalling shades of death falling on the inebriate and septic imparting a ghastly horror to their departure, present a dread contrast to the peaceful scenes above narrated. One who recently died in the General Hospital replied in the early part of the evening of his

death to one who shares in the duties of this mission, "I am not prepared to die and wish to hear nothing from you on the subject or be annoyed about it." Such frequent and fearful exits impart a deep seriousness to the life of the Missionary Pastor.

The Committee ascribing praise to God alone, can also point to living instances of converting grace through the past year, to men now walking in the truth before many witnesses and in communion with the Church of Christ.

For emigrants and their families residing in the city, unwearied and successful efforts have been made to obtain employment and place them in safe moral homes. Three men provided with constant occupation are giving much satisfaction by their industrious and regular habits, and have become members of the Christian church. Two of them in married life have been accompanied by their partners to this spiritual fellowship. Letters have been written to ministers of several denominations conveying information of persons who, though attending the churches, were overlooked and unknown. "Consider one another to provoke unto love and good works." Emigrant and neglected children have been diligently enquired for, and by this vital and interesting department of toil more than a score of them and young people have been introduced to Sabbath schools according to parental choice or proximity of situation. Young men have been invited to Bible classes in the churches and to the privileges of the Y. M. C. Association. Pastoral visitation has been extended to all portions of the city, including the outlying streets west of Bathurst and Denison's Avenue to Yorkville, Davenport, Leslieville and Don Mount. From house to house regularly and irregularly, enquiries are made where the inmates worship on the Sabbath? have they Bibles? and do the children attend a Sabbath school? Invitations, encouragement and exhortation are given as circumstances demand, and cards of introduction to the Sabbath schools given to the children. Often does the Mission pastor discover the neglected sick, aged and infirm, and bow his knees with them to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Not seldom is the spirit of prayer and supplication poured from on high, grateful invitations to repeat the visit are given by the people, and retiring refreshed by the presence of the Lord, Cowper's line appears sweetly true,—

"Forgets his labor as he toils along."

Tract distribution is carried out in all its forms, in the dwellings of the people without respect to creeds; in the public thoroughfares, to the working men at dinner hour, and in the evening when returning from their employment; to the children with a request to give them to their parents. Temperance publications are given to those who evidently need them in the streets, insinuated into the houses of inebriates and of liquor vendors; conversations on total abstinence are of frequent occurrence, and cards are given to those willing to enter among pledged abstainers.

Intercourse with the Roman Catholic population is extensively and amicably maintained, liberality of views and practice is rapidly progressing among them, a very small minority refuse the tracts presented or are unwilling to hear recommendations of the Douay Testament. Controversy is studiously avoided. Many of the elderly people reject the dogma that none can be saved out of their church, a considerable number read their own Scriptures, and in several instances have listened attentively to portions read by the Mission Pastor, and intelligently expressed their belief in the doctrine of justification by faith alone in the merits of Christ. In the past year the names of four persons were recorded in the weekly

meeting of the pastor held invariably on Wednesday evening, in the Metropolitan Tabernacle, who have abandoned an illusive priesthood for Jesus who "sits a priest upon his throne, continueth ever, and hath obtained an unchangeable priesthood," and the visionary sacrifice of the mass, for him "who needeth not daily to offer up sacrifice, for this he did once when he offered up himself, and by one offering hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."

Sermons have been delivered in Davenport, Yorkville, Met. Tabernacle, Berkeley St., Leslieville, Don Mount and Asylum. Several visits have been paid to inmates of this institution by the request of friends residing in the country. Assistance has been given at sacramental occasions and prayer meetings. The rooms of the Y. M. C. Association have been visited and young men, strangers and emigrants, have been aided in various ways. Twelve children have been baptized and the funeral service read on several occasions.

The Committee gratefully acknowledge the gift of several Bibles for deserving and poor persons, from the Canadian Bible Society, and for a liberal and periodic supply of tracts, including Temperance publications from the Tract and Book Committee.

In conclusion, the Committee confidently recommend this very important mission to the support of the churches and benevolent public, reporting the annexed subscriptions:

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Church Collections:—

Metropolitan Tabernacle	26 00
Elm Street	32 65
Yorkville Wes.	20 35
Queen Street Wes.	24 45
Berkley Street	9 60

Total \$531 85

Printing and Advertising 26 20

\$558 05

Subscriptions and donations may be sent to any member of the Committee, and to the Missionary Pastor,

J. H. BOYD,

61 Oak St.

W. KENNEDY, Secretary.

