

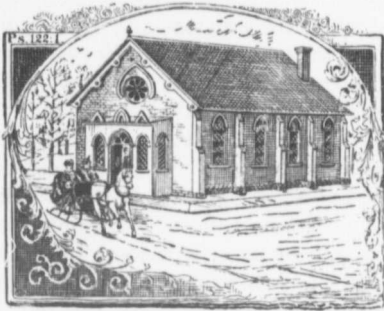
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OUR CHURCH TIDINGS

VOL. 3.

BLUEVALE, DECEMBER, 1897.

No. 1



PASTOR'S GREETING.

The relation existing between pastor and people is a tender and sympathetic one. The spiritual prosperity of one is a cause of joy to the other. John said: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in the truth." May the year 1898 record greater progress in our experience and knowledge of God and spiritual things. Our motto texts for the year are "Grow in grace," and "In every work that he began in the service of the house of God, he did it with all his heart and prospered."

With warm Christmas and New Year greetings.

Yours affectionately,

D. ROGERS.

OUR CHURCH WORK.

We are pleased to have within our bounds for another year the two teachers, Bros. Stewart and Breckenridge.

Wm. J. Johnston is a host in himself in looking after the temperal and spiritual interests of his appointment.

Every church needs at least one man or woman who is all sunshine and hope, and forever prophesying good things, and ever saying things of praise and cheer. Who is it in your church?

Our woman's society is true to its name, "Willing Workers," It has in-

creased in numbers and is rendering effective service.

The full amount of our Superannuation assessment was raised in October without a social or even a collection. Thanks to all our good friends.

Earnestly urge your non-church-going friend to accompany you to the house of God. "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God."

We are much indebted to our choirs. Let us join them in rendering spirited singing, making "melody unto the Lord."

We expect a visit from the General Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Carman, some evening during January. He will preach at Bluevale at 7.30.

The ideal church boils over with zeal, pays dues promptly, has a consecrated membership, a good Sunday School and Epworth League and is not frightened at an occasional shout.

Our Sunday Schools are doing good work under the direction of their superintendents—Bros. Stewart, Shaw and Pepper. Hold up the hands of the workers by your prayers and presence as often as possible.

The sound of revival is being heard on many of our circuits. The "set time" is when the human agents are ready to use the means which Divine mercy has placed within our reach. The fountain of grace is full and free forever.

This little paper is published without cost to our readers—the only return we ask is that you peruse every line and profit by it as much as you can. In June, 1898, we purpose (D.V.) publishing a similar issue containing a detailed statement of the finances of the different departments of our work. A business-like method of doing the Lord's work is always highly satisfactory to the people and productive of much good.



NO ROOM.

No room for the stranger, no room in the inn,

The friendless may lodge with the beasts of the stall;

The manger His cradle, the night for his screen:

No room in the inn for the Monarch of all?

No room in the inn; yet the wise men afar

See the sign of His coming whom prophets foretold;

And low at His feet, by the light of His star,

The sages are bending with spices and gold.

CHRISTMAS, 1897.

Once more we approach the season which commemorates the birth of our Lord in human form. No other event in the history of the world can even begin to rank with it in the compass of its significance. That he who "thought it not robbery to be equal with God" should nevertheless have taken upon himself the "form of a servant" and been "made in the likeness of men," is so astounding a thought as to tax the utmost power of credence. But what a new glory it does add to human nature! To what great heights it does exalt man? Since the Son of God has associated himself with us, he has given a fresh meaning to our existence. Our life is larger and our destiny ineffably grander than before.

No wonder that the angels sang and shouted to one another till the Judean air was vibrant and tremulous with the heavenly melody: "Glory to God in the highest; on earth, peace, good will to

men." Shall not the glad anthem be repeated a thousand thousand times in this closing week of 1897? Let the tuneful choirs proclaim it to listening audiences as they gather in the house of God. Let aged saints with mystical vision of coming glories speak it through glad lips to the generation that is following after them. Let young believers, with their hearts aflame and their wills set to noble enterprises, take it up and repeat it with added volume: "Glory to God in the highest." It is the angels' song, but it belongs also to men. The celestial visitants uttered it on only one occasion, and then withdrew from the earth. Since that time it has been the possession of mortals. But the day is coming somewhere in the unfolding ages when the angels will come back and join once more with men in a jubilant antiphony. Gathering in the bright regions of the air, they will cry aloud in full-throated volume: "Glory to God in the highest;" and from the redeemed earth men will answer back: "On earth, peace, good will to men."

Encourage your pastor this year as never before. Be at the weekly prayer regularly, and take part in the exercises according to your place and ability. Work in the Sabbath School. Neglect no communion occasion. Be in your pew every Sabbath morning and evening, if possible. Be attentive to the preached Word. Improve upon what you hear. Ask people to church. Speak well of your minister. Pray for him and ask a blessing upon his labors. Give him a kind look and loving word. Sympathize with him in his work. Cheer him. Sustain him. Pay what you have promised for his support when it is due. Defend him when assailed. Attend the special meetings he may think it best to appoint. Try to make them a success.—*Christian Advocate.*

The man who does not put good reading matter in the hands of his children, has never done any real praying for their salvation.

**BRIEFS.**

The best thing you can do when you make a mistake is to make it teach you something.

We have heard of people too poor to take a good newspaper but who ever heard of one too poor to smoke a pipe.

The truest words we ever speak,

Are words of cheer ;

Life has its shade, its valleys deep,

But round our feet the shadows creep,

To prove the sunlight near.

THE BETTER WAY.

Paul's plan for collecting money was to have the people "lay by in store, upon the first day of the week, as they may prosper." "Let each man do according as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly, or of necessity, for God loveth a cheerful giver."

The Lord not only loves a cheerful giver, but he will prosper such an one. This stands to reason. If the Lord loves us, and he sees that prosperity makes us selfish, and in the end prove our ruin, he will withhold from us, or send losses into our plans as rods of correction. But, if we cheerfully give as we are prospered, and it is a real means of grace to our souls, then the Lord will bestow liberally upon us, for in such instances prosperity does not spoil us.

Settle it in your own mind that you are the benefitted party in every act of benevolence. Herein is this saying true, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Let us pass over the line into the New Year with malice toward none, with charity toward all, with true patriotism toward our own country, and with love toward all men as we would have them love us, and at the same time with supreme love to God, the giver of all good gifts.

THE CLOSING YEAR.

The old year will soon end. Some of us began the year with serious inquiry. We have met its storms, its defeats and disappointments. We have been lifted up and brought low. We have found its alternations of sunshine and shadow, and are brought through infinite mercy almost to its close.

The future is unrevealed to us. What shall be its demands upon our steadfast patience, our poise of spirit, our good will, our forgiveness, our control of temper, our pious zeal?

We are solemnly impressed with the errors and demerits of our past lives, that our best efforts made in our own strength will not bear divine scrutiny. How much weakness through indecision is apparent; how much shrinking from self-denial.

But amid it all everyone has been the special object of divine care and has had occasion to magnify God for His special deliverances. Some of us have experienced the blessings of renewing grace; a marvellous change has been effected by the Holy Spirit. Once the seductive world established its ascendancy over our hearts. Now we loathe its folly. We were once in a most galling servitude; once ambition beckoned us to the high seats of power and opened before us earthly glory, but how we exclaim, "God forbid that we should glory save in the cross of Jesus Christ!"

Some of us have risen to a higher Christian life, and now walk with God continually. We have been drawing refreshing waters from the wells of salvation, have enjoyed clearer views of his redemption; our experience has been tested in the furnace of trial, but the flames have not touched us, for the form of the Son of God has been there, and we now exclaim, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee."

Farewell, Old Year, the rustle of whose garment,

Fragrant with memory, I still can hear;

For all thy tender kindness and thy bounty

I drop my thankful tribute on thy hier.

