

"First Church Endeavorer."

"FOR CHRIST AND THE CHURCH."

VOL. 1.

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No. 2

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Editorial Notes.

ONE fine morning, having laid aside our multitudinous domestic affairs for a day, and bidding the children be good, we found ourselves steaming happily away on the Modjeska to Toronto. We have taken many exceedingly pleasant lake trips, among others, one on Lake Sebago, passing through locks, we steamed miles up the river among most picturesque scenery; past the home in which Hawthorne spent part of his youthful days, and where he, no doubt, gathered many of his weird fancies. We remember vividly two days on Lake Winnepisiogee, in the wild White Mountain region, and in view of the blue capped Mount Chocorua, of which Whittier sings; but we always find in our little portion of Lake Ontario something equally as grand in another phase of nature. The varied bits of landscape at the Beach and Oakville, the breadth of view seaward, so like the sea without its power, the entrance to Toronto, we find in all these a beauty which is hardly surpassed.

Arriving in Toronto, although we have so

lately left the Ambitious city, how surprised we are to see so many people on the streets; how fine many of the shop windows are? We forget our dignified position and gaze admiringly on the various articles displayed. It is not our intention to give in detail the experiences and observations of that day, but will briefly mention a visit to the Educational Department. As we had not been there before, we were agreeably surprised at the extent of beautiful lawn, dotted here and there with full length statues and brilliant with flowers. We find a much older building than we expected—nearly 50 years old. The bronze statue of Ryerson, directly in front of the main entrance, so suggestive in its grandeur, should fill every citizen's heart with pride.

Once within, we are indeed in the presence of our ancestors. Busts of Kings, Queens, Princes and Princesses and an uncrowned king, George Washington, adorn the upper tier of the lecture room. Here are the faces of Poets, Statesmen and Philosophers, some of which are familiar to us, others are strangers. Many are from association, fascinating, others repulsive. Some express our preconceived ideas, others disappoint us. So we go on, we visit the Library of eight or nine thousand volumes on educational subjects. We linger long in the department of foreign curiosities; we renew our Shakespearean readings as we look upon the faces of Julius Caesar, Junius Brutus, Cato and Pompey, and passing on we find ourselves among Gods and Goddesses innumerable, even naughty Cupid is here, as everywhere, hurling his little dart among mortals. With great pleasure we examine Roger's groups of statuary: and missed one of our favorites—"Why dont you speak for yourself John," (John Alden and Priscilla in "The Courtship of Miles Standish"), all of which we cannot dwell upon. We return to the lecture room and as we again study some of the faces, we seem to feel their living presence. How important that we paint upon the retina of our minds that which is good and true.

We do not expect to perform deeds that will give us a seat in the temple of fame; but in viewing the characters which these

busts represent, their struggles, their victories, their defeats and their conquests, it occurs to us, as we are all builders, we may at least aspire to have the insignificant stone which we are permitted to place—"Well and truly laid."

HAVING had the pleasure of spending a few days at Grimsby Park, and receiving a great deal of benefit from it, we thought it would be well to try and share it, as "Thoughts shut up want air, and spoil like beles unopened to the sun." At this place they try to provide a good supply of food for the physical, the mental and the spiritual nature, and they succeed well. The natural advantages of the Park are many, and those who spend even a short time there will carry in their memory the music of the waves, the sound of the wind in the old forest trees and perhaps some of the beautiful sunsets they have seen while sitting on the pier, or walking along one of the many paths through the park. Then there is the pleasure of meeting old friends and new friends, for it seems that people who once enjoy its advantages like to find themselves there again; and while we meet new faces and form new associations, we also renew friendships of former days. It seems that everyone who visits the Park must receive an inspiration through its services. During our visit we had the pleasure of listening to some of the grandest men on the Continent—such as Chancellor Sims, Dr. Fawcett, Robert McIntyre, Dr. Talmage and others whose words and spirits we pray may be to us an inspiration.

Mrs. Large, whose husband, Rev. Mr. Large, was murdered in Japan a short time ago, has returned to Canada, and during the summer has made her home at the Park. One morning she spoke for a short time at the Women's Meeting, and every heart was touched. She said—"There is so much to say dear sisters that I scarcely know where to begin, but perhaps I cannot do better than tell you something about one of our students, by which you will have a glimpse of what you are doing in Japan. We were in need of an assistant teacher in our school, and a friend of mine recommended a young Japanese lady to me as being in every way qualified for the position. She was very anxious to learn English, and arrangements were made which would make this possible. She commenced her work with us and was not long in the school till we all loved her. I found that she was searching for the truth

and was studying the Bible diligently. She had heard of the new religion while in her home in the country, and was determined to find out more about it. After she had been with us for some time, she came to me one day and said "I want to be baptised, I believe in your Christ," and she was, and God blessed her and used her. She was appointed a Class-leader and filled her position well. "I have something to tell you," she said to me, "something I should have told you before but the customs in your country are so different from ours that I did not like to—I am a married woman. When I was sixteen years old my parents married me to a man a great deal older than myself, whom I had never seen till a few days before our marriage, a man whom I could not love. He could only earn enough money to support himself, so I came here to earn my own livelihood. He is here in the city and is sick, he wants me to come and take care of him. Will I go? You know how I have been going away on Friday after school and on Saturday morning,—I have been keeping his rooms in order and mending his clothes during that time. I do not want to leave." Soon after this her husband left the city, and the summons came to her—"I want you to come to me at once." At the same time a message from her father commanding her to return. Her health at this time was very poor and before she could go to them she was taken with a very serious illness. As we were going to the seaside, the doctors thought it might do her good if she could accompany us, and when she recovered sufficiently we went. She seemed much better on her return and was able to resume her duties, but soon she was again prostrated. We sent her to the hospital and while there she suffered intensely. I visited her and found her restful, happy. Some of the students went each day to see her, and although in great pain, found her trusting. Her last testimony to me was that Jesus was close beside her, her friend, that she would like to go to Him, would prefer it to life, but was willing to have whatever He thought best. She passed away very peacefully. Her husband and father were sent for when it was found she could not recover. Her husband came to see her once and did not return till after she was dead. In fact it did not seem to concern either him or her father very much what happened to her. She was laid to rest by those who had known her and loved her.

Our success in Japan is largely in the future. We look for it when the girls who

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are being educated in our schools will be the mothers, and when they will have the training of the next generation. Many of the girls are converted before they leave us, and those who are not converted are very different girls when they leave our school than when they entered it. When they return to their homes many of them will not have the opportunity of hearing a sermon, as there will be no missionary near, but before leaving school some of them band themselves together, those who are able to hear a sermon promising to write it again and send it to some one else, and so the good seed is sown.

Nearer Thee.

"Nearer my God to Thee."

Those sweet, sweet words learned long ago, to-day
Are dearer far to me.
They come with sanctifying power,
And help in life's most darks - me hour
To bring me nearer Thee.

"E'en though it be a cross,"

This lesson learned through microscopes of tears
And bitter sense of loss.
A cross to bring me nearer Thee,
'Till I could wish all else might be
As nothing more than dross.

"That raiseth me,"

To feel and know the heights of Thy great love,
Which e'er unchangingly
To me each day is given from above,
That I its richness here may prove
And brings me nearer Thee.

"Still all my Song shall be,"

That nearer, nearer to Thee day by day
Thou ever wilt lead me.
Till life's work done, I gladly may
Come close to Thee, there to stay
Through Thine eternity.

—J. H.

Reminiscences.

AN INTERVIEW WITH COL. LAND.

BEING anxious to obtain some information in connection with the early history of our Church and Sunday School, Mr. Thomas Morris, jr., superintendent of the school, and the writer wended their way on Saturday afternoon, July 26th, to the pleasant home of Col. John Land, Wentworth street North. This homestead of the descendant of Hamilton's first settler is indeed an attractive spot for the venerable Colonel to pass the evening of his life in. Entering through a gate on the east side of Wentworth just below Barton street, we passed up a gravel walk to the house. On the right

was a small forest of pine trees which we fondly imagined to be a portion of the primeval forest that once flourished where our beautiful city now stands. However, as will be seen, we labored under a delusion. To the left stretched a lawn, rendered the more attractive and homelike by the presence of a number of stately pine trees, interspersed here and there with an exotic in the shape of a palm or a tree-fern. The house is a large frame, painted white, with a verandah facing the west. The Colonel had not quite finished his dinner when we arrived, and we were kindly invited by his grandson, Mr. J. G. Y. Burkholder, to make ourselves comfortable under the verandah. In a few minutes the Colonel made his appearance. Mr. Burkholder introduced us, telling the Colonel what our mission was. After shaking hands the venerable gentleman expressed his willingness to afford us any information in his power, and prepared for action by requesting us to be seated. We opened fire by telling him that we wanted to know something about the beginnings of our church, and the subsequent conversation was much as follows:

"It was your grandfather that gave the land to the church, was it not?"

"No, it was my father who gave the ground, an acre and a quarter; my grandfather died shortly after the war of 1812."

"Was it not in the year 1822 that your father gave the land to the Methodists?"

"I cannot state what year it was, but think that it was earlier than 1822."

"Did your farm include the present church site?"

"Yes, it extended as far as Main street on the south, and the northern boundary was Barton street. It was a hundred acres that my father bought in addition to the homestead of 300 acres that was granted to my grandfather for services rendered during the Revolution. My father bought the hundred acres for a low price, money being very scarce in those days. The man he bought it from gave a yoke of steers and a barrel of pork for it."

"What were the boundaries?"

"It was bounded on the west by Wellington street (formerly called 'Land's lane'), on the north by Main, south by Barton, and on the east by Emerald. Where the vinegar works now stand, there was a building which was turned into a tavern and kept by a man named Samuel Price. When my grandfather first came here he built a little shanty which stood near where John's house is on Barton street.

"Was the first Methodist church a log building?"

"No, the first church was a frame one, and not log as some suppose, and the building was erected by a Mr. Day Knight, son-in-law of Mr. Springer, and a man named Shoot. The roof proved to be too much for the walls and caused them to spread, and they had to be tied together with timber to prevent the roof caving in, and the walls falling down."

(To be continued in our next.)

Report of Quarterly Meeting.

THE first meeting of the Quarterly Official Board for the current year was held in the school-room on the evening of Thursday, Aug. 14th. Members present: Rev. W. H. Laird (chairman), Thomas Morris, Rec. Steward, Dr. Day Smith, Treasurer, Rev. E. Lounsbury, Robert Oaten, J. C. Harris, H. Gayfer, R. Raycroft, S. A. Cummer, Geo. F. Fisher, Jas. Matthews, Alex. Hayes and Thomas Morris, jr.

At 8:10 p. m. the meeting was called to order. After devotional exercises the minutes of the last Board meeting were read and confirmed. The minutes shewed that the balance of money to the credit of the poor fund at the end of May quarter was \$11.34. That the following local preachers had had their licenses renewed, Robert Oaten, D. Kappele, W. A. Edwards, Thomas Morris, sr., and John Bristow. That the characters of all the class-leaders had passed in review and were found satisfactory. That Thomas Morris, sr., was appointed representative to the District Meeting. That the financial receipts for last year were:

1st Quarter	\$ 228 68
2nd "	306 49
3rd "	335 44
4th "	435 42

\$1306 03

EXPENDITURE.

Rev. W. H. Laird,	\$1257 43
Offering book	1 50
Envelopes	8 60
Trustee Board	9 50
Superannuation deficit	18 00
Cash on hand	11 00

\$1306 03

That the representatives elected to the Board from the congregation were R. Raycroft, J. B. Griffith, Lewis Moyer, J. C. Harris, James Hamilton, S. A. Cummer, and Geo. F. Fisher.

After the reading of the minutes, Dr. Smith gave the receipts for the first quarter of this current year as \$228.53. This amount was handed over to Rev. W. H. Laird.

Rev. E. Lounsbury brought about an interesting discussion concerning the collection of money in our church. He said that the congregation represented the capital of the church, that there should be a central authority to control all money drawn from the congregation and that the Quarterly Board should be that controlling body.

Mr. James Matthews agreed in this and said that the Quarterly Board should take cognizance of all money raised by all societies in the church, and that an itemized account should appear before the Quarterly Board and be recorded in the Quarterly Board minute book.

Mr. Gayfer also agreed that all societies should report to the Quarterly Board.

Thomas Morris, jr., said that he felt sure that the Sunday School and the various societies would be glad to furnish a quarterly financial statement if they were requested to do so, and he would move, seconded by Mr. Matthews:

That the various societies of the Church be requested to hand in a quarterly report containing a financial statement and any other matters of interest and that such reports be recorded in the the Quarterly Board minute book. Carried.

A resolution was next moved by Dr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Gayfer, and carried:

That this Board heartily approve of the proposal of the Christian Endeavor Society of this Church to issue a monthly church paper. The members of the Board expressed themselves as pleased with the idea, and thought it would be a pleasing feature of our church work.

Mr. R. Raycroft, steward of the poor fund, presented his report for the quarter:

Balance on hand from last year	\$11 34
Aug. 10th, collection	6 88

\$18 22

Disbursements	\$ 2 70
Balance on hand	15 52

\$18 22

The Stewards, Dr. Smith, Mr. Matthews, Mr. Hayes and Mr. Morris, sr., having in the meantime retired to consider appropriations, now reported that Rev. W. H. Laird's salary be the same as last year, \$1,250. The report was adopted and the meeting adjourned.—T. M., jr.

A Series of Papers on the Ecclesiastical Polity of Methodism.

My Dear Young Friends:

The prevailing forms of Church government are three—Presbyterian, Episcopalian, and Congregational. Not one of these, however, strictly defines the ecclesiastical polity of Methodism. It is essentially eclectic; embodying certain principles from each of the three, and possessing elements also to be found in none of the others.

It is not my purpose, at present, to speak of our system as a whole, but to write a few things relating to that part which has its sphere of operation mostly within the Circuit. There are six Boards or organizations known to our Discipline, which have their scope within each circuit, and whose action is largely independent and final. These are the Quarterly Board, the Trustee Board, the Board of Stewards, the Leaders' Meeting, the Sunday School Committee of Management, and the Local Preachers' Meeting. The last of these has a local status only on such circuits as possess a staff of these important officials, amounting to six or more, of three years' standing.

The Quarterly Board being the supreme parliament of the circuit, is, of course, of paramount importance. Not only does it control the local affairs of the circuit, subject to the Discipline, but some of the most far reaching interests of the whole church are held in the grasp of the Quarterly Board.

No man can become a minister of the church unless the Quarterly Board of the circuit within which he is a member, recommends him. Herein is found one of the great underlying principles of our Itinerancy. There is a tacit compact between our church and the ministry of our church, which has all the force of a solemn agreement, to the effect that the ministers shall accept whatever work the constitutional authority of the church assigns them, and the church agrees to accept whatever laborers the same authority appoints to its various fields. The church thus agrees to furnish the man who has been called of God to preach the Gospel with employment, and to maintain him in the midst of his labor; and the circuit is at the same time guaranteed a worthy and suitable minister from the fact that he has been duly recommended as possessing gifts and graces making him a fit and proper person to preach the Gospel.

This highest court of the circuit is partly elective by the membership of the church,

and partly appointed by itself. Seven members are elected by the church; one by each Trustee Board. The Sabbath School Superintendent has been elected by the Sabbath School Committee of Management. The Local Preachers and Exhorters licensed—virtually elected—by the Local Preachers' Meeting. The Class Leaders have been appointed by the Superintendent of the Circuit, "not, however contrary to the wish of the class, or without consulting the Leaders' Meeting," which really means that they have been elected by the classes. This leaves but the Stewards, who are nominated by the minister and elected by the Quarterly Board itself. This, in brief, is the way in which the highest constituent authority of each circuit is constituted. Its duties are manifold. As already intimated, it recommends all candidates for our ministry, and without such recommendation no one can become a minister of our church. From this it follows that probably no other church has so much to do with calling its ministry as our own. Paramount as its influence and authority are, it is of the first importance that it should be composed of those most eminent for piety, and endowed with good mental ability and sanctified common sense.

Faithfully,

W. H. LAIRD.

Sunday School,

OUR School, which is the oldest in the city, is in a very prosperous condition, and could we enlarge our borders, we could vastly extend our work.

The attendance is good, the average for July being 414, and the average collection, \$5.37—this is not including the opening Sunday, when the offering was \$14.15. The average attendance for August was 393; the average collection being \$4.78. These being the holiday months, somewhat affected our school. Three papers are circulated throughout the school: *Pleasant Hours* and *Home and School* for the older scholars, and *Sunbeam* for the infant class. We have a very efficient staff of officers and teachers. Our officers for this year are: Supt., Mr. T. Morris, jr.; Ass't Supt., Mr. J. C. Harris; Mus. Director, R. L. Whyte; Secretary, W. G. Moore; Ass't Secretaries, F. C. McIlroy and H. Gayfer, jr.; Librarian, A. E. Baker; Ass't Librarians, F. Tovel and F. W. Gayfer; Pianist, A. Perry; Ass't Pianist, Miss A. McIlroy; Director of Orchestra, W. H. Robinson.

We desire to thank the parents and friends who so generously provided for our late picnic. Never before in the history of our school did we receive such an abundance of provisions and perhaps never before did we so much require them.

In discussing ways and means before the picnic, one bright minded person suggested that we have "Provision Cards" printed and distributed among the members of the congregation, also that these cards bear an invitation for the parents and their friends to be present at our annual picnic. As the result of sending out these provision cards we received the promises of: 41 loaves, homemade bread; 3 lbs. butter; 116 layer cakes; 83 doz. small cakes; 21 doz. tarts; 21 doz. lemons; 37 lbs. sugar; 2 lbs. tea; cash, about \$12.00.

These promises were more than redeemed on the morning of the picnic—three long tables were filled to overflowing with pyramids of cakes, sandwiches and bread and butter. Fully eight hundred persons, big and little, must have been present.

During the month of August, two of our teachers, Miss Annie Henry and Miss Lizzie Reid, and one of our scholars, Miss Ella Kappelle have left to attend the Normal School.

One of the special interests of our school is the orchestra, which was started on a small scale, but which has steadily improved and grown under the painstaking efforts of their leader, Mr. W. H. Robinson, who has put into this work, as he does in all others, his whole effort. Perfect harmony reigns, and our expectations are for increased usefulness.

Science Class.

REPORT for year ending June 30th, 1890.

Subjects studied during year: Botany, Geology, Literature, Physics. Number of meetings held, 49. Average attendance, 22.

RECEIPTS.

Cash received \$8 80

EXPENDITURE.

Paid to caretaker, Nov. 5 \$4 40
 " " Jan. 14 1 50
 President, for sundries 6c
 Stationery and postage 80
 Paid to caretaker, Aug. 30 1 50

\$8 80

Sept. 2. After a two months' vacation, the Science class met on Sept. 2. The time was principally devoted to the electing of

officers for the year and the reading of a paper by Mr. Bonney on Ben Jonson, which was appreciated by the class. They decided to take up English Literature and Physics alternately, Mr. Crawford will take charge of the physics.

The officers for the year are: President, Mr. Calvert; Vice-President, Mr. H. Moore; Sec., Miss Jarvis; Critic, Miss Knight. Executive Committee: Messrs. Calvert, Bonney, Morris, Misses N. Raycroft, Murray and Mrs. Lounsbury.

Y. P. S. & E. Committee Reports.

THE LOOKOUT COMMITTEE is pleased to note the increased attendance of the members during the past month. At the first two meetings only 38 per cent. of the members were present, and 45 per cent. of these took part, while at the last two meetings 56 per cent. of the members were present and 97 per cent. of these took part. For the entire month 48 per cent. of the members were present, and 72 per cent. took an active part. The Committee would be glad to report a higher percentage for the month of September. Let each member of the society do his utmost for each of the meetings, and the success of the society will be secured.

During the month the Committee decided to hold a monthly prayer-meeting. This meeting is to be held the third Thursday evening, at 7:15 o'clock, of every month. Its purpose is to draw the members of the Committee together in a closer bond of Christian fellowship, and to ask the guidance of our Heavenly Father in the work which he finds for them to do. The first of these meetings was held on the 21st of this month, and already it has proved a benefit to a number of the members.

ANGELA JARVIS, *Convener.*

PRAYER-MEETING COMMITTEE.—

During the past month prayer-meetings have been held regularly, and the attendance has been good and the interest well kept up. We have been encouraged by receiving thoughts and passages of Scripture from absent members. For the month of September the programme of services is as follows:

Sept. 4th. "Jesus and Zacchaeus," Luke 19, 1-10; Leader, Miss Nichols.

Sept. 10th, "Parable of the Pounds," Luke 19, 11-27; Union meeting, Leader, Miss N. Raycroft.

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Sept. 18th, "Jesus Entering Jerusalem," Luke 19, 37-48; Leader, Miss Reader.

Sept. 25th, "Missionary Lesson," Luke 21, 1-4; Consecration service, Leader, Mr. Morris.

Oct. 2nd, "The Vineyard," Luke 20, 9-19, Leader, Mrs. E. S. Nolan.

N. RAYCROFT, *Convener*.

THE FLOWER COMMITTEE take pleasure in presenting the 2nd monthly report of the 2nd "Christian Endeavor" year. Our work is in every detail a labor of love. The flowers (apart from basket) have been given by Mrs. Howard, Misses Muir and Lavery. We have distributed them as follows: Aug. 10th, Mrs. James, Miss Wilkinson, Mrs. Squires, Miss J. Wright; 17th, H. S. Williams, Mrs. James, Miss G. Cummer, Mrs. Geo. Hunter, Mr. Harvey; 24th, Mrs. James, Miss Old, Mrs. Mitchell, Miss Andrup, Misses Dimsdale and Miss J. Wright; 31st, Mabel Old, Mrs. Hunter, Mr. Edwards, Mrs. James, Mrs. Mitchell.

A few flowers, with a little card and verse attached, is a small gift, doubtless, but as in olden time, the altar sanctified the gift, so these flowers are more than other flowers, and we are glad to know they have given pleasure to some.

We ask all members of our congregation to kindly tell us when they know of sickness or trouble in a home, and a sympathetic remembrance in form of a blossom might prove a comfort. Two to whom we have sent our flowers have gone "where everlasting spring abides and never withering flowers." We refer to Mrs. Hunter (Hattie Canning) who was for years a scholar in our Sunday School; also Miss Ada Morris, a "flower" in the bloom of youth and beauty has been cut down.

M. S. LOUNSBURY, *Convener*.

In all places then, and in all seasons,

Flowers expand their light and soul-like wings,
Teaching us by the most persuasive reasons

How akin they are to human things,
And with childlike credulous affection,

We behold their tender buds expand;
Emblems of our own great resurrection;

Emblems of the better land.—*Longfellow*

MUSIC COMMITTEE.—During the month of August, the singing at the Christian Endeavor services has been good, consisting of solos, duets, quartettes, and congregational singing, but the choir for Wednesday evening prayer-meeting has not been well attended. We hope (now the holiday season is over) the volunteer choir will

be in their places on Wednesday evening, as the service of song is a very important part of our worship. Your Committee would again suggest that there be more impromptu singing by the members of the Society during our prayer service, and if they would sing more frequently at the regular Wednesday evening prayer-meeting, it would add greatly to the interest of the service. During the month of August the following persons have kindly assisted in the solos, etc., at our regular Thursday evening meetings: Misses Stephenson, McLroy, Kappele, and Messrs. McLroy, F. W. Gayfer, and Strongman.

JENNIE HARVEY, *Convener*.

Y. P. S. C. E. Correspondence Department.

Edited by Mr. J. W. Hamilton.

THIS page is set apart for reports of C. E. work, and such society news as we may be able to glean. Our purpose in having it is, that an interest in the work as it is carried on by the various city societies may be increased; that misapprehensions which may exist in some quarters may be removed, and that in general the cause of Christ and of His church may be advanced. To this end we ask the Corresponding Secretaries of the city to co-operate with us by sending us each month short items of what is transpiring in their society, and which in their judgment will be of general interest, and will best represent the thoughts of Christian Endeavorers and the character of their work. We should have all correspondence in the first of each month, and addressed to

JAS. HAMILTON,

198 East Ave. North.

THE PROVINCIAL CONVENTION.

—The all absorbing topic in C. E. circles just now is the coming meeting of the Provincial Union, and all our workers are looking forward to it with the expectation that it will be a time of benefit and blessing. The Hamilton Union, through its various committees, is carrying on the preparations for the meetings, and to judge from the reports of these committees, the work is being done energetically and well. Dr. Clark will be present on both days of the Convention, and will doubtless infuse into his audience some of his own consecrated zeal, and strike a keynote for all the meetings. The work

that presses us most just now is the providing accommodation for delegates. Seventy-five is the number assigned to the First Meth. Church Society to find homes for, and our Committee is now at work, but have not yet succeeded in placing the number expected. We are jealous for the good name of our church, and are anxious withal to do our part of this work, so we ask those who can to help the Committee with it. A post card from any of our friends addressed to Miss C. Kerruish, 233 Maria St. City, stating the number that they can take, will be very gladly received.

KNOX CHURCH SOCIETY.—During the summer months our meetings have been remarkably well attended, and individual interest in the success of the society is more and more displayed by the members. During the month, two of our most active members have left the city—J. M. Gow, past Vice-President, and S. Campbell, Chairman of the Lookout Committee—nevertheless the work goes forward, God does prosper always honest and earnest endeavor. Three new active members were received at last business meeting. The mission work of the church has the hearty support of the society, striving always to hold up our motto, "For Christ and the Church." The coming Ontario Convention is looked forward to with deep interest by all our members.—J. S.

CENTRAL CHURCH SOCIETY.—The C. C. Y. P. S. C. E. carries on its work by nine committees—Lookout, Prayer-meeting, Music, Sunday School, Social, Flower, Relief, Temperance and Missionary. Eternity can only reveal the good that these committees do. Loyalty to Christ, loyalty to their own church and pastor, and the interchange of ideas with the young Christians of other churches are some of the things that develop in our society noble and heroic men and women. To my mind the Y. P. S. C. E. is the flower of all the organizations within the pale of the church to-day.—C. McL.

FRSKINE CHURCH SOCIETY.—The meetings of the society, during the summer months, have been amalgamated with the Wednesday evening prayer-meeting, and the result has been quite encouraging, as more energy and power have been developed, and the meetings have been of sustained interest. Perhaps the most tangible part of

the work of the society is the conducting of a Sunday School and prayer-meeting in the far west end of the city. Since its commencement the attendance has steadily increased and is now from fifty-eight to sixty-five. This is one of those labors of love that are twice blessed, not only are the scholars blessed, but the teachers as well.

CONGREGATIONAL.—The Highson St. Congregational Y. P. S. C. E. has been encouraged by the very good attendance of its members during the summer months. Our society is made up largely by the younger members of the church. Their attendance alone shows an interest in better things, and from them we hope great things for the future. We are looking out for broader work during the coming winter. We have received a blessing in seeing some few go out from us to carry on Christian Endeavor work in other places, and have hopes that many are being prepared for larger fields by the influence of our small circle. What monies have been raised have gone principally to charitable purposes. We wish to make this one of our practical ways of working.—Sincerely yours, J. E., *Cor. Secy.*

Mission Band.

THE annual meeting was held Tuesday evening, Sept. 1st. There was a large attendance of members, and the year opens with every prospect that the work will be carried on as enthusiastically as in former years.

After opening exercises, the following officers were chosen for the ensuing year: Pres., Mrs. Gayfer, Vice-Pres., Mr. A. E. Manning, Sec., Miss L. Davis, Ass't Sec., Miss M. Magen, Cor. Sec., Miss Dexter, Treas., Mr. F. Gayfer.

The receipts for the last year were in round numbers \$190; expenditures, \$78, leaving \$112 on hand. A small sum on hand and the mite boxes are expected to swell this sum to about \$120, which sum will be duly forwarded to the W. M. S. It represents much hard work and self-denial on the part of many of the Band.

The talent system of raising money was adopted, and each member received five cents which he is expected to improve upon during the year. It is hoped that each recipient will prove a good and faithful servant in the use of this talent.

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The report of the annual meeting of W. M. S. will appear in next issue, as a complete statement of the finances could not be obtained in time for this issue.

Some Wednesday evening, during Mr. Laird's absence at the General Conference, the W. M. S. intend to conduct a missionary prayer-meeting, of which notice will be given hereafter in the church.

CORRECTION.—In the opening services of S. S. room, that sentence in Mr. Bickle's address which speaks of Mr. Morris, sr., as being chairman of a meeting in 1835, should have read Mr. Bickle, sr.

About Christmas time there will be a bazar held in the interests of the S. S. Fund. Two of the S. S. classes are working for it and will be grateful for any donations their friends may send them. Contributions of material for aprons, fancy work, or money may be sent to Miss Jarvis, 110 East Ave. S.

The Canadian Jubilee Singers gave a sacred concert in the church on Thursday evening, Sept. 11th. Considering the inclemency of the weather, there was a very good attendance. The audience was an appreciative one, giving several of the pieces on the programme an encore which the singers very agreeably responded to. The shading in the several pieces was very good. The voices of the singers blend well and in the softer music the effect is especially deserving of mention. The programme was well selected.

Life on the Prairies.

(By Thomas Morris, jr.)

"There are none happy in the world but beings who enjoy freely a vast horizon."—*Damodara.*

FOR about four years I lived a happy life upon the prairies of Southern Manitoba. Where I located and built my shanty, the horizon was vast enough to suit the most fastidious lover of unfettered distances. Away to the north the immense stretches of prairie land seemed almost limitless in extent; away in the opposite direction you could see absolutely nothing to arrest the longest vision, not a tree, not a hill, was wit hin sight; if you turned to the east you might see a strip of woods some eighteen or twenty miles away, skirting the tortuous windings of the Great Red River of the North; to the south-west, just visible on a

clear morning were the Pembina Mountains, surmounted by a strip of bluish haze. Damodara of old might well have envied me my surroundings, "I was practically monarch of all I surveyed."

It was a matter for surprise to me at first when driving across the prairie, to see the utter absence of stones. There was just one stone on my whole farm of 320 acres, and I could find that in the dark. Scores of Buffalo bones, however, bleached by the sun, lay on every hand. Occasionally I met an immense solitary boulder, many hundreds of tons in weight, in the centre of a huge basin, apparently dropped into the ground when in a soft condition. The presence of these isolated rocks seemed unaccountable to me, until it was explained how they had been removed so many miles from their original beds. The general explanation given is that at one time the whole of Southern Manitoba formed part of the bed of Lake Winnipeg, and that ice-bergs floating over its surface, bearing on their bottoms these immense rocks, deposited them at intervals as they came in contact with the warm southern currents.

The view across the prairie is very comprehensive. It is so unobstructed that on a clear morning I could tell almost with certainty where I would strike camp the same night. A prairie landscape resembles nothing perhaps so much as a large lake or sea. The deep, rich black soil, rich enough almost to pay for transportation to foreign countries to take the place of guano, bears upon its surface a most wonderful growth of verdure, and the tall luxuriant grasses, swaying backward and forward in the wind, make one feel dubious at times, whether he is standing upon *terra firma*, or upon the watery deep. Notwithstanding the absence of diversified scenery, I can bear testimony that the prairie does not become monotonous to the traveller, much less to the prairie farmer. The prairie farmer loves the prairie as the sailor loves the sea. There is the same sense of greatness and grandness in his surroundings. Everything is moulded on just such a magnificent scale. The elements, unobstructed by forests or elevations, have full sweep and come down upon the unwary settler like an avenging spirit. To the tenderfoot, the first few months on the prairie is filled with surprises. I remember how I felt one Sunday morning about the twenty-fourth of May, 1882, on opening my eyes to find myself unconfined as usual by a roof, gazing straight up into the heavens.

(To be continued.)

ANNOUNCEMENT TO Societies of Christian Endeavor.

BY arrangements with the Publishers, we are now able to supply Y. P. S. C. E. with the publications of the United Society of Christian Endeavor. **Books, Leaflets, Cards, Hymn Books, Badges, Etc.** We shall be pleased to show samples to those interested.

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A storm-proof coat so gay
Enveloped his ancient form.
It was made in the latest style,
And one of the best afloat,
And the name of Smith was printed on
The inside of his overcoat.

When Stanley, a summer swell,
Left banana groves so bright.
To scale the chilly, cloud-kissed peak
Of Kilemanjara's height,
His wardrobe was very slim,
So he traded a goat
To an Arab chief in the clothing line,
For a Smith ready-made overcoat.

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The Choir Picnic.

THE Choir picnic, which we have been looking forward to longingly, has been laid aside with other past glories, and like them was a great success. Besides the members of the choir, a chosen few were invited, among whom was seen the smiling face of our pastor, who made himself so agreeable and proved such a satisfactory umpire in a first-class game of baseball, that we are seriously thinking of inviting him to our sleighing party (if we have one) this winter, providing he promises to be as good as he was at the picnic.

In the evening some ten to fifteen row boats were secured, and the party betook themselves to the Lake, and after rowing around for some time in the bright moonlight, they drew up into line and sang several songs. It was simply delicious, and can better be imagined than described.

Our conductor is making us work pretty hard at some new music which we will favor you with before very long, and which we hope will be fully appreciated.

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