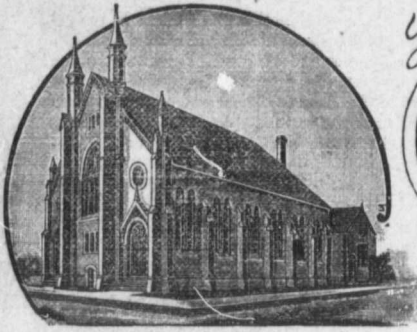


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OUR MOTTO:
"FOR CHRIST AND THE CHURCH."

Erskine Church Echoes

Midgley Bros.,
Printers.

Vol. 4.

HAMILTON, ONT., APRIL 6, 1894.

No. 8

Erskine Presbyterian Church,
Pearl Street, One block North of
King Street.

REV. J. G. SHEARER, B.A., Minister,
112 George Street.

Church Officer:—Adam Turnbull,
94 Pearl Street North.

ERSKINE CHURCH ECHOES is published by the congregation of Erskine Presbyterian Church, Pearl Street, Hamilton, in the interests of the Kingdom of Christ in general, and of this congregation in particular. All communications to be addressed to Miss M. McEwen, 13 Kinross Street, Secretary of the Editorial Committee.

Our Meetings.

SUNDAY—

9:30 a.m., Sabbath School in Mission, King and New Streets.
10:30 a.m., Prayer meeting in Schoolroom. All are welcome.
11 a.m. and 7 p.m., Public worship in the Church.
3 p.m., Sabbath School and Bible Classes. — Young Men's and Young Women's.

MONDAY—8 p.m. every Monday, the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor.
The Earnest Helpers' Mission Band every 2nd week at 4 p.m.

TUESDAY—The Board of Management meets on April 2nd, May 7th, and June 4th, at 8 p.m.
The Auxiliary of Women's Foreign Missionary Society meets on April 9th, May 14th and June 11th at 8 p.m.
The Ladies' Aid meets on April 30th, May 28th and June 25th.
Boys' Brigade, every Tuesday at 7:30.

WEDNESDAY—8 p.m., the Weekly Prayer Meeting. On the first Wednesday of each month it is a Missionary Meeting.

The Session meets at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

FRIDAY—Choir practice at 7:30 p.m.

Baptism will be regularly dispensed on the FIRST SABBATH each month at the morning service; also on the SECOND WEDNESDAY at weeknight service.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Note carefully the list of Elders' Districts and see who YOUR ELDER is and where he lives—then, when you are sick or in trouble, let him know.

The Synod of Hamilton and London meets on the 15th inst., at Woodstock. Mr. Shearer and Mr. Allen expect to attend as representing Erskine Church.

We congratulate the Ladies' Aid Society on the happy thought and the carrying out to so successful an issue of their recent "At Home." The ECHOES would say—make it annual, at least.

The ECHOES is glad to hear that each time the cards are passed at close of service some have been signed. There were seven the last time. May God bless these and lead many, many more to an early decision for Christ!

If you change your address this spring don't neglect to put your new address on one of the cards provided for that purpose in the Church and drop it in one of the new "Minister's Boxes." He carries the key of these and will get your card after the evening service.

We are glad to notice a substantial increase in the weekly givings for ordinary revenue during the last quarter. The average was \$58.85 per week. Let us do still better this quarter. Our average should never be less than \$60. If we all try to BE REGULAR AND NOT MISS ANY SUNDAY, doing just THE BEST WE CAN, we shall easily reach this amount for the rest of the year. Let us do it.

The Sunday School continues to grow. It numbers some days almost 400, not counting teachers and officers. The two Bible Classes and several other classes have to have "opening exercises" by themselves in the Church, there not being room for them in the School-room. It is only a question of a very limited time until we shall be forced to enlarge our Sunday School accommodation.

Next month—May—our first semi-annual special offering for the Debt-Fund will be called for. Let us keep it in mind and be ready for it. The congregation bought recently a lot adjoining the Sunday School on which to increase the size of our School-room, at a cost of nearly \$500. This must

be paid for this year, but that should be a small undertaking for a congregation numbering nearly 500 members, besides adherents.

A reference to the table of "Our Givings" will show that just \$28.85 has been sent in for the RECORDS; \$50 is required. Does this mean that the congregation expects Mr. Gill to pay the rest—\$21.15? Surely not! We suppose the rather that many of you forgot your special envelope last Sunday! It is not too late yet. Bring it with you next Sunday. The ECHOES will be ashamed to appear next quarter if this sum is not cheerfully made up.

The new "Minister's Boxes"—one in the vestibule for the gallery, and one at each inside door for downstairs—are for the dropping in of anything that you want the Minister to get, and no one else—such as a card you may sign saying "I DESIRE TO BE A CHRISTIAN," or a change of address, or if you are a stranger lately come to the Church, a card stating who you are and where you live—the Minister will be glad to call on you at his earliest convenience. Sign a card and drop it in one of the boxes.

The Ladies' Bible Class taught by Mr. Newlands, and the Men's, taught by the Minister, held a very successful social on Thursday evening last. They invited the teachers and officers of the Sunday School to join them. Altogether a most enjoyable and highly profitable evening was spent in refreshments, getting acquainted, and a programme of speeches, recitations and music. The judgment of the ECHOES is that these social events are a good thing—a means of grace.

The ECHOES rejoices to hear that the new Prayer Cards issued by the Board of Missions are being so well received and so generally signed. If four or five hundred of us are bound together in a resolve to "remember the cause of mis-

sions in our prayers and to do all that lies in our power to advance its interests," who can measure the blessing we shall thus call down upon ourselves and others now destitute of Gospel privileges? Have you accepted one of these cards with its obligations? Apply to your Elder if you have been overlooked.

Through the kindness of John Moodie Esq., we are to have the pleasure of a "Trip Through Scotland," illustrated by fine lime-light views by his son, Mr. J. R. Moodie, the Chairman of our Board of Management. The voluntary offering taken on that occasion will be added to the fund already started to enlarge our School-room. Our thanks are due the Messrs. Moodie for their kind offer.

The Managers have extra expense to meet this year on account of upholstering gallery, organist's salary, etc., and consequently must have more money. If you are not now contributing by white envelopes, will you begin at once and help? Or, if you are now a contributor, could you increase your weekly offering? And, in any case, see that your offering comes in regularly every week. And if you are not able to be out one week, put in the extra amount the following Sunday. Some of our people, through being out of work, are NOT ABLE to give as much as they used to, so, if you can help make up that deficiency, do so. If you are among those who have been long out of work and cannot bring an offering with you, don't stay away on that account. Come yourself in any case.

Elders' Districts and Addresses

1. Mr. G. H. Richardson, 37 Inchbury street; from Dundurn Estate east to Locomotive street, and from York street north to the Bay.
2. Mr. T. C. Graham, 243 Hunter street west; from Locomotive to Bay streets, and from York north to The Bay.
3. Mr. R. Whyte, 1 Magill street; the district bounded by York, Bay, King and Queen streets.
4. Mr. R. Allen, 17 Kinnell street; the district bounded by York, Queen, King and Pearl streets, except the block north of Florence and west of Ray streets.
5. Mr. W. Brown, 38 Pearl street north; the district bounded by King, Lock, Florence and Pearl streets.
6. Mr. J. Keith, 265 Main street west; the district bounded by Florence, Sophia, York and Ray streets.
7. Mr. A. Craig, Cemetery Lodge; all west of Sophia and north of Florence and Lochearne streets.
8. Mr. T. H. Keller, 20 Margaret street; the district lying between King and Main streets, and from Lock street west, including the Brickfields and Dundas Road; also from King to Florence streets, and from Sophia west.

9. Mr. M. Turnbull, 218 George street; the district lying south of Main and west of Lock streets.

10. Mr. J. Newlands, 80 Hess street north; the district bounded by King, Lock, Jackson and Bay streets.

11. Mr. J. E. Souter, 29 Hess street south; the district lying south of Jackson street between Lock and Bay streets, including top of Mountain.

12. Mr. J. Gill, B.A., 272 Jackson street west; all living east of Bay street.

N.B.—The division line in every case is the MIDDLE of the street.

Our Givings For Missions

Our missionary givings for the three months now passed have not been as large nearly as they ought to be, nor have nearly AS MANY sent in their pink envelopes each month as should have done so; but we are glad to learn that they are on the increase and a reference to the table of "Our Givings" will show a gratifying increase in the sum contributed. Over 250 contribute by the WHITE envelopes weekly and yet only a little over 50 pink envelopes come in each month! Why is this? Something surely is wrong when so many professing followers of the Master who said, "Go, ye, make disciples of all nations," thus regularly DISOBEY this His plain command!

The ECHOES is inclined to think that it CANNOT be disobedience that leads so many to send nothing for Missions each month, but rather this—that they can give ONLY A TRIFLE, and hence either feel ashamed to send it, or think it hardly worth while. Is not this at least ONE reason? Do you think that will satisfy Jesus Himself? Would you like to plead that excuse before HIM? Another reason, we believe, is because many have not been PRAYING for Missions. The use of the Prayer Cards will cure this. May God bless and use them for His own glory, our good, and the salvation of many perishing ones!!

The Boys' Brigade

The visit of Mr. W. A. Smith, of Glasgow, Scotland, the Founder of the Boys' Brigade, gave the organization a fresh impetus in our city and throughout the country. Many prominent citizens such as Senator McInnes, George Rutherford, Adam Brown, Major McLaren and Hon. J. M. Gibson, are taking great interest in the boys. The Senator has offered the use of Dundurn Park for Battalion Drill, and it is hoped will not deny it for an occasional game of football.

Meantime our own company (No. 3, Hamilton) is being drilled not only in physical manœuvring and exercise but in a knowledge of the subjects, author, order and contents of the Books of the Bible as also in the evil effects of tobacco and strong drink, etc. Let us

all remember this good work in prayer rather than stand aloof and criticize as some outsiders have lately been doing—praying that the boys may one and all be won to Christ and saved from sin in all its forms! And God, who loves the Boys, will hear our prayers.

Our New Members

The following is the list of the new members received at our late Communion, with their addresses. The ECHOES extends to them, one and all, a cordial welcome.

BY CERTIFICATE.

Miss Annie Young, 96 Peter st.
Mrs: L., Miss Catherine and Mr. John C. Turnbull, 385 King st. west.
Miss Nellie Christie, 35 Hannah st. west.
Mrs. Lavelle, 68 Ray st. south.
Mrs. John Lawson, 238 Lock st. north.

ON PROFESSION OF FAITH.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Tiderington, 16 Crook st.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Doubrough, 389 Main st. west.
Mrs. Lampman, 53 Magill st.
Mrs. D. and Miss Allie Evans, 58 Oxford st.
Mrs. John Jamieson, 304 Main st. west.
Mrs. Aitchison, Caroline st., corner of Napier.
Miss M. Atkinson, 25 Dundurn st.
Mr. and Miss John Campbell, 203 Hess st. north.
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Frazer, 62 Crook st.
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Myers, 20 Dundurn st.
Mrs. George Garbutt, 104 Inchbury st.
Miss Jennie Cruickshank, 286 Hunter st. west.
Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Hunter, 78 York st.
Miss Agnes E. Tully, 385 Main st. west.
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Palmer, 199 Hess st. north.
Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Carter, 159 Cannon st. west.
Mr. and Mrs. Milton Rymal, 236 Lock st. north.
Miss Jessie Jackson, 70 Pearl st. north.
Mr. Charles Truman, 275 King William st.

Letter of Thanks From Mr. Bone

To the Children of God of the Erskine Church, Hamilton:

DEAR BRETHREN,—For your generous and prompt administration of your liberality in behalf of our Mission in its various departments, I desire to thank you. I may truly say that we are workers together in fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ and with each other—it is a glorious combination for a glorious purpose, namely, the unfolding and the enforcing the truth as it is in Jesus; or, as our Brother Paul puts it, "Holding forth the Word of Life." Where is our parish? In the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. This is especially true of Mission Work. It is like storming the fort of the enemy.

The old Strong man, armed, keeps the house; the bulwarks around this castle are ignorance, unbelief, loads of sin, pride and prejudice. These, like the walls of the city of Jericho, are to be compassed round with the Hosts of the Lord blowing the trumpets of the Everlasting Gospel; and they will be overthrown, not by human might or skill, "But by My Spirit, saith the Lord." The Lord of Hosts is with us, by the Perpetual Presence of the Holy Spirit working in us to will and to do of His good pleasure, making us wise to win souls to Christ.

My prayer is that each one of you may become experts in this holy art, and at last receive the Master's "Well done."

Yours gratefully,

T. BONE.

Toronto, March 29, 1895.

What a Sermon Should Be

It should be brief; if lengthy, it will steep Our hearts in apathy, our eyes in sleep; The dull will yawn, the chapel lounge doze, Attention flag, and memory's portals close.

It should be warm, a living altar-coal. To melt the icy heart and charm the soul; A sapless, dull harangue, however read, Will never rouse the soul, or raise the dead.

It should be simple, practical and clear; No fine-spun theory, to please the ear; No curious lay to-tickle lettered pride And leave the poor and plain unedified.

It should be tender and affectionate As his warm theme who wept lost Salem's fate; The fiery laws with words of love allayed, Will sweetly warm and awfully persuade.

It should be manly, just and rational, Wisely conceived and well expressed withal, Not stuffed with silly notions, apt to stain A sacred desk and show a muddy brain.

It should be mixed with many an ardent prayer, To reach the heart, and fix and fasten there; When God and man are mutually addressed, God grants a blessing, man is truly blessed.

It should be closely well applied at last To make the mortal nail securely fast. "Thou art the man" and "Thou alone" will make

A Felix tremble, and a David quake.

—T. H. Keller.

Gladstone on Preaching

Mr. Gladstone's words, by reason of his great learning, broad intelligence and large experience in human affairs, carry great weight. It is encouraging, therefore, to read his testimony as to the kind of preaching needed. He said recently: "One thing I have against the clergy. They do not sufficiently lay upon the souls and consciences of their hearers their moral obligations. The class of sermons most needed are of the class which offended Lord Melbourne long ago. He was seen coming from a church in a mighty fume. Finding a friend, he exclaimed: 'It is too bad! I have always been a supporter of the Church, and I have always upheld the clergy. But it is really too bad to have to listen to a sermon like that we have had this morning. Why,

the preacher actually insisted upon applying religion to a man's private life! But that is the kind of preaching which men need most; but it is also the kind of which they get the least."

Dr. Gordon's Inspired Tune

REV. THERON BROWN.

Standing by the great man's coffin, and remembering what his greatness was, one could almost hear from his still lips the tender melody he composed to his favorite hymn:

"If ever I loved Thee,
My Jesus, 'tis now."

Eyes of friendship that missed what Gordon was in his health and strength saw him as he is—since the glorifying change of the first of February. The solar light that always illuminated the face of his living manhood had given place to a "light that never was on sea or land." The impress of eternal sainthood had transfigured the lines of moral beauty. His history was this, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." The glow of his last word, "Victory," was there. His joy was there, singing the burden of the sacred tune. No wonder the dead man smiled, for the best of him was not dead.

A party of us riding to the World's Fair two years ago realized something of the reach of Gordon's life, and the spiritual element in it that cannot die. On the plains of Upper Canada the soft crescendo of a devotional song broke the monotony of the long journey and awoke all the tired passengers in the car to listen—and rest. A trio of sweet voices began the hymn,

"My Jesus, I love Thee."

They sang it through, while the audience sat with glistening eyes. Every face was turned to the compartment where the vocalists were grouped together almost out of sight. Some rose from their seats. "Sing it again," they said, and every hearer joined in the delighted encore. Again the sweet hymn swelled through the car, until its melody and holy feeling started unaccustomed tears. Listeners of many creeds—and of none—sat charmed and uplifted by the sympathetic strains, and when the song once more was finished, they demanded it again. Before the hearers could be satisfied the music of

"My Jesus, I love Thee"

had covered fifteen miles. No one knew the infinite distance of its upward flight, carrying with it the hearts it had refreshed and purified.

On many more long railway journeys, in thousands of chapels, and in tens of thousands of homes, that melody born of Gordon's devout soul has been and will be called for, and sung again and again by voices of both suffering and joy. Its composer has already found many in heaven who loved it and love it still; and through it as one of the links of his immortal influence the past

master in Israel touches the living myriads who knew and felt his goodness here. By his voice and devotion, as well as by the record of his example, will continue to inspire their children's children.

He is Risen

Christ is risen, He is risen,
He hath left his rocky prison,
And the white-robed angels glimmer
Mid the ceremonies of His grave.

He hath smitten with His thunder
Every gate of brass asunder;
He hath burst the iron fetters;
Irresistible to save!

Oh, the gladness and the glory
Of the blessed Easter story,
Oh, the quick, electric thrilling
Of the Pentecostal name.

Death of death, of Life the Giver,
Reign, O Victor King, forever.
Lowly we thy sons adore thee,
Glory, glory to thy Name!

Frederick W. Farrar, D.D.

Individual Work.

Each member of a Christian church should be a worker for Christ. Our Lord has never granted a dispensation to a single one of us; would any of us desire that He should? His vows are upon us all without exception. Are we each obedient to His Word: "Occupy till I come? Are we putting out our talents to interest? If we are not doing so, we can never enter into rest. Rest implies previous labor. We are bidden by the Holy Spirit to labor to enter into the rest of God; it is the way thereto. Idlers are unrestful, fidgety, troubled and troublesome. They are the happiest who are the most completely consecrated to the service of God and most fully absorbed in obedience to His will.

Oh, that all our church members were constricted by divine grace to do their utmost for the Lord! There would then be no lack of laborers; no vine would be left unpruned, no wheat ungarnered. Under God we have in the church all that is needful for her great work; it only needs bringing out and setting in order—perhaps we ought to say arousing and quickening. The world is full of stir—social, political, scientific, selfish—and shall the Saviour's house-hold be given to slumber? Heaven can be no heaven to us if we do not labor here, by either doing or suffering the divine will. As six days of work preceded the Lord's Sabbath of rest, so must it be with us if we would enjoy the Sabbath of the skies.—Rev. C. H. Spurgeon.

A Christian intent only upon saving his own soul in the repose of luxurious churches, whilst the river of human sin and misery sweeps unguarded by the door will not impress the present age.
—James Stalker.

ERSKINE CHURCH ECHOES.

"Ecclesiastical Tramps"

Now and then you will find a Christian—so called—who loves all the churches so much that he has very little stock of love left for the particular church of which he is a member.

Like a bird, he is migratory in his habits. He is on the wing, and chirps everywhere except upon his tree. He has an idea that he is not appreciated at home, and so he must fly north, south, east or west—on a mission of universal benevolence. His mission he proclaims is to "do good," and, to give him credit, he is not lazy. Activity moves every muscle and sits enthroned upon his tongue.

He likes to go to the crowded religious meeting. Though a stranger, he takes what he considers his proper place—the front seat—and is the first to rise and say, "I am always prompt to improve the opportunity." He bewails the backwardness of others—exhorts to zeal, and he is happy when he is fanned with the breeze he awakens.—S. S. Journal.

The New Disciple

In many of our churches new members have recently been received into fellowship. There is a freshness of thought and feeling in the new disciple that resembles the first warm days of spring. Life assumes a meaning that it never did before; duty seems easy where once it seemed hard; the body, like the soul, seems to have undergone a transformation, and there is a buoyancy of spirit that in many a person approaches ecstasy. All this, of course, is as it should be. The phrase, "A new creature (creation) in Christ" describes a fact, and not an illusion. If any one in the world has the right to feel happy and to gird himself with hope and courage, it is one who has just "put on Christ" and been united to the Saviour of souls by a vital bond. But as spring does not last forever, so the freshness of the new disciple's feelings is sure pass away. Faith may lose none of its intensity; love to God and love to man may increase instead of diminish; and there may remain the same stout determination to live, with the divine help, the Christian life; but it is impossible for the new disciple to continue in the same state of spiritual exaltation. The novelty of the great change that has come over him is sure to wear off; familiarity with that change will not breed contempt, but will bring about a quieter frame of mind and more matter-of-fact views of truth and duty. Accordingly these young Christians should prepare themselves for something of a fall in the mercury of their feelings. They should be warned not to be surprised at such a fall. If they be really new creatures in Christ, they will never cease to bless the hour when they gave themselves to the Lord; but if their souls continue to glow at a white heat, if they continue

Our Givings.

	CONGREGATION.		W. F. M. S.					TOTALS.	
	Weekly Offerings.	Missions.	S. S.	AUX.	M. B.	The Mission.	Y. P. S. C. B.		LADIES' AID.
Oct. 7.....	\$65 20	\$39 12	\$4 52	\$36 00	.. ..	\$5 76	\$1 55	\$15 78	\$167 93
" 14.....	51 31	.. ..	4 39	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	55 70
" 21.....	46 50	.. ..	4 26	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	50 85
" 28.....	53 85	.. ..	4 84	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	58 69
Nov. 4.....	74 13	20 30	4 95	5 90	.. ..	6 46	85	11 80	124 39
" 11.....	58 59	.. ..	4 16	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	62 75
" 18.....	61 09	.. ..	4 13	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	65 22
" 25.....	64 45	.. ..	4 75	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	69 20
Dec. 2.....	55 90	50 18	5 78	7 55	\$6 56	8 57	.. ..	12 28	146 72
" 9.....	67 71	.. ..	5 44	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	73 15
" 16.....	75 65	.. ..	5 35	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	81 00
" 23.....	62 40	.. ..	5 62	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	68 02
" 30.....	54 60	.. ..	5 19	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	59 79
Social	60 80	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	60 80
Debt Fund....	37 00	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	37 00
Totals.....	\$889 27	\$109 60	\$63 38	\$16 45	6 56	\$20 79	\$2 40	\$44 36	\$1181 21
1895.									
Jan. 6.....	\$69 28	\$19 40	\$4 71	\$11 25	.. ..	\$6 45	\$4 74	\$12 28	\$138 31
" 13.....	56 43	.. ..	4 18	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	60 61
" 20.....	59 45	.. ..	4 79	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	64 24
" 27.....	46 56	.. ..	5 28	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	51 84
Feb. 3.....	60 91	26 85	5 68	10 85	.. ..	6 76	3 07	13 88	128 00
" 10.....	57 01	.. ..	6 00	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	63 01
" 17.....	64 59	.. ..	6 15	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	70 74
" 24.....	54 57	.. ..	5 41	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	59 98
Mar. 3.....	65 20	36 55	5 45	8 00	.. ..	8 17	4 33	18 20	145 90
" 10.....	59 53	.. ..	5 87	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	65 40
" 17.....	58 59	.. ..	5 42	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	64 01
" 24.....	54 55	.. ..	5 70	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	60 25
" 31.....	58 40	.. ..	4 70	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	63 10
Records, Mar. 3	28 85	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	28 85
Social, Feb. 4	35 79	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	35 79
S. S. Anniversary	.. ..	.. ..	25 00	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	25 00
Totals.....	\$829 71	\$82 80	\$94 34	\$30 10	.. ..	\$21 38	\$12 14	\$44 36	1114 83

to run without ever being weary, or to walk without ever being faint, they will certainly have a different experience from all who have gone before them in the way of salvation.

But the new disciple is to expect more than a fall in the temperature of his present feelings. There are such things as temptations and trials, and they will come to him as surely as night follows day. He will learn, though he may not fully realize it now, that he has enemies to guard against, and that while grace will enable him to meet them, with the hope of overcoming them, it will not make him invulnerable to their weapons. He must be prepared for many a fierce assault; remembering that he has enlisted for a war in which, in this life, there is no discharge. So, too, he must remember that, because he is living in a world where there is sorrow as well as joy, pain as well as pleasure, and failure as well as success, there are some dark days ahead, and that it is his duty, as one who has confessed Christ, to make ready to meet them manfully. It is unnecessary to dwell at length on this. It is enough to warn the new disciple that the Christian life is not one of ease, but that it requires courage, patience and self control, hardihood and ceaseless vigilance. He has much to do and to endure; he cannot follow Christ without suffering with Christ; there is a cross to be borne before the crown can be won.

What then must the new disciple do, if he would fulfil the promise of the present moment? Having confessed Christ with his lips, he must confess Him in his conduct. And to do that he must carefully tend the life that has been born within him. That life will not take care of itself—it must be nourished. All the instrumentalities for its nourishment must be used—prayer, meditation, the study of God's Word, and the

daily practice of the virtues enjoined in the Gospel. In no other way can he hope to realize his own expectations. But, if he continue sober and steadfast, and freely avail himself of the helps—both human and divine—provided for the maintenance of his Christian life, he will meet with no disappointments that he cannot endure, or reverses that he cannot repair, and in the end will receive the "crown of righteousness" laid up for those who love the Lord and who serve Him in sincerity and truth.—*The Watchman.*

The happiest heart that ever beat
Was in some quiet breast
That found the common daylight sweet,
And left to Heaven the rest. —Cheney.

IN AFFECTIONATE MEMORY

—OF—

MRS. JAMES MONTGOMERY

MRS. MARY A. DAVIDSON

"Be ye also ready."