

Eastern Canadian Messenger

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If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting, too;
If you can wait and not be tired in waiting,
Or being lied about don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good or talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet triumph and disaster,
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life for broken,
And stoop and build'em up with broken tools:

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings—nor lose the common touch;
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run;
Yours is the earth and everything that's in it
And, which is more, you'll be a man, my son.

—Sel.

UNION

Is It Right to Make Pledges?

Occasionally a man is found who declares that he does not believe in making pledges to support the Lord's work. He asserts that what he has to give he will give, but will not obligate himself to the cause for any amount to be paid in the future. It is very rarely that any heavy givers to the cause of God are found among this class. The message has grown to its present proportions through the efforts and sacrifices of people who were not afraid to risk something for Him who risked heaven itself for human redemption. There are very few men who do not pledge themselves in connection with ordinary business trans-

actions. The man who rents a house for a year pledges himself to pay a certain sum a month for the house. If he uses gas or electricity he pledges himself to pay for it at a certain rate each month, and so we pledge ourselves in various ways in the common business relations of life. Why then should we hesitate to make pledges to advance God's cause? Surely if we esteem it to be what it certainly is,—the greatest and most important movement on earth,—we will not be at all backward about assuming definite obligations in connection with its advancement. That it is right to make pledges or vows to God is made clear by a number of Scriptures among which are the following: "Vow and pay unto the Lord your God; let all that be round about him bring presents unto him that ought to be feared." Ps. 76:11. "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; . . . pay that which thou hast vowed." Eccl. 5:4.

In order to insure a steady and regular income for foreign missions, cards have been prepared which will be sent to each church in this Union for distribution among the members, to give each one, old and young, an opportunity to pledge a certain amount per week to foreign missions. This matter was first laid before the laborers of the Union who were in attendance at the recent session of the conference, and \$941.20 was pledged by them for the year 1916. With this example set by the conference laborers we feel that our people generally will respond with liberal pledges to the ever needy cause of foreign missions. "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver, and he that soweth bountifully shall reap bountifully." These cards will be sent to the elder or leader of the church to be distributed by him among the members. When the cards have been signed they should be returned to the church elder and by him forwarded to the conference president. Another card is sent along with the pledge card which is to be retained by the one who has made the pledge, on which he can keep track of

the amount he pays from week to week, and thus, at the end of each quarter, know whether he has met the full amount of his pledge for that period.

Beginning this week a series of articles from the Spirit of Prophecy on the subject of making pledges begins, and we hope that our people will read these articles carefully as there is very important matter contained in them. M. N. CAMPBELL.

ONTARIO

Report of Home Missionary Work in Ontario Conference for Quarter ending December 31, 1915

The report of the work done during this quarter shows a decided gain in some features. St. Catharines and Exeter sent in reports for the first time. We are glad to see these new companies added to the list and to have such good reports from them. The Chatham Church sold more books than any of the others. Exeter had the largest number of conversions. Hamilton secured the greatest number of subscriptions for periodicals, and gave away the most tracts. London heads the list in papers mailed, lent, or given away. Paris comes second in the number of conversions. Toronto West Church gave the greatest number of Bible readings. Toronto Central heads in the number of tracts sold and hours of Christian help work. Ruscumb is a close second in tracts given away. The individual reports are from Sister Marks of Palmerston and Sister Hooey of Huntsville. These isolated members are taking an active part in sowing the seed among their friends and neighbors by distributing our truth-filled literature.

There is a great home missionary wave coming in among this people. It is fast spreading throughout the ranks. The leaders are giving more attention to this line of work now than they have in the past. Prophecy can not fail. It is as sure as the sun that shines. We read in "Testimonies for the Church" Volume 9, page 126, of just such a movement. The servant of God saw in vision thousands visiting homes and giving Bible studies. Many were converted by the power of the Holy Spirit. The world seemed to be lightened with the heavenly influence. Great blessings were received by the true, humble people of God. The law of heaven is, as we give we receive. God will give his spirit to his faithful people to do service for him. We can all have a part in finishing the work that has to be done. We must have some sheaves to present to Him in order to hear the "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." JOSEPH CAPMAN, *Miss. Sec'y.*

"To err is human, to forgive divine."

MARITIME

Report of Halifax Church and Sabbath School for 1915

The membership has been twenty and the average attendance fourteen. The treasurer received during the year funds as follows:—

Tithe.....	\$430 18
Sabbath School.....	203 35
Harvest Ingathering.....	93 04
Second Sabbath.....	26 59
Annual Offering.....	13 80
Midsummer Offering.....	5 68
Colored Work.....	2 08
Church Expense.....	169 34
Total.....	\$944 06

It will be noticed that this body has given an average of thirty-two and a half cents per member in offerings to missions, besides the amount for church expense and also the tithe which goes to support the laborers at home. It is possible that some have not reached the thirty-two and a half cents, and if so, some others have been paying more. If any have come short during 1915 let us strive more earnestly the present year and get the blessing that comes from giving. We are told that Jesus will open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing that there will not be room to receive. LYMAN R. GRAY

Why I Go to Church When the Weather Is Bad

I attend church on unpleasant Sabbaths because,—

1. God has blessed the Lord's day and hallowed it, making no exceptions for unpleasant Sabbaths.

2. My presence is more needful on Sabbaths when there are few than on those days when the church is crowded.

3. Whatever station I may hold in the church, my example may influence others. If I stay away, why may not they?

4. On any important business bad weather does not keep me at home; and church attendance, in God's sight is very important.

5. Among the crowds of pleasure seekers, I see that no weather keeps the delicate woman from the ball or party.

6. Among other blessings, such weather will show me on what foundation my faith is built. It will prove how much I love Jesus. True love rarely fails to keep an appointment.

7. Those who stay away from church because it is too warm or too cold or too rainy, will frequently absent themselves on warm Sabbaths.

8. Though my excuses may satisfy myself, they still must undergo the scrutiny of God; and they must be well grounded to bear that. Luke 14:18.

9. There is a special promise that where two or three meet together in God's name, He will be in the midst of them.

10. An avoidable absence from church is an infallible evidence of spirit decay. Disciples who first follow Christ at a distance, afterwards, like Peter, do not know Him.

11. My faith is to be shown by my self-denying Christian life, and not by the rise and fall of the thermometer.

12. Such yielding to surmountable difficulties prepares for yielding to those merely imaginary, until thousands never enter a church, and yet think they have good reason for such neglect.

13. I know not how many more Sabbaths God may give me, and it would be a poor preparation for my first Sabbath in heaven to have slighted my last Sabbath on earth.—*Sel.*

The Bible Year

"I consider it a great privilege to add my name to the list of those who love to read and study the blessed Bible. I have read it through several times, and find it more interesting now than ever. I usually read the chapters assigned for the day, at night, and then again next morning, which helps me to fasten the lessons in my mind."

This is a sample letter, showing the interest which hundreds, perhaps thousands, of our people are taking in the Bible reading campaign.

Are there not many more who will take up this course of reading? It may mean less newspaper and magazine reading, a smaller number of other books read (even good books), and less spare minutes spent to no purpose. But the exchange will be profitable.

The daily assignments are given in the Morning Watch Calendar for this year. They are also given in the weekly issues of the *Review and Herald*, with helpful notes on the reading.

Please send your name for enrollment, not to the Missionary Volunteer Department at Washington, as some are doing, but to your Conference Missionary Volunteer secretary. Fill out the following blank form and send in.

M. E. KERN.

The Bible Year. 1916

Please enroll my name as a member of the Bible Year course. I will make an earnest endeavor to systematically read the Bible through during the year 1916.

Name.....

Date..... Address.....

Sacredness of Vows, No. 1

The brief but terrible history of Ananias and Sapphira is traced by the pen of inspiration for the benefit of all who profess to be the followers of Christ. This important lesson has not rested with sufficient weight upon the minds of our people. It will be profitable for all to thoughtfully consider the nature of the grievous offence for which these guilty ones were made an example. This one marked evidence of God's retributive justice is fearful, and should lead all to fear and tremble to repeat sins which brought such a punishment. Selfishness was the great sin which had warped the characters of this guilty couple.

With others, Ananias and his wife Sapphira had the privilege of hearing the gospel preached by the apostles. The power of God attended the word spoken, and deep conviction rested upon all present. The softening influence of the grace of God had the effect upon their hearts to cause them to release their selfish hold upon their earthly possessions. While under the direct influence of the Spirit of God, they made a pledge to give to the Lord certain lands; but when they were no longer under his heavenly influence, the impression was less forcible, and they began to question and draw back from fulfilling the pledge which they had made. They thought that they had been too hasty, and wished to reconsider the matter. Thus a door was opened by which Satan at once entered, and gained control of their minds.

This case should be a warning to all to guard against the first approach of Satan. Covetousness was first cherished; then, ashamed to have their brethren know that their selfish souls grudged that which they had solemnly dedicated and pledged to God, deception was practiced. They talked the matter over together, and deliberately decided to withhold a part of the price of the land. When convicted of their falsehood, their punishment was instant death. They knew that the Lord, whom they had defrauded, had searched them out; for Peter said, "Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? While it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God."

A special example was necessary to guard the young church from becoming demoralized; for their numbers were rapidly increasing. A warning was thus given to all who professed Christ at that time, and to all who should afterwards profess his name, that God requires faithfulness in the performance of vows. But notwithstanding this signal punishment of deception and lying, the same sins have often been repeated in the Christian church, and are wide-spread in our day. I have been shown that God gave this

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example as a warning to all who should be tempted to act in a similar manner. Selfishness and fraud are practised daily in the church, in withholding from God that which he claims, thus robbing him, and conflicting with his arrangements to diffuse the light and knowledge of truth throughout the length and breadth of the land.—*Testimonies, Vol. 4 pp 462-464.*

The Seminary Current

La Grippe has taken its rounds in the school. We are pleased to say we have bid farewell to it.

We certainly appreciate the use of Brother T. H. Robinson's beautiful black horse.

Only sixteen more weeks of school! How quickly our school days pass.

The photographer has taken a beautiful picture of the Seminary. They are only 50 cents each. Send for one.

Brother Capman's short visit was enjoyed. The canvasser's class especially look forward to his visits. As a result of his visit eight have definitely decided to canvass for "Bible Readings" and others are planning to sell magazines and smaller books.

The school family and neighbors listened to an impressive sermon last Sabbath, delivered by Elder Campbell. We were all impressed with the importance of workers having a "working" spirit before they have been given a definite line of work.

HAVE you read the February *Watchman*? Have you handed a copy to your friend to read? Have you sold any copies to your neighbors? 5 to 40 copies, 5 cents each, 50 or more, 4 cents each, 10 cents a copy, \$1.00 a year. Order through the CANADIAN PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION.

Special Prices on Desire of Ages

For a limited period we will furnish "Desire of Ages" at the following exceptionally low prices:—

Binding	Regular Prices	Reduced price
Full Morocco	\$6.00	\$2.95
Half ..	4.50	2.20
Cloth	3.00	1.45

Enclose twenty cents to help pay the postage. Send cash with order as no books will be sent out at the above prices on credit. It is not likely that this valuable book will ever again be offered at such low prices, so if you need a copy this is your opportunity. It is a great help in the present series of Sabbath school lessons. CANADIAN PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION.

OBITUARY

McCLARY.—Horace was born at Compton, Quebec, May 14, 1839, and died at his home in South Stukley, Quebec, December 29, 1915. He was married February 21, 1864, to Melissa Areta Sears. To this union were born two sons and two daughters. More than forty years ago he accepted present truth under the labors of Elder A. C. Bourdeau and died in the full hope of having a part in the first resurrection. For many years Brother McClary has taken an active part in pitching and caring for the tents at our annual campmeetings where his presence will be missed in the future. He is survived by his wife and two sons, who with many relatives and friends, mourn their loss. The funeral services were conducted by the writer.

A. V. OLSON.

Report of Home Missionary Work of Ontario Conference for Fourth Quarter, 1915

Name of Church	Membership	No. Reporting	Letters Written	Letters Recd.	Missionary Visits	Bible Readings or Cottage Meet	Subscriptions for Periodicals	Papers Sold	Papers Mailed, Lent or Given	Books Sold	Books Lent or Given	Tracts Sold	Tracts Lent or Given	Hrs. Christian Help Work	Articles of Clothing Given	Meals Provided	Treatments Given	Sig. to Temp. Pledge	Offerings for Home Missions	Conversions
Chatham	21	8	10	6	58	25	2	275	628	78	2		220	10	18	1				
Exeter.....	14	6						140		3	3		13							3
Hamilton.....	84	10	11	1	197	64	49	251	293	2	11		603	172	62	109	1		\$3 44	
London.....	30	20	23	17	58	5	3	450	2208	12	13		166	14	27	10	2		2 50	
Paris.....	10	14	16	1	3	10	5		159		4	33	163	2		3				2
Albuna.....						4		50			1		562							
*St. Catharines.....	10	10	6	6		70	7	1500	20	82	6	100	50	30	6		3			1
West Toronto.....			46	14	101	71		154	234		13		412	7	4					
Cent. Toronto.....			32	20	73	37	16	224	178	8	10	280	449	208	21	23				
East Toronto.....	8	8	4		8			12	35	3			18	39						
E. C. M. Seminary.....			12			5			24	3	6		260	7	42					
Individuals.....			7	5	13		3		213		8		100	4	1	1				
*6 months Totals	177	76	167	70	411	291	85	3044	3969	223	70	413	3016	493	181	147	6		\$5 94	6