

WAUKEGAN REVISITED.

First and last we have spent a good many Sundays in Waukegan. Saturday a telegram from Pastor Anderick asked us to fill his new pulpit the next day, as he was in southern Illinois beside his dying mother's bed. We went up on electric car in good time, and though the morning was anything but pleasant, a good congregation came out, albeit some had to go home as the janitor had not got the hang of the new heating apparatus. To all intents and purposes that meeting house is the same as new: on the inside, save the window lights, roof trusses, we can't see any trace of the old room. The sloping floor, elegant circular seats, three side galleries, new baptistry, large choir loft and that magnificent organ, all brilliantly illuminated with electric lights makes it new.

In spite of the cold room the audience was attentive, patient and cordial, and a good deacon button-holed us the first thing to go with him for dinner and we had other invitations "too numerous to mention," as they say in auction bills. How soon you can tell whether a congregation is accustomed to good preaching; they know a good point when you make it on the instant, and can't be fooled with chaff.

There was a Sunday school of 184 present; their years' average is 200., with twenty classes and a collection of \$3.41, of which \$1.25 goes to church expenses, Waukegan Christians; we know most of the Baptists know what constitutes Christian hospitality. There was a large Endeavor meeting at 6 p. m., and we know some sacrificed their suppers to be on hand in season.

In the evening the house was warm and the body of it full and some in the gallery: we did not count, but were told the house seats 600 easily, and there were more filled seats than empty ones. Of course their congregations won't fill all the house for five years or more; they built for the future. We confess to a surprise at seeing such a congregation and a more attentive and appreciative audience we have not addressed for a long time. They laughed

right out in meeting, though we did not expect it any more than a thunder clap out of a clear sky, but they did not cheer. Deacon Griffin and Attorney Heydecker said they had hard work "to hold in." Our topic was "Pulpit Discourse," its substance aim and methods, and we gave them our best in forty minutes. The fact is, such an audience as they gave us in size and character, puts the spurs into a man if he has any sensibility; it did us, anyway, and we won't forget the hearty hand shakes and kind words after the services.

For fifteen years we have been there more or less with their three pastors, sometimes for weeks in succession, but there never was anything but the warmest, kindest and most Christian fraternal feelings and relations between us and those pastors. The people seem like one of our own parishes loving and beloved.

Waukegan is one of the bright places in our life. There are several places in the world where, were we homeless, we know there is more than one empty prophet's chamber that would welcome us and not a few boards that would give us a morsel of bread but none to which we should turn more confidently than to the Baptists of Waukegan.

Reader, when you come to see every day that your sun of life is declining well down toward the horizon and you turn back for here and there a fraternal greeting and friendly look such as came to you so constantly when in the full tide of your life and work and successes, such a Sunday as we spent in Waukegan Nov. 13, 1898, will be an event in your life not soon forgotten. We have often wondered what God gave his ancient prophet in the wilderness that he "went out in the strength of that meat forty days." Now we know: he spent a Sunday in Waukegan!

For Thanksgiving Day.

A rate of one fare and a third for the round trip has been authorized to points within 150 miles, on the Nickel Plate Road. Chicago Passenger Station, Van Buren Street and Pacific Ave., on the Loop. City ticket office 111 Adams St. *75

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