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Vaughan Township S. S. Association.

A most successful Sabbath School Convention with the above association was held last Wednesday and Thursday at Maple, in the Presbyterian church. All the sessions were well attended by Sunday school workers, parents and friends. In the first session on Wednesday afternoon the delegates to the Provincial S. S. Convention at Ottawa—Rev. C. A. Campbell and Mr. John Gillis—gave their report.

At the mass meeting of the children addresses were given by Mrs. (Rev.) Geo. Brown and Mr. R. Cowling. In the evening session the President, Mr. Hadwen, delivered words of greeting to the delegates. This was followed by an able address by Rev. J. C. Speer; subject, "The value of S. S. Work to the nation." The discussion on the above subject was followed by a practical illustration of the Use and Advantages of the Blackboard in Teaching, by Mr. Robt. Gourlay, of Toronto.

At the third session, Thursday morning, an excellent address was given by Rev. Geo. Brown; subject, "How can Parents help the Sabbath School." This subject elicited a lively discussion. In this session came the selection of the next place to hold the Annual Convention. Decided in favor of Pine Grove. At the fourth session, Thursday afternoon, a well thought out address was delivered by Rev. W. Amos, of Aurora, which was followed by a lively talk from Rev. A. McLaughlin on the question, "Does the actual condition of society create a demand for Religious Institutions?"

At the last session, Thursday evening, the newly elected President, Mr. John Gillis, addressed the convention. "Character Building" was a subject set before the convention by Rev. John Locke, of Thornhill. "What has been the results of S. S. Instruction in our own Experience," was introduced by Mr. W. Harrison. The collection in aid of the Provincial Sabbath School Association amounted to \$50.

The officers and executive elected for 1892 are as follows:
President—Bro. John Gillis, Teston;
1st Vice-President—Bro. Wm. Clarke, Sherwood;
2nd Vice-President—Bro. Wm. Dunn, Edgely;
Cor. Sec'y—Bro. W. H. Bunt, Woodbridge;
Minute Sec'y—Bro. Albert Hicks, Pine Grove;
Treasurer—Bro. Jacob Williams, Edgely
Executive Committee—Rev. A. McLaughlin, Rev. C. A. Campbell, Rev. Geo. Brown, Robt. Cowling, Wm. Watson, jr., Wm. Hutchinson.
Finance Committee—R. T. Wallace, Hy Keffler, John Coombs, R. M. Hadwen.

Committee on Institute Work—Rev. A. McLaughlin, Rev. C. A. Campbell, Rev. Geo. Brown, John Gillis, John Craddock.

The closing resolutions gathered from the convention were presented by Rev. Geo. Brown. The choir, that indispensable assistant in all Sunday School Conventions, rendered efficient service. All the proceedings of the convention were devotional, instructive and very encouraging to all lovers of Sabbath School Work present. Each evening the church was filled to the doors with a large and attentive audience.

Elders Mills.
At a recent meeting of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, the pastor of the church, Rev. Mr. Nicol, who is about to sever his connection with the congregation, was presented with a handsome marble clock, accompanied by the following address:
TO THE REV. PETER NICOL:
RESPECTED PASTOR,—On this occasion being the last time you will meet with us as a Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, we, its members, both active and associate, and also its adherents, make use of the opportunity of expressing in some measure our appreciation of you as our esteemed pastor and true friend. Not that we feel it within our power to repay you the debt of gratitude we owe, but only try to bind closer that chain of affection that draws us so devotedly to each other.

Seventeen years of faithful ministry, and what memories they recall! Pleasing and inspiring on the one hand, and mingled with some degree of sorrow on the other. Such is the experience of all in whatever call it may be their lot to be placed, therefore in whatever sphere we may be placed we will ever remember it is our duty to make the best of our lot. This we undoubtedly agree has been your highest aim while laboring among us. To you the retrospect of these eventful years furnishes thought for which no adequate expression can be found. Realizing deeply at the beginning of your ministry

here the responsibility of caring for the flock given to your charge, you have unquestionably at the outset, as is manifested by your precepts and example, placed your hand in His who alone can see from the beginning to the end, and in whom dwells all power, thereby enabling you to perform your duty with unswerving devotion. How devoutly thankful you will be for whatever measure of success has attended your efforts here. And how grateful to know that those over whom you have been ministering can certify from their inmost soul of the blessing received under your ministry.

Among the earliest recollections of many present will be the impressions you have made upon them from time to time by your kind words and personal interviews. Impressions so indelibly written that neither time nor eternity can efface. They will ever remember of how ennobling and uplifting a character the kind words and personal interviews they enjoyed. With discretion have you led them to look forward to the future, and consider what will be each their condition throughout eternity as well as what it is at present. We trust that you will have led us to realize by your preaching that the misery and happiness reserved for man in the other world loses none of its realities by being placed at so great a distance from us, and that they are wise who consider that those pleasures and pains that lie hid in eternity, approach nearer him in reality as those pains and pleasures which he feels this very instant.

Seventeen years or more have all passed away but the memories of the past will be cherished and treasured up in the hearts of many, as a precious legacy, long after your departure.

In order to manifest more fully our appreciation of you, not only as a faithful minister, but also for your personal worth, we ask you to kindly accept this clock as a memento of our esteem. This clock may it be useful to you in the highest degree for what it was made, and not alone ornamental. To you it may seem to indicate double time; one recording the moments as they fly; the other recorded as having already taken flight and now numbering a period of seventeen years.

As a society, including adherents, we will miss that profitable instruction so frequently our lot to enjoy. But let us ever remember that wise counsel you have given us to make the main object of our study that Book of Books—the Bible.

We know unhesitatingly that though you will not on any other occasion meet with us as a society, that same earnest prayer will still ascend to the Throne of Grace on your behalf. And if as a society we have encouraged and cheered you in your work among us how grateful we will feel.

And now before the pain of parting has come we wish to extend to your loving and devoted wife the same hand of christian fellowship and heart-felt love, for she too claims a place in our affections, by her kind genial spirit, as well as her devotedness to the work that falls to her share as a wife of a minister of the gospel. May she long be spared to assist you in your labors.

And now in conclusion I cordially bespeak on behalf of the society and all present, their well wishes that an abundant blessing rest on you and your household in your new sphere of labor. We therefore bid you and your family an affectionate farewell.

We remain yours affectionately,
JOHN SIMPSON, Sec'y.
JOHN SMITH, Pres.

Knox Church, Vaughan,
Jan. 14th, 1892

Mr. Nicol made an appropriate reply, as did also Mrs. Nicol in a few words. Mr. Nicol preached his farewell sermon on Sunday last, taking as his text II. Cor. 13: 11: "Finally brethren, farewell; be perfect, be of good cheer, live in peace and the God of love and peace will be with you."

Furi-Decanal Meeting.

The Anglican Clergy of each Rural Deanery in the Diocese of Toronto are accustomed to meet together about four times a year for the purpose of considering matters of present interest to the Church in the whole Diocese, but especially in their own Rural Deanery. For this purpose the members of the Chapter of West York met in St. Mary's Church in this village last Thursday.

Some two years ago this Chapter began a new departure by holding conventions of one kind or another at the same time with its own meetings—at one time, a convention of the Woman's Auxiliary; at another time, of Sunday School teachers; &c. At the meeting here last week they held what may be called a Choral Convention. Almost all the choirs of the R. D. were well represented, particularly King, Woodbridge and Oak Ridges. The following clergy were present: Rev. Messrs. Farncomb and Swallow, Rural Deans, and Rev. Messrs. Mussen, Sibbald, Plummer, Heathcote; and the Rec-

tor of the Parish. The object of the convention was to promote a deeper interest in Church music than is usually found in country places.

The work of the day began with morning prayer followed by the Holy Communion. The congregation was very good, and there were more than fifty communicants. Rev. Mr. Plummer kindly acted as organist at Matins; but he being celebrant, Miss Fanny Brown and Miss Florence Langstaff took the instrument during the celebration. The Kyrie, introtit office hymn, Ter Sanctus, and Gloria in Excelsis were very well rendered. Most of the music at this office was Mr. Plummer's own composition. From the words, "He that hath the Son hath life," the celebrant preached an admirable sermon on Life, particularly emphasizing the constant renewal of spiritual life by Christ through the Holy Eucharist.

After lunch the members of the Chapter met in the church and transacted the usual business. When this was finished all the choirs and other visitors re-assembled to hear and discuss a couple of papers on Church Music. They were read by Messrs. Plummer and Swallow, and were excellent. The whole tendency of both papers and discussions was that, in public worship, the glory of God and the edification of the people would, as a rule, be best promoted by what are usually called Choral Services.

The choirs then had, under Mr. Plummer's direction, a thorough rehearsal for evening service, Miss McGregor, (we think that is the name) organist of Christ's Church, Woodbridge, presiding at the instrument. It may not be out of place to say that this young lady, by her skill and taste, showed that she deserves the reputation which she has of being one of the best organists in the county.

At Evensong the church was simply packed with a devout and attentive congregation. Mr. Plummer was good enough to act as organist, and all present were just delighted with his playing. On almost any Sunday or other Holy Day of the year, at any of a dozen or more of the Toronto churches, one might, perhaps, hear the services quite as well rendered as they were by the choirs in St. Mary's last Thursday, but they certainly deserve great praise for the manner in which they performed their part of the services, especially when it is remembered that they came from several different parishes, and had never sung together before.

But while speaking of the music, the sermon must not be forgotten. It was in every way appropriate and edifying. Indeed it could not be otherwise, the Rector of Woodbridge being the preacher. The text was, "Be filled with the Spirit"; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns, and spiritual songs; singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." The great thing, the preacher said, was to be filled with the Spirit; and one of the outward signs of being thus filled would be the singing of psalms and hymns and canticles. Mr. Sibbald was to have given another address, but he had to leave early in the evening. Mr. Heathcote intoned both Matins and Evensong in a manner which left nothing to be desired. He also acted as deacon at the celebration.

So far as we have heard, all present were very much pleased, and many expressed an earnest wish that Mr. Plummer might soon pay us another visit. We have it on good authority that both he and Messrs. Sibbald and Heathcote have promised to attend the Missionary meetings to be held in the parish sometime in February.

The ladies of the Congregation provided an excellent luncheon and tea which were served in Lorne Hall, and the visitors spoke in the highest terms of the hospitality with which they were treated. It is, however, only fair to the congregation to say that they were asked to provide for not more than twenty-five, and it was then supposed that there would not be more than twenty visitors. It was only at the last moment they learned that provision would have to be made for more than twice twenty-five; but they set to work with their well known energy, and right nobly did they discharge their duty.

From what we saw and heard on Thursday, we have come to the conclusion that the Clergy of West York might do worse than hold a similar convention at, say, every alternate meeting of the Chapter.

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