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TWO POWERFUL SERMONS

DR. SALEM G. BLAND PREACHED IN CHURCH OF HIS BOYHOOD.

Urged the Establishment of the Pre-eminence of Christ and an Influence by the Church for Social Regeneration—Eulogized the History of Kingston and Queen's University.

Special services marked the sixty-fourth Anniversary of Queen street Methodist church on Sunday, when Rev. Dr. Salem G. Bland, one of the foremost ministers of Western Canada, preached on topics of special interest at this crucial time in the affairs of the Protestant churches. Rev. Dr. Bland is seldom an orator, yet he speaks with a quiet sincerity and deep conviction that is most impressive. His language is beautiful and forceful, and his sermons are most appealing and powerful.

In the morning he pleaded for the absolute establishment of the pre-eminence of the Saviour, Christ Jesus. Doctrines and dogmas, he declared, must be laid aside as secondary and the people of the Christian church must sit at the feet of their Master. It was not unnatural that Jesus had been eclipsed by the formalism of the Roman Catholic church and even by the church of the Reformation. Without organization the apostolic faith in Jesus would have died and Christianity would have been lost to the world. But the organization hid the spirit of Christ when it had proceeded through the middle ages and even up to the middle of the nineteenth century when the transformation occurred. The last century has brought many achievements of surpassing importance, but none more influential than the transformation of Protestantism from a religion of faith in the Almighty and belief in the goodness of His Son.

To-day the church is at the foothills with the hard accomplishments still to be fulfilled and the mountain of achievement yet to be climbed. Only through the placing of first things first and second things second can the truly Christian mission be secured, and this demands the pre-eminence of Christ in the hearts of his followers.

At the evening service the speaker made some trenchant remarks on the mission of the church. He believed that the criticisms which had been levelled in the past denoted a belief by its opponents in the powerful place which it has attained. Nevertheless, the church in many ways had failed to accomplish its task. It was irresolute instead of decided; it was perhaps subservient to the rich instead of being mightily independent. This indecisive attitude had weakened its influence and had even tended to antagonize some classes of followers. For instance, the church had failed to support the working man in his fight for union and brotherhood, which was eminently Christian. It had not exercised an uplifting influence in politics and had shown that it was not strong enough to stand for its basic ideals of independence and righteousness.

In the future the church must exercise a more powerful influence on social conditions. Even as the medieval church strove for the freedom of the individual so should the modern church seek for social regeneration. The world is outgrowing individualism and the ideal of the brotherhood of man is surely sprouting up in its wake. The church must cultivate this spirit in the future, despite the meanness of the business world, despite the weighty influences that will seek to deter it.

In the evening Dr. Bland expressed to the very large congregation his happiness at once more being in Kingston and in Queen street Methodist church. Many pleasant and fond memories clung to his boyhood home and to his boyhood church, where he received his early training. Besides the church, Dr. Bland asserted that no forces had exercised such influences on his life as the Kingston press, which had given him confidence in his early days on the ministry through their kindly and helpful notices, and Queen's University, which, under the late Reverend Principal Grant, brought the greatest educational influence into his life. He believed that even if all the faces he had known in bygone days had gone from the church, he would still hallow the sacred memories of his earlier life within its fold.

Special music was also arranged for the occasion, and besides the anthems the large congregations were favored with selections from Mrs. John Evans, Mrs. H. T. J. Coleman, Rechab Tandy, Joseph Hodge and Allan Haffner.

At Cooke's Church. Rev. W. Bryden, M.A., of Woodville, was the preacher at both services in Cooke's church on Sunday, and delivered thoughtful and forceful sermons. At the morning service he spoke of "The Peace of God." He said there were a great many things regarded as peace. He spoke of peace very much, especially in these days of great struggles. It was very easy for a person to be strong when they had some person at their back who was strong, and who was leading them on, but they were not so strong when they were not so led.

Sunday afternoon Cooke's church Sunday school held a rally, which was very largely attended by both the young and old folk. There was a very interesting programme, which included an address by Rev. Mr. Bryden, special exercises by the school, a solo by Mrs. Beatty, and the unfurling of an overseas service flag by Capt. Fairfull, as a memorial to those killed.

H. W. Newman presided. One hundred and thirteen members of Cooke's church went overseas. Thirteen were killed.

At Chalmers Church. At the Sunday morning service in Chalmers church, Rev. Dr. R. J. Wilson delivered a masterly discourse on what the flower of Canada's manhood who survive the war might do in making this a greater nation. The war had produced in

them a new ideal. It had developed co-operation and co-ordination and produced in the Canadians great capacity of achievement. With the development of these qualities at home after the war, Canada and the Christian church could become most mighty forces. Dr. Wilson's presentation of his theme was forceful and eloquent.

The Chalmers minister announced that the session had decided that it was essential that a mid-week service be held for prayer and social service on Wednesdays from 8 to 9 p.m. An endeavor is to be made to get the congregation so interested in the mid-week service that what has fallen largely into disrepair in the churches will appeal to the men as well as the women.

Princess Street Methodist Rally. Princess Street Methodist church was crowded at both services on Sunday, the morning service being devoted to the children. It was the annual rally and a splendid programme of songs and recitations was given by the little ones. In the evening Rev. J. A. Waddell addressed the teachers on their mission and the great work which they were accomplishing.

At First Baptist Church. Bright and helpful were the services in the First Baptist church on Sunday. The pastor, Rev. J. S. LaFlair, delivered two delightful and inspiring sermons. In the morning he spoke on "Over the Top" and in the evening, "Why I Am a Baptist." At the evening service the ordination of baptism took place, when there were three candidates. In the afternoon, there was special Bible school rally, when the pastor gave a most interesting address on flags, while Dr. E. J. Lake showed some fine lantern slides.

At St. James' Church. Archdeacon Dobbs preached at St. James' church on Sunday evening and gave an account of the recent meetings of the general synod of the Anglican church held in Toronto.

Sydenham Street Methodist. A sacred musicale was given at the Sunday evening service in Sydenham Street Methodist church. "The Redemption Hymn" (Parker), was particularly well rendered. Miss Colard, contralto soloist, took the leading part and sang with great beauty of expression. Others who took leading parts were Miss Woodman, soprano; Arthur Locks, violinist, and Ernest Madrand, organ soloist. The choir exceeded all former efforts. The male quartet, headed by the program, sang to a fitting close and the voices blended beautifully.

KINGSTON EVENTS 25 YEARS AGO.

Messrs. Doyle and Gates will build a large barn on Carrington's farm, Baker's Point. The building will hold one hundred head of cattle and have two storeys.

Guy Curtis, captain of Queen's rugby team, is certainly making good. He has all the boys on the run. His home is in Delta.

Rumor says Thomas Hogan, of Wolfe Island, will be candidate for the Ontario Legislature.

A KINGSTON MAN HELD AT NAPANEE

He is Wanted in Oswego, N.Y., on a Charge of Theft.

(From Our Own Correspondent.) J. Ryan, of Kingston, was taken into custody by Chief Barrett yesterday, on a charge preferred by the police of Oswego, N.Y., of stealing three diamond rings and a gold locket and chain from a dwelling house in Oswego. The articles were recovered in Napanee by the chief. The accused appeared before Judge Madden in the Extradition Court, waived extradition and consented to go back to Oswego to stand trial. He was remanded to jail, to await the arrival of an officer from Oswego to take him back.

Pte. A. Malcolm and Pte. J. Patterson, of the Railway Construction Corp., Niagara, appeared on remand before Police Magistrate Rankin, charged with fraud and assaulting a Chinaman. They were ordered back to jail to await an escort from their unit.

Carrie Pringle, charged with vagrancy, was given a chance to redeem herself. She was allowed to go on suspended sentence.

All the letter boxes around the city have been given a much-needed coat of paint.

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