

THE FAREWELL MEETING.

An excellent farewell meeting was held on Friday evening, March 4th, in the Reformed Baptist Church, Carleton St., St. John, N. B., for our out-going missionaries, Sisters Misses Helen M. and Alice F. Sterritt.

It was certainly a representative meeting. Notwithstanding there were special religious attractions in the city that evening in St. John, there was a large attendance. The Church was well filled and we noticed the following brethren and sisters who were present: From Fredericton Rev. P. J. and Mrs. Trafton; Marysville Rev. E. W. Lester; Grand Manan Rev. C. S. Hilyard; Norton Mr. and Mrs. E. Harmer; Lower Millstream Noah E. Hicks; Royalton Mrs. I. F. Keirstead; Port Maitland, N. S. Mrs. L. T. Sabine, Mrs. Alvin Perry and Mrs. Sollows; Grey's Mills S. H. Bradley; N. A. Sterritt, Fred Porter, Misses Rogers, Lillian Williams, Daisy Williams, Dora Bradley, Lucy Bradley; Kingston J. W. Cosman, Peter L. Cosman and Wm. Cosman; Moncton W. D. and Mrs. Blakney, Miss Rose Blakney, A. G. and Mrs. Good and Misses Mabel and Nellie Good, S. N. and Mrs. Grass, Walter Lewis and two sons and S. A. and Mrs. Baker. There may have been others.

Rev. C. S. Hilyard, the President of the Missionary Board, and General Missionary Society, presided. Rev. P. J. Trafton, the Recording Secretary, and Rev. S. A. Baker, Treasurer, and Mrs. S. A. Baker the Corresponding Secretary of the General Missionary Society, and Revs. W. W. Howe, E. W. Lester and Mrs. F. D. Foley, members of the Missionary Board were present. The following was the programme:

The opening hymn.
Scripture Reading, Psalm 115—By Rev. C. S. Hilyard.
Prayer—Rev. E. W. Lester.
Duet—Misses Cosman and Parlee.
Address—Rev. S. A. Baker.
Original Poem, written for the occasion—Rev. W. E. Smith.
Solo—Rev. P. J. Trafton.
Address—Mrs. I. F. Keirstead.
Farewell Addresses—Misses Alice and Helen Sterritt.
Solo and Duet—Mrs. Fred Clarke and Mrs. F. D. Foley.

The Sterritt Sisters sang a very touching missionary selection which stirred all hearts.

The closing hymn.
Benediction by Pastor—Rev. W. W. Howe.

Rev. P. J. Trafton called for a table offering, and the people readily responded, resulting in a spontaneous gift of \$108.56.

At the close the entire congregation passed up one aisle of the church and down the other, thus having the opportunity of saying good-bye, and many friends lingered after the main congregation had gone.

The following day was a very busy and strenuous one for our sisters; almost constant telephone calls and enquires at the home of Brother and Sister G. S. Casman, which had quite the appearance of a hotel, for their home was practically thrown open, and all who came received a cordial welcome. There was a special stir of moving baggage, and last moment packing the hand baggage and gathering of coats and

steamer rugs and other articles, but there were willing hands to do the errands and help. Not least among these was Brother Peter L. Cosman, who did many things to help which needed to be done in the preparation and removal of the baggage to the steamer, etc. Then Brother J. F. Bullock, who is ever ready to lend a hand, came with his automobile and took our missionaries to St. John West, where the good steamer Corsican was docked, which became the centre of attraction for a large number of friends and from 2 o'clock in the afternoon on there were friends coming to say a last good-bye. One touching incident in the very midst of these scenes, Sisters Sterritt went into their state room to pray with a young nephew. Another, which was probably the last thoughtful act to cheer their parting moments was the gift of a beautiful bouquet by Misses Lucy Bradley and Ella McCarthy. But none need associate many tears from the eyes of our sisters with these farewell greetings, but there was the bright, cheerful smile and words of blessing to all who came, and words of special admontion to the young. It was not a sad, but a joyful parting, mingled with sincere heart prayers and God bless-you.

Let us follow them over the rolling seas with our prayers.

The history of the call and response of these two girls to the strenuous labours that they are to enter and the financial provision that came so very spontaneously; and quite sufficient for their outfit, and passage, which at the present time is unusually expensive, then added to that gifts from the churches and friends sufficient to require five fair sized dry goods boxes, and three sugar barrels to hold them, besides many small articles they packed in their trunks (2 each) and suit cases and bags, reveals the unity of action in our churches. One of the pleasant little things to interest them by the way was arranged by the "Mizpah Sunday School Class" of Moncton (young ladies) who took two ladies' shopping baskets, one for each, in which they put a nickel cased Thermos bottle and boxes of home-made candies, and boxes of cookies and nice little surprise presents and letters, one parcel and a letter to be opened daily while on their way and by the number of letters that were added, one would judge there was enough to last through the whole trip to Africa, and a number left over.

It was remarked by the stewardess (who is a very bright and attractive lady that our missionaries at once were attracted to) that such a send off as this was very unusual. It certainly was, and must remain a very bright spot in the memory of both of our sisters, and all who were present to enjoy it. This whole circumstance with all its features from the beginning through, and the success we anticipate should serve to wonderfully stimulate us as a people, both in the home and the foreign work. It is another grand success which God has given us as a people. It is another meal from the table "prepared for us in the presence of our enemies." He has surely "anointed our heads with oil, and our cup runneth over."

Surely goodness and mercy has followed us all the days of our (denominational) life.

We will praise "God from whom all blessings flow."

Among these gifts our missionaries on the field has not been forgotten. It will be like a great Christmas tree when these boxes, barrels and trunks are opened at the missionary station. We wish we could have sent a present to every native worker. Perhaps these may come in the future. A little later on we will need horses and saddles and a carriage or two.

We will keep the offer open of the privilege of paying the salaries of the Sterritt Sisters until the 31st of March, then if none accept this privilege of paying them, we will propose another plan; which we believe will be immediately accepted, and the provision will be made. So don't think this over too long, or you will lose your chance of a great blessing.

GREY'S MILLS CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE.

The people of Grey's Mills and vicinity united in a special service on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 13th, to commemorate the erection of the Church building, fifty years ago. At that time, Miss Mary J. Sterritt, then of Grey's Mills, now Mrs. Wm. McDougall of Boston, was instrumental in making plans and raising funds for building the edifice.

Rev. Bennett Trafton conducted the service and preached an appropriate sermon in memory of her untiring efforts, who did so much towards carrying the plans of the church to completion. A Scripture lesson was read from Psalm 27 and Luke 2:22-40. Brother Trafton spoke on the 4th verse of the Psalm 27, "One thing have I desired of the Lord that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple."

His words were truly with power as he set before the minds of the congregation the true and false motives of church worship.

Our pastor made reference to the progress of the work in this church since it was first dedicated in 1871. He recalled how the power and blessing of God had ever crowned the humble efforts of a few devoted Christians here. From this centre an eternal influence has been radiating through a sin-cursed world. The service seemed most appropriate and sacred due to the fact that our sisters, Helen and Alice Sterritt, who are nieces of the foundress, are about to start for Africa, carrying the message of peace and good-will to a darkened land. The same love for God and his work which inspired Miss Sterritt fifty years ago to build the church, is still impelling a younger generation of the same family to labor faithfully and unselfishly in the Master's vineyard.

A large number of people were present to enjoy the service. A special silver offering was taken for the purchasing of a small token to be presented to Mrs. MacDougall, who is now an invalid and unable to attend public worship.

Let us pray and work that the next fifty years may see greater achievements wrought for the Kingdom of God in this place.