

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH.

(Continued from third page.)

whom emulated the spirit of Rev. Father McSweeney, who in 1830 when the old kirk was building, contributed \$5. towards its cost.

The late Dr. Burns of Halifax had the honor of preaching the first sermon; Dr. Macrae of St. John, the second, both audiences that filled this church, on the 10th day of January, 1886, to Prof. Sterne presided at the organ, Mrs. Wm. Lemont, Miss Lugron, Mr. now Judge, Wm. Wilson and Prof. H. S. Bridges, joined the leading quartette in a very large choir.

When the congregation stood up to sing the first hymn some found it difficult to sound the words. A few may have felt pride in what had been accomplished, but gratitude to God was the predominant feeling. I do believe, gratitude that we had been able to build and consecrate a worthy edifice to His service, and gratitude that no serious accident had occurred to mar its building. At the afternoon Sunday school service Mr. Ferguson conducted a review, the scholars evidence of their knowledge of the shorter catechism and addresses were made by the visiting ministers and by Dr. McLeod, Mr. Spurgeon, Mr. M. Lemont, Mr. J. A. VanWart and Mr. Gaunce. Prizes were awarded to twenty-one scholars who had earned them, the gifts coming from almost as many persons. The most interesting announcement of the superintendent was that thirteen scholars had joined the church during 1885.

My task is about completed as planned. Doubtless it has not met the expectations of many. Some might prefer that I had given more time to the financial aspect of the matter, listed the subscriptions and enlarged upon individual liberality. That could easily have been done, for in existence is a complete list of those who subscribed and those who paid and what they paid. But I have not cared to do this. We all did what we could then and since. We believe it was done by all in equal good spirit and with right intention.

We also believe that none of us have suffered nor regretted what we did in this connection. There are records to prove that this edifice as it stands today with its contents represents an expenditure upon and for it of upwards of \$30,000. The good Father in Heaven gave us the disposition to build it and the opportunities with health and skill to gather the means to pay for it in full.

For those and all other blessings that we have received we should be most truly grateful and with that sentiment, which you will all approve I shall give place to a more graceful and pleasing speaker.

THE WOMEN'S PART.

Mrs. J. R. Howie Tells How the Ladies of the Church Assisted in Redeeming the Debt.

Mrs. J. R. Howie was introduced and read the following paper: Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:—

I have wished that the honor of preparing the story of the part which the women of St. Paul's have taken in the work of up-rearing, furnishing and freeing from debt the Church in which we now stand, had been given into other and more fitting hands than mine—for I missed by but little being one of the "strangers who came among us twenty years ago," of whom our Pastor spoke on Sunday morning last, and as I listened to his words I felt indeed that I was one who was reaping where I had not sown and enjoying the fruits of others' labor.

But if you will bear with me, I will try to state as well as I can, with the help of the rather meagre data available, what the women of the church have been able to accomplish since the inception of the New Church Scheme.

"A HISTORY OF THE LADIES' AID."

was asked for, and that I will try to give, but any account of either the money-making efforts or the social work of that society would be ill-timed indeed if precedence were not given to the splendid accomplishment of a devoted band of women, or any paraphernalia of constitution, or any paraphernalia of constitution, or rules, or entrance-fees, just simply put on their thimbles, took up scissors and needle and bound together by their unity and strength of purpose went to work.

For five years, (from July 1880, to the close of 1886) the Kirk sewing circle sewed, earning in that time nearly \$2000.00 by the work of their hands. This they used in part for the furnishing of the church, and in part for the payment of a large proportion of the cost of the organ, toward which Mr. James Hodge had given the first \$500.00.

The late Mrs. Julius Inches was President of this sewing circle, and she gave to the work, as many among us know, more of her strength than she could afford. Miss Fannie Hodge was treasurer, and Mrs. Eben Miller and Mrs. William Cooper were valued and indefatigable members of the circle, the "personnel" of which, in addition to the above named ladies, will be of interest. It included:—

Mrs. Wark, Mrs. Donaldson, Mrs. Brydson-Jack, Mrs. Calder, Mrs. Tufts, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Matheson, Mrs. Thorburn, Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. L. W. Johnston, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs.

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MacAllister, Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Seeley, Miss Janet Ross, Mrs. Massie, Mrs. McKenzie, Miss Blair, Mrs. Rosborough, Mrs. Mowatt, Miss Hodge, Miss Helen Jack, Miss Wark, Miss Mowatt, Miss Rosa Jack, Miss Howie, Miss Fraser, Miss Edwards,

Miss Mackay, Miss Cumming, Miss Jennie Edwards, Miss Frances Ross, Miss Mitchell, Miss MacInnes, Miss Lawson, and Male Members:—Rev. A. J. Mowatt, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Everett, Mr. Richards, Prof. Rivet and Mr. J. Lawson.

Some of these have gone to their reward, others have moved away, and some are still with us active as always in the interest of their beloved church.

THE GIRLS' CIRCLE

organized at this time by Miss Winifred Johnston (now Mrs. Plowden and in South Africa) and named by her "The Tuneful Nine," had merry meetings, presided over by Miss Jeanette Beverly. These girls furnished entirely by their own efforts the material for sale of work which realized close upon \$210. To this they added more, and with the help of \$60.00 tendered them by the Young Peoples' Literary Association (the proceeds of a lecture) were enabled to purchase the pulpit and chairs for the platform, and the communion table and chair, at a cost of \$300.00. Thus, in the actual progress of the building operations, the women and girls of this congregation earned with their hands upwards of \$2200.00 a noble achievement indeed.

The strenuous work of months in arranging for the last Bazaar, and in superintending the carpeting &c., of the new church, had unfitted the president, Mrs. Inches, for further effort, and now the work of the sewing circle ceased.

BIRTH OF THE WORKING BAND.

For over a year at this time, the people rested from their labors, and no organized effort was made either to lighten the load of debt, or to help the social life of the church. But another day was dawning, and in November 1887, the pastor, the Rev. A. J. Mowatt preached a sermon, which stirred us all to a sense of our duty. The seed sown that Sunday fell on waiting ground, and has brought forth fruit an hundred-fold. Shortly thereafter, two clever and earnest young members of the church, Miss Martha Flemming (now Mrs. John Harvey) and Miss Janie Harvey (now Mrs. Wilton, of Kingston, Ont.), set about the organizing of a church society, having for its object the doing of Christian work, and the raising of money for the church's current and future needs.

A meeting of all those interested was held on Nov. 23rd, 1887. The pastor presided, officers and an executive were elected, and that night the working band of St. Paul's church was born. Three days later a constitution had been prepared and adopted, the mite-society in connection had been organized, with a well conceived scheme for the systematic collection of small sums over the length and breadth of the pastorate, reaching out to Kingsclear and to Maryland, to St. Mary's and to Douglas. Committees had been formed to visit the sick and the poor, to visit and receive strangers and to arrange for social meetings and entertainments. The first officers of the band were:—

President—Mrs. James R. Howie.
1st. Vice P.—Miss Janie Harvey.
2nd. Vice P.—Mrs. L. W. Johnston.
Secretary—Miss Flemming.
Treasurer—Miss Cameron.

Mrs. L. W. Johnston organized and for years presided over the mite society with marked success, with Miss Cameron for her efficient treasurer. I must, however, mention that Mrs. Gregory convened the committee to visit and receive strangers; Miss Ward the committee to visit and receive strangers, and Miss MacLeod the entertainment committee. To cover initial and current expenses a yearly fee of ten cents, payable in advance, was collected from each member.

As I have said, Sir, the work of the band covered several departments, which I will summarize under the heads social and financial.—The first of equal, if not of greater importance than the last, for without the good fellowship which only pleasant intercourse promotes, there can be no united interest. United interest leads to united effort, which means "the long pull, the strong pull, the pull all together" that always must make for success.

THE SOCIAL SIDE.

Our first year's pull-all-together, resulted socially, in the revival, or perhaps I might say in the initiation and establishment of the entertainment habit. Students, strangers within our gates, and our own people were made to meet and chat over a cup of coffee; through the kindness of Dr. Hyde and Prof. Stockley of the University, a course of most interesting and delightful lectures on many of the plays of Shakespeare was given, and the Kirk picnic was again made to be the feast of the year. These last were a fruitful source of revenue, speaking of which leads me to the finance department, the main factors in which, then and for years after, were the mite society and Miss Martha Flemming, by this time our treasurer. . . . this, I must quote from Miss Flemming's first report (as secretary) "Every household in the congregation was visited, and the names of those who were willing to contribute any sum, however small, monthly, were noted. Districts were laid out, and the collecting was undertaken by members of the band. The result of this plan of raising money has proved most gratifying, for without, we believe, hurting even the poorest, or causing much self-denial, we have gotten together, this year, by this means alone, between six and seven hundred dollars, which, with part of the receipts from lectures, &c., has been devoted to the outstanding debt on

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the organ, which was \$745.00. And we can now listen to the music led by our magnificent instrument without the marring thought that it is not paid for." The same report also announces this resolution "The money raised by monthly contribution we purpose in proper time to place at the disposal of the trustees, to help their fund for meeting the debentures, as they fall due, and we hope in this way to materially lessen the strain upon the congregation that the quick raising of large sums would entail." That resolution, Sir, we have been enabled to more than keep.

A VARIETY OF WORK.

It is not necessary to closely, review every year's doings. The work went steadily on, collectors of mites were patient and faithful; the management of the annual picnic, with its profits, fell year by year into the hands of the band; courses of lectures were arranged; entertainments of various natures and degrees of importance were carried through, and the fund to meet the falling due of those looming debentures grew. In the meantime necessary repairs and improvements, which the hands of the trustees were too full to undertake, were made in both the new church and the old. The pews around the walls in the old Kirk were taken out, new reversible seats were furnished, and the auditorium and vestry repaired and renovated, at a cost of over \$100.00. The choir of the new church was re-carpeted; hymnals for the gallery were bought; bills for small repairs were met; and every fretting burden of current expense that the band could carry was lifted from the heavily laden shoulders of the trustees. This, always with the earned money, the mites being sacred to the debt fund, which by the end of 1895 well passed the \$2000.00 mark, while our other savings amounted to about \$900.00.

We were comfortably contemplating this snug preparedness, when, lo, the tower of the church itself suddenly threatened to tumble about our ears. Expert examination revealed a grave state of affairs. Immediate and extensive repairs were imperative, and alas, the trustees' balance was on the wrong side of the ledger. A congregational meeting to consider ways and means were called, and the Working Band had the happiness of being able to bridge the difficulty, for the trustees accepted their offer of all their available funds, if such were needed, the only condition asked being that the painting and decorating of the interior of the building (which the band had aimed themselves to do) should be a part of the undertaking.

This money was afterwards in greater part collected and returned by the trustees to the debenture fund. In January 1896, when the church repairs were completed, the Band prepared the auditorium for its sacred purpose, recarpeted the pulpit platform and floor surrounding and refurnished comfortably and completely the pastor's retiring room in the basement, at a cost of over \$160.

A NEW NAME.

February 1896, brought a bran new name to the working band, which, fortified with an up-to-date and sound constitution, also new, announced itself to have developed into the "St. Paul's Church Ladies' Aid Society." The old name seemed all right to some of us, but "a rose by any other name would smell as sweet," and we are satisfied. "By their works ye shall know them," and the same motive power that inspired the Working Band controls the Ladies' Aid.

July 1896 was marked by the taking up of debentures 1 and 2, of \$500 each, and the debt burden and current expense account were lightened by that sum, and its interest. '97, '98, '99 each saw other sums duly paid.

In 1898 the mite collections dwindled and died. But history repeats itself, and in the autumn of that year our pastor, also with a sermon, electrified the Ladies' Aid into new life and ambition; the people into a fresh sense of their responsibilities; and the Century fund came into existence, with Mrs. G. W. Hodge as its treasurer.

THAT STAB-LIKE PAIN IN THE SMALL OF THE BACK COMES FROM THE KIDNEYS

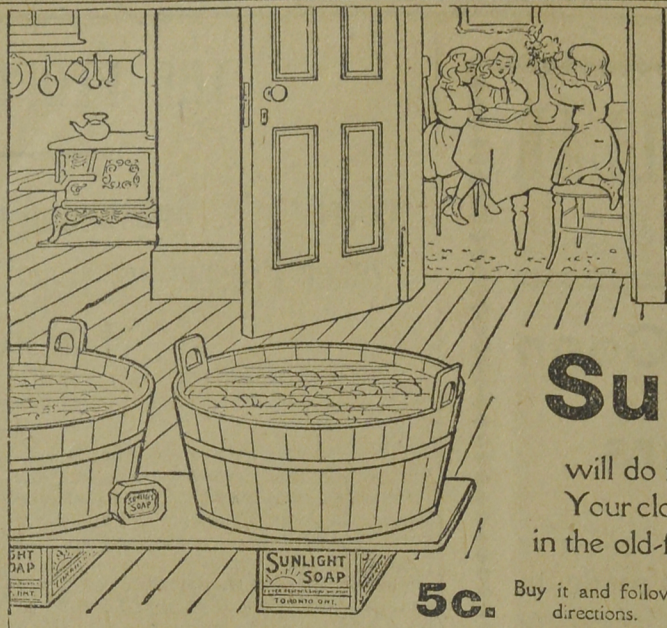
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surer, and the complete clearing away of the debt as its goal. That goal, sir, has been reached. Year by year still, as the debentures became due, the money was forthcoming, until now no debt remains, and with full hearts we can sing a "Te Deum."

Also, we are free to confess that there is only a dollar or two in the treasury. And here, Sir, I should be sadly lacking in my duty as the plain chronicler of the part the women of the church have played in the wiping out of the debt, if I failed to state this truth: that the greater part, almost the whole, indeed of the \$5,000, which composed the Century fund, was solicited and collected by the personal exertion of Mrs. George W. Hodge. She worked for months for the promises, and for more than months in the collections. Willing helpers, in others of the Ladies' Aid, she had at times, but upon her rested the responsibility, and to her and to God, should be the praise. And when the Century fund was exhausted, the Ladies' Aid had only on hand something under \$800, with which to release the last debentures. It was summer, no work was doing to raise the remainder of the necessary \$1,000, and so Mrs. Hodge simply went out and collected it, and there it was. No further words are adequate, such deeds speak for themselves.

And now, Sir, my time limit is ended, and my tale is not complete. I should, perhaps, have tried to tabulate earnings and expenditures, but I heard the protest "Tell me not in mournful numbers," and I refrained with pleasure. But a simple summary must be put down, and here it is:

Raised by Sewing Circle ... \$2,000
Raised by Girls' Society ... 210
Raised by Mite Society ... 4,250
Raised by Entertainments etc ... 5,000
Century Fund ... 5,000

\$16,460

In setting out this statement, Sir, the women of St. Paul's do not wish to be on record as patting themselves

on the back, so to speak. Nothing could have been done without the hearty co-operation of the church people, who at all times have readily and heroically responded to our invitations to give, as well as to our lures to spend. They have our heartfelt thanks.

To our pastor, for his inspiring and encouraging words, and to our trustees for their ready appreciation of our efforts, our gratitude is gladly given.

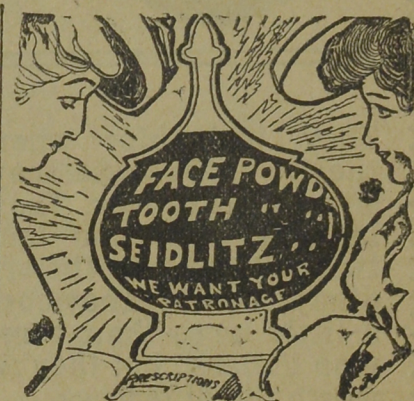
On the social part of the women's work, there has been no time for detail, but at least we are sure that we all know each other better for the past work and playing we have done together, and it is not for me to speak of what is still to be desired in this regard.

Our retrospect is ended, and now we ask a moment's privilege in which to look forward.

The proper housing of our pastor, has been a dream in which we have for some time indulged. A new manse is necessary, for the church's credit, if for no other reason. Indeed all the other reasons, he who runs may read—"they are writ large."

The Ladies' Aid is ready to do its utmost, and if all the church women who could, would join us, and if the trustees and congregation would without loss of time meet to plan ways and means, there is no good reason why another year should not find us able to establish our pastor in a well fitted, comfortable home, as well as a fitting complement to the church to which it belongs. If hands be joined, and the project once started, the money will soon be obtained, and in the meantime there is an object to work for. To rest is often to rust. We would like to press this suggestion upon our people, Sir, with all the force we can command, and we trust that even before the close of this meeting, the initial step may be taken.

I thank you for your patient hearing.



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