

THE DR. SHIELDS SILVER JUBILEE NUMBER

The Gospel Witness

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF EVANGELICAL PRINCIPLES
AND IN DEFENCE OF THE FAITH ONCE FOR ALL DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS.
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"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ."—Romans 1:16.

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ousting the Editor!

THE GOSPEL WITNESS is the Pastor of Jarvis Street members of Jarvis Street Church on Monday evening. Baptist Church in print going around the world by mail. Week by week his sermons bear the Good News to homes and hearts everywhere. Dr. Shields has edited this paper for thirteen years now but this week he is out of his job! No, do not be alarmed: he is not permanently dismissed, but only temporarily suspended, and not for bad behaviour but good! We have just had great celebrations of his twenty-five years of ministry in Jarvis Street Church, and we want to share some of the good things with our readers. So we have ousted him from the Editor's chair for one week, and others have prepared this *Dr. Shields Silver Jubilee Edition*. We are sure our readers will be grateful for his absence! !

We have felt sure readers of THE GOSPEL WITNESS would be interested in all the particulars of the remarkable services of Sunday, and the great family gathering of the

D. T. Shields

THANKS be to GOD FOR YOUR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS' PASTORATE IN JARVIS STREET BAPTIST CHURCH!

As evangelist, you have led a host to **CHRIST**; as preacher, enriched mind heart and spirit; as leader, stood firm for the Faith, shown the way in public morals, built a Bible School reaching multitudes of the young, and founded a Seminary sending forth an increasing army of **pastors and missionaries**.

As editor, you have circulated the **word of grace** around the world; as counsellor, aided many a fellow minister; as pastor, been a friend of all.

We esteem you highly in love for your **work's sake**. God grant many more years of increasing fruitfulness among us.

On behalf of the members and friends of Jarvis Street Baptist Church

Geo. Armstrong
Vice-Chairman of the Board of Deacons

Toronto, May 19, 1935

Facsimile of Illuminated Address presented to Dr. Shields Sunday morning, May 19th, 1935

The enthusiastic desire of the whole church to express its affectionate loyalty to the Pastor who has ministered to them for twenty-five years was extraordinary.

In the preparation for the day, the securing of contributions for the Seminary Fund, and in the exercises of the services of Sunday and Monday, the spirit of absolute unity which obtained throughout the entire church in its interest in the Lord's work, and its loyalty toward the Pastor as His servant, were enthusiastically manifest.

And while the Editor is out of his chair, and we are doing pretty much as we like, we are meeting the requests of scores of readers that have reached the office from this and other lands by including in this number a photograph of Dr. Shields. We fear this will deprive us of the privilege of editing THE WITNESS again—but we have enjoyed our liberty.—W.G.B.

DR. SHIELDS' SILVER JUBILEE

By W. Gordon Brown

The Sunday Morning Service

We surprised our pastor, Dr. Shields. To get all the means was no small task, and to keep state secrets from one who is like "the king's eye", as the ancients would say, was almost as difficult. But when we sprang the third surprise, the Doctor declared ours a house of secrets!

We did this in celebration of Dr. Shields' Silver Jubilee as Pastor of Jarvis St. Baptist Church, and great times we all had.

Sunday morning the Pastor and I entered the pulpit together,—nothing unusual,—and the Doctor offered the invocation and announced the first hymn, "O could I speak the matchless worth". Seeing Rev. Alex. Thompson, of Mount Pleasant Road Baptist Church, in the audience, he asked him to lead in the morning prayer. Then the Junior Choir sang, a tiny girl taking the solo, the older girls the two-part verse, and all the boys and girls joining heartily in their turn.

Greetings, Congratulations, Good Wishes

Now we must take the service out of the Pastor's hands—a very unusual procedure! Rev. Alex. Thompson is this year President of the Union of Regular Baptist Churches of Ontario and Quebec, so he spoke briefly on their behalf and read excerpts from greetings sent by its pastors and churches. (See page 6.)

No sooner had he concluded than we called upon Rev. W. S. Whitcombe, Seminary Instructor in Systematic Theology and in English, to present further greetings. His first group was from heads of some other Evangelical schools. Then he read a few of the warm congratulations to the Seminary's President that had come from its graduates and former students in this and other lands. (See page 9.)

Words From the Ends of the Earth

That was a good point at which to take the offering. We suggested that it be devoted to the Seminary treasury, to which the people agreed. After that we proceeded with congratulations, sent by letter, telegram and cable, from a host of friends of far and near,—Toronto, across Canada and the United States, throughout the British Isles, from Belgium and France, Jerusalem and New Zealand, China and Manchuria. In many ways but with one accord, they spoke of the man who had completed twenty-five years of work in Jarvis St. Church as a preacher of the glorious Good News, defender of the faith and leader against the forces of unbelief. We print parts of the greetings below; read and rejoice.

Deacon George Greenway, for many years associated with the Pastor, then took the platform to read an address, (a *facsimile* appears on the front page) beautifully illuminated by a member of the Church, which, in permanent form, succinctly expressed our heart's feelings toward Dr. Shields. All rose and sang, "Praise God from Whom all blessings flow".

Now, at last, after an hour—in spite of great brevity—it was the Pastor's turn to speak. His reply, made with great feeling, thanking the friends one and all for their gracious words, and appealing for greater devotion to our common Lord, was as follows:

Mr. Brown, Mr. Thomson, Mr. Greenway, Mr. Whitcombe, and Christian friends:

I find it difficult to express what is in my heart this morning. I came to this service intending to preach, knowing

absolutely nothing of the programme that has been carried out thus far. How these brethren got in touch with people in all parts of the world, I do not know—apparently there are a great many people in Jarvis Street who know how to keep a secret.

I am most grateful for the loyalty, first of all, of the members of Jarvis Street Church. Without their splendid cooperation, long patience, and extraordinary endurance, I am sure this record could not have been written.

Naturally, my mind has been going back for twenty-five years. I have thought of a great number of people who have worshipped in this place, who are no longer with us, but who have gone to that happy land of which the children so beautifully sang, a few moments ago. Last evening one of the students brought me a message. He said, speaking of a certain Canadian city: "I met a man a while ago who told me that years ago he was in one of your services"—somewhere, I do not know where it was. He was a Roman Catholic. This student continued: "Somehow you met him, and when you found that he was a Roman Catholic you did not argue with him, but you put your hand on his shoulder and said, 'Remember, there is one Mediator between God and man; the man Jesus Christ.'" And he said: "That quotation of scripture was used of God to lead that man out of the darkness of Rome into the full light and liberty of the gospel, and he is now an earnest Christian worker."

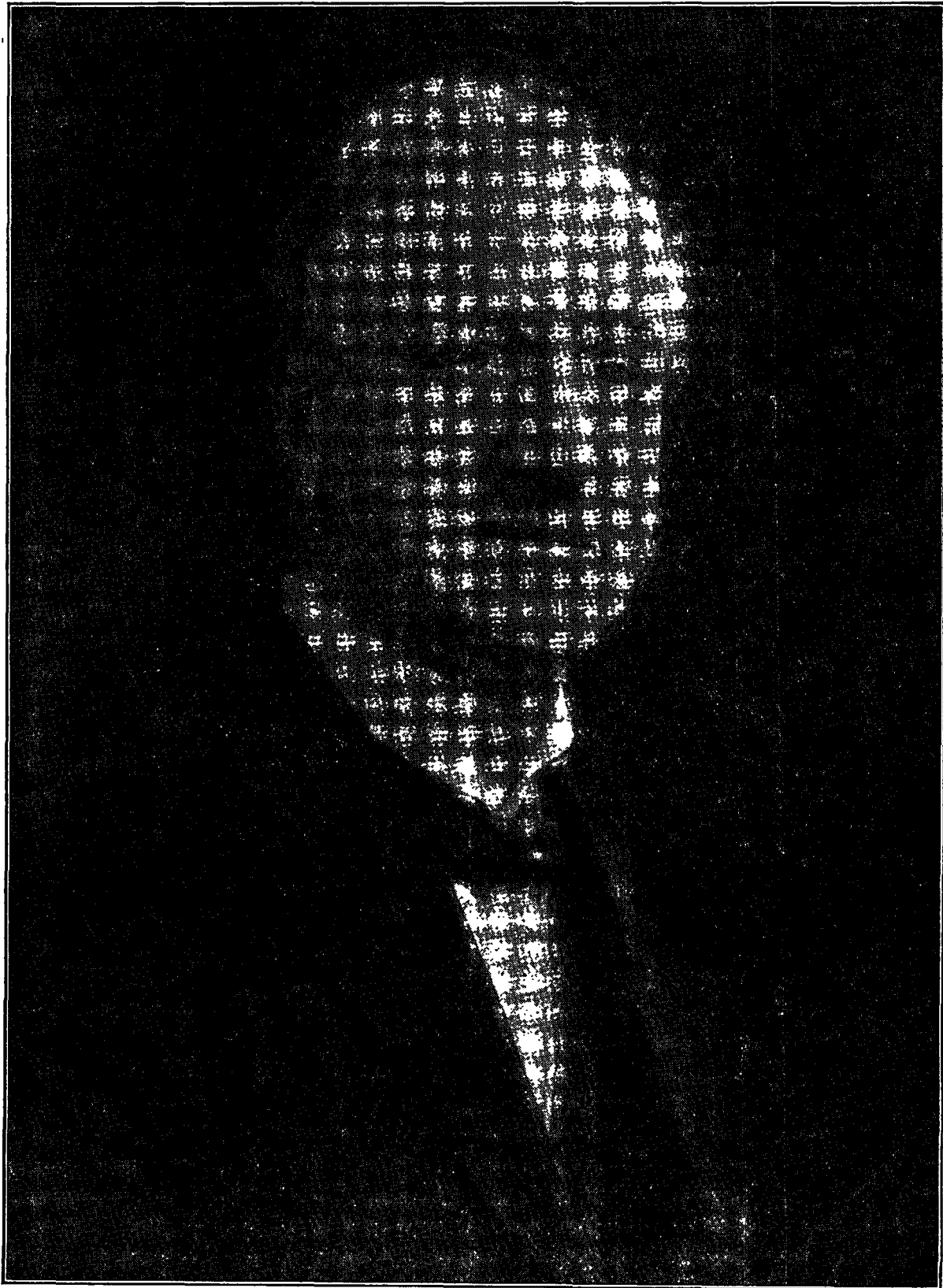
We have seen something of the good hand of God upon us here. I do not know how many have professed conversion. I think in the twenty-five years I have baptized somewhere between two and three thousand people in this baptistry, and many others have professed conversion. I was thinking of it the other day, and wondering where they all are. After all it would be no compliment to us, or to the ministry of this church, if they had all stayed at home. A real ministry has a scattering effect: "They that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word."

I have been greatly heartened by hearing these words from our students. One time, a little while ago, when the depression that is without seemed to get within, I sat down, and, without paper or pencil, just from memory—I suppose I could have enlarged it had I had the record—I counted up the students that I knew of, and then allowed them the smallest possible number of people as a congregation, and discovered that our students alone are addressing every Sunday, morning and evening, far more people than this building, if it were packed to its capacity, could contain. The Seminary is only about seven or eight years old, and it will go on through the years, to come until many hundreds of ministers and missionaries will be preaching the gospel the world over.

I must not detain you this morning. Perhaps I may say a little more this evening. The children are with us, and I am under a kind of pledge to them—although I think they will allow me a little latitude this morning. I try always to conclude the morning service at twelve o'clock, or rather to announce the invitation hymn at twelve o'clock. So do not be nervous, I shall not attempt to preach this morning, although I had a sermon in my mind, and if you had only told me, Brother Brown, I might have had two or three more hours' sleep last night, but I knew nothing of your plans.

I am most grateful for having Brother Greenway representing the Deacons and Church on this platform, because he is one of the comrades in arms. In those days when things were difficult he stood solidly by. The other day I met a gentleman who fifteen years ago, or thereabouts, gave an interview to the paper in which he said in effect that Dr. Shields did not like little children and young people, and young people did not like him. Of course that was only an excuse, in the midst of the fight; but how wonderfully God has answered our critics in giving us what is, so far as I am aware, the largest Sunday School of any denomination in the entire Dominion of Canada. And these little children always please me. We have them here every Sunday morning, this great throng of young people. I am glad they sang that hymn: "We'll never part again". I should like to hear that again to-night. Will you sing it for me?

Many of the names which have been read to you are names which I treasure very highly. Some of them are names of people with whom I have had no very intimate acquaintance,



T. T. SHIELDS,
Pastor of Jarvis Street Baptist Church, Toronto, since May 15th, 1910.

for they have been touched rather through the printed message than a personal one; but I am thankful to God for what He has brought to pass. No one but God could have enabled us to continue unto this day.

Perhaps I had better not, at this late hour, attempt to say more this morning, but if you will come this evening I will try to preach to you. I believe the Lord will give us a message, and a good time. It is significant that on this corner, where so many battles have been fought, battles for the faith once for all delivered to the saints, God should have enabled us to set up, and maintain, an influence which has literally touched, and is touching, even now, every week, the uttermost parts of the earth. There is scarcely a country in the world from which we do not hear, and in from fifty to sixty of them the ministry of this church circulates every week through the printed page.

I did not know that you had been in touch with these people, or that you had had any word from them. A message was read from Rev. Percy Hicks. He has been Editor of *The Christian Herald* for forty years, standing always for the faith. That paper has a circulation of a quarter of a million, two hundred and sixty thousand to be exact; and it reaches every corner of the earth. I doubt not that many of these communications which have come, have come from people whom the printed word has been touching week by week.

Most sincerely, and with all the strength of my heart, I thank you all for your loyalty, for all your kindness, some of you through the entire twenty-five years. Others have been here for a shorter period.

I think perhaps we ought to close now, but let me say this one word: after all, even in this day, there is nothing that interests people, nothing that ministers to human need like the gospel of the grace of God. It is not worn out; it is as sufficient and as mighty as ever, and is still the "power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth". Some of you here this morning have been converted for some time, and have never been baptized. But you ought to have been. Some of you who worship with us regularly are Christians, and you have not joined in the fellowship of the church, and you ought to do so. I have had no opportunity to give you a message this morning, but you have heard the gospel again and again, and, just like that Roman Catholic, perhaps some word of God is in your heart: "The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth and in thy heart: that is the one word of faith which we preach." There is no reason why you should not trust Christ this morning. That would be the best way of celebrating this twenty-five years, for a large number to come to Christ, and for others to seek a fuller consecration to His service.

The Evening Service

It was our privilege at the evening service to sit in the audience. The Senior Choir occupied their usual seats. Then the Junior Choir followed to crowd the space between the choir and the front pews. Indeed, Mr. W. J. Hutchinson, our Choir Leader and Bible School Superintendent, reminded us of the

"old woman who lived in a shoe,

She had so many children she didn't know what to do", the difference being that Mr. Hutchinson did know!

Dr. Shields and Rev. W. S. Whitcombe entered, and the evening worship proceeded about as usual, with hearty congregational singing, of the grand hymns of the Church, reverend reading of the Word of God, and earnest prayer for Divine blessing, till the Pastor returned to the platform after the baptism. Thereupon Deacon Greenway came forward and read the following address:

"Dear Pastor:

Jarvis Street Baptist Church loves its Pastor, and it loves to say so. On your Silver Jubilee in this Church, both our heads and our hearts have reasons for the affection in which we hold you.

Through evil report and good report, you have stood faithfully by the principle of the grace of God in your

preaching and teaching; His Son, the crucified exalted Christ, you have upheld to us as the all-sufficient Saviour.

The greetings from far and near, read at this morning's service, reveal in such a vivid way the tremendous influence of your preaching, both here and through THE GOSPEL WITNESS, that we are fully justified in calling you a teacher of teachers, a preacher of preachers and a pastor of pastors. They showed again that your stand for the Faith has been a bulwark to many who have, at times, grown weary in the fight.

You have shown us the way in Christian work. Our Bible School has grown from small proportions to be the largest school in the land. The crowds of its younger members marching into this auditorium on Sunday mornings bring a thrill to all who witness the sight. What this ministry means, and will mean, in the lives of a multitude of the young, many of whom would be otherwise religiously destitute, is beyond the estimate of even those who know it best.

Toronto Baptist Seminary, which you led in founding eight and a half years ago, has multiplied your power many times. The messages we heard this morning from men and women who trained in the Seminary bear ample witness to that fact. We thank God for those who have gone forth, and for those now in training, because we see in them a generation of ministers of the Evangel in the years to come, should He tarry.

Because of its world-wide possibilities, we are most desirous that the Seminary should continue to grow. Accordingly, in honour of your Silver Jubilee, and to aid this work which lies so near to your heart, we have done what we knew would bring you the greatest possible joy, and created a fund, made up of gifts from the students themselves, from interested individuals, from churches of our Union, but mainly of the self-sacrificing gifts of the departments of our Bible School and members of Jarvis Street Church. The amount is not yet complete, for several other churches are planning to have a part—indeed, we hope this fund may be but the beginning of such a flow of practical good will toward this School of the prophets as will fully meet its needs. But we ask you to accept, for the Seminary, in the hope that it will lighten some of the burden, and as a token in which we hold you as founder and President, this cheque of \$6,105.00, the result to date of the Dr. Shields' Jubilee Seminary Fund."

Following the address, the great audience rose and again sang the Doxology.

"I Heartily Endorse This Cheque!"

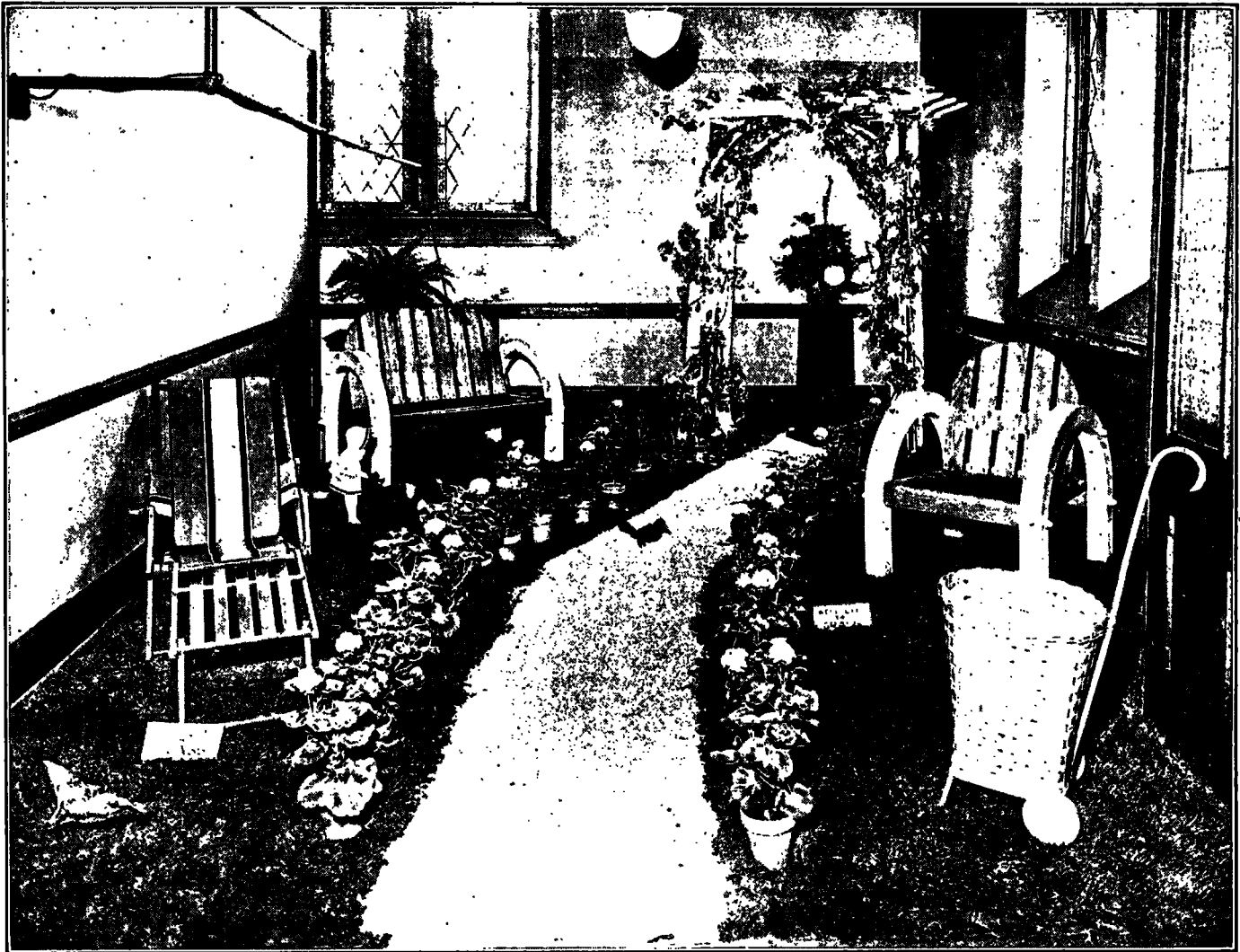
The light on the Doctor's face was a study. Taking the cheque for \$6,105.00 he repeated the words of one who was unaccustomed to banking and when instructed by the teller to endorse a cheque, wrote on the back, "I heartily endorse this cheque!" Dr. Shields endorsed the cheque and returned it to Mr. Greenway, who is Treasurer of the Church also. The Pastor's delight over the contributions toward the Seminary was expressed in the evening sermon, printed in this Jubilee Edition. The text was one of those which, under certain circumstances, simply unrolls, illustrates and applies itself. We are not in the habit of shouting much, but while a few Amens were audible to us, Heaven must have heard a great chorus of others from a church filled with rejoicing people.

It was a great day of thanksgiving to God. The closing hymn was appropriate, "All hail the power of Jesus' name", and how the people sang it!

Another "Surprise Party"—Monday Evening

Monday evening we had another "surprise party". Sunday had seen public affairs, this was a family gathering. The Lecture Hall was filled, galleries, class rooms, and

Choir rendered "The King of Love" as an anthem; there were vocal solos by one of the ladies of the Seminary and by a boy and girl of the Bible School and by Mr. Fred Syme, violin solos and a number by the orchestra. One after another leaders of the deacons, the various departments of the Bible School, the women's societies, the Seminary and the Union gave their congratulations to Dr. Shields, assuring the Pastor and his wife of our loyalty



A miniature garden, with garden furniture, presented to Dr. Shields in connection with the celebration of his Silver Jubilee.

hall-ways. The Senior Choir occupied the gallery to the right (as one looked toward the platform), and the Junior, that to the left. The people crowded all available chairs. Just after we had begun the first hymn, "O God, our help in ages past", Deacon O. L. Raymer ushered Dr. Shields upstairs and into the Hall. He did not know what he had come to; indeed, he thought he was coming to teach the usual Bible lesson to the workers of our great Sunday morning School. His face was a study once more when he realized "what was up". Mrs. Shields came from the back and sat down beside him. We prayed, we read Psalm 20 responsively. Deacon Greenway, assisted by Mr. Hutchinson, presided over the programme of felicitations, presentations and music. The youngsters sang some of their choruses; the

to them, and expressed the hope that God might spare them for many more years of service among us.

"Like a Tree Planted by the Rivers of Water"

Rev. W. W. Fleischer, Pastor of the Fenelon Falls Baptist Church and Instructor in Church History in the Seminary, spoke on behalf of our School of the Prophets. He told of the first impression which Dr. Shields made on him when he, as a boy, first saw him; of how the Lord used a sermon in Jarvis St. to lift the burden on him as a college student; and of what joy he personally found in association with him in the work of the Seminary. His ministry, he said, was that of the blessed man of Psalm 1,—a tree planted by the rivers of water, bearing fruit, with no withering leaves.

Flowers and Gardens

Rev. W. S. Whitcombe read some further greetings that had come that day, announced additions to the Dr. Shields Jubilee Seminary Fund, and then proceeded in a brief, humorous address to pay to the Church Secretary, who is also Treasurer of the Seminary, Miss Violet Stoakley, a glowing tribute for the way in which she had been the moving spirit in the plans to celebrate this Jubilee. Mr. W. J. Hutchinson followed with more sense and non-sense in the same vein! Mrs. W. Gordon Brown thereupon presented Miss Stoakley with a lovely basket of talisman roses and purple iris in appreciation of these and many, many other long and faithful efforts.

It was now my duty and privilege to tell Dr. and Mrs. Shields that, while we had made our big effort yesterday in something that we knew would please the Pastor more than anything else, namely the raising of funds for the pressing needs of the Seminary, we felt also that we must do something a bit personal. We remembered that they loved a garden. Indeed, the Pastor wrote about a year ago in THE GOSPEL WITNESS of some practical spiritual lessons he had learned from his garden. A garden we had right there! Thoughtful minds and skilful hands had prepared it in a room opening off the Lecture Hall. (A picture of the work will be found in this edition, page 5). And so we asked them "to come into the garden!"

The Leading of the Lord

Dr. Shields replied to all we had said by expressing again how much he and Mrs. Shields appreciated our loyalty. He told a little of the unusual chain of circumstances which have since been seen as clearly providential, which led him to Jarvis St. twenty-five years ago. With the garden surprise he was delighted, and so were we. What could we better sing than the Doxology once more? Then the Pastor offered a pastoral prayer, pronounced the benediction, and began another period—may it be a very long one—of service to Jarvis St. Baptist Church and to the Church of God throughout the world.

GREETINGS FROM UNION CHURCHES

Mount Pleasant Road Baptist Church, Toronto

Dear Dr. Shields:

May 16, 1935

On this the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of your assumption of the pastorate of Jarvis Street Baptist Church, the Pastor and Members of the Mount Pleasant Road Baptist Church desire to extend to you and the Church of which you are the overseer, our heartfelt greetings and kindest wishes.

Your pastorate has been one of long duration, and for that reason alone it would be considered unique, but when we remember the various events of importance which have transpired during your period of service, it is most remarkable indeed.

We call to mind your victory in favor of clean-cut consecrated service in your church life; your leadership in the battle against modernism; your inception of Toronto Baptist Seminary; your initiative in bringing the Union of Regular Baptist Churches of Ontario and Quebec into being; your valiant fight against the iniquitous liquor forces; your world-wide ministry through THE GOSPEL WITNESS; and your most fruitful labors in your own Church in its various activities, and in many parts of this great continent and in the British Isles through the spoken word, resulting in the conversion of many souls.

For all these evidences of the Divine favor we give God thanks and pray that you may long be spared to carry on such useful service under the guidance of the Heavenly

Administrator of the Church, and in co-operation with your faithful people.

We again extend to you and to the great Church which you serve our hearty congratulations and kindest wishes. And we would also include Mrs. Shields in these felicitations, trusting that the blessing of God may attend her in the performance of her unobtrusive yet important duties.

To God be the praise for the work which He has done!

Yours on behalf of the Church,

(Signed) Alex. Thomson.

(Signed) William H. Barton.

Runnymede Road Regular Baptist Church, Toronto.

May 15th, 1935

Dear Brethren and Sisters:

On the occasion, of your celebrating on May the Nineteenth, the Twenty-fifth year of the ministry of your Pastor, Dr. T. T. Shields in Jarvis Street Baptist Church; we wish to join in extending to both Pastor and people, our most sincere and hearty congratulations.

We thank God for the stand taken by Dr. Shields and the Jarvis Street Church down through the years, for the Truth. We rejoice with you in the abundant blessing of God which has attended the faithful, efficient, aggressive and effective ministry of the Pastor, Dr. Shields, with the co-operation of his people.

The Jarvis St. Church is to be congratulated on having as pastor, one who exerts so world-wide an influence for the cause of Truth as Dr. Shields does, through pulpit, pen and the Toronto Baptist Seminary of which he is founder. The pastor of Jarvis St. Church is internationally recognized as an outstanding preacher of marked ability and able exponent of the great principles of Evangelical Faith.

May the Lord richly bless this happy Anniversary occasion, to both Pastor and people and spare both for many more years of happy fellowship and fruitful ministry, is our prayer.

With Christian greetings from Runnymede Road Baptist Church, Toronto.

(Signed) P. B. Loney.

(Signed) Frank H. Lumb.

Long Branch, Ont., May 16, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

The Long Branch Baptist Church desires me to convey to you its heartiest greetings upon the occasion of your silver jubilee anniversary at Jarvis Street Baptist Church. We praise God upon every remembrance of you, and the magnificent accomplishment which He has wrought through you. We look to the days of the future when "silver will be nothing accounted of" in the golden years of your increasing spiritual blessing and influence. I. Kings 10:24.

(And all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart.)

(Signed) Bernard Jeffery.

Sawyerille, 16th March, 1935

To the Jarvis St. Baptist Church, Toronto,
and Reverend Dr. T. T. Shields the Pastor:

We congratulate you that it is difficult for us to direct a letter to you separately. We could not think of the pastor apart from the Jarvis St. Church; neither can we think of the church apart from Dr. Shields. Surely such a union has been wrought of God, and we trust shall continue unmarred until our Lord returns.

Upon this Jubilee of your union our hearts are full but our pen is too slow for expression of our thanksgiving to God for His blessing upon your testimony. In these days when Modernism is vaunting itself, it is encouraging for us to observe that God has set His seal of approval upon your aggressive testimony and contention for the faith once for all delivered to the saints. We are but a small country church, and five hundred miles away from the heart of the conflict of the past ten years, but we have been blessed by your ministry, and encouraged by your stand for the truth. May the Lord continue to bless and honour you.

The accomplishments of recent years could scarcely have been realized without you as a church and pastor thoroughly united and ready as an instrument for the Lord's service. During those earlier years He prepared for Himself the

instrument. And now your JUBILEE: TWENTY-FIVE YEARS for which we Praise the Lord.

Our attempt to congratulate you upon your Silver Jubilee somehow resolves itself into a hearty "Praise the Lord". For us to have observed your ministry these years, or to attempt any analysis of it, is to be brought face to face with a work of God. You and your work, your conflicts and your joys, your preaching and your song service, your baptisms, prayer meetings and communion service, your magazine and books, your seminary and student activities, your office and church officers, are all so marvellously articulated in the Master's service that we are impelled to say "This is the Lord's doing and it is marvellous in our eyes". We are therefore happy to congratulate you upon your SILVER JUBILEE.

Happy, because to congratulate you is to acknowledge that God hath wrought through you, and we say, "Praise the Lord".

Happy also to assure you of our sympathy with you in your testimony for the Truth.

This message to the Jarvis St. Baptist Church and its pastor Dr. Shields, is forwarded at the request of the Sawyerville Baptist Church and its pastor, and signed on their behalf.

Yours in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ,
(Signed) Richard E. Jones.
(Signed) Austin S. Bowker.

Runnymede Road Regular Baptist Church, Toronto.

May 16th, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

I wish personally to extend my sincere congratulations on your completing the 25th year of ministry with the Jarvis St. Church.

I recall with pleasure, my first hearing you preach, shortly after you settled in the present pastorate. The conviction I then received respecting the effect of your strong, positive message with its unmistakable application, has been confirmed and we thank God for your uncompromising stand for the principles and practice of the Gospel, and your courageous defence of the "Faith once for all delivered to the saints".

We rejoice in the fact, that the Lord has so richly owned and blessed your ministry, both in this city and world-wide, through pulpit, press, radio and GOSPEL WITNESS.

Many and marked have been the changes of the past 25 years; varied and often trying and discouraging the experiences. We praise God that through it all, you have been sustained, kept in health and strength, and spared to witness the completion of a quarter of a century ministry in Jarvis Street Church.

Personally I would bear testimony to the help, inspiration and encouragement which I have derived from your ministry and personal association.

The problems of the past which we in fellowship of the Union of Regular Baptist Churches, have had to face, have been great and at times grave, those of the future may be equally so, but I trust as a result of past experience and a better understanding of the problems and of each other, we by the Grace of God, may be better able to meet them. We long for the glad day of real spiritual awakening amongst us and greater prosperity and fruitfulness in our churches.

May the Lord continue to grant unto you, health and strength; grace and power, to carry on your great work in Jarvis St. and the wider sphere of the world, is my prayer.

Mrs. Loney joins with me, in good wishes and Christian greetings to both Mrs. Shields and yourself.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) P. B. Loney.

Norland, Ont., May 17th, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields and Brethren of Jarvis St. Baptist Church,
Greetings:

I, among many more, am writing at this time to express Good Wishes and Congratulations to you on having reached your Silver Jubilee in the relationship of pastor and church, The Premier Church in Canada.

She is the Premier Church, I believe, among all denominations because she is a spiritual church, because of the soul saving work that is being carried on, because she is a missionary church. She is the Premier Baptist Church because of her numbers, because of her number of baptisms and because of her defense of the Faith.

I believe that Jarvis St. Baptist Church is the Premier Church because she has the Premier Pastor: a pastor of untiring zeal for the Gospel of the Saviour Who saves "to the uttermost all that come unto God by Him": a pastor with ability to lead because he is willing to be led of the Great Leader of all earth and Heaven: a pastor with ability to lead because of the greatness of his intellect which many willingly follow when they have been able to get even a glimpse of that which he would lead them to.

Please accept these expressions of admiration for Jarvis St. Baptist Church and her Pastor and my Good Wishes, to you, Dr. Shields, and Congratulations in having maintained such a pastorate.

With every Good Wish for the Second Twenty-five Years to begin on May 19th, 1935.

I am Sincerely Yours in Him,
(Signed) Oscar Boomer.

Fenelon Falls, May 10th, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

The Fenelon Falls Baptist Church wish to extend to you our sincere congratulations on this your twenty-fifth anniversary of your pastoral work in Jarvis Street Baptist Church.

Your influence has not been confined to Jarvis Street but we too have been blessed by your outstanding messages received through THE GOSPEL WITNESS and your kindly interest and sympathy expressed in your own undemonstrative manner.

May you long be spared and blessed in the consciousness that you are spending and being spent in the service of the King of kings.

On behalf of the Fenelon Falls Baptist Church,
Sincerely yours, (Signed) Tilly Abbott (C.C.)

Bobcaygeon, Ont., May 17, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

The Bobcaygeon Baptist Church and pastor extend to you and your church greetings and congratulations on your twenty-fifth anniversary. We praise the Lord for the rich and extended ministry which has been given to thousands during the past twenty-five years.

Our prayer is that you and your church may continue to experience many years of rich blessing together and that the ministry of Jarvis St. Baptist Church will continue to be a great and shining light in this dark world of sin.

You no doubt will never know this side of heaven what the ministry of Jarvis St. Church means to the rural churches and their pastors. We cannot express in words what you and your church have meant to us at Bobcaygeon. The fellowship of Jarvis St. Church has encouraged our hearts and strengthened us in the faith. THE GOSPEL WITNESS has also been a real source of inspiration and spiritual food.

(Signed) M. B. Gillion.
(Signed) Mrs. Alymer Sutton.

Vancouver, B.C., 13th May, 1935

Dear Brother:

At the monthly meeting of the Vancouver Regular Baptist Ministerial Association held this morning, a resolution was unanimously passed congratulating you on your Jubilee as Pastor of the Jarvis St. Baptist Church. We join with you and your people in thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father for this fine record of service, and for all the blessings you have received at His hand during these twenty-five years. Our prayer is that there may be a continuance of the happy fellowship enjoyed in the past, and that you may be long spared to minister to the Jarvis St. Church.

On behalf of the Association,
I am, yours sincerely, (Signed) John Bennett.

Stanley Avenue Regular Baptist Church

Dear Brethren: 18 May, 1935

The Board of Deacons on behalf of themselves and the Pastor and Members of Stanley Avenue Regular Baptist Church in Hamilton extend greetings.

On this memorable occasion of the celebration of the twenty-fifth milestone in the pastorate of your church we would ask you to accept our heartiest congratulations and felicitations. We appreciate the struggles through which you have emerged valiantly in the fight against unsound teachings. Your stand for the truth of God's Word has given splendid impetus to others and encouraged them to continue

firmly in the faith. As the premier church and pastor in the Union of Regular Baptists you have been looked up to from all sides for leadership and the influence of your pastor has made itself felt throughout the world.

Our sincere wish and prayer to God are that Dr. Shields may be spared for a further long ministry amongst you and that the richest blessing of the Lord may be upon you so that you may be used more mightily than ever in the service of the King.

Faithfully,
(Signed) Clarence A. Challen.

R.R. No. 8, London, Ontario, May 16th, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

On this occasion of your Twenty-fifth anniversary as Pastor of Jarvis St. Baptist Church, we, as Pastor and members of Briscoe St. Baptist Church at London, desire to extend to you our heartiest Christian greetings, and to rejoice with you at this time.

We do indeed thank our Heavenly Father for sparing you these many years to labour in His vineyard, and praise Him for all the blessings received by countless numbers, through your faithful ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and especially for all you have meant to the Union of Regular Baptist Churches.

We know you have always stood uncompromisingly for the infallible Word of God and for the faith once for all delivered to the saints, and our earnest prayer is that you may long be spared to carry on your great work for the Master.

May God's richest blessing be your portion, and assuring you of our Christian love and esteem, on behalf of the Church, I remain,

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) Bessie Bearfoot.

Baptist Church, Springfield, May, 1935

To Pastor and people of Jarvis St. Baptist Church,

Greetings:

Congratulations on this your Jubilee: May God spare you another 25 years.

To the Pastor we write:

Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers.—III. John 5:5.

To the Church:

We have no greater joy than to hear that the members of Jarvis Street Baptist Church walk in truth.

Yours on behalf of the Springfield Church,

(Signed) H. M. Woolley.

St. Amedee, Que., May 15, 1935

To Dr. T. T. Shields and Jarvis St. Baptist Church:

The members of St. Amedee Regular Baptist Church send congratulations and Christian greetings to you upon having reached the quarter century mark in fellowship together in the Lord, trusting many more years of such fellowship may follow.

On behalf of the St. Amedee Church,

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) Mrs. Herbert Tassé.

St. Paul's Regular Baptist Church, Montreal

Dear Sirs: May 16, 1935

On this, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the ministry of your beloved pastor, we forward you our congratulations, and hearty good wishes to both Dr. Shields and the great Church in your God-given mutual work of preaching the Gospel. We also pledge our prayers for the several fields of usefulness in which your great Church is engaged.

Pastor St. James has been in this mission work at St. Paul's since July, 1909, for which we also are thankful.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) Rev. A. St. James.

Brownsville, Ont., May 15, 1935

Dr. T. T. Shields, Pastor of Jarvis St. Baptist Church, Toronto:

The Pastor and the members of the Brownsville Baptist Church wish to extend their hearty greetings on the occasion of your Silver Jubilee, the twenty-fifth anniversary as the pastor of Jarvis St. Baptist Church, May 19th, 1935.

"He leadeth His own with a gentle hand,

A wonderful Saviour have we!

How precious the blessings that fall from His throne,
Like dew at the close of the day!"

Brownsville Baptist Church.

Gore Baptist Church, May 7th, 1935

Dear Mr. Atkinson:

The Gore Baptist Church, Pastor and Members, wish to send greetings to the Jarvis Street Baptist Church and to congratulate Dr. Shields upon this occasion.

Wishes from the Gore Baptist Church, Pastor and Members.

Yours Sincerely,
(Signed) G. Davis.

Stouffville, Ont., May 17, 1935

Dear Miss Stokley:

At a recent meeting in the Baker Hill and Mt. Albert churches it was moved and unanimously carried that the pastor extend Christian greetings and congratulations to your church and pastor upon the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the pastorate of Rev. Dr. T. T. Shields.

May the Lord continue to bless the Jarvis St. Baptist Church and the entire constituency which he serves for many years to come.

On behalf of and for the above named churches,

(Signed) Rev. W. E. Smalley.

Calvary Baptist Church, Windsor, Ont.

Dear Friends: May 17th, 1935

Calvary Baptist Church, Windsor, extends its congratulations to Jarvis Street Baptist Church on the occasion of the celebration of the twenty-fifth year of the pastorate of Dr. T. T. Shields. We wish to place on record our deep appreciation of the place filled in our Union by both your Pastor and Church.

Assuring you of our prayers that rich blessing will long continue to attend you.

We are,

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) F. S. Kendall.

Hagersville, Ont., May 17th, 1935

To Jarvis St. Baptist Church:

The Members and Officers of Medina Baptist Church congratulate you and your Pastor upon this your twenty-fifth Anniversary. We assure you of our best wishes, and may it please God to spare your Pastor many more years to serve you and the Convention.

May God richly bless you this coming Lord's Day is our prayer. I. Cor. 15:58.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Melchie Henry.

Emmanuel Regular Baptist Church

Dear Friends: Verdun, May 15, 1935

We of Emmanuel Regular Baptist Church, Verdun, join heartily in conveying to you, pastor and people, our sincere greetings and congratulations upon the occasion of your twenty-fifth anniversary.

May God be pleased to spare to so great a church, for many years to come, the ministry of such a faithful man of God.

Yours in Him,
(Signed) R. Hisey.

Galt Regular Baptist Church

May 16th, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

On behalf of the Galt Church, I should like to convey to you, our sincere congratulations on your Twenty-fifth Anniversary. We trust that the Lord will continue to use and bless you.

Yours truly,
(Signed) Duncan MacMaster.

Hillcrest Regular Baptist Church, Toronto

Dear Dr. Shields: May 17th, 1935

The Hillcrest Baptist Church congratulate you on having completed twenty-five years as Pastor of the Jarvis Street Baptist Church. We thank God that He has spared you, and given you grace through all these years to stand true to His

Word. It is our prayer that you may be spared many more years, and that in these years you may receive strength and power to proclaim the glorious gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am, on behalf of the Church,
(Signed) D. Macgregor.

Bethel Baptist Church, Orillia, Ontario

Dear Dr. Shields: May 17th, 1935
The Deacons' Board and Pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Orillia, take the opportunity of expressing our joy and sincerest Christian wishes on the occasion of your Twenty-fifth Anniversary in Jarvis Street Baptist Church.

At the same time, we wish to congratulate the church on retaining you as their Pastor and spiritual guide during these past years, and our fervent prayer is that you may be long spared to minister the Word of Life in your present sphere of labor for Christ our Blessed Lord and Saviour.

In Christian Love,
(Signed) John Byers.



Jarvis Street Baptist Church, Toronto, Ont.

Shenstone Memorial Baptist Church, Brantford

Dear Miss Stoakley: May 16, 1935
The members of Shenstone Baptist Church desire to express to the Pastor and members of Jarvis Street Baptist Church their hearty congratulations on this the 25th anniversary of Dr. Shields' pastorate.

We trust and pray that he may long be spared to continue his great ministry not only to the members of Jarvis St. Church but also to the much larger congregation all over the continent.

We trust your services on Sunday next may prove a rich time of blessing and that the Holy Spirit may be present in

great power to the salvation of many souls.

On behalf of the members of Shenstone Church,
I remain,

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) Geo. Edwards.

Buckingham, Que., May 14, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

At a meeting of the Buckingham Church, held the twelfth of May, it was voted to extend to you our heartiest congratulations on your reaching the twenty-fifth anniversary of your pastorate in the Jarvis St. Baptist Church.

We praise God for your world-wide ministry through the GOSPEL WITNESS and Radio, and for the souls that have been saved through your faithful preaching of the Gospel, at home and abroad.

We pray that you may long be spared to "proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ."

Yours in behalf of the Buckingham Church,
(Signed) W. L. MacLennan.

Montreal, May 14th, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

The deacons, members and the pastor of the Beneficent Regular Baptist Church of Montreal, present to you their best congratulations for the twenty-fifth anniversary of your pastorate in the Jarvis Street Church, Toronto.

You are accomplishing a great work in Toronto, and we trust our Lord may keep you there as the leader for a good many years, in doing such splendid work.

Please, dear Doctor, accept our sincere vow and believe us to be yours loving in the Lord Jesus Christ,
(Signed) Jules Danthony.

Maple Grove Baptist Church, May 13th, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

The Maple Grove Baptist Church desires to convey most hearty greetings to you and Jarvis St. Baptist Church upon this your twenty-fifth anniversary, realizing that God has been pleased to make you a power and influence in the salvation of souls not only in the home church but also throughout the entire Union. May God continue to bless.

(Signed) K. M. Cutler.
(Signed) D. Stephens.

FROM SEMINARY STUDENTS

Dear Dr. Shields: Wheatley, Ont., May 18, 1935

I write you as a graduate of Toronto Baptist Seminary upon your 25th anniversary as pastor of Jarvis Street Baptist Church, to express to you my personal appreciation for the encouragement given during my initiation into the gospel ministry, as well as spiritual assistance received in my own Christian experience, through the medium of your ministry, while a member of Jarvis Street Church.

Possibly you will recall my distressed condition and unsettled state of mind upon my return from Winnipeg following a year's ministry there about three years ago? After a personal talk with you I was encouraged to carry on in the work I had previously felt called of God to do, and "to rise above the cause" of my mental disturbance.

I was truly thankful for your words, and assure you that I shall never forget our quiet talk in the church parlour, for its importance to me was greater than you could realize.

Receive these few words as a token of my esteem and with them a heartfelt wish that the Lord may continue to bless you, for still many years, in a ministry in the church you love so much.

Sincerely yours, (Signed) W. Lempriere.

Dear Doctor Shields: Dunsford, Ont., May 17, 1935

On this your silver jubilee as Pastor of Jarvis Street Baptist Church I wish to join in offering you congratulations. Even a short experience in the ministry is enough to show what endless labour is necessary for such a record as is yours. Your untiring effort will always be an inspiration to me to labour much in the service of Jesus Christ our Lord. I pray that God may spare you for many years yet, and that He may be pleased to use your ministry in blessing thousands of His own people, and in the conversion of many more who know Him not.

Without seeming merely to flatter you, may I tell you how much I admire you as a preacher. I do not have as many opportunities to hear you as I should like, but I am always profited intellectually and spiritually by your sermons and lectures. Although I shall not try to copy you, yet I long to be able to present the Gospel of the Grace of God even as you.

In closing, may I thank you personally for all your kindness towards me. I shall always regard my Seminary training as a personal gift from yourself, knowing what energy, time, and money you have put into it. I cannot thank you enough for such training as I have received. I have used your teaching both in Homiletics and Pastoral Theology many times since taking up the pastorate here. I feel that I have incurred a debt to you that I shall never be able to repay. May I repay you through a life of service that shall exalt the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Again, may I thank you for all your patience, sacrifice and labour of love. I shall always thank God for you, for you have taught me the things of God, and enabled me to see more clearly the wonder of His grace. With kindest personal regards, I am,
Sincerely yours,
(Signed) John B. Cunningham.

Essex, May 16, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

May I add a few sincere words of congratulation to the many others which you will be receiving at this time on your twenty-fifth anniversary as pastor of Jarvis Street Church.

There are, perhaps, no persons who are more able to appreciate the magnitude of your accomplishment than your own students of Toronto Baptist Seminary. The few years which have been ours in the ministry, in times such as these, give us hearts to understand what twenty-five years of ministry such as yours have cost. The cares of an ordinary pastorate seem to be at times almost overwhelming and we appreciate the superhuman strength which has been yours.

I desire at this time, to express my personal and heartfelt thanks for the blessing which your ministry has been to me. I beg to say, simply and without the slightest attempt at flattery, that I have never heard or read the messages of any man of God which have so blessed my soul as yours, unless they be those of Charles H. Spurgeon. Since it was necessary to leave the vicinity of Jarvis St., I am profoundly thankful for the WITNESS which enables me still to sit under your happy ministry. The greatest compliment I have ever had I pass on to you sir, as supremely characteristic of your entire life and labour. As I was about to leave my last pastorate an elderly saint of the Lord said, "Pastor, I have enjoyed the services so much; you have made Christ so real to me." Ever and always do you exalt the Christ and through your ministry a great host are able to say, "I have found Him Whom my soul loveth."

Many of us oft have wondered how our Union would progress without you. But God grant that you may long be spared to your church and to the many other works which are dear to your heart, is the prayer of us all.

So again I extend to you heartiest congratulations, and beg to subscribe myself as you so often term the students of the Seminary, "One of our boys."

Most sincerely yours,
(Signed) J. Fullard.

Guelph, May 16, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

Mrs. Chipchase and myself join in sending you our heartiest congratulations on this occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of your ministry at Jarvis Street.

What a mighty inspiration you have been to many of us who are just starting out in the King's service.

May the Lord richly bless you and spare you for many years yet to come is our prayer.

With Christian greetings,
(Signed) H. H. Chipchase.

Westport, Ont., May 17, 1935

Dr. T. T. Shields:

Upon the occasion of your twenty-fifth anniversary in Jarvis St. Baptist Church, we take great pleasure in offering our heartiest congratulations and good wishes.

Your ministry, your leadership, your uncompromising

stand for the Gospel and your life, have been a source of encouragement and inspiration. Truly we give thanks unto God for every remembrance of you, praying always for you that the peace and grace of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, may be yours in the fullest measure.

We would express our love for you, our appreciation of you, and assert our co-operation, loyalty and support of all for which you stand, and the interests dear to your heart. Words fail, we can only say, "God bless you."

(Signed) Harold G. Hendry.

Toronto, May 7, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

Upon the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of your pastorate of Jarvis Street Baptist Church we desire to convey to you the following sentiments.

You have been a spiritual inspiration to us, in the sterling character of your Christian integrity, in the lion-like courage of your Godly "contending for the faith", in the peerless exposition of the sacred Scriptures, and in your noble and magnanimous espousal of all scriptural, moral, and philanthropic causes.

We earnestly pray and sincerely believe that the blessing of God which has rested upon your life and ministry throughout the past will in increasing might and magnitude bless you with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Yours in fellowship and loyalty in the gospel.

(Signed) R. F. Roblin, Leander Roblin.

Long Branch, May 16, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

To the greatest living preacher—congratulations upon your silver jubilee anniversary at Jarvis Street Baptist Church, from one who is proud to be known as one of your spiritual sons.

Yours very sincerely,
(Signed) Bernard Jeffery.

Westboro, Ont., May 15, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

Greetings in the Name of Him Who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own Blood.

It is with joy that I, as a graduate of The Toronto Baptist Seminary, send these few lines of congratulation on the event of the twenty-fifth anniversary of your noble ministry in Jarvis Street Baptist Church.

On behalf of the saints in Westboro I have been authorized unanimously to send the congratulations of the members of our church and congregation, signifying our heartfelt appreciation of the blessing your ministry, under the hand of God, has brought to us as a church and people. As you complete the twenty-fifth year of your ministry in the Jarvis Street Church, we assure you of our prayerful interest that the blessing of God may continue to rest upon you and Mrs. Shields and your people in your ministry together for the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ.

We remain yours in Gospel Bonds,
(Signed) W. Lorne Hisey.

Timmins, Ont., May 16, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

On this joyful commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of your Jarvis St. pastorate, I wish to join thousands to offer my humble and heartiest greetings.

My soul gives praise to God on behalf of His servant for your ministry of strong spiritual leadership and unwavering contention for the truth.

That in this needy hour and for many years yet He may continue to be magnified through you is our daily prayer.

May the great work in which you have so faithfully laboured and for which you still devotedly and unselfishly expend your life, be blessed by his gracious Omnipotence.

Your grateful student,
(Signed) Wilfrid J. Wellington.

Queensville, Ont., May 16, 1935

Dear Christian Friends:

At this time when you are celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the beginning of Dr. Shields' ministry in your

midst, we as a Church wish to express our most sincere gratitude to God for what He has been pleased to work through you and your pastor. In small country works such as our own, the example which has been set by you and the kindly interest which you have always taken in the smaller works, has meant much in encouraging us in the work of our blessed Lord.

May God continue richly to bless you and your beloved Pastor and may he be granted an ever-increasing fruitfulness in his ministry, is the earnest desire and prayer of the Pastor and members of the Maple Hill Baptist Church. Praying that you may have a fruitful day on the coming Sunday, I am, on behalf of our Church,

Yours in His Service,

(Signed) J. R. Armstrong.

Chatham, Ont., May 14th, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

On behalf of the Chatham Regular Baptist Church, it is my very great privilege to offer our most hearty congratulations to you, and to the Jarvis Street Church, on this the twenty-fifth anniversary of your pastorate, and to extend our heartfelt hope that you may long continue in your present happy, and fruitful fellowship.

It is our prayer that you may be richly blest in your future ministry, as our Heavenly Father is pleased to make you to abound in all your labours for Him, and that He will strengthen and sustain as you continue to be a fearless leader for the truth of the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, as revealed in the Word of God.

Personally, I rejoice greatly in what you have meant to me through the Toronto Baptist Seminary, THE GOSPEL WITNESS, and our fellowship in the Union of Regular Baptist Churches of Ontario and Quebec, for I treasure most fond memories of my all-too-brief stay at the Seminary; while THE GOSPEL WITNESS is an ever-present source of inspiration and blessing, and I am proud to know that I can stand with you in our Union for the cause of the Lord Jesus, Whom you seek so faithfully to proclaim.

With sincerest felicitations, and greetings, I am,

Yours truly,

(Signed) E. C. Wood.

Winnipeg, Man., May 13, 1935

Dear Sir:

This humble note greets you on the occasion of your Silver Jubilee in the Pastorate of Jarvis Street Baptist Church.

It has been a past privilege of mine to worship with your flock, to feed at their table, and enter into their festivities, and to labour in their fields under the inspiration and guidance of your bishopric. From the Lord, through you, with them, I have been spiritually and mentally enriched; for which also I am duly grateful.

Some of your flock will be most grateful for your pastoral worth, and lengthy ministry; others will most highly esteem your prowess as a great preacher and teacher of the Word of God; and some highly favoured ones will greatly appreciate you as Pastor, Teacher, and personal intimate; but I am sure all will agree with me in saying, you are God's man in God's place, doing God's will in God's way.

I join with everyone who knows and appreciates it in praising God for your long and eminently successful ministry. I join with every true child of God in thanking Him for your sacrificial and unstinting devotion to the person of Christ and the needs of His Church. I join most heartily with every Seminary graduate and student thereof in praise to God for your enlightened and courageous leadership which brought about the creation of Toronto Baptist Seminary. And Mrs. Welch joins with me in wishing you long life, all prosperity, and an ever widening sphere of usefulness.

Yours very heartily,

(Signed) Byron and Grace Welch.

Barrie, Ont., May 9, 1935

Dear Mr. Brown:

It is only right that I take the opportunity to thank Dr. T. T. Shields, Toronto Baptist Seminary, and the Union of Regular Baptist Churches for the pastoral training they gave me. All present and past students likewise, if not in fuller measure, will express their gratitude.

The Christian world as well as the Baptist denomination are debtors to Dr. Shields. He will be remembered as a

contender for the faith. To overcome theological error, it must first be discerned, then exposed, then repudiated, then supplanted. This requires a man of perception, of courage, of learning, of spiritual and organizing qualities. These he possesses.

We hope for many years yet to enjoy the benefits of his teaching and the inspiration of his example.

I wish you heartiest success in raising the money; and send you and Mrs. Brown,

Kindest regards,

(Signed) J. H. Garbig.

Timmins, Ont., May 13, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

For over eight years I have been a personal benefactor of your great ministry. Your sermons have, both enriched and inspired my soul, in fact you are the only pastor I have ever had.

I was once told, that to come under your influence would mean my ruination as a minister. I testify to-day that it has been one of the great benedictions of my life.

Your wise counsel given to me as a young minister, both in public and in private, I have learned to value. Your words of encouragement have helped much, and have always been appreciated.

As next Sunday you will be celebrating your Silver Jubilee, I wish to congratulate you. I rejoice with you and your people that God has spared you, with your powers, to celebrate your twenty-five years of ministry in Jarvis Street Church.

May the Lord favour us, and this present generation, with your continued services for many years to come.

Heartiest greetings,

Sincerely,

(Signed) H. C. Slade.

Feversham, Ont., May 13, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

May I, as a graduate of Toronto Baptist Seminary, join in offering sincere congratulations to you upon this, the twenty-fifth anniversary of your ministry in Jarvis St. Baptist Church? I have abundant reason to offer such congratulations with a grateful heart. Brought to the full light largely through reading of the Scripture and through your messages in THE GOSPEL WITNESS ten years ago, fired with enthusiasm early in my Christian life by your articles describing your ideal of a Pastor's College and made to long for the time when such a training centre would be formed, privileged in being baptized and received into fellowship with Jarvis St. Baptist Church some time later, enrolled and trained in the Seminary, molded by your forceful personality and since graduating enjoying your ministry by medium of THE GOSPEL WITNESS there may be a trace of a selfish element in my hope and prayer that your ministry may continue in power on earth for many long years, but I trust in God's providence it may be so.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Kingsley M. Cutler.

Pavilion, N.Y., U.S.A., May 1, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

Congratulations on this your silver jubilee. The ministry which God has been pleased to use to the salvation of many precious souls, and the edification of the saints, was greatly enjoyed by me in my Seminary years and my only regret is that I was not permitted to enjoy more of it. However, THE GOSPEL WITNESS with its weekly visit and message, continues to bring much blessing and instruction. May the Lord continue to bless you richly in His service, and bless us by permitting us to continue to receive of the fruits of these years of consecrated service and study.

Yours in the blessed Saviour's service,

(Signed) Adam Galt.

Sluggett Memorial Regular Baptist Church,

Brentwood Bay, B.C.

Dear Friends:

May 8, 1935

Greetings in the name of our Blessed Lord. I would rejoice to join you in your happy gathering to celebrate the silver anniversary of Dr. Shields as your pastor.

Though separated by thousands of miles as we have been, for the last ten years I have looked upon Dr. Shields as my pastor. What joy I had during my stay in the Seminary!

If I have been any help to the Lord's people, and used in any measure to win the lost in the few years of my ministry, under God I owe it to His servant's shepherd care, wise counsel, faithful preaching, and manly Christian example. And when I think of the briefness of all my actual contacts with the Doctor and their effect, and the fact that the twenty-five years of his ministry have been characterized by such influence, at this time the memory of it must result in great praise to God from multitudes of hearts, for the power of His grace in saving, keeping and empowering the Doctor during these twenty-five strenuous years, and a great petition that he be spared to us for many years should the Lord tarry.

The grace, mercy, and peace of the triune God be your enjoyment, dear Pastor and People.

Yours most cordially,

(Signed) E. V. Apps.

Brantford, Ont., April 28, 1935

Dear Miss Stoakley:

The greatest gain which I have obtained from the training which the Seminary gave me is the ability to analyse a portion of Scripture and a given situation at least to the extent that I can arrive at a fairly correct and definite interpretation and conclusion.

May I respectfully congratulate the pastor on his life as a minister, for he has kept himself clean, generous and without bitterness during these years.

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) W. Delmas Clark.

Galt, Ontario, May 17, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

Of all the people who have been enriched by your ministry, Seminary students feel that their share of the blessing has been the greatest.

Having had the privileges of a student at the Seminary, I take this opportunity of extending to you my heartiest congratulations on this your silver jubilee and best wishes for the continued blessing of God in the future.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Mary Millar.

Nurses' Residence, Victoria Hospital, London, Ont.

Dear Dr. Shields: May 17, 1935

We wish to convey to your our "heartiest congratulations" on this occasion of your silver jubilee anniversary as pastor of Jarvis Street Baptist Church.

While attending the Seminary, and through THE GOSPEL WITNESS, your sermons and lectures have been the source of great inspiration and blessing to us.

We do pray you may enjoy many more years of health and strength so that multitudes may yet benefit as we have done.

May the Lord's richest blessing be your portion in the coming years.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Jean Matthews.

(Signed) Ruth Dallimore.

Selkirk, Man., May 9, 1935

Dear Pastor:

As a student of the Seminary, and former member of your great church, allow me to offer my congratulations to you on this your silver jubilee, as pastor of Jarvis Street Baptist Church. I pray that you may be spared many long years, and that they may all be full of joyous service for the Lord, whose glorious gospel you so mightily preach.

I am, yours sincerely,

(Signed) F. J. Carter.

Cavevalley, Jamaica

Jarwitsem, Toronto May 18, 1935

Congratulations and hearty greetings to Doctor Shields.
(Signed) Rev. John Knight, Missionary.

Cowdenbeath, Scotland

Jarwitsem, Toronto May 18, 1935

Congratulations! Phillipians 4:21: Salute every saint in Christ Jesus, the brethren that are with me salute you.

(Signed) Rev. Thos. McClure.

Toronto, Ontario, May 18, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

For your silver jubilee I intended to write to you what two of these twenty-five years of your ministry and teaching, both in the church and in the seminary, have meant to me; but at this moment, I find that I cannot express either my thoughts or my feelings.

All that I can do is to congratulate you for these twenty-five years and to thank you more especially for the last two years, hoping and praying that the Lord may keep you and use you for many years to come, in the same measure as He has done in the past.

Very sincerely,

(Signed) F. Buhler.

West Hamilton, May 17, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

As a graduate of the Toronto Baptist Seminary, having had three happy years of attending your ministry in the Seminary and in Jarvis Street, I count it a great pleasure to have the opportunity of adding my sincere congratulations and best wishes to you and the members of Jarvis St. Baptist Church on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of your pastorate at Jarvis Street.

My hope for you and the church is that you may have many more happy years of service and fellowship together.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Miss Minnie Lane.

FROM CANADIAN FRIENDS

Mayor's Office, Toronto

May 1st, 1935

My Dear Dr. Shields:

I was quite interested to learn that you will shortly have completed twenty-five years of service as pastor of Jarvis Street Baptist Church, and that it is the intention to celebrate this unique event on May 19th.

It is no mean accomplishment to have served a church such as yours for a quarter of a century, and your name is so interwoven with the fabric of Jarvis Street Baptist Church that to mention either one instantly brings to mind the other.

It must give you a great deal of satisfaction to realize how you have held the confidence and affection of the members and adherents of your long established church, which has exerted such an influence in the religious life of this city.

I am delighted to have the opportunity of joining with your many friends and well-wishers in paying tribute to your long and productive service in administering to the religious needs of our city. May you be long spared to enjoy health and happiness, and to continue in the exalted service of our Lord.

With best wishes and kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) James Simpson, Mayor.

Dovercourt Road Baptist Church, Toronto

May 16th, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

Please accept my hearty congratulations on the occasion of your 25th anniversary as Pastor of the Jarvis Street Baptist Church. May God make this Jubilee a very happy event for both pastor and people.

The strong true gospel testimony of the Jarvis Street Church pulpit is a source of inspiration to many hearts in these difficult days. May God bless you and keep you as a "burning and a shining light" in this city for many years to come.

With warm Christian greetings.

Sincerely,

(Signed) J. W. Boyd.

Dovercourt Road Presbyterian Church, Toronto

May 18th, 1935

Dear Miss Stoakley,

Through you I should like to extend to Dr. Shields, on this auspicious occasion, when he has completed twenty-five years of successful service as minister of Jarvis Street Baptist Church, my very sincere congratulations—and to express the hope that bright and fruitful as the past has been it may

be eclipsed by the glory of the coming days. No one knows any better than he does that his prospects are as bright as the promises of God. May the picture of the ideal priest be faithfully reproduced in him,—“He walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity,” and when eventide comes I know that for him there shall be abundance of light.

If it were possible to write all that is in my heart for him at this time my letter would be longer even than one of his sermons!

With every good wish to minister and members,

Yours in happy service,

(Signed) W. Allan.

The Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec

My Dear Dr. Shields: May 17th, 1935

I recall the fact that it will be twenty-five years to-morrow evening that you took the train for Toronto to preach your initial sermons in Jarvis Street the next day as pastor. I was at the station to meet some friends as you boarded the train. I remember, too, the day you came back to London to occupy your old pulpit. On Monday you and Mr. Gillies drove over to see our friend, Carew. I happened to be driving out to the country to see my parents to tell them something about my plans for the summer in connection with my proposed visit to Europe for the Baptist World Alliance.

What terrific upheavals there have been around the world since those days. But Christ stands and His truth stands. He remains the unchangeable Saviour . . . and the only Saviour! The longer I live, the more do I see the necessity of proclaiming the old, old story of the atoning sacrifice of Christ, as the lost world's only hope. That is the one and only message that will transform men's lives and bring hope to those who have nothing behind them but wasted years and a record of sin and shame. The man who is called of God to proclaim the simple story of God's grace has the biggest and the best job on earth. I would not be willing to exchange places with Britain's Sovereign, if by so doing I should not be allowed to tell out the story of the great compassion of Christ and His power to lift sinners from the depths of degradation to heights of purity and usefulness!

Please let me congratulate you on the marvellous power God has given you as a preacher of the good news. You were mighty twenty-five years ago; but you have kept growing with the flight of time and in spite of the dastardly attempt that has recently been made to blacken your good name, you have gone on your way serenely, and your many friends (and you have many, many more than you think you have) rejoice with you in the sublime manner in which you have ignored the dirt-slinging tactics of those who are evidently your enemies and the enemies of all that is lofty and pure and noble. No public man of strength can take his stand against wrong-doing without making enemies . . . very often bitter and dangerous enemies. Christ had them and so have brave men down the ages had them, so you see you are in good company.

I rejoice with you in the fact that God has preserved your health throughout the years and I offer you my heartiest congratulations on the fact that you seem now to be as young as you were when I met you first—at the ordination of our mutual friend, Dr. Hoyt. I wish for you and Mrs. Shields the very best of God's good blessings and long years of continued usefulness and long years of happiness in the service of Him who has called you into His kingdom.

Cordially yours,

(Signed) A. J. Vining.

Toronto, May 16th, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

I have just learned of your Jubilee celebrations and I want to join your good people in the Jarvis Street Church and many others throughout the British Empire, and in the U.S.A. in praising God for your great ministry, and His evident blessing upon it, during these twenty-five years.

You “have fought a good fight.” You “have kept the faith.”

May your hands be strengthened and may you see greater triumphs in the days to come. With warmest Christian love.

Yours in the gospel,

(Signed) P. W. Philpott.

St. Peter's Anglican Rectory, Toronto

My dear Miss Stoakley: May 17th, 1935

May I, as a neighbour of Jarvis Street Baptist Church, join in the celebration of your Pastor's Jubilee.

I heartily congratulate your Pastor on the conclusion of such a long and fruitful ministry, and I also congratulate the members of your church in having such a Pastor. No wonder it is often spoken of as “Dr. Shields' Church.”

Your Pastor's fearless witness for the truth is known over the whole of Christendom, and how many of God's distressed and perplexed children have taken heart again. We thank God for such a ministry and pray that the future may be even more fruitful than the past.

Very cordially yours,

(Signed) J. H. Barnes.

Toronto, Ont., May 17, 1935

The streams of blessing that have gone forth to the world from Jarvis St. pulpit throughout these long years, reaching even to far distant lands, fill one with profound thanksgiving to God.

(Signed) W. J. H. Brown.

Yorkminster Baptist Church, Toronto

Dear Miss Stoakley: May 9, 1935

I have learned that the Jarvis Street Church is about to recognize the Jubilee of Dr. Shields' ministry.

May I be permitted to add my congratulations on this achievement. Dr. Shields would be the first to insist that there is a long sea mile between his theological position and mine. Yet surely this need not prevent me from appreciating the significance of so long a pastorate during these days of innumerable short ones; nor need it prevent me from sending my good wishes for the years that lie ahead.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) W. A. Cameron.

Coaticook, Que.

Please extend my congratulations to Dr. Shields.

(Signed) Miss Priscilla Chandlers.

Hespeler, Ont.

Dear Dr. Shields: May 16th, 1935

It affords me great pleasure to congratulate you on your Twenty-fifth Anniversary as pastor of Jarvis Street Baptist Church, and while it has not all been a “bed of roses”, as some years ago you must have had some thorns in your garden, if I have sized up the situation correctly, I think you have a pleasant recollection ever since, and the Lord has wonderfully blessed you as an Evangelist and Pastor of Jarvis Street Church. There is no doubt about THE GOSPEL WITNESS having accomplished great things for the Lord, in leading souls to Christ, as well as being very inspiring for God's people, and a splendid help to other pastors.

In regard to your broadcasting on the radio, there is no doubt you will some day meet scores who through your preaching over the air have been led to Christ.

I have been very much interested for many years in Jarvis Street Church, THE GOSPEL WITNESS broadcast, the Seminary, and the attention you have given the denomination, and can assure you that you and your work has been very much appreciated by me, and I have remembered the cause in my prayer daily.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) G. A. Gruetzner.

London, Ont., May 13, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

I take this opportunity of wishing you my heartiest congratulations on your twenty-five years of devoted service to the Baptist Church in Canada. May God spare you to celebrate not only a golden anniversary, but a diamond one.

I beg to remain,

(Signed) W. H. Copeland.

Macleod, Alta., May 13th, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

May I express to you my thanksgiving to the Almighty for the work you have been able to do in Jarvis Street.

As an absent member I esteem it a great privilege to count you as my pastor. My mail from the east comes on

Tuesday and the first thing I open is my GOSPEL WITNESS to see what message you have brought me of the astounding grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

On the 19th I will be with you in spirit and I know the Holy Spirit will be present. Though sundered far by faith we meet around a common mercy seat.

(Signed) Amelia Muir.

Zealandia, Sask., May 13, 1935

Dear Pastor:

The last twenty-five years have been a wonderful record for Dr. Shields and his church. May God bless our Pastor and his flock, and be pleased to use them even more in the future than in the past.

From faraway Jarvis St. members.

(Signed) Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Roberts.

Westbourne-Baptist Church, Calgary, Alta.

Dear Dr. Shields:

May 8th, 1935

In behalf of the Regular Baptists of Alberta, allow me to send congratulations and Christian greetings upon this 25th Anniversary of your pastorate in the Jarvis Street Baptist Church.

May you be spared many more fruitful years in your defence and confirmation of the gospel, is our earnest prayer. (Num. 6:24-26).

I remain,

Yours as steadfast as ever,

(Signed) Morley R. Hall.

Calgary, Alta., May 9, 1935

Dear Sir:

Please accept my greetings on this occasion of your 25 years pastorate of Jarvis Street Baptist Church. May the Lord give you many more years of blessed service for Him. Ever may He give you times of spiritual refreshing and inducement for service for His glory.

In His blessed service.

(Signed) I. Lucas.

Edmonton, Alta., May 4, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

May I tender to you my hearty congratulations as you reach the Silver Jubilee of your ministry at Jarvis Street Church.

You will be inundated with congratulations I do not doubt, and you deserve to be.

Your long, unsullied, and very fruitful service is a joy to all who love good and great men, and good and great work.

You have many distinguished friends, but we of the rank and file, can equal them in our warm appreciation and affectionate regard.

Evangelical Christians, the world over, recognize that you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this.

It was my lot to be in the London Baptist Association during the down grade controversy, and the present crisis is only history repeating itself.

No one, surely, who really knew Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, could doubt for a moment whether he would have stood with Dr. Shields or with the Ontario Convention in the struggle which issued in the formation of the new convention.

Mr. Spurgeon could never be persuaded by the most tempting monetary offers to cross the Atlantic, but had he been still on earth during the conflict through which you had to pass, I feel absolutely sure his voice would have been heard in Jarvis St. Church.

For my own part I ardently wish that, instead of the present confusion, two new bodies might arise—One, containing those who are unwilling to receive a sin-bearing Saviour, and the other composed of such as look for salvation through Him alone who, "tho He knew no sin, was yet made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him"—"With Whose stripes we are healed."

Cain and Abel can hardly be members of the same church! Thank God your strength is not only mental and spiritual, but also physical, and therefore we rejoice that it will take longer to kill you, than it did to bring down the grey hairs of C. H. Spurgeon with sorrow to the grave.

May I say to you, what I often say for you, "God bless

Dr. Shields" and that is a short way of praying for a good many people, and a good many things.

My wife was 79 last month, and I am 79 this month, so I shall not inflict many such lengthy epistles upon you. Please forgive me for saying so little, in so much.

Yours in sincerest respect and regard,

(Signed) James Young.

Vancouver, B.C., 13th May, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields and Members of Jarvis St. Baptist Church:

We greet you in the Lord's name at this time to congratulate you on the attainment of your Silver Jubilee in the present pastorate of Jarvis St. Church. We trust that under the blessing of God and in His good providence you may be spared to labour together for many years with increased grace and fruitfulness.

For you all we give thanks to God, for your fidelity to the truth and effectual ministry of the Holy Spirit amongst you. We are specially grateful to God for Dr. Shields and his outstanding ministry which has placed the true church under an obligation of inestimable indebtedness to God, for calling and fitting you to do more than any other minister of the gospel since the days of Spurgeon.

Your ministry through THE GOSPEL WITNESS as well as the radio has made it unique in that it is world-wide and of permanent value. The Union of Regular Baptist Churches of Ontario and Quebec through your initiative and leadership has become a permanent asset for the propagation of historic Baptist principles in Canada. The Toronto Baptist Seminary is, under God, of your creation and from it will go forth trained men and women, who will carry the gospel to all lands.

These are but a few of the things, which you will be happily reminded of at this time, by the multitude of those who love the truth and give praise to God for your wise, strong and courageous leadership. But to us personally, there shall always be the tender remembrance of your personal friendship, which has bound you to us with chains of love and loyalty in the gospel. Our hearts are with you and the multitude of those who keep holy day in Jarvis St. Church as they assemble or send their greetings, to honour God, because of His abounding goodness in counting you faithful and maintaining you in the ministry of that great church for a quarter of a century.

With our sincere Christian love we remain,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) Rev. and Mrs. W. J. Thomson.

FROM OTHER EVANGELICAL SCHOOLS

The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago

Dear Miss Stoakley:

May 2, 1935

It is a coincidence that as your letter was spread out on my office table, two visitors from Bangor, Ireland, called upon me, who very early in their conversation asked me if I knew Dr. Shields, of Toronto? And when I answered affirmatively, they entered upon a glowing encomium of his "mission", I think they called it, in their home city. Of course, I agreed with them in their estimate of his spiritual power and gifted oratory. About a year ago, I wrote Dr. Shields on another matter, but took occasion to speak of his great sermon on the Holy Spirit, which had previously been published in "The Gospel Witness", and I said to him what I now repeat, that "it is no wonder that such scriptural preaching draws and holds a congregation of true seekers after the truth." His Silver Jubilee, therefore, is not a miracle, except in the sense that God has graciously kept his people loyal to him and to the blessed Word he has proclaimed in all these years. If I am on the earth at his Golden Jubilee, I shall be disappointed if not invited to be present and give an address on the occasion.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) James M. Gray.

The Portage, Akron, Ohio

Dear Miss Stoakley:

May 17th, 1935

Your thoughtful reminder of Dr. Shield's "Silver Jubilee" reached me here—"on the wing".

The Los Angeles Baptist Theological Seminary, through its President, heartily congratulates Dr. Shields on this

praiseworthy occasion. Our Institution was born under the influence of his inspirational leadership and challenging ministry. His valiant and victorious stand for N.T. Christianity against the vagaries of modernism all these years has exerted an inspiring influence upon the men who founded our Seminary. We also want to express, with thousands of others, our genuine appreciation and thanksgiving to God for Dr. Shields' unfailing resourcefulness and commanding ability as Preacher, Teacher and Editor. May our Heavenly Father graciously add many more years of noble usefulness to his great ministry.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) Wm. A. Matthews.

Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, May 7, 1935

My dear Dr. Shields:

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity of expressing to you my sincere congratulations upon the completion of twenty-five years of your great ministry in the Jarvis Street Church.

I rejoice in the souls won to Christ and in the saints confirmed in the "faith once for all delivered" as a result of your clear and courageous testimony.

Yours in Christian service,
(Signed) J. Oliver Buswell, Jr.

Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia

My dear Miss Stoakley:

I congratulate Jarvis Street Baptist Church upon this anniversary occasion. The valiant defense of the faith by Dr. Shields has encouraged Christian people in many communions and in many countries. May the richest blessing of God continue to rest upon him for the upbuilding of Christian people and the salvation of souls!

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) J. Gresham Machen.

The Biblical College and Associated Institutions, Boone, Iowa

May 6, 1935

Dear Brother in Christ:

Reading of your silver jubilee, I take pleasure in writing you words of congratulation.

You have stood like a prince in Israel in the midst of the decline and departure of faith in your own denomination as well as in general. We have followed with most hearty approval your stand for righteousness in your country.

Our people here uphold you in their prayers, mentioning you often by name. I feast upon your sermons and the lectures to your students, and you know from my frequent notes how I make use of them. Last Saturday and on the Lord's Day I gave over the radio what I could of your sermon on John 10: 16. I rejoice in your loyalty to the scriptures. And I am with you in your teaching of the sovereignty of grace. Your audiences are increased by some thousands who hear you in this second-hand way over our station.

Of course you do not know me, and I cannot claim really personal acquaintance, but I went 350 miles to Chicago just to hear you and Brother Norris.

Faithfully yours,
(Signed) J. C. Crawford.

Toronto Bible College

May 2, 1935

Dear Sir:

I am glad to learn that you are planning to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Dr. Shields' pastorate in Jarvis Street Baptist Church.

It is interesting to note that his Silver Jubilee falls in the same year as the King's, and I trust that you will be able to make the occasion worthy of his remarkable ministry.

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) John McNicol.

All Nations' Bible College, London

May 17, 1935

Jarwitssem, Toronto.

Long may your bow abide in strength and the arms of your hands be made strong by the mighty one of Jacob.

(Signed) Rev. Principal H. S. Curr.

LETTERS FROM THE UNITED STATES

First Baptist Church, Buffalo, N.Y.

My Dear Dr. Shields:

May 16, 1935

Heartiest congratulations on having reached your jubilee year as the pastor of the Jarvis Street Baptist Church.

May the blessing of the triune God be more abundant upon you from this anniversary date than it has ever been in the past.

With sincere Christian regards,
A Comrade in Arms,
(Signed) H. G. Hamilton.

Interstate Evangelistic Association, Inc., Rochester, N.Y.

April 27th, 1935

My Dear Dr. Shields:

I have learned that on May the 19th you will celebrate with your faithful people of Jarvis Street Baptist Church, your Silver Jubilee, completing twenty-five years as pastor of Jarvis Street Baptist Church.

Those twenty-five years have been filled with problems, heart-aches, victories, and joys, but the victories and joys have far out-numbered the problems and the heart-aches. You have been stabbed a thousand times; you have been wounded again and again, and I praise God, from the depth of my soul, that you carry the marks of a good soldier of the Lord Jesus Christ.

What an inspiration and encouragement both Jarvis St. Baptist Church and you have been to a host of other ministers and churches in the day of battle. I am helpless to find words to express the joy in my own soul as I make a feeble attempt to send you my personal congratulations with my prayer, in fellowship, for the future; that your ministry will be crowned in the coming years with a great harvest of souls for the Lord. God bless you and Mrs. Shields.

Yours cordially,
(Signed) Harold Strathearn.

Temple Baptist Church, Detroit, Mich.

Dear Dr. Shields:

May 17, 1935

I want most heartily to congratulate you on your twenty-five years' remarkable pastorate of Jarvis Street Church, and your great church as well.

Under your heroic and courageous leadership, you and Jarvis Street Church have accomplished things within the past twenty-five years that have been a great inspiration and encouragement to multitudes of discouraged churches and preachers in the midst of present-day religious conditions.

Your courageous defense of the Faith once delivered to the saints has been an inspiration and blessing throughout the wide world.

Your published sermons and Bible lessons have provided food, strength, encouragement and inspiration to multitudes of preachers, as well as to thousands of laymen, both men and women.

You have been through the fiery testings and have proved yourself pure gold. My love, esteem and admiration for you in your great ministry increase daily.

I join with your multitude of friends and admirers everywhere in earnest prayer that this nineteenth day of May, commemorating your twenty-five years' ministry in Toronto, will be one filled with joy and blessing not only to your own heart and soul but to your great and heroic church. I shall be praying especially that it will be a day of great power and blessing to the multitude who will flock to the Jarvis Street Church to hear you and to enjoy the fellowship with you and your people.

Yours in tenderest Christian bonds,
(Signed) Louis Entzminger.

The Moody Memorial Church, Chicago, Illinois

Dear Dr. Shields:

May 7, 1935

On the occasion of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Dr. T. T. Shields as Pastor of Jarvis Street Baptist Church, I want to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of his great Gospel messages.

While I have only met him once and have never had the privilege of hearing him preach, I have been greatly blessed from time to time reading his sermons in THE WITNESS. On three occasions within the last two years, I was rather

surprised to see that, though so far apart, he and I had preached on exactly the same Scripture on the same Sunday! I do not dare to say that this is a case of "great minds running in the same channel", but I would say that it shows that the Spirit of God impresses certain definite portions of the word on the hearts of the Lord's servants to be given out on special occasions.

May God bless Dr. Shields and continue to use him mightily for the salvation of souls and the building up of saints.

(Signed) H. A. Ironside.

Maximilian Schimpf Insurance, N.Y. City

Dear Dr. Shields: May 10, 1935

I want to join your many friends in extending hearty congratulations on the happy occasion of your completing twenty-five years as Pastor of Jarvis Street Church.

Your fearless, uncompromising, scriptural and effective contention for the truth of our Lord Jesus Christ has been an inspiration to thousands, very largely younger men, also to stand true to the Faith.

You are to be honoured for those who have arrayed themselves against you, but, we can thankfully say, "Fear not; for they that be with us are more than they that be with them."

Best of all, God has shown His favour in the constructive work you have been enabled to do in the great Jarvis Street Church, The Seminary and, last, but not least, the world-wide GOSPEL WITNESS.

We pray earnestly that the past may be but a promise of a more blessed and fruitful work during many coming years. God bless and keep you.

Cordially yours,
(Signed) Max Schimpf.

Philadelphia, Pa., May 10, 1935

Dear Dr. Shields:

Congratulations to you as you celebrate your 25th Anniversary as Pastor of the Jarvis Street Baptist Church!

May "the blessing of the Lord which maketh rich and adds no sorrow" be your portion this day and always, and also the portion of your congregation.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) George A. Palmer.

William L. Pettingill Press, Wilmington, Delaware

May 1, 1935

Greeting:

This jubilee occasion is surely a time of joy and rejoicing for you, and for our beloved Pastor. I say "our Pastor," for such a man as Dr. Shields is a gift, not exclusively to his own local church, but also to the whole Church of God, "to profit withal."

Then, too, I count myself happy in my own sweet fellowship with Jarvis Street Church, which I love in truth, and of which somehow I think of myself, not indeed as a brother-in-law, but rather as a *brother-in-grace*.

Please accept my sincere and hearty congratulations for Pastor and people, and be assured that "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you."

Let brotherly love continue.

Keep looking up!
(Signed) William L. Pettingill.

Temple Baptist Church, Tacoma, Washington, U.S.A.

April 25, 1935

My dear Dr. Shields:

I understand that on May 19th you are to round out your twenty-five years of service in the Jarvis Street Baptist Church. I feel confident that the occasion brings you unbounded joy and blessed memories. I can think of no honour that can come to a man in this world comparable to the honour conferred upon him by the trusts involved in a long, continuous pastorate in one field.

The Temple Baptist Church of Tacoma, Washington, and the pastor join most heartily in extending to you and to your great church felicitation on this occasion.

May we express the earnest hope that God may continue this union between you and your church for many useful years yet to come.

Most cordially yours,
(Signed) R. L. Powell.

Warsaw, Indiana, May 14th, 1935

My Dear Shields:

We have just returned from Texas where we have been since last December. After Mrs. Hoyt's operation last November we went to Galveston, Texas; so she would get away from the cold winter and have a much better chance to recuperate. Am glad to say she is greatly improved.

I have learned that on May 19th you celebrate your twenty-fifth anniversary as pastor at Jarvis St., and I want to extend my heartiest congratulations on your long and conspicuous pastorate in a great church in a great city. Your work at Jarvis St. has been an outstanding piece of work. It has attracted the attention and admiration of Christian people from all points of the compass and they have been encouraged and helped by your courage and fearlessness in the proclamation of the gospel of our Blessed Lord. I rejoice with you in your great work and pray for a continuance of Divine blessing in a richer and fuller measure upon your efforts in the days to come.

It is some few years since we first met at Dresden and Florence. I will not count the number, but my hair was several shades darker then than now. Your hair probably remains the same. In the Dresden and Florence days we were just kids; now we are numbered among the patriarchs. Do you remember in those days in the Western Association how we led the battle against smoking, and in Elgin Association how we did valiant service against oyster suppers, etc.? Those were great days when momentous questions were up for discussion and settlement.

It is a strange co-incident, is it not, that the day you celebrate your twenty-fifth pastoral anniversary, I will be celebrating my natal anniversary, twice as many years as yours plus a few more. The number we will not mention at this time.

I hope you will have a great day on Sunday next, and again I congratulate you on your long and successful pastorate, and pray that you may be spared to carry on in the Lord's work for many many years.

Mrs. H. and Miss King join me in every good wish and blessing.

As ever,
(Signed) J. W. Hoyt.

First Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Brethren:

April 27, 1935

Let me unite my words of congratulation with those of a multitude who will express themselves concerning the twenty-fifth anniversary of your Pastor's service with you.

I say, without hesitation, that you have enjoyed for twenty-five years one of the world's great preachers. I am wishing for you the extension of this pastoral relation for many, many years.

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) W. B. Riley.

First Baptist Church, Waynesboro, Tennessee

Dear Brother Shields:

May 14, 1935

Greetings in the precious name of Him who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."—John 14:6.

We remember with deep joy the messages which you delivered in Paducah, Kentucky, in November, 1933, at the Baptist Tabernacle. We thank the Lord for them and you, and though we do not have the privilege of listening to you in person from your pulpit, the weekly visits of your good paper bring untold blessings to us.

Yours in fellowship of the truth,
(Signed) L. W. Carlin.

Hudson Avenue Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Dear Dr. Shields:

May 8, 1935

We join with the great hosts of your friends in congratulating you in the twenty-fifth year of your pastorate with Jarvis Street Baptist Church. We remember your good work with us in 1930. The foundations you laid still hold. We have been able to go from heights to heights because of your visit to us.

We sincerely pray that God may keep you in His will and that your most fruitful years with Jarvis Street are ahead, and that your ministry will be more and more helpful to Him who gave His all for us.

Done by the order of the Church in Conference, May 8, 1935.

(Signed) W. E. Cook, Moderator.
(Signed) R. L. Downing, Clerk.

First Presbyterian Church, Seattle, Washington

April 25, 1935

Dear Jarvis Street Brethren:

Have just learned that on May 19, 1935, you are to celebrate the twenty-fifth Anniversary of Dr. Shields' pastorate in your great church.

Let me congratulate your church on having such a pastor, and felicitate you and your pastor on the service of twenty-five years. Your great pastor has rendered a marvellous service not only to your church and to your great country, but to North America.

He has been a true advocate of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, a defender of the faith, a staunch expositor of the Scriptures, a forceful and fearless teacher of the Word, a militant Christian, and a fundamental leader. God bless your church and your pastor and spare him to serve you for another twenty-five years.

I shall pray God's richest blessing upon your pastor and your church on the celebration day, May 19th. It would make me very happy to be present and to personally express my love and my congratulations.

Respectfully yours

(Signed) Dr. M. A. Matthews.

First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, Hollywood, Calif.

My Dear Dr. Shields:

May 7, 1935

I have learned indirectly that you celebrate your "Silver Jubilee" in the great Jarvis Street Church on May 19.

May I join with a great host of American preachers in congratulating you on your mighty ministry in Toronto, the effects of which are felt throughout the world.

Many times I feel conscience-stricken in having left my own land, Canada, to give my life and ministry in far-away California. I am finishing fourteen years in Hollywood, but do thank God that men true to the Lord Jesus Christ and His ministry proclaim the truth in love, without fear or favour, in Canada.

That God may continue to bless you and your work is the sincere prayer of your friend and admirer in the Southland.

Affectionately,

(Signed) Stewart P. MacLennan.

Independent Order of Foresters, Los Angeles, Calif.

May 14, 1935

Dear Miss Stoakley:

It is with considerable pleasure and pride that I send my greetings.

Jarvis Street certainly has been wonderfully blessed in the ministrations of Dr. Shields and my observations are that he has made a surprisingly good record against so many obstacles and has brought renown to the Church through his stand for fundamental principles. May he be spared for many years to come to continue the great work at Jarvis Street.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) S. G. Dunkerley.

Trinity Methodist Church, Los Angeles, California

My Dear Brother Shields:

May 15, 1935

It is my great delight on this Silver Jubilee date, marking the 25th milestone of service for you as pastor of Jarvis Street Church, to send you my warmest congratulations, and may the God who has walked so closely with you in the past, continue with you to the end of the journey.

May He wonderfully bless you and yours in your great work.

Yours ever,

(Signed) Bob Shuler.

Church of the Open Door, Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Dr. Shields:

May 14, 1935

We take great pleasure in uniting with your many friends on this occasion of your Silver Jubilee in congratulating you on your successful ministry, for your faithful testimony to

the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, for your stand on the Nature and Person of Christ, and for your testimony concerning His work on the cross and His coming again. May you have many years to continue your work.

Our prayers are for you and your people.

Sincerely in His name,

(Signed) Louis T. Talbot.

GREETINGS FROM GREAT BRITAIN AND EUROPE

Streatham Hill, London, Eng.

Dear Dr. Shields:

April 30th, 1935

Warmest congratulations on the attainment of your Silver Jubilee as pastor Jarvis Street Church.

Long may you be spared to declare the whole counsel of God, and may you have the joy of seeing a multitude of souls won for the Saviour as the reward of your faithful ministry.

With kindest regards,

Yours ever sincerely,

(Signed) (Mrs. Thos.) Lila M. Spurgeon.

London calling!

London, England

With us, you celebrate the Silver Jubilee of George V. King and Emperor, by the grace of God.

With you, we celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Dr. Shields' ministry at Jarvis Street, by the grace of God.

Dr. Shields has much that he might boast of, but we honour and love him,—as my father did for his Christ-exalting ministry.

We remember one motto that he chose for the church—"He that glorieth let him glory in the Lord."

(Signed) Ernest S. Gray.

Highgate Road Baptist Church, London, Eng.

Dear Miss Stoakley:

May 3rd, 1935

I am exceedingly interested to hear of Dr. Shields' completion of twenty-five years as pastor of Jarvis Street Church, and of your Silver Jubilee celebration! I am sure you will be in receipt of a multitude of congratulatory messages, all of them well-deserved, and from hearts the world over in which a genuine and warm affection has been stirred, and is sustained, for your beloved pastor. I would have you include my humble tribute, if you will.

Although it has been my privilege to know your pastor personally for two or three years only—I met him for the first time in 1933—I have read his WITNESS sermons, and indeed, the full content of that weekly visitor, than whom none is more welcome, for a number of years. And I find myself as keenly interested in the Jarvis Street pulpit and its worthy occupant, and in the church and her agencies and activities, as though I were one of you!

You are a privileged company indeed! Often have I wished that we had such a faithful, fearless, lucid, gracious, sympathetic, humble—and what more shall I say by way of description?—expositor of the gospel and of the Scripture generally, in this country as you have in Dr. Shields. And the reason is, that to please God Who hath put him in trust with the gospel, is his first aim throughout. Therefore, like his Lord and like the apostles and martyrs and all the faithful whose names are written in heaven, he is strongly loved by lovers of the Truth, and as strongly hated, it would seem, by errorists and compromisers.

I have recently received a copy of "Other Little Ships". May there be may "ships", laden with cargoes of goodwill and gift for your Captain at this time, which shall steer their course straight for Jarvis Street Harbour!

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) John Wilmot.

Lansdowne Hall, Evangelical Free Church, West Norwood,

Dear Dr. Shields:

London, S.E.27, May 10th, 1935

Warmest Christian greetings and Godspeed to the pastor and to the church on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee. May his bow long abide in strength! Wren's memorial inscription in St. Paul's Cathedral might well be applied to the doctor's ministry:—"Si Monumentum Ejus Requiritur Circumspice ("If you desire a memorial of his work, look round!")

(Signed) Charles Fisher.

Victor Lodge, London, S.W.9

Dear Miss Stoakley: April 29, 1935

My sincere congratulations to Dr. Shields, Canada's brave defender of "the faith". May he long be spared to continue his great and noble ministry. May the "Jubilee" day prove a red letter day in the best interests of the "Regular Baptist Churches" of Canada.

So prays, yours sincerely in the fight for "the faith".
(Signed) A. T. Passmore.

Bruxelles Baptist Church, Bruxelles, Belgium

2nd of May, 1935

Dear and very honoured Friend and Brother:

In the name and on behalf of the brethren and sisters of the Bruxelles Baptist Church and in the name of my dear wife and myself I send you the best wishes that may spring out from our hearts in this the Jubilee day of your wonderful ministry at Jarvis Street.

We all know how you have been the means—in God's hands—of salvation and the deepening of the faith for a great many in Toronto; also we bless God for the marvellous work done through the paper and the seminary in your prosperous church.

Twenty-five years of it! How precious a blessing has been this epoch in your own life and in the life of the dear people whose love for you we understand and—in a sense—we also partake.

Distance exists no longer in our days! But we do know that it never really existed for Christian and believing hearts! So I am sure that you will truly and deeply feel the vast and powerful "tide" of sympathy and brotherly love that will envelop you in these happy days you are living!

Allow us to add to that tide a very, very small "wave"; small, yes, but warm with all the wishes we do form for dear Madam, yourself and the church; these wishes being fervent prayers to our gracious Father in heaven that He may be pleased to pour upon you all His marvellous gifts of grace and love and joy!

We all, here in Bruxelles, pray for you. Brother and friend, dear Dr. Shields, pray for us among the numerous difficulties with which we are fighting here in our great catholic city we bless the Lord for the liberty—and the joy—we have of preaching the Gospel in the open air.

If, as we think, dear Brother Whitcombe is present and hear the reading of this our letter, may he be sure of the pleasant "souvenir" we keep of his own collaboration some months ago when he was present at one of these services. This for him with the love of all the Bruxelles people.

Thanking you again, dear Dr. Shields, for the uninterrupted "link" of THE GOSPEL WITNESS, we renew here to you our heartfelt desire that the blessing of the Lord may rest upon you and yours and give you and the church at Jarvis Street a new experience of His abiding love!

May I ask you to give to dear friends, P. Baumann and family, our Christian souvenir.

Believe us to be, yours very devotedly in Christ,
(Signed) The Bruxelles Church and Lydia A. Gross.

TELEGRAPHIC GREETINGS

Gary, Ind.

May 18, 1935.

Miss Violet Stoakley:

I met your beloved pastor for the first time twelve years ago. Little did we dream then of all that lay before. I am deeply grateful to God for the friendship and fellowship of Doctor Shields during these years. My love for Christ, my loyalty to Him, and my holy enthusiasms for Him are greater because of the inspiration and help of your pastor's life and service. Congratulations upon these twenty-five years of glorious ministry.

R. T. Ketcham,
President General Assn. of Regular Baptist
Churches, U.S.A.

Piedmont, Calif.

May 18, 1935

Rev. T. T. Shields:

They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. What an inheritance then will be

yours among the constellations of heaven throughout eternity. Sincerest congratulations to yourself and Jarvis Street.

(Signed) Jessie Sage Robertson.

Sarnia, Ont.

May 18, 1935

Dr. T. T. Shields:

Anniversary congratulations, wishes for continued success from Courtright and Wilkesport.

(Signed) Jack H. Watt.

Cannington, Ont.

May 19, 1935

Dr. T. T. Shields:

Silver jubilee felicitations to devoted Pastor and loyal church. Romans 1-8.

(Signed) Brackstone.

Belleville, Ont.

May 18, 1935

Dr. T. T. Shields:

Heartiest congratulations on the occasion of your twenty-fifth anniversary as Pastor of Jarvis Street Baptist Church. May the Lord continue richly to bless you and graciously to prosper you is the desire and prayer of the Pastor, members and adherents of the Belleville Regular Baptist Church.

(Signed) J. Scott.

THANK YOU!

This is our "Witness". Beside the sermon, we have allowed Dr. Shields a corner in which to say thank you. And it will be couched in much more dignified and gracious words than ours—but it will be no heartier nor more sincere. With all our hearts we pen our thanks to "Gospel Witness" readers for their interest and cooperation—and help. Gifts received since Sunday bring the receipts for the Dr. Shields Jubilee Seminary Fund to a total of \$6,408.00, and still we want more. We shall not be satisfied until the \$9,000.00 mark is reached. If you have not yet sent your offering, send it at once. If you have helped us, perhaps you can assist still further. But we write now especially to say, Thank you.

The Jubilee Committee.

Hespeler, Ont.

May 18, 1935

Dr. T. T. Shields:

Congratulations and affectionate greetings. Philippians one, three and five.

(Signed) Hespeler Baptist Church.

London, Ont.

May 19, 1935

Dr. T. T. Shields:

The Pastor, deacon and members of Central Baptist Church heartily congratulate you on this Jubilee occasion. Gift for the Seminary as a token of our esteem will follow.

(Signed) James McGinlay.

Wheatley, Ont.

May 18, 1935

Dr. T. T. Shields:

Congratulations to Pastor and church on your twenty-fifth anniversary.

(Signed) W. Lempriere.

Hillsburg, Ont.

May 18, 1935

Rev. T. T. Shields:

Heartiest congratulations. May your ministry continue long and fruitful.

(Signed) Raymond F. Ledrew.

Buffalo, N.Y.

May 18, 1935

Dr. T. T. Shields:

On this your twenty-fifth anniversary as Pastor at Jarvis

Street Baptist Church I thank God for the immeasurable blessings and inspiration that your personal friendship has been to me these years. Your uncompromising loyalty to the Word, your exaltation of the person and work of Christ, and your masterly expositions of the Scriptures, have invigorated my life and ministry. May our Heavenly Father richly bless you and your church and make the years of service that lie ahead to be full of even more glorious triumphs for Him.
(Signed) Dr. J. Palmer Muntz.

Cassadaga, N.Y.

May 19, 1935

Dr. T. T. Shields:
Rejoicing in your long honored ministry. May Spirit continue. Abundance blessing.
(Signed) Wm. J. and Helen P. Jones.

GREETINGS BY CABLE

Camberwell, London, May 20, 1935

Jarwitsem, Toronto.
Prayerful Congratulations Silver Jubilee.
(Signed) Olney.
(William Olney, Metropolitan Tabernacle, London)

London P.O.

Jarwitsem, Toronto.
Congratulations. Esteemed very highly in love. For work's sake; all with me salute thee.
(Signed) Wilmot.
(Rev. John Wilmot, Highgate Road Baptist Church, London)

Cork, Ireland, May 18, 1935

Jarwitsem, Toronto.
Cork Baptists join in Silver Jubilee thanksgiving for Dr. Shields' Christ-exalting ministry, Psalm 138.
(Signed) Frederick Gracey.
(Baptist Pastor of Cork)

London, May 14, 1935

Stoakley, Jarwitsem, Toronto.
Warm congratulations on the occasion of Dr. Shields' Silver Jubilee. The Church and the world needs such stalwarts to-day. First Peter four fourteen.
(Signed) Hicks, Editor, Christian Herald.

London

Jarwitsem, Toronto.
Heartfelt congratulations upon attaining Silver Jubilee from all connected with the Fegan Homes. Third Epistle John two three.
(Signed) Mrs. Fegan.

Paignton, Eng.

Jarwitsem, Toronto.
Our loving congratulations Silver Jubilee.
(Signed) J. Laing Stock.

Edinburgh P.O.

Jarwitsem, Toronto.
Congratulations. Edinburgh remembers gratefully Dr. Shields' ministry.
(Signed) Dr. Gillon.
(Pastor, Bruntsfield Church of Scotland)

Dundee, Scotland

May 17, 1935

Jarwitsem, Toronto.
Heartiest congratulations. Daniel ten eighteen nineteen.
(Signed) Dr. Carter.

Glasgow, Scotland

Jarwitsem, Toronto.
Heartiest congratulations from Tent Hall.
(Signed) Jock Troup.
(Pastor of Tent Hall)

Croydon, England

May 18, 1935

Jarwitsem, Toronto.
Silver Jubilee congratulations wishing home sunshine, sustained pulpit power, warm church love, seminary triumphs, harvests of souls, ever deepening joy.
(Signed) Stockley.
(Dr. T. I. Stockley, former Dean of Toronto Baptist Seminary, now of London)

Shanghai

May 18, 1935

Jarwitsem, Toronto.
Affectionate greetings Kiangshan Chekiang China Second Thessalonians One 11, 12.
(Signed) Marie Barham.
(Jarvis St. missionary-member)

Auckland, New Zealand

May 14, 1935

Jarwitsem, Toronto.
Widow of late Rev. Jos. Kemp and family send heartiest congratulations. One Thessalonians five twenty-eight.
(Signed) Mrs. Kemp.

Jerusalem

Jarwitsem, Toronto.
Congratulations.
(Signed) Rev. H. Oakley,
of Trinity Rd., London, Eng.

Nimes, France

Jarwitsem, Toronto.
One Thessalonians One Two Three.
Evangelical Baptist Association.

Harbin, Manchuria

Jarwitsem, Toronto.
Heartiest greetings, and very best wishes to the Pastor and people of Jarvis Street Baptist Church, on this day of joy.
(Signed) Rev. L. G. Baker.

Leith, Scotland

Jarwitsem, Toronto.
Congratulations and grateful remembrances.
(Signed) Dr. Donald Davidson.
(Minister, South Leith Church of Scotland)

Worthing, England

May 15, 1935

Jarwitsem, Toronto.
Greetings, warm congratulations, good wishes.
(Signed) Mrs. Charles Spurgeon.

THE PASTOR'S THANKS

No pastor could have a more devoted, united and loyal, people than the membership of Jarvis Street Baptist Church; and no Seminary could have a more consecrated, able and loyal, faculty than that of Toronto Baptist Seminary. I knew nothing of any plan to observe the twenty-fifth anniversary of my pastorate in Jarvis Street. How so large a number of people—men as well as women—managed to keep such a secret I cannot imagine. But they did! Even my office staff daringly intercepted my mail, and kept from me every communication that contained any reference to the proposed Silver Jubilee celebrations.

I have no language with which to express my gratitude to God for these twenty-five years' mercies; nor can I adequately express my loving appreciation of the manifest loyalty of Jarvis Street members. Nothing they could have done could have given me such deep and joyous satisfaction as their generous gift to the Seminary Fund. I am grateful alike to those who conceived the plan and to those who executed it; and to all the friends of Jarvis Street Church. The Seminary, and "The Gospel Witness", who contributed to the Seminary Jubilee Fund; and to all the friends, far and near, who have kindly sent expressions of interest and goodwill. The letters advising our friends of the anniversary were sent out absolutely without my knowledge. With all my heart I thank you and pray that God may bless you all.

Thomas T. Shields.

The Jarvis Street Pulpit

"A FRUITFUL BOUGH BY A WELL"

A Sermon by the Pastor, Dr. T. T. Shields

Preached in Jarvis Street Baptist Church, Toronto, Sunday Evening, May 19th, 1935

(Stenographically Reported)

"Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall;

"The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him:

"But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob."—Genesis 49: 22-24.

I should, I think, be less than human, as a man, and basely ungrateful as a minister, if I were not deeply touched by the expressions of kindness and of Christian loyalty which so far have characterized the services of the day. It has been gracious of the people who constitute the membership of this church, and of members and ministers of other churches who share with us in the fellowship of the gospel, so kindly to express their love and loyalty after these twenty-five years.

During the celebrations in connection with the Empire's recognition of the silver jubilee of His Majesty the King, there were certain things that came very clearly to my own mind. The death of King Edward occurred just as I was concluding my ministry in London, and the accession of King George occurred nine days before it was my privilege to assume the pastorate of this church. Ours has been a very small sphere, and yet I have sometimes wondered if the task of the King is much greater than that of the pastor of a large city church. I know it is greater in a thousand ways, but perhaps not very much more difficult.

This crowning expression of your loyal determination to continue to co-operate in the work of the Lord which has its centre in this place touches me deeply. I know something of the financial resources of this church, and I know that, following so closely upon the conclusion of our church year, when we always make a special effort to meet all our obligations, this magnificent sum of six thousand, one hundred, and five dollars for the Seminary Fund must be representative of very real sacrifice on the part of a great many people. I was asked a little while ago by a friend who is not a member of this church, but always interested, if it was true that, in order to maintain our work and to meet our obligations, it had been necessary for us heavily to mortgage the church property. I said, "Whatever put that into your mind?" "It is pretty freely circulated, that that is how Jarvis Street Church has managed to finance its affairs during the depression." I need not tell you there is not a word of truth in the report. Jarvis Street has closed its books every year since nineteen hundred and fourteen, without a single exception, without a deficit. We had a deficit in the Seminary Fund, but it is not often that a single church assays the task of maintaining an educational institution. The Seminary has been maintained, very largely, by Jarvis Street Church, although we have had some magnificent gifts from friends outside from time to time.

I am deeply grateful for this contribution to our Seminary Fund, which, I admit, has been an occasion of anxiety to me. This does not quite discharge our obliga-

tion on Seminary account, but I am sure that it will be an inspiration to the friends of our work, and in later time we shall hear from others. It is not often that one who has received a gift can be bold enough to ask for a larger one, but as it is for the maintenance of this most worthy cause, Toronto Baptist Seminary, I am sure you will allow me to say that I hope you will all pray that the Lord will multiply these gifts until at last we may be in such a position as to be able to carry our work without anxiety. We have no endowment fund, and the Seminary is maintained solely by the gifts of God's people. The fee for students is a nominal one, designed to serve only as a guarantee of good faith on their part; hence the Seminary is a religious *Oliver Twist*, and is always asking for more. But I am thankful from the bottom of my heart. I thank all the friends who have made this splendid gift possible.

This morning there was no time for a sermon, but I want to speak to you this evening, if you will bear with me, from a text which I think is illustrative of our experience as a church, although of course, it finds its chief exemplification in Joseph's great Antitype, and only through Him in the experience of the Christian church as His body.

When Jacob pronounced a blessing upon his sons, he said of Joseph, "Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall: the archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him: but his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel)." The last clause is a direct reference to a Greater than Joseph, of Whom the words were, and are, profoundly true. Being true of our Lord Jesus, they are true also of His church, to the extent in which she is conformed to His will, for He often promised the church that His experiences should be theirs: "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you"; "If they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also"; "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." As members of the body of Jesus Christ, members of the church composed of people who have been made new creatures in Christ, and in whose hearts, by faith, He dwelleth, I think we may lay claim to this implied promise, and say that this word should be true of every Christian church, and that, in some measure—a very small measure, we admit, it is true of us. We mourn that we have so imperfectly followed after Him, and that our united ministry has not been more fruitful; yet we can give God thanks that in principle we have seen it somewhat exemplified in our own experience.

I.

Here is A FIGURE WHICH I THINK WE MAY APPROPRIATE TO OURSELVES AS A CHURCH. We ought to be as Joseph was, "a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall".

The conception given us in the New Testament, I fear, differs at many points from that which is commonly entertained in our day. Men speak of churches as though they could be measured by carnal standards, as though a Christian church might be compared with merely human and temporal organizations. One church is very influential because it has in its membership many people who are highly placed in the social scale, and is therefore noted for its social influence. Another is remarkable because it has in its membership certain men of great wealth, and it is said that it is a wealthy church. Some other church perhaps may be chiefly remarkable for the aesthetic character of its services, its music, its ritual—all the things that minister to delightful intellectual refinement. If people effect a superior air, and desire to be classed with the intellectually superior, they let it be known that they are in the habit of attending a certain church. Perhaps they do, and perhaps some of them enjoy a very comfortable sleep while in attendance!

Sometimes a church is noted for its pulpit. Its minister has a reputation in some instance for great scholarship. He has a large number of degrees. Nobody knows what they represent, perhaps, but that does not matter. He has a scholastic reputation, and because of that, whatever he says, though it may be the veriest nonsense, is regarded as the word of an oracle. Another minister strikes a popular vein, and he is said to be remarkably eloquent, and most thrillingly entertaining in his deliverances. His church consequently affords an interesting Sunday evening diversion.

What leagues of distance separate these carnal estimates of what a church is, or ought to be, from that of New Testament standards!

The figure of our text is often employed to represent the church of God. Our Lord Himself said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit." He speaks of the plants which His heavenly Father hath planted, and says that all others "shall be rooted out". The general tenor of His teaching, and that of the epistles that follow, and of the apostolic era recorded in the Acts of the Apostles which they illustrate, as well as the teaching of the prophetic scriptures of the Old Testament, is to the effect that the church of the Lord Jesus is not an ornament, it does not spread itself like a green bay tree, it is not remarkable for its foliage; but is remarkable for its fruit. It is like "a fruitful bough". A church ought to bear fruit; it ought to have a pronounced moral effect upon the lives of men; it ought to multiply itself, making others, like itself, to become new creatures in Christ Jesus.

We do not—we cannot—ignore the material aspect of a church's life, or of the work of the Lord in general—as testified by the cheque for over six thousand dollars which Mr. Greenway just handed me for the Seminary. All these material concerns have value. But if this church were made up of men and women of large means, millionaires and multimillionaires, if we were able to meet every material necessity without anxiety, and without labour, and had vast amounts in our exchequer, but

yet were without spiritual fruit, unable to show, by God's good grace, that this church has been, and still is, the workshop of the Holy Ghost, where the creative energy of God Himself is still exercised, in remaking men into His own image and likeness—if that were lacking, and if it should ever be lacking in the life of this church, then the only good reason for its continued existence will have departed: "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit."

I am thankful to God that that has been true, in some measure, of our united ministry in this place. How the Lord has blessed it, I cannot say. I am full of disappointment in the accomplishments of Jarvis Street Church. I have had dreams of higher and better things. And yet I am thankful that it can be said—and those who know this church, and know the lives of its members, and what marvellous miracles of grace, unmistakably the work of God, have been accomplished in the lives of multitudes of people—whether people like us or not, they must in candour admit that God has been in the midst of us, and that this church has been—and praise God still is in large measure—"a fruitful bough". We have not many leaves perhaps, not much to write about in the paper, but we are still bearing fruit to the honour and glory of God.

That has been so in respect to the conversions which have taken place here, hundreds of them. Literally thousands during the course of these twenty-five years have professed that in this place God the Holy Ghost has touched them, and made them to become new creatures.

But that is not the only fruit we bear. Important as it is that people should be saved, it is almost equally important that they should be built up in their most holy faith. How many people who were once earnest Christians, people about whose conversion, so far as one can judge, there could be no doubt, we have seen starved until they had become as lean as Pharaoh's kine, utterly useless to themselves, or to the kingdom of God, withered branches bearing no fruit! It is one of the joys of an extended ministry that one stays long enough to see some people grow up. There are young men and women in this church this evening whom I knew first as little children. They have grown up in our midst, they have come to know the Lord, and have become stalwarts of the faith, serving the Lord with full purpose of heart. I have seen others of maturer years who were found of the Lord in this place. I have noted their testimony. Oh, how elementary it was in the beginning! How little they knew of the gospel! They knew that Jesus died for sinners, and that they were saved through faith in Him. But I have watched you—I have not told you—I have watched you, listened to your testimonies and your prayers; and have known from them where you had been brousing. I have seen something of what you have learned from the Word of God. It has been a joy very often to hear men in their prayers give such unmistakable evidence of the fact that they have been grasped by the great truth that we are saved by the sovereign grace of God, and not by our own efforts.

We do not know anything, as Christians, until we clearly apprehend that fact. But when that great truth dawns upon a man, and he comes to see that he is everlastingly indebted to redeeming grace, then the root of the matter is manifestly in him; and he will grow—mark this—he will grow, not "into" grace, but "grow in

grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ". I rejoice in what I have seen of the fruit of this fruitful bough in these twenty-five years. I have seen very many "rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving".

"Joseph is a fruitful bough". But *there was one peculiarity about this bough*, that it was even like a "fruitful bough by a well". Its roots went right down into the soil, and when rain and dew for a time ceased to fall, and when verdure vanished, and there was no longer any fruit on the trees, yonder was one tree that still retained its verdure and its fruitfulness. What made the difference?

So was it with Joseph. When there was a famine in all lands, and all the people went down to Egypt to buy corn, they said everywhere, "There is famine in other quarters, but there is corn in Egypt." And it was because Joseph was "a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well". The roots were watered, and the branches were nourished, and it continued to bear fruit when other trees about were withered in the prevailing drought. I desire to speak with care. I do not want to say a word that would sound as though we affected, or even assumed, any sort of superiority; but it is a fact that God, in the midst of barrenness, when there is a famine of hearing the word of the Lord, and when newspapers, magazines, and books, in the aggregate by multiplied millions are telling people that the gospel is outworn, that this day and age will not listen to a gospel of blood, or to any message of supernaturalism—in the midst of barrenness I dare to say that God, in His providence, has made this church like "a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well".

My brethren, you do not need any other gospel, do you? You do not want any amendment to the gospel of the cross, do you? You will suffer no diminution from its glory and authority, nor do you ask for any addition to the completeness of its revelation. We believe in the absolute finality of the gospel of Jesus Christ; and, so far as I am concerned, if God should spare us for other years, and when I am gone should spare this church to complete another century if He should tarry, and if He should send to this pulpit a succession of Bible-ministers to preach the Word of God, I will venture to say that up to the last syllable of recorded time, this weary world will need no other gospel than that gospel which we have preached. We will suffer no infringement upon its copyright. He Who is our Saviour is the Author and Finisher of our faith, the Alpha and Omega, the Sum-total of God's disclosure of Himself to a sinful world. We need nothing else. We will have nothing else. And may God grant that the day may never come when any other note should be sounded from this pulpit than that which makes the centre of its theme the gospel of Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

I know what this church would have been if it had had no gospel. It would have been like other downtown churches, some of them vainly struggling by one sensation after another, to get people to go to church. I do not know why they should go. I would not cross the street to hear a Modernist preach. I would not waste my time sitting at the feet of a man who does not put the crown of Deity upon the brow of Jesus Christ, and who does not believe with all his heart, and preach with

all his might, the sufficiency of the salvation effected by the death and resurrection of the Lord of glory. It is simple, I know, but it is adequate, as adequate as the sun to light this material world. If it be so that God has helped us thus far, it is because this church has been "a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well".

What is the well? You heard it defined to-night as Mr. Whitcombe read to you. And what is true of a man is true of a church. The man who refuses to "walk in the counsel of the ungodly", who says, "I will have none of your doctrine of doubt"; the man who standeth not "in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night"—what shall happen to him? "He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth its fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

I marvel that this church has been maintained financially, but I believe that the principle of the text is true even financially, for it was true in a material sense so far as Joseph was concerned. Egypt had corn when everybody else was starving. I do not mean to say that we have much money in this church: we have not. This church has been maintained because, poor as we are, we have honoured Him Whose is the wealth of the world—and He has provided for us. This last year of the depression, the hardest year we have ever known, the church had a larger income than in former times when there were millionaires in its membership. Never in those old days did this church raise so much money as it did this last year. It closed its books with a balance in all funds, with the exception of the Seminary Fund, which is an extra-church matter. If you hear anybody speak of our mortgaging the church to carry on, tell them it is not true, but that Jarvis Street is as "a fruitful bough by a well". God, in His sovereign mercy, has provided for our needs.

"Even as a fruitful bough by a well, whose branches run over the wall." I wonder did we any of us, when we were boys, see a fruit-tree like that? Did you? A tree bowed down with fruit, and some of the branches over the wall—outside the fence. Even the women remember it—I can see by your smile that you have looked covetously at just such a bough. It hung over the wall, almost as though inviting you to help yourself to its fruit.

There are some churches that are like a little garden walled around. It seems to me there is a hymn about a "little garden walled around". That is how they do in England, build a wall around a garden. I rather like it—providing I am on the inside! I like seclusion and privacy. It is lovely to have a high wall around the garden so that nobody can see over it, and you can have everything to yourself. But I like the Canadian practice better, of leaving the garden open. Then if my neighbour has a better garden than mine, I can enjoy his; and if mine is better, he can enjoy mine.

The walled garden is a false conception of the church, save of course as it means that we are protected, garrisoned around by the Lord and His angels. But if we have the wall, let us have a tree whose branches will go over the wall. I rejoice that that is true of this church. We heard messages this morning, first from our students—but before I say anything about them, let me

tell you this. Last Fall I preached in Glasgow, and one evening a pew was full from end to end of Jarvis Street members—I felt as though I were in Toronto. But they had gone home to Scotland, and were busy about the Lord's work. I supposed I should get away from Jarvis Street in Edinburgh, but Jarvis Street members were at every meeting, without exception. At Bruntsfield Church, at the great South Leith Church of Scotland, and in the great Assembly Hall—Jarvis Street members were present. Many of them had been converted during these twenty-five years. Among them was one of our students, now a minister just outside of Edinburgh, doing splendid work, Brother Thomas McClure.

The same was true of Ireland. We have many north of Ireland members in this congregation to-night, but due to the depression many of our members have gone back to the Old Land. But during my whole series of services there was not a meeting in which Jarvis Street members were not present; and in that land they are busy for the Master.

I met a group of men in a London meeting, who had come down from Birmingham. Some years ago, when they first came to Toronto, while riding on the back of a street-car, they were met by one of our workers. They were brought to church, were converted; and two of them went back within six months. I learned they are a great spiritual force in their church at Birmingham; they are always about the Master's business. They were in Toronto only six months ten years ago, but were saved in this place, and went home on fire for the Lord; and are bearing fruit there—one of the branches that have run over the wall. And we have just such members everywhere.

I have not revised the figures, because I had not thought of any jubilee recognition; but I reviewed something of my pastorage in THE GOSPEL WITNESS two years ago. As of that date it had been my privilege to baptize two thousand, two hundred, and ninety; to receive by experience, seven hundred and twenty-nine; and by letter, one thousand, three hundred, and ninety-eight; four thousand, four hundred and seventeen for the twenty-three years. During that same period, in actual funds, there passed through the treasury of this church, one million, two hundred and sixteen thousand, one hundred and ninety-four dollars.

Someone will say, "If that be so, where are all the members now?" Many of them are outside the wall, branches running over the wall. They have been scattered to the ends of the earth. May I tell you that from the membership of this church there have gone forth in the last twelve years more ministers and missionaries than in the rest of its more than one hundred years of history. Where are they? In China, in Africa, South America, Jerusalem, Jamaica, in the Provinces of Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia; and in the United States. To many parts of the United States and Canada they have gone forth from this place preaching the gospel.

And not as lay-members only. One day not long ago I felt depressed because the work was not as fruitful as I should like to see it on the branches inside the wall, and, if you will allow me the metaphor, I climbed the ladder to see the branches on the outside of the wall. Without paper and pencil, but from memory only, I recalled the names of students who have gone forth

from the Seminary; and while they perhaps serve small churches, they preach every Sunday to far more people than could get into this building were it crowded to its utmost capacity. This church has multiplied itself. It has branches—fruitful branches—over the wall, bringing forth fruit to the praise and glory of God's name. For this we give God thanks; may it ever be so! There must be something wrong with the spiritual life of young men if, on hearing the gospel preached, it does not create within them a desire to preach or teach.

Some churches produce broilers. You know how the producers put chicks into pens, where they cannot move, and feed them all they can possibly eat; then when they have grown, and put on flesh without developing any muscle, they sell them for "broilers". There are a great many Christian broilers—but since they cannot be eaten they are good for nothing. There are some orthodox people who do nothing but eat. They sit in a pew and receive the Word, and say, "Hallelujah!" But they do nothing. It is the duty of every Christian, receiving the Word of God, and having Christ in the heart, to bear witness to that great fact.

If the Lord has blessed us these years, it is because He has raised up a great company of people to be preachers of the gospel—I do not mean in an official sense, but always witnessing for Christ. Thank God for the branches over the wall!

II.

Here we have. A TARGET FOR THE ARCHERS: "The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him." That is what Jacob said of Joseph, and it was true of the Greater than Joseph. How the archers grieved Him! They were always lying in wait to catch something out of His mouth. He was surrounded with people who endeavoured to discount or misrepresent everything He did. That was His lot. And not only that, they shot at Him. They hated Him.

Some of you Jarvis Street people think that your lot is a peculiar one. I wonder if I may say, without offence, and without being egotistical, that I have often thanked God for the opportunity of setting you an example. The archers have drawn a bow at me on more than one occasion, as they have at you; and at this church. You say, "Why is it so?" You need not ask that question. "They hated me without a cause." If you are true to Christ, if you stand by His Word, if you refuse to have any fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather by your testimony, reprove them, the archers will sorely grieve you. It is no compliment to a minister—perhaps you will wonder at this—when he is toasted by the Rotary Club, by the Lions, the Tigers, and all the rest of it; and when, on his appearance, they sing, "For he's a jolly good fellow." Before sinful men he must bear witness to his Lord, and when he does he will pass through Joseph's experience. As members of this church you have had it. Scores in the course of the last few years—I think I might almost say hundreds—have told me of the difficulties they have at their places of work. Every conceivable means are employed to irritate, to attack, persecute them,—the archers take aim! Do not be alarmed at that: it is the common lot of an avowed Christian. This vile world was never a friend to grace to help us on to God, it is not now—it never will be. In the

measure in which you conform to the will of God, you must, in relation to the world, be a non-conformist.

"The archers have sorely grieved him." To be the object of his brethren's displeasure was no pleasure to Joseph; it was no pleasure to our Lord; it is no pleasure to us. I think I am one of the most agreeable men in the world! I do not see why anybody could not live with me! I do not know why anybody should find it difficult to get along with me! Abide by the Book; do the best you can, as the Lord helps you, to obey the precepts of the Book; and I do not see why two people who believe the same thing should not keep step together. I have no pleasure in knowing that somebody is always taking aim at me. A lady said to me once, "I think you would rather have people say nasty things, than nice things, about you." I would not. There is no man who likes to have nice things said about him more than I. Together we endeavour to heed the admonition, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you live peaceably with all men." But though we cannot be at peace with those who deny God's Word, we need not worry, though we are grieved. We are grieved that people should take aim at us.

"And shot at him." Did you ever have an arrow pierce you? It is not comfortable to be in the front-line trenches. I remember when I first felt the fire of the enemy. I was Pastor of the most respectable church in the world. There was nothing better than Jarvis Street — and I was as respectable as any of them. I shall never forget when I first saw my name in the paper as an object of abusive attack. I could not sleep. I said to my wife, "This is terrible, to be denounced like this."

A number of years ago I read an account of a debate in Parliament when Lord Balfour, then Mr. Arthur J. Balfour, was Prime Minister. An honourable member asked a question. Quoting from a newspaper, he wanted to know what the Prime Minister had to say in answer. Mr. Balfour said he did not know what the honourable gentleman was talking about. When the member quoted the newspaper, Mr. Balfour replied that he seldom read the papers. There are papers in this city I never read. Some people have sent me papers—I throw them in the wastepaper basket. Let the devil's archers shoot if they want to. There is a shield of faith that is able to quench all the fiery darts of the devil. Nothing can harm you if ye be followers of that which is good.

"And hated him." That was said of Joseph. Many of you are nice people. I love you all. I do not see why Jarvis Street members should be hated. I think we have some of the noblest Christian people in Jarvis Street I ever met in my life. I do not see why you should be hated, except that you belong to Jarvis Street. That is enough! You laugh at that, but let me solemnly tell you that in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, it is the highest compliment a Christian church can be paid when its very name becomes an object of hatred with evildoers. Hated? Yes! I do not expect people who drink beer to like me. I love them, but I hate beer! and I abhor the government that is responsible for it and the other politicians who initiated it. It is ours to bear witness for God before men. Let the workers of iniquity, Premier Hepburn included, shoot at us if they want to. We do not enjoy

it. I would rather have bouquets than bricks any time; but if bouquets are reserved for those who condone error, and acquiesce in evil-doing, I would rather be stoned, like Stephen, than compromise.

I will tell you what I was going to preach from this morning if Brother Brown and some others had not robbed me of the time! This was to have been my text, "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord." The same truth is in our text of the evening.

III.

We come now to our third observation, THE EXPERIENCE OF DIVINE REINFORCEMENT: "But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel)", Jacob prophetically added. That is the secret of it all. My dear friends, these kind felicitations on this occasion may perhaps serve to advertise the fact that Jarvis Street still lives. A few years ago I heard a man with a megaphone on one of the city sight-seeing 'buses, when passing this church, say something like this, "On the left is Jarvis Street Baptist Church. A few years ago there was an explosion in that church—but you will observe the church still stands." It does! This church that used to be a local church known only in Canada to the Baptist denomination, by the blessing of God, I dare to say, is known in every country on earth to-day—known to hundreds of thousands of people, where a few years ago it was known to ten. God has been pleased to bless the message, and I think with this growing Seminary we too may say that our bow abides in strength. We have not done fighting. We do not want to fight, but unfortunately the devil still lives, and we must contend against error wherever it appears; and remain true to the Lord Jesus.

The explanation of it all is that as truly as Joseph's position was the result of the blessing of God, so the position of this church to-day is to be accounted for solely on the ground that the Lord is with us; the mighty God of Jacob is with us still.

I have no feeling of resentment against brethren who have differed from me. It is given to some men to see a little farther into the future than some others. And if one does see into the future, and see yonder something inevitably coming to pass, and see that the principles which are now fostered must issue in disaster—and if he warns people, they will turn upon him and rend him if they can; but only because they do not understand. But if they are honourable, honest people, when at last they see that that testimony was true, when by the passing of years and the ordering of circumstances, a church's witness is vindicated to the uttermost parts of the earth, when Wisdom's children are grown; they will justify her, and the honest man will come and say, "We were mistaken."

Whether that will be true of us in any large measure in this life or not I cannot say. But I believe we were right in drawing bow against Modernism in all its forms. We were right in refusing to countenance the tendencies of the day, or to co-operate with organiza-

tions which were propagating unbelief, or to have fellowship with their sponsors. And when we drew our bow in such warfare we did it reluctantly. We shall always regret the necessity of differing from many whom we greatly loved. We grieved, as Joseph did to be "separated from his brethren", but we had no alternative. But we rejoice that such separation, as it always does, ministered to this church's greater fruitfulness. But it is all due to the fact that the arms of our hands have been "made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob—from thence is the shepherd the stone of Israel."

And now, ere I close, I am constrained to say that these twenty-five years have only confirmed our faith in the absolute finality of the gospel of Christ. We have put it to the test. We have endeavoured to make full proof of our ministry. By the blessing of God we have proved literally in thousands of instances in this place, that the gospel without amendment is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.

Let these twenty-five years increase, at least by a little the testimony of the centuries, that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, to-day and forever. The blood of Christ still avails for the cleansing of sin; the Holy Ghost is still with us to make men new creatures in Christ; the Bible as the Word of God, divinely inspired, infallible, supremely and sovereignly authoritative, abides as the only but adequate ground of religious certitude.

I conjure you who are still unsaved to put your trust in Christ this night, and join with this great company this evening as we sing,

"All hail the power of Jesus' Name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all!"

PIONEERING

Of the work of those who are known as Regular Baptists much is pioneering. No, we are not some new sect,—though we have actually heard of people who thought so! Far from it, we are Regular Baptists,—the usual ones, and certainly the proper kind! In a day of declension from the Faith, it is ours to stand by the Book. In a time of merely social service, even under religious auspices, it is ours to put evangelism and the teaching of the Word first. In many places even in this fair province of ours, we can find plenty of churches with no real Gospel testimony. It is ours, as we have men and funds, to build New Testament churches.

From the time when the Seminary began to graduate young men, they have, naturally enough, been the vanguard of such pioneering work. Old churches that had fallen on evil days have been revived, new places have been opened, other churches have been organized.

Again this summer we are sending forth a little army of pioneers. Theirs is a difficult work. We shall tell more about the various fields from time to time. Meanwhile we ask your prayers. Please put this list in your Bible or in some place where you can keep it for reference, so that you may continually remember these young men by name before the Lord. We list names, fields and work (though the list is not yet complete):

Armstrong, J. R., Maple Hill, Ont.—pastor.
Boyd, J.—Ambassador Baptist Church, Windsor, Ont.
Dallimore, A., and McBain, H.—Evangelistic work in Northern Ontario.
Hall, E.—Trenton, Ont.—student-pastor.
Hisey, B.—Willowdale (Toronto)—student-pastor.
Scott, J.—Belleville, Ont.—student-pastor.
Buhler, F. M.—Noranda, P.Q.—assistant to Rev. S. Wellington in French work.
Carson, T. D. M.—Cumberland, Ont.—summer-pastor.
Morrison, R. B.—Duparquet, P.Q.—summer-pastor.
Dinnick, D. S.—Avoca, P.Q.—summer-pastor.
Greening, J.—Galway, N.Y.—assistant to his father, Rev. J. H. Greening.
Paterson, J.—Norland, Ont.—assistant to Rev. O. Boomer.
Reeve, G. M.—Kirkfield, Ont.—summer-pastor.
Vaughan, F.—Rosanna, Ont.—assistant to Rev. L. Roblin.

NEWS OF UNION CHURCHES

York Road, Guelph

The Second Annual Meeting of the York Road Baptist Church was held Wednesday, May 1, 1935, with a good attendance of members. The pastor, Rev. H. H. Chipchase, presided, and reports from the various organizations of the Church were given.

The financial report was very good. The total income from all sources was \$1,501.22, an increase of \$400.00 over the previous year. Twenty-nine new members have been received into the church, twenty-three by baptism, five by experience, and one by letter. The total membership of the church now stands at fifty-three.

It will be remembered that Mr. Chipchase took up his duties in Guelph a little over three years ago, when the work was in a very poor condition. The Sunday-school grew by leaps and bounds until it was necessary to erect a new building. The financing of this undertaking was not easy with so few to assist, but it was proceeded with under the leadership of the Pastor, and their total indebtedness does not exceed a thousand dollars. The present building is already too small, and a much needed addition should soon be made.

Ambassador, Windsor

Mr. John Boyd, one of the students of the Toronto Baptist Seminary, has been invited to supply the pulpit for the summer months. He will be undertaking his duties at once, and the church, under his leadership, is anticipating a good time.

An appeal was made in the Bulletin for some person who has an amount of two thousand dollars to invest that they would consider the advisability of helping to secure the present Church building for the Ambassador people. This offer is still open, and the Secretary of the Union would be glad to furnish any further particulars. Please communicate with Rev. W. E. Atkinson, 337 Jarvis Street, Toronto.

Central, London

The Lord continues to bless the work at Central Regular Baptist Church. Several have recently confessed Christ as Saviour and Lord. On Sunday, May 12, 1935, Mr. McGinlay began a Sunday afternoon broadcast over the London Free Press Station. Mr. Fred Syme of Toronto assisted, and sang very acceptably.

A recent drive for Sunday-school scholars has resulted in the attendance going over the seven hundred (700) mark. Their objective is one thousand each Sunday morning at ten o'clock.

Waverley Road, Toronto

Last Lord's Day was a day which was greatly enjoyed by all. The services were well attended, and the Spirit of grace and blessing was felt in both morning and evening services. The choir, under the able leadership of Mr. R. Howard, rendered splendid service. Rev. W. E. Atkinson

(Continued on page 27)

Whole Bible Course Lesson Leaf

Vol. 10

No. 2

REV. ALEX. THOMSON, EDITOR

Lesson 23

Second Quarter

June 9th, 1935

GOD'S GOODNESS TO ISRAEL

Lesson Text: Psalms 78-80.

Golden Text: "Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name; and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake."—Psalm 79:9.

Bible School Reading: Psalm 80:1-19.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS: Monday—Ex. 16:13-24; Tuesday—Ex. 17:1-7; Wednesday—Is. 5:1-7; Thursday—2 Chron. 36:11-21; Friday—Matt. 15:10-20; Saturday—Mark 9:1-9.

PSALM SEVENTY-EIGHT

In this psalm a partial record of Israel's history is given for the purpose of drawing attention to the gracious attitude of God, the ingratitude of the nation, and the reason for the various acts of the Lord. The study of history may be most profitable if it is pursued with the object of learning the vital principles underlying the various events recorded therein; and especially so if some competent well-versed person acts as guide in the exercise. In this case, while the words were penned by a man, they are the expressions of God. He is the Teacher, and from Him we may learn the deep things of the past, and the gracious lessons of the present.

The psalm opens with a declaration respecting the psalmist's intention of making known matters relating to the national history. Note the beneficial effect of such a recounting of facts, affecting both intellectual and spiritual life; and giving warning and guidance concerning individual actions. Following this, mention is made of the establishment of the divine law in Israel (vs. 5-8). The fact and purpose of this are clearly stated; and the privilege, responsibility, and duties, arising therefrom are likewise clearly evident. The Israelites lacked excuse for forsaking God, and being disobedient to His will; and persons living in lands where the Bible is circulated freely are similarly situated, and will be held to the same accountability (Rom. 1:20). We have much reason to rejoice these days in the wonderful corroborations of scriptural truth in the realm of archaeological investigation. The mounds, the monuments, the papyri, the pottery, and the other remnants of the buried past, are making clear their history to the scientific investigator, as being identically the same as that revealed in holy writ. So clear is this evidence, and so true are the statements of Scripture, they make the suppositions of the higher critic seem exceedingly foolish. In fact, Modernism is now proved not only to be wrong, but to be out of date, and based entirely upon the imagination. The person up-to-date is the one who believes the old Book.

The record of God's dealings with Israel begins with a statement respecting the disobedience of Ephraim (vs. 9-11), intimating possibly the leadership of this tribe nationally, in this attitude. Note the possibility and dangers of backsliding, the influence of such a course on others, and the attitude of God in the matter (Hos. 14:1). The marvellous works of God are then recounted, together with the failures of His people. He led His people through the Red Sea, and supplied their need in the wilderness; yet they rebelled against Him, and brought down upon themselves His wrath. As a result of this they turned again unto God, though not perfectly; and He forgave them, in remembrance of the fact that they were but flesh. Note the compassion of God, manifest in relation to Israel (2 Chron. 36:15), and through Christ (Matt. 20:34), and His wondrous grace in blessing sinners in these days (I. Cor. 15:10). Notwithstanding their experience, the Israelites again and again rebelled against God, forgetting His gracious work on their behalf, and suffered the divine punishment as a consequence (vs. 40-72). Observe the stubborn sinfulness of the people of Israel, the utter foolishness of their attitude, the divine forsaking of

Ephraim for Judah (vs. 67, 68), and the Lord's choice of David (vs. 70-72). It is of interest to note that God's choice of Israel was not on account of any special qualities in that nation, but wholly due to His grace, and the same may be said of the divine choice of sinners (Eph. 1:6). Why do people rebel against God, and neglect His salvation? How may we learn useful lessons from the past? How may we prevent backsliding?

PSALM SEVENTY-NINE

This psalm has as a background the overthrow of Jerusalem, with its consequent slaying of multitudes of its people; and is a prayer to God for deliverance, ending with a promise of thanksgiving for an answer thereto. It opens with a description of the desolation of the city, with a defiled temple, a city laid on heaps, with multitudes of dead lying exposed to the elements for lack of persons to bury them; the whole bringing reproach upon the nation, and stirring up the scorn and derision of the surrounding nations. This gives us a picture similar to that portrayed in psalm seventy-four, and may refer to the same event. In both the lamentable condition of Israel is made clear, and evokes pity and regret, especially when we remember that the people need never have suffered in such a manner. Their suffering was due to their sin. It should also be noted that all the suffering in the world is due to sin. Our attitude toward it then should be one of uncompromising hatred, first in ourselves, and then in others; while at the same time having compassion on those under its power, and seeking to win them from its grasp.

After referring to the desolation of the city, the psalmist prays to God for the pouring out of the divine wrath upon his nation's enemies who knew not the Lord. He asks how long they would be allowed to endure their distress, how long the anger of God would last against them. Severe chastisement seems long, even though it be of short duration. It is better to be obedient, and bear the cross, than disobedient, and endure chastisement. The petition to take action against the heathen follows (vs. 6, 7); then a humble request for help in manifestation of the divine mercy; concluding with the promise of thanksgiving (vs. 8-13). Note the desire of the psalmist for the glory of God.

Prayers go unanswered when offered for selfish reasons (Jas. 4:3). The glory of God should be our motive in all our plans and actions. "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever." Observe also the appeal to the mercy of God. We cannot appeal to His righteousness or justice, for we cannot measure up to the one, and it would mean punishment for us if the other were exercised; but the mercy of God is great enough to take in the worst sinner, and to cover every sin (Heb. 7:25). And God hears the cry of the oppressed (Ex. 3:9, 10). How do we know God is interested in us? How may we show forth His praise to others?

PSALM EIGHTY

This psalm records another complaint of the psalmist in a time of great national calamity. We know not the period referred to, although there are some who think it relates to the time of the captivity. It opens with a request to God to listen to the appeal of the psalmist. Note the designation of God as the "shepherd of Israel"; and as the One "that dwellest between the cherubims"; the latter referring to the visible place of His contact with His people. In the first is implied the divine care over Israel, so well known to David (Ps. 23:1), and other saints of God (Is. 40:10, 11); and in both the Lord's close relationship to His people is clearly evident. This request is followed by an appeal to God to come in strength and save His people; to turn them again; and cause His face to shine upon them—referring no doubt to a turning of the captivity, and liberation from enemy bondage. Note the possibility of liberation from spiritual bondage (John 8:36). A description is then given of the condition of the Lord's people. They were in great affliction, being fed with the bread of tears; and they were a laughing stock unto their neighbours, and a broken down vine destroyed by the hands of the enemies (vs. 4-16). And the psalm closes with another appeal to the Lord to turn them again that they might be saved. Note the significance of the figure of the vine in both the Old and New Testaments (Is. 5:1-7; John 15:1-8).

NEWS OF UNION CHURCHES

(Continued from page 25)

spoke in the morning on the subject, "The Secret of a Happy Christian Life", and in the evening on, "Do you want a new body?" Four persons came forward confessing Christ as their Saviour, and two others for baptism. While the church rejoices in the few who thus find Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, they are looking forward to a greater and deeper work of grace than ever before.

Our Missionaries on Furlough

Rev. and Mrs. E. Hancox are in Owen Sound where they have accepted a number of appointments to speak of the work in Liberia.

Miss Florence Stacey is visiting in Hespeler. She will be speaking at the Runnymede Road Baptist Church on Wednesday, May 29th, 1935.

Otterville.

Rev. Alex. Thomson, B.D., President of the Union, will be preaching Anniversary services at Otterville Baptist Church, Sunday, May 26th, 1935. Miss Mary Jeffery of Toronto will provide violin music for the occasion.

Wedding Bells

Are soon to be rung for two more of our Union Pastors, Rev. J. F. Dempster of Niagara Falls, and Rev. W. Lempriere of Wheatley. Congratulations.

Benton St., Kitchener

In the loss of Mr. Geo. Boehmer, this church has lost one of its most honoured members and deacons. His home-going was a shock to his many friends and relations. He will be greatly missed by all for his kindly and generous ways. Mr. Boehmer was a man of God and deeply interested in the work of his Lord and Saviour. The Union extends its loving sympathy to all who mourn his loss, and prays that the God of all comfort may graciously bless and

sustain them in this hour of their grief. Rev. Jas. McGinlay of London assisted Rev. A. J. Lewis at the funeral service.

EVOLUTION

Back in the dark of intangible nothing,
Billions of years ere the earth gathered form,
Somehow the gloom changed to volume and substance,
Someway came motion, came light and storm.

Nebulous fire floated up out of nowhere;
By some strange movement suns rolled from the flame;
Then by the millions came stars, moons and comets,
Found their own courses and rolled in the same.

This tiny earth, like a dark, lonely dust-mote,
Wandered about for some million years more,
Gathered some atmosphere, rivers, and mountains,
Made the land stable, set tide on the shore.

Then came the cell or the small protoplasm,
Perhaps an amoeba just happened, you know,
Stirred from its shapelessness, took form and motion,
Learned by experience just how to grow.

Thus, as the ages dragged by, it ascended
Through all the diversified forms that we see,
Till by environment, made ape or monkey,
Scratched, grinned and chattered,—then climbed up a tree.

Now if some son of an ape will come forward,
And kindly remove the mysterious veil,
Perhaps he can tell how his miserable ancestry
Succeeded in shedding the fur and the tail.

This the weird fable he puts above Genesis;
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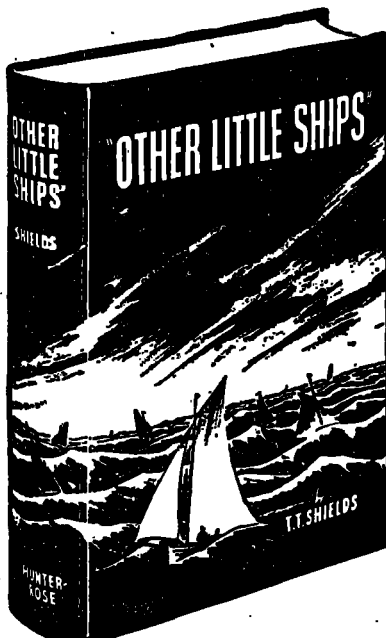
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