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The Late Rev. Elmore Harris, D.D.

All friends of the Toronto Bible College are aware of the very great loss that has befallen it in the death of its founder. A memorial service held in Walmer Road Baptist Church represented the great work Dr. Harris had

done in the Baptist denomination. The wider ministry of his life in all his interdenominational relations was presented at an impressive service held in the Assembly Hall of the College at the beginning of the present term. The

Rev. R. P. Mackay, D.D., Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly, presided. Addresses were given by Rev. Canon O'Meara, Principal of Wycliffe College, Rev. Dr. Hincks, of the Broadway Methodist Tabernacle, and Rev. John McNicol, Principal of the Bible College.

The following account of his life is taken from an article in the last number of *The Evangelical Christian* :—

“Dr. Harris was born near Brantford, fifty-eight years ago. He was converted at an early age and gave evidence at once of a genuine and earnest faith. He felt himself called to the Christian ministry, and before he had reached the age of seventeen he preached his first sermon in the Beamsville Baptist Church. Even then it was manifest that he was gifted with unusual fitness for the preaching of the Gospel. During his course in the University of Toronto he showed special proficiency in Classics and Hebrew, studies which stood him in good stead in his subsequent work as a Bible student and teacher. The true character of the man was shown in his remaining out of College for a year in order to help to deepen and extend a revival that was going on in Brantford where his home then was.

“After his graduation from the University in 1877, he spent some time in work in connection with the Young Men's Christian Association. His devotion to evangelistic work was so conspicuous, and his gifts for preaching the Word so evident, that he was soon called to the pastorate. He was ordained at St. Thomas, and then entered upon his career as a minister of the Gospel.

“His active ministry was spent in three pastoral charges, St. Thomas and the Bloor St., and Walmer Road Baptist Churches in Toronto. In all these he was remarkably successful. He came to Toronto in 1882, and the present location of the Bloor St. Church was chosen, and the building erected under his leadership. When the work there

had reached a high degree of prosperity in 1889, he withdrew in order to establish a new cause at Walmer Road. This church was his own creation and was the crowning work of his ministry. For six years he devoted himself with unremitting energy to its growth and development, and out of the wealth which he had inherited he gave liberally for the erection of its commodious building. Being threatened with a failure of health in 1895, he resigned and was made Pastor Emeritus by the congregation.

“Dr. Harris was a preacher of more than ordinary power. This was attested by the large numbers that attended his services and by the hundreds of conversions with which his ministry was blessed. His morning sermons were usually expositions of Scripture and were rich in spiritual nourishment. His evening services were of an evangelistic character and were usually followed by an after-meeting, in the conduct of which he was peculiarly wise and skilful. His bright and winning disposition, his sympathetic touch, his transparent simplicity, and the grace with which he was endowed, all contributed to make his career in the ministry one of rare success and rich fruitfulness.

“During the last year of his pastorate at Walmer Road, Dr. Harris began what he himself regarded as the chief work of his life. In conjunction with a number of his friends in the different denominations he established what has hitherto been known as the Toronto Bible Training School, and is now the Toronto Bible College. This work developed steadily till in 1898 the present fine building on College St. was erected, largely at his own expense. In association with the Rev. Wm. Stewart, D.D., its first Principal, Dr. Harris devoted to this institution most of his time and thought during the remaining years of his life. Besides acting as its President, he gave regular lectures on certain books of the Bible every session, and the impress of his teaching and character has been placed on the lives of hundreds of young men and women who have gone

forth from its classes, many of them to the uttermost parts of the earth.

"During these years an ever widening sphere of usefulness was opening up before him. His services were in demand at Bible conferences, and at meetings for the deepening of spiritual life. He became known throughout Canada and the United States as a popular Biblical teacher of sound and spiritual views. To this larger ministry he gave himself unsparingly and joyfully.

"The dominating characteristic of Dr. Harris' life was loyalty to the Lord Jesus Christ. His preaching and his teaching alike bore the mark of devotion to his Master. It was this that determined his attitude to the Higher Criticism. He believed that the prevailing critical theories tended not only to impoverish the Scriptures but also to becloud the divine glory of the Person of Jesus Christ. It was this, too, that widened his interest in every Christian cause. He was loyal to his own denomination and its work; but his sympathies were too large to be confined within any denominational lines, and one of the finest things in his life was his whole-hearted fellowship and co-operation with his brethren in other churches. He gave of his means, of his time, of his strength to every good cause, and did so with transparent sincerity and unaffected pleasure. The contributions he made, both of wealth and of service, to the Christian forces of his time cannot be told; but of all his gifts to the Church of Christ the greatest will be the fragrant memory of his own gracious, consecrated personality."

Address to Rev. Dr. Stewart.

At a public meeting held in the Assembly Hall Nov. 1911, the following address was presented to Rev. Dr. Stewart:

To the Rev. Wm. Stewart, D.D.:

On the occasion of your retirement from active service in the Toronto Bible College we desire to express our appreciation of the great and valuable services which you have given to it, and to assure you of the esteem and affection of all its friends and students.

During the seventeen years the Institution has been in existence under the name of the Toronto Bible Training School, it has been the subject of your best thought and earnest prayer, and to its interests your persevering energies have been devoted.

As its first Principal you shaped its course of instruction and training, and guided its development. When declining strength made it necessary for you, five years ago, to resign the duties of this position, you continued to devote yourself to the cause of the School by carrying on the important work of the office of Secretary.

The blessing and success which have attended its work from the beginning have been due largely to your wise and careful administration. The hundreds of students who have passed through its classes during these years carry with them the grateful and affectionate remembrance of your scholarly instruction and fatherly counsel.

While we regret that advancing years have now made it necessary for you to lay down all active work, we are thankful that the Bible College will still continue to have the benefit of your presence on its Board and Council.

May God's richest blessing rest upon the evening of your days and may He crown your life with His loving kindness.

On behalf of the Council, the Faculty and the Alumni Association.

The Work of the College.

We are greatly encouraged in the work of the College by the manifest blessing of the Lord on our efforts. There is a deep spirit of earnest devotion pervading the work of the students in the daily classes, and an united effort to make the most of the instruction imparted by the Lecturers. In addition to the regular opening devotions each morning, a number of the students meet at 9 a.m. for special prayer both for themselves and the work as a whole, having special thought for the former students who have gone out into various fields of service both at home and abroad.

The effect of these meetings for prayer is seen not only in the lecture room, but also in the various missions and meetings conducted by the students throughout the city. The reports through the Practical Work department record many cases of clear conversion from week to week, as the result of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit blessing their work.

Our new Secretary is meeting with much encouragement, both in the office and outside amongst the friends of the College. He is introducing new records and reports of the work done by the students, which tend to increase the value and efficiency of the course of instruction, and also the practical experience in the various meetings and missions.

These call for a detailed statement each week from each student of the meetings attended and conducted, and the part they have taken in them; the personal interviews with enquirers and the result; visits made at homes, hospitals, gaols, factories, etc. All of which is reviewed as a regular part of the course of instruction. The period given to this subject under the direction of Mr. Imrie, is amongst the most interesting and helpful of the week.

The course of lectures on the Book of Genesis by Prof. W. H. Griffith Thomas, continues to be of great value and interest, not only to the regular students, but also to a number of visitors who attend regularly from week to week. It is expected Prof. Thomas will complete the course by the middle of April.

Meetings held in the Assembly Hall.

The College is becoming more and more a centre for the various interdenominational interests of our city. During the past winter the annual meetings of "The Zenana Bible and Medical Mission," "The Toronto Mission to the Jews," "The Upper Canada Bible Society," "The Convention of the Ontario Deaf Mute Society," were held, in addition to the monthly meeting of "The Leper Mission," and the Sunday service of the Toronto Deaf Mute Society.

Finances.

The friends who have been sustaining this work and making it possible in the past, continue to remember its needs and claims with thoughtful regularity. We greatly appreciate this fellowship with us, in behalf of the many young men and women who would otherwise be unable to secure the training this College affords.

It is necessary, however, for us to have new friends constantly added to our list of contributors, as from year to year some find it impossible to continue their contributions from causes over which they have no control. At present this is especially true, as our expenses have increased, owing to our efforts to enlarge and increase the efficiency of our work, and also on account of the great loss we have sustained in the death of our honored and valued President, Dr. Elmore Harris, who not only gave generously of his means, but took a large share of the work of instruction as well. We trust the Lord will lay the claims of this work on the hearts of His servants who are in a position to help share its financial requirements, which are very modest, as the work has been carried on up to the present with an expenditure of a little over \$5,000 a year. We will need a considerable increase on this amount in future, owing to the necessity of supplying a lecturer to do the work of our late President, and to develop the other departments of our course.

Visitors.

Pastor F. E. Marsh, of England, gave the students a helpful address on "the need of a presentation of the fulness of the Gospel," to meet the varied needs of the present day.

Dr. Louis Meyer, of Cincinnati, the greatest authority on Jewish Missions in America, pointed out the many and great difficulties to be met in reaching the Jew, and how these difficulties may be overcome.

The Evangelistic Band.

Some important changes have taken place in the Evangelistic Band since our last RECORDER was issued. Until the first of the present year the work of the Band was under the supervision of the leader exclusively, but this year the number of meetings has increased to such an extent that it was thought advisable to re-organize the work. This was done, and sub-leaders were appointed as follows: Monday Evening, at Yonge Street Mission, Mr. Fred Vine; Thursday Evening, at Sackville Mission, Mr. Ivor Prichard; Friday Evening, at Laplante Mission, Mr. Wm. McDonald; Sunday meetings, Mr. Glen Wardell. Miss Nettie Blair was appointed as Secretary of the Band.

Then, too, the student body has been divided as equally as possible among the different missions. This has created a new interest in the evangelical work, and has resulted in larger and more steady attendance, and also an increase in the number of souls won.

Our Hospital visitation—a branch of the evangelical work, is growing in importance. No less than twenty-seven of our students pay weekly visits to three different hospitals of our city.

Another branch of equal importance is the Central Prison work. Our men report blessed experiences in this connection, and many souls have been won to Christ within the Prison walls.

Once again we have the privilege of assisting at the free breakfasts given every Sabbath morning in the Yonge St. Mission, which is perhaps one of the best meetings of the week.

A New Clock for the Lecture Hall.

A much appreciated gift was made to our equipment by the addition of a clear, round-faced clock, which hangs in front of the gallery and reminds the lecturers of the flight of time, so that each class may be kept within its proper limits.

"The Evangelical Christian."

This publication, issued in Toronto, is filling a needed place amongst the religious periodicals of Canada. It is the only magazine in the Dominion of an interdenominational character which stands definitely for the exposition of evangelical truth as contained in the Scriptures, and the necessity of its proclamation in all parts of the world.

The work of the Bible College is given a prominent place in its pages each month, and in this way is brought to the attention of a large number of interested readers.

Request for Definite Prayer.

The Officers, Faculty and Students of the Bible College request the friends of this work to join them in definite prayer that the Lord may clearly indicate His will in the choice of a successor to the late Rev. Elmore Harris, D. D., as President of the College.

Notes.

Mr. W. E. Atkinson, of the class of 1911, is under appointment for work in Northern Nigeria in connection with the Sudan Interior Mission.

Mr. Geo. Sanderson, a former student, who has been serving in Northern Nigeria under the Sudan Interior Mission, is home on his first furlough.

Miss Margaret Oliver, our Assistant Secretary and stenographer, resigns her position this term in order to enter the College next fall as a student.

Mr. R. J. Lewis, of Sarnia, a former Evening Class student, was presented with a handsome chair by his Bible class, as a token of their appreciation of his work.

Mr. Harry Bower has been appointed President of the Missionary Society. Very deep sympathy has been felt for him in the sorrow that befell him recently in the death of his mother.

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CONTRIBUTIONS.—Any friends desiring to have fellowship in the work may send their contributions to the Treasurer, J. N. Shenstone, Esq., 40 Walmer Road, Toronto, or to any officer of the School.

Notes.

Miss C. Millar is serving the Rhodes Ave. Presbyterian Church as Deaconess.

Miss Annie Whitelock is filling the same position at Waverley Road Baptist Church.

Mr. F. E. W. Storey, who is completing a post graduate year, leaves for the West this month.

Mr. F. R. Vine returned from Mission work at Fort Francis in order to complete his work, and expects to graduate this year.

The present term and session of the College will close Monday, April 26th. Examinations will begin about the 15th of the same month.

Mr. Oswald J. Smith continues to supply the Congregational Churches at Belwood and Garafraxa, Ont., each week with much acceptance. He has been greatly encouraged by the attendance, interest and blessing on the services.

Receipts for General Fund.

Donations received since last report to Feb., 1912:

No.	105	\$10 00	No. 135	\$ 3 00
"	106	25 00	" 136	5 10
"	107	25 00	" 137	50 00
"	108	10 00	" 138	5 00
"	109	10 00	" 139	5 00
"	110	5 00	" 140	50 00
"	111	10 00	" 141	2 00
"	112	25 00	" 142	10 00
"	113	10 00	" 143	1 25
"	114	5 00	" 144	4 00
"	115	1 00	" 145	25 00
"	116	5 00	" 146	20 00
"	117	100 00	" 147	1 00
"	118	10 00	" 148	200 00
"	119	10 00	" 149	10 00
"	120	5 00	" 150	5 00
"	121	15 00	" 151	10 00
"	122	25 00	" 152	5 10
"	123	2 50	" 153	10 00
"	124	2 00	" 154	24 00
"	125	2 00	" 155	10 00
"	126	5 00	" 156	10 00
"	127	5 00	" 157	50 00
"	128	5 00	" 158	100 00
"	129	5 00	" 159	5 00
"	130	10 00	" 160	100 00
"	131	5 00	" 161	25 00
"	132	25 00	" 162	5 00
"	133	10 00	" 163	10 00
"	134	25 00		

Total... .. \$1,171 75

Previously acknowledged \$1,786 55

Total to date \$2,958 30

JOSEPH N. SHENSTONE, *Treas.*