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FAREWELL PARTY TO PASTEUR AND MADAME M. PRADERVAND.



The news, which some time ago, was passed on to the Colony, that Pasteur M. Pradervand was leaving London to take up an appointment at Geneva, caused everywhere genuine regret.

It was felt, that by his departure the large Swiss family in London, yea even in the Provinces, was going to lose one of its spiritual leaders, and a man, who by his deep religious convictions, by his tact and by his kindness to all those who came to him for help and succour, had endeared himself to countless of our compatriots.

Thirteen years he has been amongst us, of which nearly ten years have been as pasteur. Many of my readers will remember with what enthusiasm he took up his ministry after the untimely death of Pasteur R. Hoffmann-de Visme. He then promised us that he would not only be a faithful servant to His Master, but also to all those who needed help in their distress and troubles.

This promise he has kept; untiringly he, and his life's partner have worked to spread the Gospel, and to bring new hope to all those, who through adverse circumstances, felt the need for solace.

For this we have been grateful to him, and in order to be able to say "Thank you," the Consistoire had arranged a little Farewell and Tea Party, which took place on Saturday, December 6th, 1947, at the Lecture Hall, Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, W.C.2.

The Hall was filled to capacity with many of his Parishioners, representatives of Swiss Societies and friends of other denominations.

Punctually at 3 o'clock this happy family party commenced. The Swiss Minister, Monsieur Paul Ruegger, took the Chair and with him on the platform, were Pasteur and Madame Pradervand, Dr. A. Escher, Counsellor of Legation, Mr. A. Brauen, President of the Consistoire of the Eglise Suisse, and Pfarrer H. Blum, of the "Schweizerkirche."

After a short prayer, by Paster Pradervand, Monsieur Ruegger, who received a warm reception, in an impressive address, paid homage to the services rendered, during a difficult time by Pasteur and Madame

Pradervand. He expressed to them the sadness which was felt at their approaching departure not only by those present, but by many who could not attend, but would, no doubt, be in thoughts with this gathering.

The Minister wished Pasteur Pradervand God-speed in his new sphere of activity, saying he was glad that he was privileged to take up his activity in the famous City of Geneva, which has always been a centre of spiritual life.

As a small token of appreciation the Minister then presented Pasteur and Madame Pradervand with a cheque, representing the contributions which were made by members of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

On resuming his seat Monsieur Ruegger received a hearty ovation.

The second speaker was Mr. A. Brauen, President of the Consistoire of the Eglise Suisse, who, on behalf of his colleagues expressed to the Pasteur and his wife the feelings of affection in which they were held, saying that they had left their marks on all the hearts of their congregation. He asked for God's blessing on their future work.

Amidst hearty applause he presented them, on behalf of the Consistoire, with a large silver salver suitably inscribed, and a beautiful bouquet of red and white carnations was handed to Madame Pradervand by a little girl.

Pfarrer H. Blum, on behalf of the "Kirchgemeinde" of the "Schweizerkirche" expressed to his colleague and Madame Pradervand warm thanks for the services they had rendered, and gave praise to God Almighty for having inspired them to work in His name for the good of their fellowmen. He invoked God's blessing on their future work.

A farewell message, composed especially for this occasion, by Mr. W. Deutsch, was then read out. (*See text in this issue*).

Pasteur Pradervand then rose to address the company, and after the long and hearty applause which greeted him had subsided, thanked first the Swiss Minister for having found time, previous to his departure for India, en mission, to honour him and the gathering by his presence.

"We feel," he said, "an immense gratitude for all you have done for us, and from all our hearts, we say to you — MERCI !"

Pasteur Pradervand, mentioned that he was overwhelmed by the complimentary remarks made by the various speakers, and now that the hour of departure had come, he realised some of the shortcomings during his ministry. "I think of all the visits," he continued, "which I intended to make, and which unfortunately I was unable to do owing to the vastness of London; and in this hour I ask you to forgive me for all my omissions."

He expressed his joy, that by the grace of God, he was able for the last ten years to live and work amongst his fellow countrymen, saying, "We have lived together those tragic hours of 1940-41, those long hours of waiting in 1942-43, and then the hard and fateful days during the attacks of the V1 and the V2's of 1944-45. Some of these hours have been hard, but I am thankful that I was able to live through them together with you, because they have taught me many precious lessons. Above all, they have created amongst us bonds of comradeship which nothing can destroy."

Pasteur Pradervand then paid a moving tribute to his wife, who, at all times had been a great help to him.

He expressed his joy, that whilst Pastors come and go, the Saviour remains and His Church continues.

In concluding, Pasteur Pradervand expressed his sincere hope, that the Eglise Suisse, which had such a long and glorious tradition, may continue its work for the good of the Colony, and the large family of Jesus Christ.

Long and hearty applause greeted these words, which came from the heart, and went to the hearts of all those present.

Tea was then served and Pasteur and Madame Pradervand went around to greet many of their friends.

And now on the eve of their departure to our homeland, we too, on behalf of all our readers, thank them for all they have done, their work amongst us has been fruitful and will live; through hard and difficult times they have, by the Grace of God, proved to be steadfast, true and loyal, and our most sincere wishes accompany them to their new sphere of activity.

ST.

FAREWELL TO A DEAR FRIEND : The Rev. Marcel Pradervand.

The year is speeding on and ere it ends
You'll be returning to our native land;
To say good-bye to all your countless friends
Will be for you, for them, a hard command.

You have been with us for so many years
And found your entry to so many hearts,
That the impending farewell hurts and sears
Those who be left when their best friend departs.

For such a friend to all you've surely been,
Not sparing when your flock was sore in need;
When bombs were falling and distress was keen
You were at hand and lived up to your creed.

Whilst in the years between you always gave
Great help and comfort both to young and old
Preaching the word of Him who came to save,
Gath'ring the wayward lambs into His fold.

Now you have been assigned another task,
A task still greater and of more renown,
On which we humbly would God's blessing ask,
Praying that He will your new labours crown.

If it be so, we dare not hold you back;
Your gifts are needed in a wider realm.
Long may the way be, arduous the track,
But you were chosen to be at the helm.

So let us say farewell and not good-bye,
You'll stay with us in thought and we with you;
Love and affection form a lasting tie,
Which neither time nor distance can undo.

GALLUS.

London, December 6th, 1947.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, January 16th, 1948.

We take the opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscriptions: C. Bertschinger, F. M. Gamper, Dumferline Swiss Club, A. P. Cima, O. Gambazzi, R. Matthey, R. Schmid, C. H. Willi, L. Forrer, A. C. Boller, A. Wegmuller, J. A. Donat, R. Jaeger, P. Walser, O. Rohn, R. A. Merz.

JEUNESSE DE L'EGLISE SUISSE.

La Jeunesse de l'Eglise Suisse donna sa "PREMIERE" samedi 6 décembre à 6h.30 dans les salles de l'Ecole du Dimanche à St. Giles School. Plus de 220 personnes étaient présentes, sans compter les membres de la Jeunesse.

Cette jeune phalange organisa une charmante soirée comprenant des chants, deux solos en italien qui furent particulièrement goûtés et bissés. La violoniste nous charma par sa belle musique d'Handel, Bethoven et Mozart.

Le bouquet de la soirée fut la charmante mise en scène "Les petits plats dans les grands". On ne peut que féliciter cette Jeunesse. On se fit un "pot de bon sang" (comme l'on dit au Pays) tellement chacun, jeunes et vieux, riait de bon cœur.

Deux autres pièces en anglais cette fois-ci: "The Three Mrs. Madderleys" et "The Boy comes Home" furent aussi très appréciées de tous.

M. Le Pasteur M. Pradervand souhaita la bienvenue à chacun. En quelques mots bien sentis, il exprima la joie que l'Eglise avait de participer à cette "PREMIERE" de la Jeunesse.

Chacun retourna chez lui content de la soirée si agréablement passée, espérant que la prochaine fête de la Jeunesse ne tardera pas.

Le total de la collecte a été versé au Fond de Restauration de l'Eglise pour la Salle de Paroisse.

Un ami de la Jeunesse.

W.B.K.

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