

# THE CHRISTIAN.

FAITH COMETH BY HEARING, AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD.—Paul

Vol. XVI.—No. 4.

SALT JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY, 1899.

WHOLE No. 184

## The Christian.

Published monthly by Barnes & Co., under the auspices of the Home Mission Board of the Disciples of Christ of the Maritime Provinces.

TERMS: - 50 Cents Per Annum in Advance

All communications, intended for publication, to be addressed:

"THE CHRISTIAN."

P. O. Box 56

ST. JOHN, N. B.

EDITOR:

DONALD CRAWFORD,—NEW GLASGOW, P.E.I.

OFFICE EDITOR:

HENRY W. STEWART, - - ST. JOHN, N. B.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

The Israelites had an easier task making bricks without straw than he who tries to write "news" items without news. The "notes" come easier.

It is not too soon to be perfecting arrangements for a liberal offering from every church for Foreign Missions on the first Lord's day of March. Surely no church will be satisfied with sending a haphazard collection.

The *Christian-Evangelist* says that Charles R. Scoville added 1250 souls to the Church of Christ last year. If just 80 preachers are equally successful this year they will win 100,000 for Christ.

The American Christian Missionary Society is losing no time in raising the standard of Christ in Porto Rico, where the flag of the United States already waves. J. A. Erwin and wife are soon to go to the Island as missionaries.

One of our missionaries to Africa has died, but two more—Dr. R. J. Dye and his wife, who until Jan. 16th was Miss Eva M. Nichols—are to start for the dark continent in a few days. They go to Bolengi where the F. C. M. S. have secured the building and grounds formerly owned by the Baptists.

Morality is a good thing, but we fear it will occasion the eternal ruin of many a man who trusts in it to save him and not in the Son of God. Had he less of it he might realize more his need of Christ; and on beholding the robe of Christ's righteousness he would see that his own was but rags.

Jesus told his apostles to teach the disciples to observe all things whatsoever he commanded them; and he commanded them to go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. How are the disciples of today attending to this part of the teaching? to this thing?

G. D. Weaver is trying to do his part in winning "one hundred thousand souls for Christ this year." Last month he held a meeting with the church to which he ministers regularly. There were 23 additions. He

now in a meeting at Hillsboro, O. The attendance is large and some are confessing the Christ.

More of the spirit of Christ in the hearts of some church members, would result in less money in their pocketbooks, but greater treasures in heaven. What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Let him answer that question.

It is gratifying to see the promptness with which the leaders of our missionary forces plan to enter through newly opened doors. Protestant missions have a splendid opportunity since the Spanish flag disappeared from Cuba, and we rejoice that the Foreign Christian Missionary Society will soon send two strong men thither.

We believe a new and brighter day has dawned for the Disciples of Christ in Boston. A new church was opened for divine worship on Jan. 22nd, B. L. Smith preaching. The house we understand is free of debt, and this is a pleasant and unusual condition for the Boston brethren. The new location is also more desirable than the old.

The *Christian Standard* says that the Jefferson St. Church, Buffalo, N. Y., where Lowell C. McPherson ministers, was organized eight years ago with thirty members, and now has five hundred on its roll. Within the past six years the membership of the four churches in Buffalo has increased from four hundred to one thousand two hundred.

An unemployed preacher in a church or community may be a great blessing to the church and its regular preacher, or he may be a hindrance in the way of both. The writer, who has joined the army of the unemployed, feels obliged to bear this in mind and to so conduct himself that no church or preacher shall suffer by his presence.

We have a tent; can we not find a tenting ground next summer? We found none last year, but that was probably because we did not look or looked too late. Now is the time to select the places and to secure the man to lead. If no preparations are made till the middle of June, the summer will end without a meeting.

It is almost six months since our Annual Meeting at Tiverton and about seven months till our meeting at — but where is it to be? (Perhaps the Chairman or Secretary can tell). We hope those who made pledges at Tiverton, which are yet unpaid, will turn the promises into cash as soon as possible. The Home Mission Board must not be allowed to close this year as it did last—in debt.

C. L. Thurgood writes in the *Christian Standard*: "It has been said, put two or three Australian Disciples (brethren or sisters, it matters not) in the midst of the Sahara desert, and the following Lord's day they would have the Lord's Supper spread, and in the afternoon would be distributing to their neighbors their religious papers and

tracts, even if they had to have them translated into Timbuctooanese." How is it with two or three Canadian disciples?

The encouraging growth in the number of contributing churches during the past five years ought to nerve us to undertake to enlist every church this year in the March offering. There has been also a large gain in the number of missionaries during the past five years in foreign lands. New fields have been entered and a number of new stations have been planted. Times are now better and still larger advance should be made.

C. H. DeVoe lately conducted an eighteen days' meeting at the old Coffee Creek Church, Ind. There were 15 additions, most of them men. The churches need evangelists who can reach the men; not because men are worth more than boys, but because they will never be boys again, never will have the susceptibility of youth, and are in great danger of dying without God and without hope.

Last month the Maritime Provinces, and particularly the Central Christian Church, Charlottetown, lost a good man and preacher in the removal of Geo. Manifold, who has gone to Lexington, Ky., to more fully prepare for work in a larger field. He was an earnest, consecrated worker while in these parts, and THE CHRISTIAN gladly bears testimony to his moral worth and self-sacrificing devotion.

Michigan is still rejoicing over the greatest meeting, in point of numbers, that the Disciples of Christ ever held in that state. The success was achieved in Buchanan, a town with only 2,000 inhabitants, but with eight denominations represented by churches. There were 205 additions to the church, 32 coming the last night. Chas. R. Scoville presented the "old Jerusalem gospel" with simplicity and force. Tracts and cards on Our Position, Christian Unity, Baptism, etc., were placed in every home. The converts knew whom they believed and why.

In some churches among the Disciples of Christ it has become the custom to elect the elders and deacons annually. The practice has strong advocates and seems to be spreading. There are some things to recommend the system. Hands should be laid hastily upon no man, but sometimes, even when care is exercised, unworthy men, and incompetent, fill the offices of elders or deacons. By choosing annually, how easily they could be dropped and those having the confidence of the church put in their places. The faithful officer would be almost sure of re-election. But the question remains, Is this method scriptural? Let our thinkers think.

"Ye observe days." Some of our churches have observed Christmas and will soon be preparing for Easter. The birth and death of Jesus are two great events in his wonderful career. If we are going to observe days why not extend the list? Why not have one as long as that of the Roman Catholic church? Why not keep Good Friday, Ascension Day,