

THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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St. JOHN, N. B.

EDITOR:

DONALD CRAWFORD, - - New Glasgow, P. E. I.

FINANCIAL MANAGER:

J. E. EDWARDS, St. JOHN, N. B.

ITEMS AND NEWS.

ELIHU the Buzite speaks.

IT IS Queens Co., N. S., this time.

BRO. HARDING reports a meeting at Tignish with three added.

BRO. OVERBAUGH has resigned as preacher for the churches on Deer Island.

BRO. O. B. EMERY's article on "Christian Union" is worth a careful reading.

BRO. Wm Murray's meeting at Summerville, N. S. closed with 16 additions. Grand!

BRO. MINNICK is engaged in a protracted meeting at Lubec. We are expecting a good report.

THANKS to our subscribers who have forwarded their subscriptions. Last month's receipts were the largest in the history of the paper.

WE learn that Bro. Capp has been unanimously requested to remain another year with the church at Springfield, Missouri.

WE desire to make special mention of our New York agent (Mrs. O. M. Packard), who is an enthusiastic worker for THE CHRISTIAN and deserves our best thanks.

MANY hundred subscribers have neglected to send the amount due. We wish them to remember that after paying our necessary expenses every dollar goes to the Home Mission Fund.

WE had intended to publish a series of short tracts written by some of our leading brethren, but lack of space has prevented us. We intend doing so in the near future.

EVERY month brings us words of encouragement from our readers. We appreciate them, but new subscribers speak louder than words of praise. Send them along, brethren.

WE are obliged again this month to hold some interesting articles for the next issue. Brethren will please mail matter for publication so as to reach us on the 20th of each month.

It is well for a person to live within his means. It is always wise, even if sometimes it should be uncomfortable. This is equally true of churches; but churches, like individuals, often pursue a different course. A church burdened by a debt unnecessarily incurred must be an eyesore to God and a pleasing picture to Satan. It is better by far to worship in a plainly finished and plainly furnished meeting-house that cost one thousand dollars and is paid for, than to be tenants in a magnificent structure furnished with all the modern conveniences and comforts, but over which a mortgage of thirty thousand dollars hangs like a cloud. Common glass windows that are paid for are more beautiful to the devout soul that has faith in the Book which says, "Owe no man anything," than the most beautiful stained windows could possibly be, if the latter are not paid for. A debt makes cushioned seats uncomfortable, even though they be cushioned with plush: but we can enjoy a hard seat in God's house when we know it is His, and the world has no claim upon it. All this is suggested by a big mortgage which disfigures a very rich and very fashionable church.

WE sometimes hear people trying to solve the problem why the Disciples of Christ make so few converts in these provinces. It is always well to find out whether a certain state of affairs exists before we look for the reasons which will explain it. We have not made as little progress as many seem to think. A rich harvest has grown on these fields and been reaped, but hundreds of the finest sheaves have been carried away to the United States. We have not received more than a dozen or so in return. About twenty of our preachers are working in the neighboring country. Is it any wonder, then, that we do not seem to be doing much for ourselves when we have done so much for others? It would be an instructive task, during these long winter nights, for the clerks of our various churches to examine the records and see how many names have been enrolled since the churches were organized, and especially to see how many members have gone away, taking letters with them. Such an examination would probably produce a feeling of sadness when it was found that more had gone than remained; but, as a reaction, a feeling of joy would arise in thinking that there were so many to go.

EVERYTHING has a history. It may be as brief as that of the dewdrop that forms in the night and disappears in the morning, or it may be as long as that of the mountain which has stood a silent witness of the changes of centuries. Some of our churches have had long, eventful and suggestive histories. It would be interesting to know what the past has been. When were they organized and under what circumstances? Who was the leading spirit in the movement? How many members formed the nucleus? Through what seasons of trial have they passed? What events of especial interest are connected with them? Information along these lines would be exceedingly entertaining reading. The history of the church at Lot 48, for instance, could not fail to entertain and instruct. For nearly eighty years it has been contending for the faith once for all delivered to the saints. Its history seems to go back further than the com-

mencement of Campbell's work in the United States; for he was not excluded by the Baptists from their fellowship till 1827, or more than a decade after this church was organized. There is room for a fruitful investigation here. Who can give us the facts?

THERE is one work which the writer of this paragraph would modestly suggest that the editor of THE CHRISTIAN should do, i. e., to write the History of the Disciples of Christ in the Maritime Provinces. In one hundred years from now we do not doubt but that the plea which we make for a return to the old paths shall be listened to with approval and accepted with delight by the English speaking world. A wave has started on its way to the Pacific States. It is working mighty changes as it goes. It will soon come back and touch the Atlantic coast, and in due time come up here, washing away speculations and dogmas which have no foundation but in men's vain thoughts. Those will be bright days for the Disciples in these provinces who shall see it. They will want to know when the first small and feeble wave touched those shores and tried to wash away the theological rubbish which had been accumulating for centuries, and prepared the way for the inflow of the flood of truth. Such a record should be made when brethren and sisters are alive whose memories go far back into the century and who can supply data which no existing record contains. Who is so competent to do the work as Bro. D. Crawford? If he cannot undertake such a task, let him at least give us a short account of the organization of the Church of Christ at New Glasgow.

REFORMATIONS are necessary, and as things go it seems as though the time would not soon come when they could be dispensed with. A reformation is generally more sweeping than a revision. The proper way to revise a man-made creed is to reform it till it conforms to the Divine confession of faith. The Church of Christ has no creed that needs revision, and no doctrines that require reforming. The Reformation of this century has restored to it the teachings of Christ and His apostles, unmixed by human error, and undisturbed by human philosophy. But the age of reformation even for us has not yet passed. We may well congratulate ourselves upon holding a doctrinal position which is impregnable. No place for successful assault can be found by even the most active and sagacious of our opponents. But it is one thing to be right in doctrine and an entirely different thing to be right in our religious life. Both should always be found together; but either may exist without the other. Thousands are wrong—radically, deplorably and it may be fatally—in doctrines, whose lives are almost above reproach. Thousands who understand God's revealed plan of salvation, and can state as clearly as Paul did the conditions upon which pardon will be granted, live lives which have little or nothing to recommend them. And of the two classes the one that is wrong in doctrine but right in life, stands in a safer position than the one who is right in doctrine and wrong in life; for the latter cannot be saved, but the former may possibly be. The reformation which shall be next needed is one to cause all who have named the name of Christ to depart from all iniquity, and show themselves to be indeed sons and daughters of God, who are trying to glorify Him in their bodies and spirits which are His.