

worship of the Lord, there is the church of Christ. In this little company of disciples I had indolently impressed upon my heart the order of worship in the church of Christ; the account of which we find in Acts ii. 42. "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers." Here are four acts of worship, and we continued as steadfastly in one as in the others. We met regularly on the Lord's day for this ostensible purpose, to study the apostles' doctrine—the word of God and that alone. We knew nothing about now-fangled or old-fangled notions. We attended to the breaking of bread and the fellowship (contribution), and in the prayers. With this order of worship, so plainly taught in the Bible, and so firmly established in my heart, in the very beginning of my Christian career, should it be considered strange that I should retain serious doubts as to the fitness or worthiness of those who change this divine order of worship. As we had no preacher, or what in modern times would be considered without a preacher, and no meeting-house in which to worship, and no very great wealth to command us, and somewhat limited in educational abilities, it might be considered a thing incredible that such a church should prosper. If any think it quite impossible that good could come out of such a church, let me say to you as Philip said to Nathaniel: "Come and see." Let us look at the history of this church and ascertain if possible the cause of its growth, for it was wonderfully successful. We soon moved into a hall, and then into a larger hall, and from that into the largest hall in the village, with a church of seventy-five members.

Soon after we commenced worship in Bro. Houston's house a Bro. Butler was added to our number. He with Bro. William Murray were appointed elders, and Bro. Houston and McDonald deacons; so that half of the church were officers. We were all workers, however. Here is another impression I then received that still stays by me, i. e., that every Christian must be a worker. That to live we must work, that to save ourselves we must work to build up the cause of God. We invited our friends to "come and see" our order. It was so simple and yet so scriptural, and so well suited to the wants of our nature, that its power was felt when seen. We had no human creed or formulated dogmas to muddle and bewilder. No chain to bind the soul, save the golden chain of love. As Bro. William Murray was the best read in Bible truths he did the most of the teaching. We all were furnished with pocket Testaments and we all had to use them. We were surrounded with all kinds of doctrines, and all manner of men, who were constantly on the watch to entangle us if possible and overthrow our religion. Our Testaments were in constant use. When any truth was denied we would turn to the chapter and verse for proof; when any new idea was advanced we would demand the scripture for proof. This early training in the knowledge of the Bible necessarily increased our love for God and the word of His grace. The fact that our love for God must be measured by our love for His word, was then established in our hearts and it is there yet. It is not possible for me with this early experience and what little I know of the word of God, to have one grain of faith in the religion of those who do not study His word. The strength and vitality of the church depends upon the continued growth of her members in the grace and knowledge of the word of God; and this cannot be accomplished unless the Bible is constantly studied. It is as true of us to-day as it was of Timothy. We must "study to show ourselves approved of God."

Another feature of this church was its manifested interest and love in each other. I was made to believe that the mainspring of religion was in seeking the good and the happiness of others; and the idea is hanging about me yet. I well remember

that when any of the members were absent from the meetings we would know it, and very soon ascertain the reasons of their absence. Many times one or more of the brethren would visit the family of the absent one soon after the close of the meeting. Our number on a stormy Sunday would be quite as many as when the day was fine. Those who were not able to face the storm knew that Bro. Houston would be after them with his team, and, of course, they would be ready. I don't think there will be horses in heaven, if they are Bro. Houston's horse will be there. There wasn't a ghost of a chance for the Sunday headache or dry weather Christians where Bro. Houston was. To refuse to go to church when the team was at the door, would be worse, if possible, than denying the faith. At that time I supposed that our worship would not be acceptable in the sight of God unless we did our part in getting others to the place of worship. And now my faith is terribly strained in accepting, as pure Christianity, the worship where we attend to the feast of divine love, knowing at the same time there are those whose hearts are yearning to enjoy this sacred feast whom we could assist to the house of worship, and yet indifferent to their highest enjoyment. Another lesson I received at this time, i. e., the right and necessity of every child of God contributing their income, or a portion of it, toward the support of the cause of God. If they were too poor to help support the cause, they were poor enough to need support, and they always received it. Every one should be either a giver to the church or a receiver from it. We can hardly imagine it possible that any one could be so faithless and ungracious as to refuse to support the cause of God, from whom they are receiving so many rich blessings here and expect to receive infinitely more in the future. H. M.

THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE.

The kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchantman seeking goodly pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.—Matt. xiii. 45.

In reading the parable, some think that Christ is the pearl of great price and sinners the merchantman. But in reading the word of God we cannot find recorded where the sinner is said to purchase Christ or eternal life. True, we find in Isaiah "Come buy wine and milk," but the price is there stated without money and without price. If we are not to pay anything then it is a gift which we receive, not a purchase which we make. The sinner cannot purchase salvation—Christ has purchased it. Let us remember this, for it makes all the difference in the world, because the buyer has a right to sell. If we had purchased Christ then we could part with Him, but if He has purchased us we cannot part with Him, as we are His by right of purchase; so when the Lord Jesus Christ purchased the church He paid a very high price for it, and He can never part with it until He gets a higher price, and that He never can. He laid down His own life for the church, yea, and more—for the whole human family. Eighteen hundred years ago Satan offered a price: "All these things will I give thee if thou wilt fall down and worship me."

The price was too low. Christ was about to pay His life's blood for the church and all the human race, therefore He would not sell it for earthly things. We might turn to one or two passages to prove this point—in Acts xx. 28, "The church of God which He had purchased with His own blood," Again in Gal. ii. 20: "Who loved me and gave Himself for me;" and I. Cor. vi. 20: "Ye are not your own, ye are bought with a price." More passages might be referred to that would prove that Christ purchased the church and not the church Christ.

But again, let us notice He calls the church the pearl of great price. A pearl is noted for its purity; and the moment it is found it is perfect and pure—

needing neither polishing nor grinding. So the church of God upon earth ought to be pure, even as He is pure. The Lord Jesus calls us His pearls. In order to get pearls we learn that the pearl-divers have to go to the bottom of the ocean for them; so the pearl of great price was down in the depths of sin and degradation, but the Lord Jesus Christ plunged from the very height of glory until He cries out "All Thy waves and Thy billows have gone over Me," and there he found the pearl which He sought. When He came up again He had secured the pearl of great price—the church of God which He had purchased with His own life's blood. What encouragement we have in seeking to win precious jewels for God. In the roughest and wildest places His eye sees them. Search the Word and see where the Lord found His jewels, out of Moab He brought one bright jewel. Rahab, another bright gem was found a harlot in Jerico. In that gloomy prison Paul and Silas found a lovely jewel—the Philippian jailor. So we can find jewels for the Master's crown where we least expect to find them; we may meet with a great deal of disappointment and trial, but this is nothing to the joy of finding one precious soul as a bright jewel to set in the crown of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us go on daily laboring to win souls for the Redeemer of the world, knowing that He will be with us and will help us through all time, and will give us a home at last beyond the river if faithful to Him. W. B. McEwen.

Milton.

Died.

FISHER.—In this city on the 9th inst., of consumption, Sister E. A. Fisher, beloved wife of Bro. Samuel Fisher, aged 51 years, leaving a kind husband and two sons to mourn her loss. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." W. A. B.

HORSEFIELD.—At her residence, Westport, N. S., May 16th, Mrs. Julia Horsefield, wife of Mr. Thomas Horsefield, aged 72 years. Sister Horsefield was baptized into Christ by Elder Geo. Garrity, nearly twenty-nine years ago and united with the Christian church at Westport, continuing in its membership till her death. She leaves a sorrowing and aged husband besides several children to mourn their loss. Funeral services were conducted at the house and the grave by Rev. J. H. Saunders (Baptist), and the writer. H. A. DeVoe.

STEWART.—At his residence, South Lake, Lot 47, May 8, leaving a large circle of relatives and friends, besides his widow and four helpless children, to mourn the loss of a true friend, a loving husband and indulgent parent, Bro. Donald A. Stewart passed from the earth life, we trust, to a higher and better. To the God of the widow and Father of the fatherless, and the loving hearts of her community, we commend the widow and her helpless little ones.

CAMPBELL.—Sister Jessie, daughter of the late Peter Campbell, peacefully and gently went to rest, at Montague, May 25, aged 84 years. In early life she gave herself to God. She lived a life of faith in the Son of God, and finally fell asleep in Jesus. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." O. B. Emery.

HALIFAX CHURCH FUND.

Mr. James Wallace,	25
Mrs. James Wallace,	25
Miss Evelyn Wallace,	25
Miss Lois Wallace,	25
Mr. Lorenzo Sim,	25
Mrs. Lorenzo Sim,	25
Mr. William Wallace,	25
Mrs. James Weatherhead,	25
Mr. George DeWolf,	25
Mr. Leonard DeWolf,	25
Mrs. Lunn,	1 00
Mrs. Thomas Purves,	25
Mr. R. S. Purves,	25
Mrs. Rodgers,	50
Miss Williams,	50
Wm. Martin & wife, Rolling Dam, Char. Co.,	1 00
Inhalor,	50
Chairs,	7 20
Total,	\$13 70

W. J. MESSERVEY,
Treasurer.