

The Christian.

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"THE CHRISTIAN,"

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THE CLOSE OF VOLUME I.

The present issue finishes the first volume of THE CHRISTIAN. We have given to its readers twelve numbers. When it was decided to publish this paper, although hopeful of success, we were not without fears of its failure. A year's experience has largely increased our hope and dispelled our fear. THE CHRISTIAN still lives and grows from month to month in its circulation and in the number of its contributors. To the friends who thus aid us we return our hearty thanks.

We hear of no proposition to discontinue its publication, but all say, "Let THE CHRISTIAN go on," and although it increases our labor and responsibility we add our Amen. After a free discussion at the Annual Meeting, it was decided to continue it for another year in its present size and frequency.

We say for the encouragement of all concerned that we find persons willing to take and pay for it whenever and wherever asked. Very few, indeed, refuse. While we are anxious to do what we can, both in conducting THE CHRISTIAN and in getting subscribers, we would earnestly ask its patrons and friends not only to renew their subscriptions at once, but also to get others to take it. Active workers will be astonished to find how many will gladly take it who would not apply for it themselves. Of its merits we leave others to decide, but would remark: (1st) We receive encouraging words from others. (2nd) We trust that past experience will benefit our future labors. (3rd) That the past blessings of our kind Father bring his promises for the future nearer to our hearts. Friends, let us hear from you immediately.—[Ens.

EDITORIAL.

At the beginning of creation God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. In the beginning of His redemptive work the Son of God called the present life day, and our approaching death He called night. He said: "I must work the works of Him that sent me while it is day, the night cometh when no man can work."

This is a beautiful declaration of His manhood with its duties and responsibilities. Angels work at night; but Jesus is not an angel but the Son of man. At night an angel passed throughout the whole land of Egypt and left a corpse in every house except those sprinkled with the blood of the

slain lamb. At night an angel troubled Pharaoh and his hosts and drowned them in the red sea, while the rejoicing Israelites reached the shore in safety. And it was at night the angel rolled the stone from Joseph's tomb ere Jesus rose and entered into that day which knows no night.

This life Jesus calls day and the only time for man to work. Let us glance: 1. At Jesus' work. 2. At the work of his brethren.

I. Christ as a worker followed the example of His Father. "The Son can do nothing but what He seeth the Father do. Although little is recorded of His youthful work we have enough to show it to be a complete success. That He grew in favor with God and man tells the whole. He entered public life with his Father's great endorsement: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased," and His first action was to meet and overcome the great enemy of God. The devil plied his strength and malice, enhanced by long and successful experience in a desperate struggle to lead him astray, but was so completely foiled that neither he nor his angels ever met Him again in any attitude but that of cringing and disappointed suppliants. After this victory Jesus went about destroying the works of the devil. He expelled evil spirits from those possessed by them. He opened the eyes of the blind and healed all who had need of healing. By these miracles of mercy He revealed His Father's character. His mission was to the Jews. They read Moses' law which enjoined on the transgressor a death without mercy, and thought that God hated sinners as they did the publicans and sinners. But Jesus received sinners and ate with them to convince all classes that God is love. He came to separate sinners and sin—to condemn and crush sin, but to justify the sinner, and purify and honor and make him an heir with Himself of eternal glory. Thus He who could not tolerate sin was the dearest friend of the sinner. Jesus worked the works of His Father until the night of death drew near. He completely fulfilled the law of God which we have broken. He loved God with all His heart and His neighbor as Himself. The Father did not leave Him alone during this work, for He did the things that pleased Him and could say, "I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do," before He was betrayed into the hands of sinners.

But Jesus had another work to do after He had obeyed the moral law of God and said, "I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do"—the work of atonement. In the first he kept and honored the law which we have broken; in the second he died for our transgression. He was bruised for our iniquity. In this work he stood alone. His disciples fled from Him and even His loving Father forsook Him. He trod the wine press alone till He could say, "It is finished," and bowed His head and died. All was finished. His obedience to the law of God was complete, His obedience unto death, even the death of the cross, was finished. Being made perfect He became the author of eternal salvation to all that obey Him.

II. The brethren of Christ partake of a divine nature and are expected to be engaged in His work. The only time they can work is between their conversion and their death. This time can never be very long and it is often exceedingly short. The importance of this work can only be estimated by eternity and the difference between souls lost forever and souls saved forever. It should be a solemn enquiry with every convert who enters the church, "What is my department in the great work of the Master." For we should remember that He gives every one his own work, and every one shall receive his own reward according to his own labor. If one refuses to do his own work it must remain undone, and the consequences can only be estimated by Him who comprehends eternity. Let all the people of God be thoughtful,

prayerful and true. But we will conclude with the following poem composed on the subject:

On earth we have work for the Master to do,
The labor of faith and of love;
And whether our talents be many or few
'Tis by labor these talents improve.

CHORUS.

There is something to do, there is something to do,
The Master has work for each one!
And the time is at hand, when the whole faithful
band
Shall hear the blest plaudit, "Well done!"

With us are the sick, and the poor, and oppressed,
Whom He loves and regards as His own;
And how we have treated these poor and distressed,
At last He'll announce from His throne.

CHORUS.

There is something, &c.

Our children have minds that forever shall last,
And they're filling with error or truth;
They're looking to us as the time's flying past,
We have something to do for the youth.

CHORUS.

There is something, &c.

The church of the present is needing our aid,
How little soever it be;
Of small drops of water the rivers are made,
And the rivers are feeding the sea.

CHORUS.

There is something, &c.

How many all round us are thronging the road
Leading down to a limitless woe?
And He who redeemed us with His precious blood,
Gives us something for others to do.

CHORUS.

There is something, &c.

Shall we see that the Gospel is preached unto all?
That our life-work is pointing to heaven?
Most surely the Master commands great and small
To trade on the talents He's given.

CHORUS.

There is something, &c.

D. C.

ALTHOUGH there is so much need for increased labor on P. E. I., I was induced by the solicitation of esteemed brethren to attend the Annual Meeting at Deer Island. I am now in St. John on my way home, after spending nineteen days on the Island. There were many things on this visit that encouraged my heart and made the Saviour increasingly precious. One circumstance was that of meeting many brethren, especially preaching brethren, whom I would probably never see were it not for meetings of this kind. I will here name only a few: Bro. Rogers I had never seen, but was happy to meet him and witness his zeal and ability in the Master's cause. Bro. Ryan I know only by report, but such report as excited very high expectations, which, I am glad to say, were more than realized when I saw and heard him. I had never seen Bro. Nowlan, but regard him as a very promising laborer in the gospel of Christ. Bro. Wm. Murray I had not seen for over thirty years. At that time he was a young man and a young Christian, talking often and earnestly of proclaiming that gospel to others which had so much rejoiced his own heart. To meet and associate with such a brother, after so long a separation, is something I shall not attempt to describe. The brethren on Deer Island were much encouraged since the meetings began, and I hope that Bro. Emery's labors there will be blessed still more and more. Since I left P. E. I. Bro. Gunn has been cheered by accessions to the saved.

D. C.

POSTAL LAW.—On several occasions we have been sorry to see manuscript, intended for publication in THE CHRISTIAN, costing nine and twelve cents when one or two cents would have been sufficient