

News of the Churches.

ST. JOHN, N. B.
COBURG STREET

On Tuesday evening, March 20th, a social was held under the auspices of the Y. P. S. C. E. Thanks to Dr. Ray, the Sunday-school room was tastefully decorated with red, white and blue bunting. During the evening a short programme was carried out, after which cake and coffee were served.

We mention the death of little Pearl Dunlop, of St. John, which occurred Sunday, April 1st. Pearl was nine years old and a very lovable little girl, and her parents have the sympathy of the entire congregation here.

Dr. Ray spoke in the Young Men's Christian Association Hall on Lord's day afternoon, March 26, on the topic *Wherewithal Shall we be Clothed?* — the first garment being "Watchfulness." On the 8th of April he will speak on the second garment, "Steadfastness," and on the 22nd the third garment, "Manliness." W. A. B.

HALIFAX, N. S.

My last notes were written from Westport, where it was my privilege to assist Bro. Murray for three weeks in what proved to be a most excellent meeting. This meeting leaves the church at Westport much stronger than at any time in its history, having considerably more than doubled its active membership, and greatly strengthened and encouraged those who had stood faithfully by the cause all these years. The labors of Bro. Murray have been greatly blessed, and he will now be happy in helping to build up those new converts, and the many restored ones, in their most holy faith, for which important work he is so well fitted both by nature and grace.

There is every prospect for a prosperous future for the church at Westport.

Our work here in Halifax goes slowly along. The third Lord's day in March we had one confession and baptism, and yesterday another young lad made the good confession. There are others, we think, of our young folk not far from the kingdom. There has been, and still is, considerable sickness among the members of the church, which tells on our congregations. The writer has been unfitted for work for nearly two weeks, owing to la grippe, or something else as bad. I did manage to fill my regular appointments on the Lord's day, and this was all I could do.

But while we have many discouragements, we are cheered with the good news that comes to us from other places, particularly the grand work that is being done in Pictou. I never lost faith in the final success of the work in that town. The earnest prayers and great sacrifice of our beloved Bro. Fullerton could never go unrewarded. He, whose cause he loves so much, and for which he has sacrificed and labored, has heard those earnest prayers, and seen what he has done, and blessed the labors of his servants, causing the hearts of the lovers of the simple gospel of Christ to rejoice in its success in that intelligent, but conservative town. Let us thank God and take courage. We rejoice with Bro. Fullerton and Bro. Allen, with other true friends of the cause in that locality, over the results of this glorious meeting, and pray that Bro. Romig may be long spared to do similar work in many other acknowledged hard places.

I pray that his meeting to be held with the new church at the North End, St. John, will be blessed of God in the salvation of many precious souls.

We are hoping that before another year has passed to see a similar work done here in this city. For

this we shall work and pray, believing that God will hear our prayers, and send us a helper to build up his cause in this old and sectarian city of Halifax. With the good work that has been done in Charlotte, Co., N. B., in Newport and Pictou, and with the prospect of other good meetings yet to be held, the outlook for success in our work in these provinces this year is very encouraging.

E. C. FORD.

Halifax, March 26, 1900.

MILTON, N. S.

It is with great sorrow that we inform the readers of THE CHRISTIAN of the demise of our Bro. Charles Harlow, who fell asleep in Jesus on Monday evening, March 5th. Mr. Charles Harlow was one of the oldest members of the Church of Christ in Milton. His was the life of a consistent follower of our Lord Jesus, a model father, and faithful and loving husband. The funeral services were held at the home of the deceased, and were participated in by all the ministers of the town, and the interment took place in the Milton cemetery. The respect in which our departed brother was held was made manifest by the large company which gathered to witness the last sad rites performed. His widow and all bereaved ones have the deepest sympathy and prayers of the church.

Monday, March 12th, the writer had the pleasure of mailing thirty-four dollars to the Foreign Missionary Society, this being our missionary contribution.

Friday evening, March 9th, a social was held in the church vestry. The vestry was decorated with British, Canadian and American flags, and, together with the delightful programme and the delicacies provided by the ladies of the church, gave all a pleasant and most enjoyable evening. Speeches were also given by outside ministers, in which the body and town people in general came in for due praise. The growing spirit of unity had an outburst something akin to a miracle, for a general exchange amongst the ministers of the town really happened Sunday evening, March 18th. The Baptist preached to the Christian flock, the Congregationalist to the Baptist flock, and the Disciple to the Congregational flock. That heaven's benediction may rest upon this late exhibited spirit, and that Christ's cause may increase in this field, is the fervent prayer of your brother in Christ.

WILLIAM STEFF.

WESTPORT, N. S.

The Westport meeting began the first week in the new year. The beginning of the second week we took severely ill, as has already been reported. Two weeks later we got on to our feet again and undertook to continue the meetings, but, unfortunately, our strength was not sufficient for the work. The fact was distressingly plain that help must be secured or the meetings closed. Bro. Ford, of Halifax, was persuaded to leave his wife and home and come to our assistance. To journey over the worst roads, from Digby to Westport, in the most disagreeable weather of the last century, required a sacrifice on the part of Bro. Ford. However, he came and did a grand work for us in tiding us over the crisis. He remained with us three weeks and baptized three young men. He thought it wise to return home, as we had improved in health and were able to go on with the work. We continued the meetings and the interest steadily increased. Many who, for a long time, had forsaken the worship and work of the church came back to their first love, and are now splendid workers in the church. This gave new life to the meetings. We had as many as fifty who were active in the meetings during the evening service.

We baptized five one week after Bro. Ford's return home, and last Lord's day we baptized nineteen more, and on Monday two others, making twenty-nine baptisms in all. We were compelled to leave the meetings in the height of its interest and come to Tiverton to assist Bro. Cooke. We had prolonged our meetings two weeks beyond our promise to be in Tiverton, and could not prolong it longer in justice to the Tiverton church.

When we went to Westport last June we had about thirty at the Lord's table, and about forty in the Sunday-school. Last Lord's day we had ninety at the Lord's table and one hundred in the Sunday-school. We are very much encouraged and feel justly proud of the Westport church, that is now an active, earnest, united church, with fine prospects for doing a much greater work on this little island of the sea.

H. M.

TIVERTON, N. S.

Bro. Cooke came here the 20th of February and labored faithfully and earnestly till the 20th of March. He had the joy of seeing some renew their faith and love, and who are now working for the Lord. We were with Bro. Cooke one week and were much pleased with his preaching. We are continuing the meetings without any apparent prospect of increase. It is too late in the season to accomplish much here. The fishermen are too busy to give attention to meetings.

H. M.

WEST GORE, N. S.

Bro. S. Kelfer, of Cold Stream, Ontario, has been with us since the 21st of January, and I think averaged about a discourse a day in the different churches in the county during his stay. The lessons so clearly and faithfully given were very profitable to establish the churches in the faith as well as to enlighten the unbeliever. He favored us with a series of lectures on the Holy Spirit, which most effectually dispelled the mist and cleared away the fog that has hovered around the subject for years. One lecture in particular, on the 2nd of the Acts, for depth, clearness and power, was certainly grand. Then we had a series of lectures on the Types and Anti-types, which proved that the Bible is no myth, but that its author is a Divine Being, who knew the end from the beginning, and through it unfolded his purpose to restore and save man. By diagrams on the blackboard the lesson of the Types and Anti-types were made very plain and impressive, showing the different dispensations, with their laws and ceremonies, the two covenants or testaments, their difference and their correspondence, the fulfillment of the one and the establishing of the other, the superiority of the one over the other, etc. Everything in the old represented something in the new; and anything changed or misplaced in the new would not correspond with the old; but everything had its place and purpose, and was a part of the divine purpose or plan; and any part tampered with destroyed its beauty and effect. We had also a discourse on the question, "Are the Disciples of Christ a Sect?" which subject was handled in a masterly manner, and would be certainly profitable to professed Disciples, sectarians or unbelievers. Bro. Kelfer gave also a discourse or two on Baptism. Commencing at the beginning, at the root of the matter, he handled it in all its branches and phases. His faith in the gospel as the power of God unto salvation seems to be unbounded, and he claims that if the scriptures thoroughly furnish the man of God to every good work, we need nothing else. He stands by the old motto, "Where the Bible speaks, we speak; and where it is silent, we are silent."

He had to leave for the present to attend to some private business, but we trust he will return soon to take up for a time the work in this county.

J. McDUGALL.

West Gore, March 26, 1900.