

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.

OFFICE EDITOR:

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

ANNUAL MEETING.

Held at West Gore, September 3rd to 6th.

The Annual Meeting of the Disciples of Christ of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick was held with the church in West Gore, Hants Co., N. S., from Thursday evening, Sept. 3rd to Sunday evening, Sept. 6th, 1896; and the general impression is that this meeting was the best that has ever been held in these Provinces. The attendance was very large and the Hants County churches were especially well represented. The kindness that was shown by the entertaining church was all that could be desired. Bro. W. H. Harding, with others, labored diligently for weeks in order that the visitors might have a pleasant time coming, an agreeable and a profitable stay, and delightful recollections; and if the West Gore church does not want the meeting soon again it should not have stolen the hearts of the delegates as it has done. To add to the pleasure of the meeting the Lord sent us charming convention weather, for which we fear we were not as thankful as we should have been.

The first meeting was held on Thursday evening. Bro. Harding, speaking for himself and the West Gore church, welcomed the delegates most heartily, and Bro. H. Murray of Milton responded for the visitors in his own happy way. After this Bro. H. A. Devoe of South Range, who in company with many had come directly to the church after a long and tiresome journey, preached a sermon that was exceedingly appropriate, his subject being *Confirming the Churches*, Acts xv. 41.

By Friday morning the greater number of the delegates had come, and at nine o'clock there was a good attendance at the first meeting for prayer and praise. Bro. D. A. Morrison of St. John led the meeting, and

there was not nearly enough time for all to take part who desired to do so. The meeting closed by singing "I need thee, every hour" and prayer by Bro. E. C. Ford of Cornwallis.

At two o'clock, the chairman, Bro. E. C. Ford, took his place, the congregation sang "Thus far the Lord has led me on," he read the thirty-fourth Psalm and Bro. H. W. Stewart, of St. John, led in prayer. The first business was the selection of officers, and it was moved by D. A. Morrison and seconded by T. H. Blenus, of Halifax, that a nominating committee be appointed. The chairman then named D. A. Morrison, H. Murray, and R. W. Stevenson, as such committee. While the committee was deliberating Bro. Ford spoke of the purpose for which we had assembled. It was not for preaching, nor for social intercourse, good though these are, but rather for planning to extend the Redeemer's kingdom.

The nominating committee submitted the following names for the respective offices: M. B. Ryan, Leonardville, for president; J. W. Bolton, Westport, for vice-president; J. E. Barnes, St. John, for rec.-secretary; and the meeting adopted the report. Bro. Ryan while preferring that some one else should be chosen, gracefully submitted to the desire of the meeting and made an ideal chairman. A better one could not have been found. A committee on order of business consisting of T. H. Blenus, R. W. Stevenson and W. H. Harding, was at once appointed. The minutes of the last year's meeting were read and approved. The committee on order of business was by this time ready to report and the report was received.

The letters from the churches were called for and only Back Bay, Le Tete and Newport failed to respond. The letters received were in the main encouraging. Nearly all the churches have had additions by baptism during the year. With scarcely an exception the reporting churches were able to state that they had contributed to the Home Mission Fund. Evidently the churches are beginning to see the need of co-operative work. Many of the churches however are far from doing what they can for the spread of the truth in these provinces. The reports also showed a fair interest in Foreign Missions, but still there is great room for advancement. Nearly all the reporting churches have Sunday Schools, each with a good corps of teachers, some schools have libraries sufficiently large to meet the requirements.

The report of the Home Mission Board was then read. Here it is, and it merits the careful consideration of the reader:

HOME MISSION BOARD'S REPORT.

To the Disciples of Christ of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick:

DEAR BRETHREN,—Your Home Mission Board respectfully submit their report for the year ending August 1st, 1896.

We are pleased to say that with two exceptions every church has contributed this year to the fund. We are sorry to tell that with one exception the Sunday Schools and Endeavor Societies have not given as much as last year.

Nine preachers have been employed four hundred and fifty days; they preached one hundred and sixty-eight sermons at nine places and collected \$366.00. Twenty-two were added to the churches.

Attached are statements showing the details of the fund and the work for the past year, also amounts contributed by each place during this year and last.

It will be noticed the amount received is smaller than last year, but having no evangelist in the field this year accounts for the loss.

We again urge the churches to take up the May collection and remit to Brother B. L. Smith, Cincinnati, Ohio, and thus show that we are grateful to our United States brethren for the aid they have given to Halifax and for their promise to give as much more for the work in Pictou.

We are greatly pleased over the results in Halifax. Brother Blenus has labored faithfully and successfully. His ably written articles in the daily press has made our people and their plea well and favorably known to many who have never heard of us before.

Brother Blenus has greatly helped the CHRISTIAN by his excellent contributions which have been read with pleasure and profit by all.

We commend the work in Halifax, Pictou and Portland as especially worthy of support. We feel sure that what is spent in these places will bring in a good harvest both financially and spiritually.

Considering all the circumstances the work this year has been satisfactory. But we should not be satisfied until we see the cause we love going forward until its power is felt by every soul in these provinces.

In the coming days may God give us wisdom and strength to carry on his work so that the Disciples of Christ will increase in numbers, in zeal, in liberality and in love.

Statement showing amounts contributed and places from which received for the years ending July 31st, 1895 and 1896:

	1895	1896
Milton,	\$71 77	\$39 45
do. Sunday-School,	1 38	
Halifax, do.	20 80	8 11
do. Y. P. S. C. E.,	4 84	
.....	268 75	823 06
Cornwallis,	15 00	14 50
Westport,	15 72	18 67
do. Sunday-School,	4 28	1 85
Tiverton,	12 15	6 00
do. Sunday-School,	2 00	
Southville,	14 50	10 25
Kempt,		4 00
do. Woman's Aid,	4 00	2 00
South Range,	6 00	18 00
Summersville,	8 00	2 00
do. Mission Band,	2 00	1 00