

# THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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## The Christian.

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BRO. P. D. NOWLAN is about to labor in River John, N. S.

We are pleased to learn that Bro. Blenus, with the united efforts of the brethren in Jacksonville, Florida, is doing a good work for the Lord.

NOTWITHSTANDING there were six or seven candidates for the mayorship of St. John, the temperance candidate, Mr. H. J. Thorne, was elected by a majority of sixty-three.

IN our efforts to make THE CHRISTIAN a success, we are continually encouraged by kind words, coming from brethren who are not given to flattery, and whose opinion we esteem highly.

BRO. WILLIAM MURRAY has been visiting the church at Leonardville, Deer Island, during the past month. The brethren there are anxious that he should take hold of the work in that place.

DURING the past few days we have had in our midst Brother W. K. Burr, of Ameliasburg, Ont. Last Sunday he preached morning and evening to the Coburg Street Church. The sermons were good and highly appreciated by the audiences.

BRO. AND SISTER FORD, after labouring fifteen years with the churches at Westport and Liverton, are now settled in Cornwallis. The parting scenes and tokens of love presented will be to them a never failing source of comfort and encouragement. May God's richest blessing attend them in their new field of labour.

IN the month of April just past, we paid a visit to Leonardville and found the church there alive to the work. In company with Bro. William Murray we went to Lord's Cove, called upon Brother and Sister F. Lambert; on our return we visited our somewhat aged Bro. Hughes. He seemed to be in his usual health, but being continually confined to the house, by reason of his wife's health, he feels somewhat dispirited.

IN the adjoining City of Portland the Scott Act comes in force this the first day of May. Some of the rumsellers will continue to sell their nefarious, soul-destroying stuff in order to test the Act. A meeting of these men, financially interested in the traffic, has been called for the purpose, no doubt, of suggesting to each other the best methods of impeding the carrying out of the law. Why should such a meeting as this be called? The majority of

the people in that city has said, "We want the Scott Act." Let the rumsellers, then, as law-abiding citizens do, submit to the wish of the people.

BRETHREN Errett, Moore, Sweeney and Toof, have, ere this, reached Jerusalem, and are viewing with their natural eyes the city and country in which occurred the scenes of our Saviour's life on earth. Oh, what indescribable feelings of reverence must take possession of their souls as they realize that on every hand they are surrounded by places, customs, and dress, not materially different from the time of our Saviour, nearly nineteen hundred years ago. Their letters will be very interesting, and we shall clip from them some of the most interesting portions and insert them in THE CHRISTIAN.

It strengthens our faith to read what others, outside of the Bible, have said concerning Jesus. The apostles were not slow to record the sayings of the people—sayings that were the outburst of their heretofore pent-up feelings as they heard and beheld the wonderful words and doings of Christ. Said the man once blind, "Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one born blind." "If this man were not of God he could do nothing." The officers, on returning to the chief priests and Pharisees, by whom they had been sent to arrest Jesus, replied to the question, "Why have ye not brought him?" "Never man spake like this man." The people at Capernaum too, when witnessing the cure of the paralytic said, "We never saw it on this fashion."

When the aged Polycarp was about to be burned at Smyrna, he assured the governor who urged him to deny Christ: "Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He never did me wrong, and how can I now blaspheme my King who has saved me."

Jean Paul Richter, a German scholar, speaking of Jesus, says: "The life of Christ concerns Him who, being the holiest among the mighty, the mightiest among the holy, lifted with His pierced hand, empires off their hinges, and turned the stream of centuries out of its channel, and still governs the ages."

Matthew Claudius, a German poet, thus writes to a friend: "No one ever thus loved (as Christ did), nor did anything so truly great and good as the Bible tell us of Him ever enter into the heart of man. It is a holy form, which rises before the poor pilgrim like a star in the night, and satisfies his innermost craving, his most secret yearnings and hopes."

Napoleon I., conversing one day at St. Helena with an officer, asked: "Can you tell me who Jesus Christ was." The reply was: "No, I have not taken much thought of such things." Well then, said Napoleon, I will tell you: "I think I understand somewhat of human nature, and I tell you all these (Alexander, Caesar and Charlemagne, between whom he had been making comparisons), were men, and I am a man, but no one is like Him; Jesus Christ was more than a man. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and myself founded great empires; but upon what did the creations of our genius depend? Upon force. Jesus alone founded His empire upon love, and to this very day millions

would die for Him." Speaking on another occasion: "Here lies the Book of books upon the table, (touching it reverently), I do not tire of reading it, and do so daily with equal pleasure. The soul charged with the beauty of the Gospel is no longer its own; God possesses it entirely."

THE following, clipped from a letter by Bro. Errett, to *The Christian Standard* of April 23rd, will be interesting to our readers:—

The famous St. Peter's, the largest church in the world, and said to have been some 7,300 years in reaching its present proportions and style, is certainly a stupendous and magnificent structure. It is on the site of the Circus of Nero, where it is claimed that St. Peter suffered martyrdom, but where it is much more probable that Paul yielded up his life, and where certainly many Christians were the victims of Nero's cruelty. The cost of this building is estimated at \$50,000,000, and the expense of maintaining it is about \$25,000 per annum. Its area is about 18,000 square yards, while that of the Milan Cathedral is about 10,000, and that of St. Paul's at London, 9,350. As nearly as we can get at it, the length of the interior, exclusive of the walls, is 213 yards; or, including the portico, some make it 232 yards; height of nave, 250 feet; breadth of nave in front, 29 yards; behind the tribune, 26 yards; length of transept, exclusive of the walls, 150 yards. The Dome, from the pavement to the summit of the lantern, 403 feet in height; its diameter, 138 feet. There are 25 altars in addition to the high altar, and 148 columns.

The front of the exterior is not particularly imposing, but the magnificent colonnades which partly enclose the space in front, each with its four series of columns—284 in all, with 88 buttresses—make favorable impression as we approach, passing the Obelisk in the center of the Piazza, and relieve the disappointment one feels in his first view of the facade of this renowned temple. Within, the impression is striking; its vastness and beauty and grandeur, if not overpowering, are certainly deeply impressive. The proportions, and some of the arrangements, may be subject to criticism. The truth is, there were too many designers and too many dictators to allow of anything like perfect architecture. Michael Angelo was greatly embarrassed by the bad taste and ill-formed plans of some of his predecessors. The only wonder is that, with so many conflicting wills at work, anything so grand has resulted. We attempt no description here. It can be had from the guide-books. We can only say that the beauty and magnificence of this stupendous pile grew on us as we lingered, and we greatly regretted that we had not more time to devote to it. Two things our readers will be interested in more than in the details of its architecture or the wealth of its adornments:

1. The right transept was the place of meeting of the Ecumenical Council in 1870, which decreed the infallibility of the Pope.

2. We attended high mass at St. Peter's on Sunday, February 27. We had supposed that in the solemnities of Lent, the Carnival being open—which, by the way, was a tame, spiritless affair, not the tenth part of such a show as an American city could improvise—there would be a large gathering of worshippers. To our surprise we found in all the chapels not more than five hundred, and these were of the lowest order of the people—most of them coarsely clad, some of them in rags, many of them dirty, and scarce an intelligent face among them. The few intelligent faces were those of travellers, who were there merely as spectators. We know not how it was in other churches, but they presented any such spectacle as St. Peter's it is evident that the Roman Catholic Church has but a slender hold on the people of Rome. To her honor be it said that the meanest of the people are welcome to her most magnificent shrines; but where were the intelligent people of Rome? Even the mass of her working people were on the streets, not in the churches.