

# THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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## The Christian.

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## ITEMS AND NEWS.

Our subscribers who are in arrears will confer a great favor by sending amounts this month.

Bro. E. C. Ford writes that he will spend a month or two evangelizing during the fall.

Bro. S. W. Leonard has entered Lexington Bible College to prepare himself to preach the gospel.

The news from the churches is more than encouraging. The New Brunswick churches are waking up.

For the very full and excellent report of our annual meeting we are indebted to Bro. Howard Murray.

Bro. William Murray is laboring with the Letete and Back Bay churches. He reports a good interest at both places.

E. B. Barnes has resigned the pastorate of the church at Bowmanville, Ontario, and has resumed studies in Lexington University, Ky.

The brethren in Hants County have done a wise thing in engaging Bro. Harding to preach for them. We may expect some good news from Hants County this year.

We wish to draw attention to the articles in the other columns of this page from the pen of Bro. Stewart. The articles are timely. What we need now is a "movement all along the line." Let us work and pray for it, and with God's help we will succeed.

About twenty-five members of the Coburg street church, St. John, who live at Silver Falls (about three miles from the city) have decided to organize and build a meeting house. At a meeting held on Wednesday evening, the 27th ult., a building committee was appointed with power to commence the work at once. Sister Lamont, who is teaching at this place, was chosen secretary, and is doing her utmost to assist these worthy brethren. Mr. Edward Shollington, who was present at the meeting and who was appointed on the building committee, kindly donated a lot of land. These brethren and sisters are an earnest band of workers and deserve the assistance of our brethren everywhere. Bro. Stewart and several of the St. John brethren were present at the meeting. Any of our brethren who can assist these good brethren can send to E. W. Stewart, Box 56, St. John, who will acknowledge receipt in THE CHRISTIAN.

Much has been said, good and bad, about the Disciples of Christ, but no one acquainted with the one grand idea that fills their minds

**Our Plea.** and has been the spring of their success in the United States can call in question the uniqueness and importance of the work they have in hand and the consummation they desire to reach. Some may say, owing to lack of study or penetration that their plan is not feasible. Others may adduce different objections. But none can deny that it was the Disciples who sounded the call to the scattering hosts of God's children—"Back to Jerusalem." They it was who made the religious denominations, unwilling though they were, to recognize the sinfulness of the divided condition of Christendom. They it was who made the cry for Christian union popular—so popular that in every representative religious gathering the sentiment is received with approbation. And they it is who are leading the world to the one platform upon which alone union can be secured. They have not only pointed to the end to be attained, they have shown how to reach it, and they are treading along that way. Other bases of union have been presented, but some are aiming at appearance and not at vital union; the remainder are impracticable, or unscriptural. We alone stand untrammelled by creeds, confessions and dogmas forged in human minds. We alone appeal to the Bible for a warrant for everything we demand of a person who is desirous of becoming a Christian, and we alone place the Bible in his hand as his only rule of faith and practice. We call the world to Christ, not creeds, and creeds are crumbling as Christ is being exalted. He must be the centre around which all must rally. His name must be the one they will wear, for under no other can they combine. The simple conditions which He laid down, and upon compliance with which admission into His kingdom would be granted, must be the only ones demanded. Here we stand, not boastingly, but proudly. We call the world back to the old paths, we see the scouts that tell us they are coming, and we rejoice for the sake of Christ that all may yet be one in Him. Then the golden age shall have dawned and one church shall go out against the combined powers of sin, and Satan shall be defeated.

But what is the advantage of having such a plea if the world hears nothing about it? Are we to rejoice over the priceless jewel we

**Our Field.** possess and never let a ray be flashed upon others who could appreciate it as well as ourselves? This cry for union is yet to sound round the world, and with it will go this scriptural plan. But when? While the field is the world, "our field," as here used, means the Maritime Provinces. With what effect has the simple gospel of Christ been preached here? In seventy or eighty years we would naturally expect that the little leaven of the early days would have spread till the whole mass would be influenced. Instead of this what do we find? With sorrow we confess that our influence has not been great, neither has our growth been large or rapid. It is as well to face the truth. In Nova Scotia we have fourteen churches. With the exception of the one in Halifax, not one of them is in a town of any considerable size. Some of them are small country

churches with small prospects of expansion. The towns have been neglected. Yarmouth, Pictou, Amherst, Truro and such places have been passed by. In each of these towns we should have a flourishing church. Many of the most populous districts in the counties are in almost total ignorance of the plea we are making. Into some of them our preachers have never gone, except it be to pass through. There is a field here for the most earnest evangelistic work; for calling men to Christ, not creeds. In New Brunswick the inlook is still worse; but the outlook, as in Nova Scotia, is encouraging. There are only five churches, and four of these are in one county. Two of them are comparatively large, the other two are small. Excepting the church in St. John, we have none in a town. In Fredericton we are not represented. The same is true of Moncton, Sussex, St. Stephen, St. Andrews, Woodstock and the towns on the North Shore. There are many country districts where we should be at work. Some are waiting for us to go in and possess the land. In Prince Edward Island we have eight churches; but, strange to say, there is none in Souris; there is none in the southern part of Kings County. In a dozen places where we ought to have strong churches, we are only slightly known. How is it that we have not done more to get our position before the thoughtful men and women of these provinces? Have we lost faith in our mission? Have we found out that the plan to bring God's children together is unscriptural, or that our hope is vain? Have we been altogether idle? We say no to each of these questions.

Our duty is to make our plea known in our field. This is our first work along missionary lines.

Other missionary work demands **Our Duty.** our attention and must receive its due share; but our first work is here, and if this field is neglected there will be very few at home to advance the cause of Christ in other lands. What we are able to do there will depend upon what we accomplish here. The work abroad must largely be done by others. The success of the home work depends, humanly speaking, almost entirely upon us. If we fail in our duty at this point, the failure is complete. But we do not seek failure, we desire success. How are we to reach it? How are we to put a banner with no name on it but Christ's in such places as have been mentioned? Certainly not by following the plan upon which in the past we have proceeded. That has been tried and found wanting. Why it failed we need not stop to inquire. But fail it did, for the churches have not been planted. We must concentrate our energies; we must give definiteness to our purposes; and thus working together with one end in view we need fear no failure, but we can go and take town after town and district after district. Let the churches combine for the onset, let them move harmoniously. In union they will find their strength, and to thus plan for concerted work is the duty of the hour. The co-operative work in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, as carried on by the churches through their agents, the Mission Board, has in the last few years given evidence of what the churches are able to do if they but decide to give full moral and financial support to this work of the Lord. Then an evangelist could be employed to go from place to place, as Paul did in his day, establishing churches of Christ,