

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.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Owing to lack of space last month, we had to hold over some articles till this issue. The same thing has occurred again but the articles are again good enough to keep.

We notice that O. W. Stewart of Mackenaw, Ill., has been chosen to succeed B. B. Tyler, in the 56th Street Church, New York. We believe the selection is a most excellent one. He is a young man with a good constitution, wonderful energy, and splendid oratorical powers. He is loyal to the old Book and keeps in the old paths.

A new book on Acts of Apostles will soon be off the press of the Christian Pub. Co., St. Louis. It is by W. J. Lhamon, is entitled "Studies in Acts," will contain about four hundred pages and sell for \$1.25. Knowing something of the polished style and scholarly attainments of the author, we anticipate great pleasure from the perusal of this volume. We hope to find it helpful in the study of the Sunday-school lessons for this year.

The Christian Guide gives an incident concerning a faithful young sister, Hattie Wadkins, that may induce others to go and do likewise. She went to Sand Hill, Alabama, to teach in the public school. Finding only a few Disciples there she got one of our preachers to come and preach a sermon. After a month or two, a two weeks' meeting was held by the State evangelist, and a church of sixty-eight organized. A church house is now being erected and will soon be completed and paid for.

Let us be encouraged. The *New York Independent* for January 7, says that in 1896, the greatest absolute gain made by any religious body in the United States (excluding the Roman Catholics) was made by the Disciples of Christ. The net increase was 80,009, or an average of 1538 per week. The percentage of increase far exceeds that of any other church being 8.6. The *Independent* says our power of growth is astonishing and that we must now be placed among the few "denominations" in the U. S. having more than one million members. But we are not astonished. The showing is just what we should expect in view of the position we occupy and the plea we make.

We are sorry to see that the Literature Fund is increasing so slowly. Each disciple in the provinces should be interested in this work. It is worthy of a liberal encouragement.

Thanks to our faithful workers, last month shows a good increase in the number of names on our subscription list. May we not ask all our readers to aid in extending the circulation of THE CHRISTIAN. Have you not some friend who would take it if requested to do so? Try it.

Three of our young men now in Kentucky University expect to complete the ministerial course in June next. Their names are Nelson Stevenson, who also takes the A. B. degree; Frank Ford, who is an A. B. of Acadia College; and Alhe N. Simpson. Geo. D. Weaver also becomes a Bachelor of Arts and completes some of the additional studies leading to M. A.

The Disciples of Christ in Ontario should be proud of their new paper, the *Christian Messenger*, edited by C. T. Paul and published in Toronto. It is a semi-monthly of about the same size as THE CHRISTIAN; is well edited, well arranged and well printed. We congratulate our brethren in Ontario on having such a splendid journal, and hope they will give it the support it deserves.

"Plea of the Churches of Christ" is the title of a forty page tract by R. H. Bolton, pastor of the church in Everett, Mass., and editor of the *New England Messenger*. It is an admirable presentation of the subject, being concise, lucid, scriptural and convincing. It is worthy of a wide circulation and a careful reading. Send ten cents (in stamps) to the author for a copy.

We have heard from many of our subscribers during the past month. We enjoyed the kind words said about THE CHRISTIAN, but the letters that pleased us most were those that had money enclosed for the renewal of subscriptions. During the last few months many subscriptions have run out, and we urge the importance of prompt renewal. For the convenience of subscribers we are willing to accept three cent postage stamps during *this month*. But the better way is to enclose one dollar in a registered letter and pay for two years.

The *Christian Standard* tells us that for nearly thirty years Wm. Luxford has been engaged in evangelistic and mission work in Buffalo, N. Y., under the direction of the Presbyterian church. About two years ago he planted a mission in a thickly settled portion of the city, and since then has built up a Sunday-school of one hundred, and frequently preached to two hundred and fifty people. After hearing J. H. O. Smith, one of our successful evangelists, and reading Our Position by Isaac Errett, he found himself to be fully in accord with our teaching, and announced his intention to establish a Church of Christ. He has severed his connection with the Presbytery and been immersed; so have his leading workers.

Good meetings have recently been held by some of our evangelists. There were one hundred added at Oakland, Cal.; eighty at Colorado Springs, Cal.; seventy-three at Mound City, Mo. Let the good work go on.

One week last month the *Christian Standard* reported sixteen hundred and ninety-seven additions to the churches. The week before over fourteen hundred were reported. As the season of greatest ingathering has not yet come, we hope to record even more gratifying successes during the next few months.

A. McLean's letters giving an account of his trip around the world in the interest of foreign missions were very instructive, containing as they did much information on general and missionary subjects. We are glad to see that the Christian Pub. Co., St. Louis, Mo., is going to publish them in book form. The book will be a valuable addition to our missionary literature.

B. Tyler can say some plain things. Is not the following as true as it is plain? "Had it not been for these denominations that some of our leading men are toying under the chin, and telling how pretty they are and how sweet, the world would have believed in Christ long ago; or else there is no meaning in the Saviour's prayer. It is the devil that is indebted to denominationalism for the work it has done for his dark empire."

The amount of money that was acknowledged in THE CHRISTIAN last month (in addition to what had been previously acknowledged) indicates that the spirit of liberality is becoming stronger in some places. We hope those who are able to give, but do not, will be shamed out of their covetousness and provoked to good works. The liberal soul shall be made fat; but the penurious one is in danger of dying of heart disease. His heart is not right in the sight of God.

Our readers will notice that donation parties had the right of way last month and many of our preachers are rejoicing in consequence. Donations show a splendid spirit when what is given is in addition to the salary promised. Indeed it is only then they can be called donations. We feel that our churches are too generous to do anything else, and so congratulate the preachers who were remembered, and the churches which remembered them.

The time for the March collection for foreign missions is now so near that there is no time to lose. The importance of this work should be kept in mind and such preparations made as will insure a large offering. The needs are greater this year than last, for the forces in the foreign field have been largely increased. Jesus said to his disciples "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature;" and he who loves his Lord will keep his commandments. If he cannot go he will help some one else to do so. Every church that claims to be a Church of Christ should take an interest in this work or change its name. Send what you can to F. M. Rains, Box 750, Cincinnati, Ohio.