

I know that when you have the matter fairly put before you, you will also do so.

Merchants and business men who have an article of commerce to dispose of, especially if they think it has superior merits, advertise thoroughly, and then send printed matter wherever they think a customer may be found. Now I am sure that we have a good thing to offer the people. I know of nothing better. I have been asked to formulate a plan of operations and I present the following: Let us have at least one man in each province to act as agent or colporteur; let him travel from place to place selling our larger works, such as "Franklin's Sermons," Vol. I., Lamar's "First Principles and Perfection," Milligan's "Scheme of Redemption" "Reasons and Revelations," Johnson's "Vision of the Ages," "People's New Testament," Ashley Johnson's "Great Controversy." The lives of such men as A. Campbell, W. Scott, John Smith, Knowles Shaw, Isaac Errett, and others that were thought good. Let the publishers give us good terms so that these books may be sold cheap, say at a small advance on cost. Then each agent should seek to get subscribers to our paper, THE CHRISTIAN. They should have a good supply of tracts and small books on big subjects. A good supply of Bibles could be carried and any other good books. We would need men of good reputation—men who can talk on the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom.

We first need the men qualified for this work, the men need teams, they need samples of the different books for which they will take orders, and I firmly believe that in a short time the work will be self-sustaining. There are many places where seed will be sown in this way, and then when the evangelist will come to hold his meeting the people will know who he is, and what he aims to do.

But you say it requires money to do all this. Yes. The committee are not able to carry on this work, and ask the co-operation of every Christian in the least interested in this work. We will gladly give any information, and Bro. O. B. Stockford of St. John, N. B., who is Secretary-Treasurer will gladly receive contributions to this work. We want to get right to work. It is the Master's work, who will help?

THINGS OLD AND NEW, AND OTHER THINGS.

M. B. RYAN.

Naturally our thoughts are turned now to the present and oncoming year, in the consideration of our work in the provinces. The annual meeting has become a sort of time-line, marking the years of our co-operative efforts to advance the kingdom of God in our midst. We have reviewed the past year's work, and have left it behind us. We are in the beginning of another year of labor, and the time is fitting for some reflections.

We should not forget that there are some things connected with the work of the Lord that must always be the same. There are some conditions of success that are unchangeable. We are living in an age of new things. We have new means of travel and transportation, new methods of transmitting intelligence, new political combinations, new theories and plans of social reform, new mechanical appliances, and even the "new

woman." We are not to overrate the new element in modern life. It has its legitimate place and fulfils its purpose. But it is not all of life. There is much that is old still remaining, chief of which is human nature, the same always. In our work for the redemption of human nature from sin and death, there are some *old* things which are necessary.

There can be no substitute for the gospel of Christ. The old old story must be told in its plainness and purity, if men are to be redeemed. The GOSPEL is the power of God unto salvation. We must note this. New philosophies may interest men. The gospel can save them. And the gospel alone can do this. We can have no success in our work worthy the name, without the gospel. It is the weapon of our warfare, mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. The gospel as God gave it, and not any modified or revised edition of it, is what men need, and what we must strive to give to the world. We must go to men with this *old* message, if we would save them.

There can be no successful substitute for the old proclamation of the gospel. In *manner*, each man must be himself in his preaching. In *matter*, the pioneers of our work blazed the pathway which leads to success; and we, their successors, can only travel the same way. These fathers understood the gospel. They could make it plain to their hearers. They set it forth as a divine system of truth, given for the *obedience of faith*. The authority of Jesus was emphasized. Fact, command, and promise, were set forth in right relations and in due importance. There was no minimizing of unpleasant truths. "Thus saith the Lord," was their watchword. Behind that fortress they took their stand, and from it they sallied forth to deal effective blows upon Satan's kingdom.

We cannot dispense with the old fidelity to the interest of our work in these provinces. There are pages of heroism in the history of our work here, where brethren have stood by it at large sacrifice of personal interest, and under great discouragements, whose faithfulness we can do nought but imitate if we would see the work still succeed. The field is not an easy one. We are not engaged in child's play. Self-sacrifice will still be called for in large degrees, if we would win success.

But along with these necessary "old" things, we may well consider new conditions which may also be necessary. We should not forget that we live in a new age. The age of steam railways and electric, of telephones and phonographs, of an omnipresent press and popular intelligence, of concentrated wisdom and skill in business matters, is not the age of the stage-coach and its accompaniments in civilization. While human nature is the same, it lives in a new tenement, with the doors opening in another direction. We must approach it according to its needs. While we bring the old gospel, in its old dress, with old time fidelity to the work, we must recognize the new conditions under which men live and adapt our *methods* to the new conditions.

The action of the annual meeting in providing for the dissemination of our literature,

in a systematic and persistent way, is in harmony with this new demand. The press is a mighty educator. Every great cause enlists the press. The greatest and best of causes should not be behind in this line of effort. Commerce compels men to pay heed to its message—through the press. Christianity should be foremost in this field. And the plea for a return to the Christianity of the New Testament should compel a hearing through the printed page.

The suggestion of the office editor in the last CHRISTIAN, is also in harmony with the new needs of our work. A good tent would enable us to take the gospel to many an audience which we could never otherwise reach. Commerce goes to men with her wares. Men of this age think that what is not worth bringing to them is not worth seeking. Christ says, "Go preach." Tent work would enable us to do this in many a community.

Prompt action, is especially necessary in this age. It is a lightning age. A day means more now than a year did in times past, in determining great interests. A new type of readiness would be a beneficial condition in our work. Let the old and the new go hand in hand. The present is the heir of the past. Let it be at the same time the parent of a more glorious future.

I spent a few days recently on Indian Island, preaching the Word to the inhabitants there. This place has more denominationalism with less sectarianism to the square inch than I remember to have seen elsewhere. There are ten families living on the island. Six different religious bodies are represented. Yet they live together as one family, and no matter what preacher comes along, if he is a good man and preaches Christ, the whole population, invalids excepted, turn out and hear him through, and help to give interest to the meetings.

Our work in the Deer Island field is maintaining an ordinary interest. We are in the midst of a course of illustrated lectures on the history of Christianity, at Lord's Cove, now. We will soon hold some special meetings both at the Cove and Leonardville.

THE LITERATURE COMMITTEE.

Although the Committee on Literature cannot report much progress this month, yet they have not been idle. Plans concerning the work have been discussed by correspondence. The Standard Publishing Company have been heard from. The Y. P. S. C. E. of the Coburg Street Church, St. John, has appointed a committee to inquire into the advisability of purchasing a library of our chief works. We think other Y. P. S. C. E. and Sunday-schools should follow their example. Our publishing houses have quite an assortment of publications suitable for this work. The pastors of our churches, whom we hope will remember that they are honorary members of this committee, should lay this matter before the Y. P. S. C. E. and Sunday-schools.

In order to make this work successful we need agents. We would like our brethren to take up this work, as their knowledge of our position and their interest in the work would be valuable.

We want an agent or two in each church. One brother has promised to act as a general agent, and another brother has promised to do the same if he can arrange to do so.