

THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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"THE CHRISTIAN,"

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On Sunday afternoon, October 30th, we had in St. John quite a snowstorm.

The street cars are now in full operation in St. John, and are found to be quite an improvement on what is here termed the "army worm" system.

Bro. Wm. MURRAY, now of Leonardville, is now spending a Lord's day or two at Vanceboro, Me. We trust that much good will result from his labors.

We learn from some of our friends who have lately come from Boston, that Bro. Darsie has given up the work at the Tabernacle in that city, and has returned to his former field of labor in Kentucky.

The article on page 5, with the caption, "How shall the Gospel be Preached to Win Many to Christ?" was read by Bro. R. W. Stevenson before the Minnesota State Convention, held September 26th to October 2nd.

DURING the past two weeks quite an excitement was raised among our citizens by the manager of the street railway refusing to comply with the requisitions set forth in a memorial prepared and presented by the Protestant preachers of the city. On the Sunday evening several of the ministers felt it their duty to denounce from the pulpit this hitherto foreign evil (running of street cars on Sunday), contending that whatever may be true of other cities, its necessity is not felt here—therefore contrary to God's law—an evil having many others in its trail. But the excitement is now dying out, and in a few weeks will find its place among other evils existing in and around our city, over which time has thrown a veiling of respectability.

The meeting of preachers and the discussion of such questions in a conference, as proposed in the following, must be productive of good:

"A call signed by many leaders of the various Protestant denominations has been issued by a general conference of all evangelical Christians in the United States, under the auspices and directions of the evangelical alliance, on December 7th, 8th and 9th, to consider the following questions: 1st, What are the perils and opportunities of the Christian Church and country? 2nd, Can any of them be met best by the hearty co-operation of all evangelical Christians, which, without detriment to any denominational interests, will serve the welfare of the church? 3rd, What are the best means to secure such co-operation and awaken the whole church to its responsibility?"

WITH this issue THE CHRISTIAN commences the fifth year of its existence. We are thankful for the many words of encouragement received; for the substantial aid in the form of articles for its columns. We ask our friends to still assist us, that the good work THE CHRISTIAN has done in the past may continue.

We clip the following from the *Bible College Exponent*, a pamphlet of twenty-four pages, published monthly, and devoted to the interests of the College of the Bible, in Kentucky University, Lexington, Kentucky:

"Bro. E. B. Barnes of St. John, New Brunswick, Bro. G. D. Weaver of Southville, Nova Scotia, and Bro. Stewart of Prince Edward Island, have matriculated in the College of the Bible this year, and report themselves well pleased with its methods.

The following, found in a contemporary, is not without point. Yes, a person can act so mean and present such an appearance that even the devil will be ashamed of him. That man walking down the street, with every appearance of a gentleman, stepping with a lordly mien into and out of a rum-shop, meets by far the approval of Satan than the man staggering through the streets or lying drunk in the gutter. The former presents to some, especially the young, an act worthy of imitation; the latter a feeling of disgust not favorable by any means to the cause of the evil one. So in the case presented. The person professing to be a Christian, and refusing, though able, to pay his or her share towards the support of the cause of Christ, whether it be the running expenses of his congregation, home or foreign missions, his religious paper—THE CHRISTIAN, for example—must feel that the devil was not far from the truth when he said, "he belongs to a shabby lot." But here is the story:

"A London preacher astonished his congregation by announcing that he had a personal interview with the devil.

"I was sitting," said he, "in my study, when I heard a knock at the door. 'Come in,' said I, and who should walk in but—the Devil!

"How d'ye do?" said he.
"Pretty well, thank you," said I.
"What are you about?" said he; "preparing your sermon for next Sunday?"

"The very thing," said I.
"Ah?" said he; "I dare say you think you are doing a great deal of good?"

"Well," I said; "not so much as I would wish; but a little, I hope."

"You have a great congregation," he said.
"Well, pretty large," I said.

"And I dare say," he remarked, "that you are very proud of them?"

"No," said I, "that I am not, for not one-third of them pay for their sittings."

"You don't say so!" said the Devil, in great surprise.

"Yes, that I do," I repeated, "not one-third of them pay a penny for their sittings!"

"Well," said the Devil, "then I say they are a shabby lot!"

"The congregation took the hint so very explicitly given, and a marked increase was observable in the receipts of the treasury."

IN the Prospectus of THE CHRISTIAN, just four years ago, it was stated that one of the objects in starting the paper was to make it apparent to its readers that a man can be a Christian and honor God and serve his generation without being a sectarian, and that a church can be a Church of Christ without being a sectarian church. We feel as

much encouraged as ever to labor for this end. And although many fail to understand this, and seem to think it is wrong, or else impossible for any church to exist without it bears a name by which no church was called in the Bible and has a creed besides the written Word of God, we feel more and more in love with that church which has no name but the name of Christ, no creed but the inspired Word, and no spirit but the Spirit of the living God. If we speak contrary to the oracles of God, or manifest a spirit unlike the spirit of Christ, we are thankful to any one who will show us our mistake. But we are so perfectly satisfied with Christianity that we can not turn from it or consent to have anything else added to it. We live in an age when much is thought and said and written on Christian union. Let any one propose for the people of God to unite on a sectarian name, or creed, or spirit, and every thoughtful person will see the absurdity and impossibility of such a union. But there is nothing in Christianity to prevent the union of all that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.

It is gratifying to know that our plea is becoming better understood and appreciated by many of the religious parties around. Many cases might be mentioned in proof of this, but we will at present refer to one. A secular paper of the place describes the opening of a new meeting-house of the Disciples in Grand Rapids, Mich., as follows:

"It was an occasion for enthusiasm and general thanksgiving. The edifice was thronged with members of the church and sympathizing friends of other denominations. All evangelical denominations of the city were represented by their pastors, and each one was given a short time for a speech. Rev. Alexander Morriam, of the Park Congregational Church, in his remarks congratulated the church on its new house and upon the favorable locality it had chosen for its new field of work. Speaking of the church itself and the plan, he said that the Church of Christ was one of the most aggressive pioneers for church union in the Christian work. As a denomination, it took the Bible as its plea, and renounced all creeds and dogmas, and stood out before the world as its name implied, simply the Disciples of Christ.

"The plea of this denomination, said he, is too little known in the Christian world, for as a denomination it has demonstrated that a creed or a confession of faith is not a necessity to the life of a church. I do not mean to say that a creed is wrong, but I repeat that this denomination stands to-day before us as a living monument to the fact that a church creed is a thing we can get along without."
D. C.

N. B. AND N. S. MISSION BOARD.

Receipts since last report:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|------|---------|
| Collection at Y. M., St. John, N. B., | | \$24 13 |
| Mrs. H. Eldridge, Sandy Cove, N. S., | | 2 00 |
| Miss Lamont, Leonardville, N. B., | | 1 00 |
| W. J. Messervey, Halifax, N. S., | | 5 00 |
| J. W. Powell, Freeport, N. S., | | 50 |

Total, \$32 63

In the September number the printer gave Kempt, Queens County, N. S., credit for \$10.13, when it should have been \$3.05.

T. H. CAPP,
Treasurer.