

THE CHRISTIAN.

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

Vol. XI.—No. 5

SAINT JOHN, N. B., MARCH, 1894.

Whole No. 125

The Christian.

Published monthly by Barnes & Co., under the auspices of the Home Mission Board of the Disciples of Christ of the Maritime Provinces.

TERMS: - 50 Cents Per Annum in Advance.

All communications, intended for publication, to be addressed:

"THE CHRISTIAN."

P. O. Box 56

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Our bulletin for the month of February: Halifax, E. C. Ford reports two added; Tiverton, N. S., H. A. Devoe has held a protracted meeting, with eight added—five by obedience; Lord's Cove, N. B., R. E. Stevens reports one addition; St. John, Coburg Street, four added by confession and baptism; St. John, North End mission, two by confession and baptism; Westport, H. E. Cooke, assisted by H. Murray, two added by confession and baptism.

A Y. P. S. C. E. has been organized at Summer-ville, Q. Co., N. S.

HOWARD MURRAY is assisting Bro. Cooke in a meeting at Westport, N. S.

MORE interest should be taken in sending church reports. Our P. E. I. brethren should come to the front. We want to hear from them.

THE work in the St. John (North End) mission is gradually growing in interest. Bro. Stewart's Monday evening services are being largely attended.

THE March quarterly will be held with the church in St. John, commencing the second Lord's day. Active preparations are being made to make the meeting a success. Bro. Lhamon, of Minneapolis, will assist Bro. Stewart.

New members should be urged to subscribe for THE CHRISTIAN. The price is only fifty cents for a year's subscription. Almost any interested person when asked will subscribe. Try it.

There are people who demand that they receive credit for everything they do, and sometimes for even more. If you fail to come up with your acknowledgments, they are displeased.

Giving Credit.

If you seem to detract from their glory, they become angry. This deciding upon just how much credit is due to a person for a certain result, is one of the most difficult of problems, and nearly always the person who claims the greatest praise is forgetful of the claims of others. Has the man who puts the finishing touches upon a complicated and skillful piece of machinery any ground for holding it up as though he were the only one contributing to that end? Twenty or fifty people may have been employed in its manufacture, and, if credit is going to be given, they may all put in a claim. The man who puts the finishing stone upon the

wall must not be unmindful of him who laid the foundation. Others have labored, and we have entered into their labors. The last place into which this spirit of selfish glorying should intrude itself is in reference to saving souls. What does it matter who have aided in the work, provided it is done? It is seldom the result of the efforts of any one person. When the rocks were blown out of New York harbor, a little girl touched the button that caused the explosion. Hundreds of men had labored for months to make the explosion a success. Does she deserve as much credit as they? A preacher is often but the little girl at the button. When a soul is born into the kingdom many influences may have combined. Leaving out the Divine power, we find that one may be a salutory home influence. Something read in a paper, or a book, may have helped. The Sunday-school teacher, though seldom receiving any credit, may have worked and prayed. A companion may have spoken in season the words which are as apples of gold in baskets of silver. The memory of a sermon heard years ago may have flashed upon the heart. Who can tell how many influences may have contributed to the result? It is not worth our while to try to apportion to each one his share; for if we do, there may not be much left for us. The wiser plan is to toil on prayerfully, knowing that God will not forget our work of faith and labor of love.

A mouse can break a single hair, but a hair rope would tether an elephant. The world long ago learned the lesson that

Why not unite? In union there is strength. We are in no danger of forgetting it, although our actions may not

always be in accord with our knowledge. In a fable that is as old as this era, we read that an aged man wanted to show the importance of union. He had a large bundle of rods and gave them one by one to a boy requesting him to break them; and they were snapped almost as rapidly as they were given. But when the boy received a bundle of rods that he might break them, his efforts failed. If the forces for good are combined, the outlook for success brightens. A house divided against itself cannot stand. A congregation that does not work in harmony does not put out half its power. Neighboring churches that have no dealings with one another and do not give mutual assistance and encouragement are shorn of much of their strength. If the churches in a province work together, with one mind and one spirit for the spread of the gospel, a large measure of success may be expected. If the brethren of two provinces can unite their forces with mutual advantages why should not N. S., N. B. and P. E. I. be able to do the same with multiplied blessings accruing to each. In union, we repeat, there is strength. But what more union can we have than now exists? Are we not united in the bonds of peace? Yes. Are we not united in that we all preach the same gospel? Yes. Are we not united in trying to save souls? Yes. Our purposes are the same but are our efforts one? Could we not have an annual meeting for the Disciples of Christ of the Maritime Provinces? Our interests are really one. Could we not have a Home Mission Board that would embrace all this territory? The provinces do unite in supporting Sister Rioch, and practically they unite in publishing THE CHRISTIAN. Could

not all our churches in these parts combine in the support of one or more evangelists? They could if they would, and in time the men will be found if wanted. The time has come for a concentration of energies even if it has not come for the advance here indicated.

Missionary work is one. We divide it into home and foreign. In the Bible the field is the world. That does not mean

A Wide Field. places that are near to the exclusion of those more remote, and it does not mean the far away

places to the overlooking of the regions round about. However, in the prosecution of this work there is a law of progression that must obtain, or failure is well nigh inevitable. It was so in the apostolic times, and it is now. The question is often asked, why did not the Disciples, till the last few years, send missionaries to the heathen lands? The question is of easy solution. It was impracticable. If Campbell and his coadjutors had gone to India as soon as they saw the sins of sectarianism and the mistakes of denominationalism the plea that the Disciples make would not be as potent a factor in the religious world as it now is. It would not have tended to break down partition walls as it has done. These men might have said that the field in the United States is already pre-empted by the various denominations. But what did they do? In that field they began to sow the seeds of apostolic truth. The frosts of prejudice and the heat of persecution tried alternately to destroy the life germ, but it grew. Enemies sought to kill the tender plant, but it mounted higher and extended wider until hundreds of thousands could lodge under its branches. These men could not have found a better field in which to work than they had stretching before them. When they had injected a purifying mixture into the currents of religious teaching in the United States, and saw that it was doing its appointed work, then they turned their eyes toward the heathen, and now they seek to have their hearts purified by faith in a pure gospel. What they are now doing is very little compared with what they ought to do; but it is very much more than they could be doing if they had not concentrated their efforts at home for many years. The more we do at home the more we will be able to do abroad. One of the surest ways of advancing the work among the heathen is to redouble our efforts to save souls around us, teaching them at the same time that to be converted to Christ embraces conversion to missions. It was a pleasing thing to see the United States out of her abundance sending thousands of bushels of grain and immense quantities of provisions to the thousands of famishing people in Russia. To have withheld it would have been a sin and a disgrace. If in the depths of their generosity they had forgotten the starving people at home we would withhold our praises and count their action little less than a sin. If they had not raised abundant crops they would have had none to send away. But sowing plentifully they reaped bountifully and so were able to feed the starving at home and the starving abroad. To have shipped their seed grain, even to feed dying men, would have been short sighted foolishness. If we are ever going to scatter much seed among the nations let us see to it that we plan and work for abundant harvests at home.