

THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD.

(Concluded.)

We have seen what constitutes the sphere of a Christian. The question arises: How are we to glorify God and render happiness to our fellow men? We may say that the Christian faith is one of obedience. It is demonstrated by obedience, which, in the true Disciple, is the result of love. It is that spiritual centrifugal force that holds the Christian to his God. As the planets are ruled by the sun according to law, so is the Christian ruled by God according to law, and that law is obedience. In glancing through the vista of the ages we see conclusive proof of God's punishment to the disobedient. A few stand out in relief. Witness the fall, the destruction by flood, etc.

Do we accept the Bible as an inspired book? Do we accept it as an all sufficient rule of faith? On the other hand, do we believe it is out of date, that it does not meet the needs of the present time? Do we believe that the church, the bride of the Lamb, moulded by Christ Himself, is not an all sufficient and divinely appointed home for the Christian? If we accept the Bible as our guide we must acknowledge the church of Christ as organized by His design and governed by His laws, as an all-sufficient equipment for the evangelization of the world. On the other hand, if we do not acknowledge this we do not believe the Bible equal to our present wants, and consequently it is out of date. How is it that church forms have become effete and outside helps necessary. It is not certainly because they were wrongly appointed. To grant that would be a reflection on the centre of our faith. It is because of a want of a rational spirit in the members. Many persons think that if they are making a noise about religion they are working according to the spirit of truth. What we require, and what is required of us, is to follow the old paths decently and in order, according to the spirit of Christ and not according to the spirit of the age. Here is the stumbling block to the Christian. He wants to keep one foot, as it were, in the church and the other in the world. Our divine founder knew this when He organized a church and appointed a door through which to enter. As soon as men begin to reason from a human standpoint, so soon will divisions arise, and when they once lose sight of Christ and the gospel judgment is founded on fallacy. Truths are stubborn things. They are unbending and unyielding. No one can make void or cast aside a truth. Men may try to rid themselves of it in some way, but it will still remain unshaken. The gospel is a great truth. The life of Christ is a great truth. Christ's appointments for the Christian are great truths. That the Christian must walk according to the appointment is a great truth. That to be Christ's is to be separated from the world, or to live in the spiritual regions of the divinely appointed church, is a great truth. All these are truths. They are all unbending and unyielding. It is impossible to make void their meaning. It is sinful to distort them beyond recognition. But if this is done, ghostlike they will rise from the debris under which they are buried and haunt the transgressor.

Let us be careful, then, brethren, how we deport ourselves as Christians. If we ever keep before us the one ideal Christ, and work patiently to transform our spiritual body into a Christlike body, with the tools God has given us, or allow the invisible finger of God to mould us by the power of His unbending and unvarying truth into a strong and healthy spiritual existence, we shall all be rewarded by the culminating happiness—eternal life.

S. N. G.

CHRISTIAN.—Alexander the great had a soldier who bore the name of Alexander, but was a great coward. Disgusted with him, the emperor exclaimed, "Either change your name or learn to honor it!" Do you honor the name, "Christian?"

News of the Churches.

St. JOHN, N. B.

The many friends of Bro. T. H. Capp and family will be pleased to learn that they arrived safely at Springfield, Missouri.

The annual business meeting of the Ladies' Sewing Circle was held at the home of Sister Jas. E. Barnes on Wednesday evening, May 20th. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Sister W. A. Barnes, President; Sister Emma Christie, Vice-President; Sister Hattie Banks, Secretary, Sister Jas. E. Barnes, Treasurer. A vote of thanks was unanimously passed for the unceasing work and interest taken in the Circle during the past year.

Bro. Henry W. Stewart, late of Knoxville, Tenn., preached for us during the past three Lord's days. He is on a visit to his home on P. E. Island. At a business meeting held Thursday evening, May 14th, he was unanimously chosen as pastor of this church. He will commence his labors the first of June.

The Woman's Missionary Aid Society held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday afternoon, April 30th. The meeting was opened by singing, reading and prayer. Verses of Scripture were read by each member. Sister Christie read an interesting article entitled, "The Christian Armor." Sister James E. Barnes read a short sketch on "China Missions." Topic for the next meeting in May, "The Christian Woman's Debt." Collection \$7.00.

SOUTHVILLE, N. S.

I spent the second Lord's Day with the church at Southville, preaching six times. Number added since last report: By baptism, 3; restored, 2; from the Baptists, 1. Previously reported, by baptism, 1; restored, 1. Total, 8.

One of those baptized was a lady seventy-five years old. W. H. A.

HOME MISSION NOTES.

"The highest eulogium that Jesus passed on any person during His sojourn on earth, was when He said of a certain woman: *She hath done what she could.* Have you done what you could? Are you doing what you can? The Board is in need of funds. Of course you will do your part. You are a Disciple of Christ. The plea to which you are pledged is the grandest known to man. It is, the special work of the Mission Board to spread abroad among the people in these Provinces the principles of a pure New Testament Christianity, so dear to the hearts of our fathers and to us their children. Of course you will make an offering to assist this good cause, as you are able, and may have opportunity. What will be the amount of your offering? So meagre that you are ashamed to let one of your friends know? But Jesus knows. The Son of Man sits over against the treasury. He observes how the people cast into the treasury of the Lord. He sees the rich with their abundance and the poor with their little. He observes the widow with her two mites." Do not talk about "the widow's mite." She did not get down to one mite. She gave more than any other; even all her living. Jesus did not condemn; He approved. He did not remark on the folly of the poor woman in giving away her last cent; He commended. He is the same yesterday, to-day and forever. Jesus changes not. The things that He approved when He was on earth, He approves now that He is in heaven. Do you believe this? Give then as in His sight. Give in such a spirit and to such an amount that you can be certain of His approval."

Last October the Home Mission Board of the "Disciples of Christ" in the United States reported as follows:

Seven years ago, received \$17,000; last year, \$51,000. Seven years ago we employed sixteen evangelists; last year, sixty-two. Seven years ago we had four hundred additions; last year, seventeen thousand.

This shows a wonderful increase. Receipts were three times as much; evangelists four times as many; and additions over forty times as many.

This year the Ohio Mission Board reports that in the past thirty-nine years they organized two hundred and fifteen churches, and have had over thirty thousand additions.

These reports must cause joy to all lovers of the cause of Christ. Some may be opposed to the plan of doing this work; but surely they must acknowledge that a great and glorious work has been done through these Mission Boards.

The churches where Bro. Applegate labored have thanked the Mission Board for his services, and in doing that they have heartily thanked those who contributed to the fund; for the Board would be powerless if they did not receive the support of the people. We trust all will remember that money is necessary to provide for those who preach the gospel.

On account of THE CHRISTIAN being printed on time, reports from some places will appear next month.

Sister Hunt says: "We are glad to learn that Bro. Wm. Murray is to return to Kempt church June 1st. We hope and pray that success may attend his efforts."

Sister Carson says: "The church in Halifax has decided on a lot, and they are now trying to raise the money to buy it. Sister Wisdom collected \$3.25 toward it last month."

We hope Halifax will be able to secure this lot, and that a house will soon be erected on it. All who can should help them.

RECEIPTS FOR MAY.

Previously acknowledged.....	\$369 75
Cornwallis—	
R. Jackson.....	1 00
St. John—	
Y. P. Mission Band.....	1 05
Kempt—	
Per Miss Hunt.....	2 00
St. John—	
Coburg Street Sunday School.....	11 08
Southville—	
Per W. H. Applegate.....	1 00
Halifax—	
Per Mrs. Carson.....	4 00
Westport—	
Per Miss Payson.....	1 50
Total.....	\$391 33

J. S. FLAGLER, Sec'y,
Post Office,
St. John, N. B.

GIVING.

Sister — told me she came to the conclusion, after a careful reading of the Bible on the subject of giving, that it was scriptural; and, therefore, as necessary to give one-tenth of our income now as in the old dispensation. Ever since she reached this conclusion she has given to the Lord the tenth of her income. She enjoys her religion much better. She said she was not any poorer, but her business had increased and become more prosperous. We believe she is right in her conclusion, and we know she is happy in her devotion to the cause of Christ. Our observation and experience has taught us that where we devote our substance there will be our interest, and that unless we give to the Lord as He has prospered us, we cannot receive much benefit from the religion of Christ. "Where our treasure is there will our heart be." We cannot worship God acceptably unless our hearts are set upon Him, and this we cannot do unless our treasure is there. To have our treasure in the bank and our heart on God is an impossibility. "He who soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly, and he who soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."