

THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Look at the date on the address label of your paper. It may have a hint for you, and it surely has if it is not as late as March, '98.

We ask our contributors to remember that, in order to get this paper out on time, their manuscript should be in the hands of the printer by the 24th of each month.

There are now 162 missionaries supported in heathen lands by the Disciples of Christ. This is 15 more than one year ago. Two of our missionaries are on the Upper Congo, in Africa. The workers in China, India, Japan and Turkey, have been reinforced. The receipts from the churches must be increased this year.

Some people say they do not believe in foreign missions. Others show by their actions that they do not. And these are church members too. What would be our condition if missionaries had not visited and preached Christ to our savage Anglo-Saxon ancestors, who were as truly heathen as the millions of China or India are to-day? We owe our blessings to the gospel, and we owe the gospel to the heathen.

Geo. D. Weaver and bride reached New Holland, Ohio, in a rice storm. Soon after came a sorenade, and then a grand reception by the Church. Next came a genuine surprise party; and when the visitors had gone away, the preacher and his wife found themselves in possession of numerous beautiful and useful articles, which gave eloquent expression to the kind wishes of the people among whom they are now laboring.

We read the other day of a paper called the *Quarterly Christian*. Is it intended for people who are only one-quarter Christian? If so, it ought to have a very large circulation, for the world has hosts of people of just that stamp. They give three-quarters of their time and their influence to the world, the flesh and the devil, and they insult Jesus by offering one-quarter to him. "Ye cannot serve God and mammon." You are serving mammon when you try.

The last time the writer called for more church news he nearly got into trouble. He

has learned a lesson. He is now going to let a subscriber make the request: "I wish the brethren would give us more items of news. If they are not doing anything which is of interest, let them do something; then tell us all about it, and we will be encouraged and helped forward to greater activity."

Some people make a great success in hindering a good work. They criticize, they antagonize, they jeopardize; they do anything but energize it. If they will not help, they should at least refrain from hindering. If they are unwilling to make the work easier for others, they should be willing to make it no harder. Paul and those with him would "suffer all things" rather than hinder the gospel of Christ. Jesus pronounced woe upon those who would not enter in themselves, but hindered those who were entering.

There are people whose religion makes a better impression on the ear than on the eye. When you hear them talking about it, it seems all right; but when you see them acting it out, appearance is entirely different. After all, it is not our words in the prayer-meeting or our songs in the church, but our actions in the home and on the street that give the most accurate reflection of our true character. Our religion does little for us unless it makes our lives more Christlike.

The first Lord's day in March will soon be here. On that day the churches are invited to make their annual offering for foreign missions. Let no church lose the blessing that comes from assisting in this work. It is not too soon to make plans for securing a large contribution. You will find helpful hints in an article on another page, entitled, "Prepare for the March offering." If churches send for the envelopes, and use them, they will not find great difficulty in raising a good amount.

Over 7,000 accessions to the churches were reported in two consecutive issues of the *Christian Standard* a short time ago. This is certainly a great increase. People who cannot understand the theology of the creeds can understand the simple plan of salvation given by Jesus and taught by His apostles. Many who are tired of denominationalism, willingly recognize that the Disciples of Christ are on the true basis of Christian union. The increase, while great, is not surprising.

The *Christian Evangelist* says that it is quite the habit in these days to praise and preach Christianity, and in the same breath to disparage and denounce the church. It asks: "Is church membership essential?" In closing one part of its strong article, it says: "If a man who calls himself a Christian denies or ignores this blessed relationship, he commits treason against the institution that Christ loved so well that he died for it." From another point of view, it says that church membership is essential to (1) the existence of the church, (2) the work of the church, and (3) the growth and culture and effective service of individual Christians.

The copy for the first page was in the printer's hands last month before W. H. Harding's letter was received, or special attention would have been asked to that paragraph referring to the successful effort being made to increase the circulation of the *Christian Standard*, and urging that a similar effort be made in behalf of THE CHRISTIAN. We hope the friends of the paper will take Bro. Harding's advice, and earnestly work to get new subscribers. His pledge ought to stimulate others. He pledges himself to get ten new subscribers during 1898. Let all our preachers do the same. Let everybody help. We enrolled some new subscribers last month. We want to enroll more this one.

People are willing to cut themselves from the pleasures of life, make a most dangerous and tiresome journey to, and spend years of hardship in the Klondike, in order to get gold which they hope will enable them to spend the rest of their lives in ease and luxury. They gladly endure brief misery and hardship, in their desire for future and lasting joy and ease on earth. But how many people refuse to give up worldly pleasures and endure hardness for a few years as good soldiers of Christ, that they may have eternal pleasure and eternal rest! A man may do his best to acquire gold, and yet fail. But he shall not fail who so earnestly seeks salvation.

John F. Rowe, editor and proprietor of the *Christian Leader*, Cincinnati, died Wednesday, Dec. 29th, 1897, in Akron, Ohio. His illness lasted for eight months. For a few weeks it was regarded as serious, but the end was not expected so soon. He was in his 71st year. A man of strong convictions, and of great intellectual force, he fought bravely for what he believed to be right. We think he was on the wrong side of some questions of expediency, but we have never doubted his honesty. No one, however, could prove more conclusively than he, that a man may be sincere, and yet be mistaken.

At the annual meeting held in Leonardville last August \$250 was voted toward the support of the work in Halifax, \$200 toward the work in Picton, \$150 toward the work in St. John, north. Making grants is one thing; sending in the money to pay them is another. The amount of money coming in is inadequate to meet the pledges. What is to be done? The Home Mission Board must receive more money or the work must suffer. The board cannot pay out money that they do not receive. We hope that churches which are assisting will endeavor to increase their contributions; that churches which up to the present have given nothing will at once make an offering, and continue to give monthly throughout the year; that Sunday-schools and Endeavour Societies and Mission Bands will become regular supporters of the work; that many individuals will send in amounts, large and small, for those enterprises which the churches have pledged themselves to support.