

THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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ST. JOHN, N. B.

EDITOR:

DONALD CRAWFORD, . . . NEW GLASGOW, P. E. I.

CO-EDITOR:

T. H. CAPP, ST. JOHN, N. B.

FINANCIAL MANAGER:

J. E. EDWARDS, ST. JOHN, N. B.

The brethren of Kempt are delighted with Bro. Cooke, and are anxious that he should remain with them—and to this end they are making strenuous efforts.

OWING to our absence from home THE CHRISTIAN for this month is late: but we plan to have the November number out on time.

Now and again we are compelled for the want of space on a certain page to cut out portions of some articles. We try, however, to take out such portions as will do the least damage to the production.

A private correspondent, among other things writes:

And now in regard to the "Annual Meeting, I must say that I was very much pleased with and profited by those meetings, especially in the discussion of mission work and Sunday-schools, as well as in the missionary meeting on Wednesday evening. There was only one thing at which I was not well pleased, namely, the backwardness of a few churches in supporting the mission work. And was sorry that the church which I lately attended was one of the few. Had I known that the ladies were permitted to take part in that meeting, I would have pledged \$15 00,—five for the sister who sat with me and ten for myself, on condition that an able missionary or evangelist be sent into the towns and counties which have not yet known the gospel plea. How many honest, intelligent people there are in the north and north-eastern counties of this province who would gladly "obey the gospel" if they had the opportunity. And while visiting in those towns I became convinced that we are responsible—at least in part. Cannot one evangelist or more be supported in this province? Most assuredly! People who are enjoying gospel light and liberty are not content in keeping it all to themselves. They wish the light to shine out—and this is the way of causing it to shine—until the rays of the "sun of righteousness" shall lighten the darkest and remotest corners of the globe.

L. M. S.

[Let us hope that our correspondent will think it not too late to send on the ten or fifteen dollars.]

Another, whose name, place, etc. must be withheld for the want of permission, writes, enclosing a five dollar bill:

Dear Sir,—I have an idea that your paper (THE CHRISTIAN) might do good to our brethren that are far away from any meetings; and the long, cold, stormy winter coming on, that they might have something to read from these parts, I thought it might be a good notion to pay for nine besides my

own. * * * * The members here are few in number, poor, and find it hard to get along. * * * * When I think of the large churches with their talented men and a smart man to lead them; and then ourselves, no talent, the members discouraged with such poor meetings; the question comes, Could not some of the churches such as Milton, or St. John, or West Gore, send some of their talent to help us. We have a few faithful ones who work and pray, but because iniquity abounds the love of many waxed cold. Protracted meetings will not do. But as Paul preach from house to house, year in and year out patiently, patiently, lead them in to the "truth" as it is in Jesus. Pray for us, think on us when in your large well-filled house. From your well wisher and sister in Christ,

OUR ANNUAL.

On Friday morning, August 31st, we (who's we, does some one ask?—well, some ten or twelve brethren from St. John, augmented by a number from Nova Scotia and P. E. I.) started for the International Steamship Company's wharf, and were soon gliding swiftly over the waters towards Eastport, Me. Gliding? Yes, that expresses it, for over our heads the sun was shining brightly and beneath us the water was almost as smooth as glass.

About 12 o'clock, we arrived at Eastport, and found some of the brethren of Lord's Cove, with their boats ready (well, not exactly ready, business detaining them for a while) to convey us to their hospitable homes. By the time we started, the wind had freshened and was right after us, which gave to the boat a sort of rolling or swinging motion not altogether pleasant to the uninitiated, but in a little over an hour we were at our destination.

At 7 o'clock the ponderous bell in yonder tower sends forth into the valleys, on the hills and over the streams to adjacent isles a reminder that the hour of worship draws near, and at 7.30 the bell announced the fact that the hour had come. We were no sooner in the house than Bro. H. Murray took charge of the meeting, and announced for singing the 601st hymn, "Kindred in Christ, for His dear sake a Hearty Welcome here receive." What an appropriate hymn! The kind looks and the warm hand-shakes with which we were greeted made us feel confident that we were welcome—yes, and all this for "His dear sake." Then followed the reading of Philip iii., and verses 7 and 8 made us feel the necessity of a deeper consecration to the work of the Master, and that Paul had climbed to heights that were at present far above us. Bro. Harding of Halifax led us in prayer, and this was followed by the singing of "Nearer, My God, to Thee." Bro. Murray, in a stirring speech, referred to the first meeting of 34 years ago, to a few of the many pleasant and profitable meetings since and their glorious results, and closed by intimating that from present appearances he felt sure in predicting that the present one would be equal to any of its predecessors, and in behalf of the brethren at Lord's Cove, gave the visitors a hearty welcome.

Bro. Emery then, in a style peculiarly his own (for when in the spirit, as he was on this evening, he has few equals in a prayer and social meeting), feelingly referred to the changes wrought in their midst since leaving them to labor in other fields.

After a number of hymns and speeches, among them a short one from the writer, Bro. Thornton of Princeton, Me., arose and intensified the already growing interest by his kindly and timely remarks.

"Although over the line," said he, "I don't feel as though I belonged to another country. I feel that I am a fellow-citizen with you, that we are brethren engaged in the same work—the work of the Master." And so the meeting went on until, with the poet, we could exclaim:

If 'tis sweet to mingle where
Christians meet for social prayer;
If 'tis sweet with them to raise
Songs of holy joy and praise—
Passing sweet that state must be,
Where they meet eternally.

A committee of arrangements being appointed, we sang "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," and the meeting was brought to a close by the benediction. Still the friends lingered in their seats, along the aisles and in the doorway, waiting to greet each other and to ask lovingly after the absent ones.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Oh, what a contrast to the day before! Mud beneath our feet, fog on all sides, rain coming down in torrents, and the dull, measured sound of the distant fog-horn, after struggling to work its way through what seemed to be almost impenetrable mists, fell heavily upon our ears.

At 10.30 we met again for prayer and praise, Bro. Cooke of Halifax presiding. The opening hymn, "O for a Closer Walk with God," a portion of Scripture read (John iii.), after which Bro. W. Murray led us in prayer.

If time and space permitted, we would like to give the details of this meeting, but suffice it to say that it was a grand one, about 22 taking part, that at the close we all felt "that it was good to be there." The committee having announced their appointments, we sang "Soldiers of Christ, Arise," Bro. H. Murray offered a short prayer, and the meeting was dismissed, to meet again in the afternoon.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

The weather was about the same, only a little worse. About 1 o'clock a few of us gathered at the house of mourning to sympathize with the bereaved and to pay our last tribute of respect to the remains of a departed sister. Bro. Emery, in words fitting to the occasion, reminded them of the fact that she was not dead, but gone before.

At 3.30, Bro. H. A. DeVoe, taking as a basis of his remarks the 4th verse of 8 Psalm, discoursed on "What Is Man?" (1) After referring to the circumstances amid which the Psalm was composed, (2) the structure of Eastern houses and customs of the people, he said the question is not what was man, not what will he be, but what is man; and then went on to show that he was a compound being, animal, intellectual, a responsible being, an honored being, and at last would either be exalted or degraded. At the close we sang "Come, let us Join our Cheerful Songs," and a prayer brought the meeting to a close.

In the evening at 7.30, there being indications of fine weather, a large number of hitherto storm-stayed visitors gladly sallied forth to the evening meeting. After singing the hymn commencing with "Not All the Blood of Beasts," Bro. W. H. Murray read the 20th Chapter of John, and then led us in prayer. This was followed by "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross on Which the Prince of Glory Died."