

aries in the world. The lost are all about us, and it devolves on us to aid in leading them to Christ. To do this devolves on every disciple of Christ. He had no patience with any one claiming to be a disciple of Christ whose heart and purse were not open to the mission cause. He knew men whose poverty he never had occasion to suspect except when the contribution box was placed before them. We profess our friendship for the missionary cause but spend our money for worldly pleasures. We show how much we love God by what we do for the unsaved. If we expect to meet our unsaved friends in heaven, we shall have to do something to lead them into the right path.

After brief remarks by Bro. Minnick and Bro. H. Murray, a collection was taken, when a vote of thanks was passed by the visitors to the St. John brethren for their royal hospitality.

Near the close of the meeting one young lady came forward and made a confession of faith.—*St. John Sun.*

### CHURCH WORK IN ONTARIO.

I commenced my visits to the churches in August, 1886, and in the seven months following I visited forty-five congregations, usually spending two or three days with each, and occasionally making longer stays, as for instance, two weeks in Toronto, and one week each in Welland, Glencairn and West Lake.

During this seven months I preached almost every night except Saturday, and on several occasions on that night also.

As my visit to each church was necessarily short, I did but little work likely to lead to additions—only fifteen confessing the Saviour in the different meetings. My main teaching was along the line of Christian duty, and I gave much prominence to (1) Our responsibility as a people in spreading the gospel; (2) The need of more preachers; (3) The need there is for developing the talents of our young men and encouraging them; (4) The need for a larger and more systematic liberality.

Very much interest was taken in these discourses, especially those referring to the question of money, and to the encouragement of our young men. This interest was truly refreshing and made talking, on what I feared would prove an unpleasant subject, not only easy but a pleasure.

While visiting the churches I took the opportunity of inquiring about a number of things, with, as far as I could get them, the following results, and I submit them as fairly reliable.

The total number of Disciples in Ontario, in the congregations, is about 3,500, with possibly 500 scattered members, making in all about 4,000, Beamsville, Everton, Meaford and Erin Center being the largest congregations, and having each about 150 members.

Twelve preachers are giving their whole time to eighteen churches, while three only are giving their whole time to more general work. Thus there are only fifteen preachers who are giving their whole time to the work in Ontario, and these are not all entirely supported.

In many of the churches the teaching and preaching are done almost exclusively by the elders, many of whom have grown old in the work. It is rare to see young men sharing in the public services of the church, a thing much to be deplored and for which a speedy remedy should be found. Denison Avenue, Toronto, has more than any other congregation I have visited, there being some twelve or fourteen men of varying ages who can take part in the services.

Of Sunday schools we have about twenty-seven with some 1,400 children receiving instruction. Everton, Bowmanville, St. Thomas and Meaford having the largest attendance, Meaford heading the list with 130 scholars.

About twenty-six churches only have prayer-meetings during the week, while thirty have only one meeting on the Lord's day with neither prayer-meeting nor Sunday-school, prayer-meeting and Sunday school go together in nineteen cases out of twenty-seven.

A new feature of the work and an important one is the interest taken by our sisters in missionary work. We have "Women's Mission Bands" in connection with the churches of Guolph, Everton, Wainfleet, Lobo and Toronto. Their zeal and energy will be productive of much good in quickening our interest in the spread of the gospel, both at home and in foreign lands, and even now doing not a little in *provoking the brethren* to love and good works."

Our church property consists of forty-five meeting houses, valued at \$62,000.00, almost free from debt. The most valuable are St. Thomas and Beamsville, possibly worth about \$5,000.00 each; Meaford is building a new house of almost equal worth.

During the past year we raised nearly \$9,000 for the support of the churches in the province, and for missionary work, both home and foreign, about \$2,500, besides many gifts to both home and foreign work from individuals of which this was taken no account. It would be safe to say that \$12,000 last year for all purposes, being an average of \$3 per member per year.

A cheering fact is, that many of our churches are manifesting a zeal and activity quite refreshing, giving a promise of much future good; and a disheartening fact is, that some few seem to have passed the point for making an effort, and will probably cease to exist or be carried on with great difficulty and at great disadvantage.

JAS. LEDIARD.

June 4, 1887.

### News of the Churches.

#### NEW BRUNSWICK.

##### SAINT JOHN.

A "Farewell" was given on Thursday evening, August 18th, by a large number of the church and congregation, at the home of Bro. W. A. Barnes, to our young Bro. Ellis B. Barnes, who left next morning (accompanied by his mother as far as Boston), to enter the Bible College at Lexington, Ky. Before sitting down to the sumptuous tea which the sisters had provided, Bro. Chas. DeVoe in a short speech presented him with a well-filled purse. Bro. Ellis, taken somewhat by surprise, responded in a suitable manner. After tea there was singing, recitation and agreeable conversation. The pleasant evening was brought to a close by singing that beautiful hymn,—

God be with you till we meet again;  
By His counsels, guide, uphold you,  
With His sheep securely fold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

The young people of Waterloo Street Free Baptist Church will visit us next Tuesday evening to worship with us. Our young people will gladly welcome them.

#### NOVA SCOTIA.

##### CORNWALLIS.

A few words as to our work here may be of interest to your readers. Since my last report we have had one addition by baptism. Our meetings are well attended, and a growing interest is manifest. I am now preaching regularly on Lord's day mornings and evenings in our meeting-house on Lower Church Street, and once a month at the following places: Sheffield's Mills, Steam Mill Village, Cold Brook, and Woodville. To fill these appoint-

ments I have to preach three times each Lord's day, and drive about 22 miles on an average. Besides this work, I teach a Bible-class each Lord's day morning before preaching. Our prayer-meeting is held on Wednesday evenings, and though not largely attended, owing to the distance many of the brethren live from the place of meeting, still they are interesting and profitable.

I am encouraged in my work here by the hearty co-operation of many of the brethren. When I see brethren coming regularly from five to fourteen miles to attend the meetings, we know they are interested; and this quite a number of our brethren are doing, while those who live nearer the meeting-house show no less interest, often walking from one to three miles to be present.

Another feature of our work here that is encouraging is the large number of young people who attend our meetings. Everywhere I preach the young make the larger part of our congregations, and they give an attention that makes it a pleasure to speak to them.

I am trying to preach the faith as "once delivered to the saints," with the ability God has given. I am relying on the promises of God, and feel confident that after the sowing we shall have a reaping time. Let us go forth, "bearing precious seed," for the promise is that "he shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

We were much cheered by the presence of Bro. Capp, who spent a few days with us last week. Our brother had been quite sick for some weeks, and had come over to recruit. I enjoyed every hour of this visit, and every mile we drove, and found the time all too short before he had to leave for his work in St. John.

E. C. FORD.

Port Williams, Aug. 24, 1887.

P. S.—My correspondents will please address me at Port Williams, Kings Co., N. S. E. C. F.

#### HALIFAX.

Church of Christ meet for worship every Lord's day at 11 A. M. and 7 P. M. in Sons of Temperance Hall, Cornwallis Street. Prayer meeting on Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock.

#### P. E. ISLAND.

Our prospects on this Island are encouraging, and we trust our confidence in God is growing more and more.

The brethren in Charlottetown are trying to liquidate a debt on the church property, and we are happy to learn that in this they meet with the sympathy and aid of the brethren in the country. Were all duly to consider the desirability of having a church meeting regularly in the capital, where all members from different points, attending for educational or other purposes, can meet with their brethren for "fellowship, for the breaking of bread and for prayers," and also how extremely difficult it is for a few to secure land and build a house in a city, they would feel it a privilege to assist that few in their noble efforts. They have so well succeeded in Charlottetown in building their house and paying for it with the aid of their brethren, that we are quite hopeful that the day is near when the whole property will be free and that all who feel disposed to listen to the gospel will feel as free to attend in that house as if they were shareholders.

Since the Annual Meeting the young people in New Glasgow have started a prayer meeting which is steadily growing in numbers and interest.

Bro. Freeman is becoming acquainted with the brethren on the Island and is highly esteemed wherever he goes. He baptized two young men in Tryon, and is much encouraged in his work for the Master.

D. C.