

# THE CHRISTIAN.

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

VOL. XVI.—No. 3.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., JANUARY, 1899.

WHOLE No. 183

## 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

St. John, N. B.

EDITOR:

DONALD CRAWFORD,—New Glasgow, P. E. I.

OFFICE EDITOR:

HENRY W. STEWART, - - St. John, N. B.

## NOTES AND NEWS.

1899.

"O God our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be thou our guard while life shall last,  
And our eternal home."

We wish all our readers a happy, busy, and successful New Year in the service of Christ.

By doing each day the duties that come to us we shall be able to close the year with feelings of great satisfaction.

Let us go into the New Year hopefully. True we do not know what trials or sorrows it may bring, but we do know that "as our day, so shall our strength be."

This is a good time for self-examinations. The merchants have been busy taking stock and balancing their books to see if the past year has been a successful one for them. Christians should take time to see whether they are making progress in the divine life. To fail as a merchant is bad enough, but to fail as a Christian is terrible.

It appears probable that the F. C. M. S. will receive the \$150,000 which they set out to raise this year. The first two months of the new missionary year brought in \$17,186.43, and these months are generally poor ones financially. But even if the \$150,000 are raised it will only represent about 15 cents per head.

Last month we referred to the reduced prices which the Standard Publishing Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, are quoting on some of their best books. They have since added Pres. McGarvey's works to the number. His volume of "Sermons" is offered for 75 cents. This is a good book to read and lend.

We think it is quite evident that our churches are becoming more deeply interested in foreign missions. The year that is now closed probably holds a better record than any that has gone before. We would not have the churches do less for the work abroad, but we would have them do more for the home work. The contributions to the

American Christian Missionary Society have fallen off during the year. This should not be permitted to occur again especially, if we expect a continuance of their timely aid.

We see by the *Christian Standard* that at the Texas Christian Lectureship two papers were read on "How to Preach Baptism." The problem was, how to present the subject in a way that people would believe and obey instead of becoming offended and staying away.

Great Falls, Montana, is a town of 15,000 inhabitants. A short time since, B. F. Norris went there and found eighty scattered disciples. He is endeavoring to get them organized for work. These disciples could not have been the old fashioned kind or they would have gotten together and spread the Lord's table if a preacher never found them out. But many people who move into a new place are apt to leave their religion behind.

A southern minister write that owing to the increase in their membership their church-house is too small to accommodate the people; so they have purchased a lot in a central part of the city and are going to build "a grand house of worship." Yes, that is it. A grand house of worship. These same grand places, in central parts of cities, have been one of the curses of Christianity. It would be much better to put less money into grand buildings and more into the work of preaching the gospel to the masses.

Don't forget the printer and his bills. If you have failed to renew your subscription send the amount due. Address THE CHRISTIAN, Box 56, St. John, N. B. We have told you before that all the profits from the publication of the paper go into the Home Mission Fund. Is it awkward to send 50 cents. How would it do to send a dollar, 50 cents for the paper and 50 cents for Home Missions?

When a mission Sunday-school is held over a saloon the workers of the Lord and the workers of the devil are coming into close contact. J. S. Lawrence, a godly business man of Cincinnati, opened a Sunday-school in Central Fairmount in such a place, because none other was available. The work has prospered, and now a place of worship has been completed and occupied. Have faith to start, have grit to go on: then success.

The *Christian Standard*, having added 15,000 new subscribers to its lists last year is going to make the attempt to enter 20,000 new homes this year. There is no paper among us more deserving of this wonderful success than the *Christian Standard*, and we sincerely hope it will enter as many new homes as it is ambitious to. It will be good for the homes. It will be good for the churches. It will be good for every good work.

W. H. Book, one of our Virginia preachers, believes in equal rights. One Sunday evening, when the weather was not stormy, but a little unpleasant, he found that many

of his congregation had remained at home. The following Sunday evening the people were out in large numbers, but Bro. Book thought it was his turn to stay home, and did so. The people were of course disappointed and indignant, but he informed them that, as a member of that congregation, he had the same right to stay at home as they had. The attendance is better now. The people learned the lesson

Those good resolutions of last year—how have you kept them? Did you break them all or forget them all before a month was gone, or did you keep them faithfully, and do you find yourself better for so doing. About the best resolution anyone who is not a Christian can make is to determine to become an earnest, steadfast follower of Christ. And we hope and pray that many who from month to month will read these pages will consecrate themselves to the work of the Lord.

There never was a time when we should push home missions more vigorously. This new year can be made, and should be made, one of glorious triumphs. But not without hard work and sacrifice on the part of both preachers and people, not without earnest prayer and sincere consecration. But these essentials are within our power. May all our churches, for the salvation of souls and for their own salvation too, gird them for the work.

It is a matter of sincere regret that Miss Rioch was not able to visit the Deer Island churches. But the violent storms during her stay in St. John, and the prospect of continued unsettled weather, compelled her to forego the pleasure of meeting with them. But it was not as needful that she should go to Deer Island as to some other places, because the churches there have supported the work liberally, and the workers well know the needs of the foreign fields. We wish, however, that they could have seen and heard Miss Rioch.

Last month we announced that a brother had given \$5,000 for home missions and an equal amount for foreign. Since then an unknown brother (or perhaps sister) has given \$5,000 for the work at home, and to balance things properly, a friend of the work abroad has given the same sum to it. It now looks as though some of our people were learning to give. May many others catch their spirit. It is wiser to spend money for the spread of the gospel than to spend it for parlor ornaments or for personal adornment.

The *Christian Standard* tells of a short meeting held at Waynesboro, Tenn. There were two notable things in connection with it: A man seventy-two years old, who had been an out-spoken infidel for many years, called his children to his room, denounced his infidelity. He afterwards made the good confession and went the same hour of the night and was baptized. Also, a young lady desired to be baptized. Her mother was strongly opposed, and just before the baptism sent her daughter a note, asking her to post-