

Jesus, to be baptized. Let us examine the commission given by Christ to his apostles just after his ascension. (Mark 16: 16.) And he said unto them: "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, and he that believeth not shall be damned." Here we have a salvation promised to them who believe and are baptized. In what sense were they saved? Let us turn to the account given by Luke of the same commission. (Luke 24: 46, 47.) Thus it was written and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day. And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And behold I send the promise of my Father upon you; but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high. We see that the saved of Mark is remission of sins with Luke. But how did the apostles understand this matter when they began to act in this matter. Let us turn to their first sermon. (Acts 2: 38.) Then Peter said unto them: "Repent and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." The remission or forgiveness of our past sins is a design of baptism.

(b) It is the initiation rite by which the believing penitent who has confessed Christ with his mouth is inducted into the Kingdom or Church of Christ—into Christ's body. (Rom. vi: 3.) "Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death." (Gal. iii: 27.) "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." It is the act by which our state or relation to God—to Christ—is changed. We may come very near to Christ before baptism; in fact, we must come very near, but before it we are out of Christ, after it we are in Christ.

RECAPITULATION.

1. Baptism is not a ceremonial washing.
2. It belongs to the gospel dispensation.
3. It is performed by burying a proper subject in water, in the name of Christ and into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.
4. A proper person for baptism is one who comes voluntarily, believing in Jesus with all his heart, repenting of his sins and confessing Christ.
5. To such baptism is for remission of past sins and to induct into Christ.

J. A. GATES.

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

ST. JOHN ITEMS.

CONYRG ST. CHURCH.—Lord's day services at 11 A. M. and 7 P. M. Sunday-school at 2.15 P. M. Young People's Meeting, Tuesday evening at 8. General Prayer Meeting, Thursday evening at 8. Brethren visiting the city cordially welcomed. The Ladies' Sewing Circle meets every Wednesday evening at 6.

Special services are now being held with us. Already four have confessed the Saviour. The meetings have been unusually interesting, the attendance good, and prospects encouraging.

Bros. O. B. Emery and wife, and Geo. Leonard and wife from Deer Island are with us. Bro Emery preached for us last Lord's day.

DEER ISLAND.

DEAR BROTHER.—Since our last report we have had two added to the church at Lord's Cove; one by confession and baptism, and one who, eighteen years previously, at Lubec, Mo., had begun the life

of obedience according to the requirements of the gospel. One was baptized, also, who on account of feeble health is unable to attend our meetings, so has not formally taken membership in the congregation. There is joy in heaven and among the saints on earth, over wanderers returning to their Father's house. There is a great—a joyous reward for those who are successful in winning souls to Christ. "They who turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever and ever."

The brethren here are working with growing earnestness in the cause of the Master. Our meetings are well attended, interesting and we hope profitable. No discord mars the harmony of the worshipping assemblies. Matters of opinion on which men differ, and have a right to differ, if they will, we lay not down as tests of fellowship; but, from matters of faith we dare not turn aside. When the Spirit says, by Paul, (Eph. iv: 4-6.) "There is one body and one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, &c. We accept this just as the Spirit has joined it together, and we must conclude that the man who separates what God has joined together, gathers not with Christ, but scatters abroad.

Leonardville and Lord's Cove are each providing larger and better houses for their growing congregations.

The new house at Leonardville is now in such a condition that it may be opened for worship at any time. The brethren have worked faithfully for this, and while we pray that the works of their hands may be established, we most of all desire that in their new house they may work more earnestly than ever before for the salvation of souls, in spreading that gospel through which, either in time or eternity, confusion of face or endless sorrow must come to all who teach for doctrines, the commandments of men, thereby making void the Law of God. *There are some such yet.*

The new house at Lord's Cove is framed and partly enclosed, and would be much farther advanced had it not been for the severe and changeable nature of our winter weather.

O. B. EMERY.

March, 24th, 1884.

LE TETE.

Two have obeyed the gospel since my last—one at L'Etang—the one spoken of in my last, as having confessed the Saviour; the other the wife of our aged Elder, Bro. Niel McNichol. She was in her eighty-third year.

J. A. GATES.

March 25th, 1884.

BACK BAY BRIEFS.

We have nothing new to communicate us a church. While we cannot rejoice in additions to our membership, yet we can thank God that our spiritual life has not declined. Our social meetings are well attended, and our brethren and sisters, by their earnest prayers and warm-hearted exhortations, manifest their desires not only for their own salvation, but for those by whom they are surrounded.

As in all other churches of Christ we have some silent members among us—brethren and sisters whose voices are seldom if ever heard engaged in prayer or exhortation in the public assembly. While their lips may be otherwise spotless, this very thing in them is a hindrance to the advancement of our cause. God never intended that His redeemed people should hold their peace, while sinners are perishing for the very knowledge they might supply.

"Ye are my witnesses saith the Lord," and as witnesses we should testify in behalf of our Friend and Saviour. God hasten the day when all shall view this important matter in the right light.

We have a Sabbath-school which is well attended by the young, but we lack teachers. Many who might be very useful in this department of Christian labor, shrink from the task, and as a result, a few have to do the work.

We have just organized, both here and LeTete, a Lodge of Tomplars, and we trust soon to see good results from these institutions.

The ladies of this church have a sewing circle, which is well attended and is doing a good work, as in its weekly visits from house to house it fosters a social as well as a Christian feeling. Anything that tends to bind more closely together the individual members of a church and a community, is a movement in the right direction. Our new house of worship is a great blessing to us as a worshipping people, and our only wonderment now is, how we did so long without it. The news of the death of Bro. Journeay cast a gloom over the community, for he was respected and loved by all.

As Spring is now opening, many who have been constant attendants at the house of prayer will be missing, as duty compels them to go out on the mighty deep, in order that they may gain a livelihood for those dependent on them. Praying for the success of the gospel, I am as ever,

J. P. N.

Back Bay, March 27th, 1884.

NOVA SCOTIA.

DIGBY CO.

Since my last report I have held a three weeks' meeting with the church at Tiverton. The prospects were not so encouraging as we have seen in other days, yet we are thankful to be able to say our meeting has resulted in much good.

Quite a number who had grown cold, and some who had gone back into the world were constrained to return to God, confessing their sins, and are again happy in their re-union with Christ and the brethren.

We thank God and take courage, hoping those who have so long borne the burden, will be greatly encouraged by seeing so many come up to their help, and that they may all work faithfully together in the fear and in the love of God.

The brethren at Westport report very interesting meetings during my absence, and the last regular Wednesday evening prayer-meeting well sustained this reputation. This meeting was led by Brother William Peters, and was very interesting and profitable, some 23 taking part, all speaking with an interest and intelligence that shows that the Scriptures are being daily read. My earnest prayer is that God will keep His children on these islands from the evil to which they are continually exposed, and that they may grow to be a great power for good.

The CHRISTIAN is well received, and read with much interest by the brethren in these parts. The only complaint I hear is that a month is too long to wait for its welcome visits.

E. C. FORD.

Westport, March 20th, 1884.

NOTES.

We closed our last letter with a promise that we would say something about Tiverton, but as Bro. Ford has just closed a good meeting there, we will leave it to him to say all the good things concerning the church there.

We remained there only one Lord's day, and thence to Brighton, passing the brethren at Gulliver's Cove without calling to see them, contrary to our intention, as we fully expected to visit them on our return from Westport. But we remained in Westport so much longer than we expected we were obliged to hasten to our other appointments. The storm prevented us from filling our appointment at Brighton Tuesday evening.