

## WESTPORT, N. S.

The first week in January we began a meeting here, but, unfortunately, the writer was taken sick, and even became helpless and useless. After two weeks he revived somewhat and began the meetings, but soon found that he was not able to continue them. The church sent for Bro. Ford, of Halifax. He came. The meetings went on through the worst kind of weather. The meetings are very interesting and encouraging in many respects. Too many of our members were afflicted with the Laodicean spirit, who are now coming into line and putting on the armor of God with a spirit of determination to "conquer though they die." We have had no confessions yet, but we are hopefully looking for a number who are very near the point of decision. May they soon decide to settle their destiny on the side of God and heaven. Bro. Ford's labors here have been very helpful, and we are all more than thankful for his assistance in this our time of need. The meetings here will close the 25th inst. The writer will then join Bro. Cook in a series of meetings in Tiverton. Bro. Cook has already commenced a meeting there, and we hear good reports from the meeting.

H. MURRAY.

## HALIFAX, N. S.

My Halifax letter this month must be written from Westport, where I am at this date assisting Bro. Murray in a meeting. The very serious sickness of Bro. Murray interfered with a meeting he had begun with every prospect of success. This sickness was very inopportune, as much precious time was lost. As soon as Bro. Murray was able to be out, and even before he should have been, he renewed his effort to carry on his meeting. But not being strong enough to continue alone, the church asked me to come over and help him; and as Bro. R. E. Stevens could fill my place in Halifax for a few weeks, I am here doing what little I can to assist in the work we love in this my old home and among my old friends.

The work in Halifax will lose nothing by my absence, as Bro. Stevens and wife will more than fill my place. They are both well known here and well liked.

The Friday evening meeting of the week of prayer was held in our meeting-house. The subject was foreign missions. The pastor of the Tabernacle (Baptist) church, Mr. Schurman, was the speaker of the evening. His remarks were well chosen and true to the Word of God. His points were: 1st, We should be interested in foreign missions because Christ loved the heathen as well as he loved us; 2nd, he had died for all; 3rd, he had provided salvation for all; 4th, he had placed this salvation, or the gospel, in the keeping of his people; hence, the salvation of the heathen depended largely on the faithfulness of the church. The speaker said that many would die in their sins who might have been saved had the church been true to the trust committed to it. He spoke tenderly of a lost opportunity, and urged all to improve on every opportunity to say a word to the lost sinner, that we may not have to feel through life that a soul might have been saved had we spoken the word when we could have done so. There were many expressions of appreciation of the address by those who heard it.

The annual rally of the Endeavor Union of Halifax was also held with the North Street Christian Church. This was a meeting of much interest, and made more deeply interesting because of the presence of our Bro. D. A. Morrison, of the second contingent, who gave an interesting address, which was greatly enjoyed by all present. One feature

of this meeting was a great surprise to Bro. Morrison. Just as he was called to speak, Mr. Melish came to the platform, and, in a few well-chosen remarks, presented to Bro. Morrison, on behalf of the Endeavor Societies of Halifax, a beautiful pair of field glasses. This brought out rounds of applause from the audience, and a nice little speech from Bro. Morrison, in addition to his regular talk for the occasion. Bro. and Sister Morrison have received very much attention from the people of Halifax, especially those of all the Endeavor Societies. By this time I suppose Bro. Morrison is on his way to South Africa. May the God whom he serves restore him to his friends is my prayer.

E. C. FORD.

Westport, Feb. 23, 1900.

## CROSS ROADS, P. E. I.

We have several reasons for encouragement at Cross Roads church. Since last report our audiences are increasing, and the people seem to be more interested. A number of the ladies of the congregation have organized themselves into a Ladies' Aid Society, and much good, spiritually and financially, will be the result. Last Lord's day afternoon I preached in the Baptist church at Alexandria to a large and appreciative audience. Rev. Mr. Spurr, of that body, preached for my congregation at Southport.

A few Sundays ago we took up an offering for the Famine Fund in India. We expect to take up our offering for foreign missions the second Sunday in March, and add our mite to the \$200,000. The evangelization of the world has grown from an individual effort to a national enterprise. Invest in the Lord's treasury and you gather interest for eternity.

More preachers are needed on the Island. We miss Bro. R. W. Stevenson very much. We need his counsel and help and the impress of his spiritual life. Men with clean hands and pure hearts are the men we need on the Island, and no others need apply.

A. N. S.

## NEW GLASGOW, P. E. I.

The work in New Glasgow is progressing favorably. Our prayer-meetings are interesting and well attended. The singing practice is not without its good results, and is helping our services very much. The amount given to the India Famine Fund was creditable. We are all looking forward to the first Sunday in March with a good deal of expectancy, and hope to go beyond our usual amount for foreign missions. We all realize it is the Lord's work, and, as a church, we want to work for him.

On Thursday evening, January 18th, a very pleasant gathering of brethren and friends met at the home of Elder D. Crawford, New Glasgow. A very happy time was spent. The ladies of the congregation literally took charge of the house, and, in their usual cheerful and pleasing manner, gave supper to over one hundred persons. Our churches need the Marthas as well as the Marys. The tables were sumptuously prepared, and, under the bright light of the chandelier, that reflected its mellow rays on the artistic decorations that hung from ceiling and wall, the physical man was satisfied. After the singing of sacred songs, the reading of an address and the presentation of a well-filled purse, the meeting was dismissed with singing and prayer. The following is the address and reply:

DEAR BRO. CRAWFORD,—We are met to-night, as on former occasions, to express in some tangible way our appreciation of your services as a true and devoted minister of the gospel. You have been long in the service. Many precious souls on the Island and in other places are testifying to your

labors and rejoicing in the knowledge of sins forgiven. For forty-five years you have been in our midst and have ministered to our spiritual need. You have rejoiced with us when we rejoiced, and have wept when we have wept. You have given liberally of your means to the spread of the gospel both at home and abroad. No call has escaped unheeded.

Your genial disposition, affable manner and sterling Christian character binds us to you as a people with ties of Christian love. Nor can we forget the kindly words of encouragement and sympathetic influence of one who has been to us such a bright example of Christian living, and to you such a worthy and estimable help-meet in the journey of life.

Although you have resigned as minister of our congregation, owing to the burden of years, yet we feel your zeal is just as unflagging, your interest just as great, as in years gone by.

In view, then, of your position and worth as a citizen and Christian, we present you with this purse and other gifts as a small expression of our regard for your welfare.

May your remaining days be your happiest days. May the evening of your life close with a golden sunset. May heaven's smile greet you when your life's work is ended as you hear from the Master's lips the song of welcome, "Well done, well done."

## REPLY.

DEAR FRIENDS,—It is not easy for me to express what I feel on this occasion. This meeting reminds us both of what is passing away and of what abides—of the seen and of the unseen. Many of the friends of former days who used to meet us here to express their feelings for my partner and myself have passed away. We cannot enjoy their society, nor thank them for their substantial kindness. But the friendship we now witness is a renewal of those feelings that survives all changes, and will be made perfect when death itself shall have done its work.

Referring to my labors in the gospel, I can truly say I am not satisfied with what I have done. When I think of what Jesus has done for the whole world, and for me, I am astonished that I have done so little for him, and can, with all my heart say, I am an unprofitable servant. Notwithstanding this, I feel thankful to our Heavenly Father that my poor labor has not been in vain, and I hope to praise him for the fact that, so far as I can learn, I have left every place where I have permanently labored stronger than I found it, and able to support the cause of the Master than I found it.

Although greatly relieved by our beloved Bro. Simpson's taking up the work, I feel as anxious as I ever did for the prosperity of this church, and do earnestly hope that both church and minister will be so blest of God as to be a light to this community.

Mrs. Crawford and I would ask you, dear friends, to accept of our hearty thanks for this pleasant visit, and for your very generous donation, and we pray that through the abounding goodness of God each and all of us will meet in his presence, where there is fullness of joy, and at his right hand, where there are pleasures forevermore.

The donation amounted to about a hundred dollars, the greater part being in money.

A. N. S.

## RAINY RIVER DISTRICT, ONT.

I received word recently from the church at the colony. Good services, well attended Lord's day school, and six additions were reported. The brethren are planning mission work, and good results may be looked for.

The good seed is being sown in Rat Portage. The Lord's day school has been re-organized and is very well attended. The members now meet in Bro. Fullerton's new hall. The hall is quite a hall, neatly furnished and more centrally situated than the former place of worship. The attendance at services has increased since change.

The interest in our services at the Sultana Mine seems to increase. Since last report I have spoken on Christ the Resurrection and the Life, the Gospel, Obeying the Gospel, and Receiving Christ.

O. B. STOCKFORD.