

CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR CHRISTIAN.—We remember at the eleventh hour our promise to write something for the November number. Perhaps a short account of our visit to six churches in the Province and one in Maine will interest some of your readers.

August 15th I left Cornwallis for St. John, going by way of Annapolis. The ride from Port Williams to Annapolis was pleasantly occupied in conversation with Sister Wisdom of Dartmouth, from whom we learned something of the state of the church in Halifax. The sail across the Bay was quite pleasant; and on landing we found Bro. Capp on the lookout for stray preachers, and ready to take us to his home.

We did the preaching for him next morning, and though it was not over done, we learned that some dinners were, while others grew cold and perhaps indifferent. Yet good may result even from this, as the brethren had an opportunity of exercising those two Christian graces—patience and temperance.

In the afternoon we attended a meeting of the Salvation Army, in City Hall, Carleton, in company with a good brother whose name we are not authorized to use here. Returning by way of the Falls, we crossed the new cantilever bridge, a description of which might interest some of your readers, but space will not permit. In the evening we heard Bro. Capp preach in his usual—but as this scribbling must come under his notice before going to print, we shall leave our readers to infer the rest.

Monday was agreeably and profitably spent in company with Bro. Capp in calling on as many of the friends as we could. Tuesday we left St. John for St. George, going by the Grand Southern Railway. After passing the beautiful village of Musquash the road passes through a dreary barren country until you approach St. George, when the eye is again refreshed by the appearance of woodland and vale, and the graceful Magaguadavic River with its numerous islets, disclosing sunny spots of green.

At St. George we met Bro. Samuel Dick, of LeTete, who took us to his home, where good Sister Dick does the part of Martha, combining with it the wisdom of Mary, in not neglecting the better part. Here we met our old friend, Bro. J. A. Gates, looking as hale and happy as usual. We remained a fortnight with the churches at LeTete and Back Bay, preaching several times through the week and on Lord's days to both churches. And though many of the brethren were away from home, we had a full house, except in the morning, as this people have not learned the luxury of early church going.

Truly I felt to rejoice when I entered the pleasant and commodious meeting-house at Back Bay. As I opened the precious Word that morning to orderly, attentive and intelligent hearers, I thought of my first efforts to do good in this place and how things have changed in a few years. I thought of the labors of Bro. and Sister Gates in this place, and the success which crowned them; and as I did I felt assured that though their work of faith and labor of love may not meet with the approbation due in this world, yet assuredly when "they rest from their labors" "their work will follow them."

Of the kindness shown us in LeTete we might write a volume. It is needless to say I was well received by all the friends here (and I know of no enemies). I expected a cordial reception and my expectations were more than realized.

From LeTete we went to Deer Island. I was much disappointed at not meeting Bro. O. B. Emery, he having left for Milton, N. S., the day before my arrival. At Lord's Cove we found the home of Bro. Frank Lambert open, we judge, "as the heart of its owner." We met with the church here the first evening in the prayer-meeting, which was led by Elder James Ward, and was throughout a very lively and interesting meeting. Here we made an appointment to preach the night following the next.

Next day we walked to Leonardsville, to attend the prayer-meeting there. Coming back to Lord's Cove, according to appointment, we preached to a

full house. So you see we had two prayer-meetings to one preaching meeting, which we drew a good feature in the work. On Lord's day we preached twice at Leonardsville, to good audiences. My visit here at this time when the Annual Meeting of the Disciples was being held in Milton, N. S., brought with it recollections of a year ago when we met so many of the friends at Leonardsville. It brought a home-feeling over me to see Bro. and Sister Welsh again, with whom we stayed in company with Bro. M. B. Ryan, at last year's meeting. Some one once said to me not to judge of people by their sociability on such occasions, as they put on their best appearance. Well, I had a good opportunity of testing the truth of the remark on this occasion, and found it groundless in this single instance at least.

From Deer Island we visited the church at Lubeck, Maine. This church has had its palmy days when it payed its preachers a thousand dollars a year. But it has come through the deep waters of affliction, losing many of its members by death and removal.

At one time so singularly was this church visited, death carried off its staunchest pillars, and some of its ablest supporters, leaving widows, and a church stripped of its officers. But those brave Christian women remembering that their Lord had risen, and that they "need not now seek the living among the dead," instead of repining and losing their interest in an apparently sinking cause, went to work with redoubled energy, and with heart and hand are still engaged in the good work. My visit to this church shall remain a sunny spot in my memory, and I shall look eagerly for reports from that quarter in the column of THE CHRISTIAN.

Returning home I remained one night in St. John, and attended the Young People's Prayer Meeting. I was delighted to see so many young persons present. At the close of the meeting one young man and two young ladies came forward and made the good confession. How it gladdens the hearts of those who love God and their fellow man see the youths of our land enrolling in the army of our Lord. When will the churches in general see the importance of the Sunday-school and prayer-meeting? No wonder that the young people stray away from our churches and our numbers decrease, when many of the older members, and those reckoned in good standing too, are opposed to Sunday-schools, and indifferent with regard to prayer-meetings. Till this spirit dies out or is driven out of the church, it will not answer the description of the fold where the young and tender are cared for with a shepherd's care.

Your brother and co-laborer,

T. F. DWYER

Cornwallis, Sept. 23rd 1885.

DEAR BROTHER CRAWFORD:—Although we had so far progressed in the work of rebuilding our mill, as to enable me to say in my last that we expected to start in a week from that date, we had still a lot to do. At this date we can only be said to be fairly under way again. It has been a season of hard work in which all have been fully engaged. None of us has worked harder than father, who, though he is now fast approaching the three score years and ten, is still strong and generally in the enjoyment of good health. Mother, too, is better than usual this winter. They, with the rest of the family, resident at Turua, hold regular meetings on Lord's day to attend to the ordinances of the Lord's house.

We duly receive THE CHRISTIAN each month, and carefully scan its contents for items of interest, even the names of subscribers have an interest for us. Amongst them we frequently meet the names of those we once knew, and whom we still remember with affection. My letters to your paper have had one unexpected result. They have caused friends to write us, who have not before done so during all the years we have been in this far off land. We are always glad to get letters from our friends in Canada. Indeed their letters have more interest for us than ours are likely to have for them. I am always at a loss to know, when I write, what

will be of interest to your readers, and I trust you will not hesitate to strike out anything you may think unsuitable.

Confederation, combination, or amalgamation, seems to be the order of the day. The Australian Colonies are endeavoring to federate for their mutual benefit, and an Act has recently passed the British Parliament to enable them to do so. There are many who advocate a federation of the whole British Empire, while others talk in a confident way of the early combination for purposes of defence, at least, of all the English-speaking peoples. Such a union, on a satisfactory basis, would be of infinite advantage to civilization and progress. Christianity could do much to assist in bringing it about, by closing up and uniting its ranks, and showing in a practical manner the benefits of union. I always hail with pleasure every step in this direction, and though I am aware that much yet remains to be done, I believe that every year brings us nearer to the time when Christ's followers will be one. To those who see a simple and satisfactory plan for accomplishing it, the process has all the appearance of slowness; yet to attempt to unduly hasten, would almost certainly delay, the much desired end. Even amongst those who have joined themselves together on Scriptural grounds, there is, not unfrequently, a want of accord and harmony, which is painful to behold. In these colonies we have too much party spirit amongst our brethren, but it is with much satisfaction that I can now chronicle acts which show that a better feeling is growing. I mentioned some time ago that there were four papers advocating "our plea" in these colonies; now we have only two. The *Faithful Witness* had but a short and not very happy career and died in infancy; and the two leading papers, the *Watchman* and the *Witness* have united their forces, and now appears as the *Australian Christian Standard*. The first number is just to hand and presents a very creditable appearance. I send you a copy as a sample. The little *Pioneer* published in Queensland still lives, and is not in any way a party organ as some of the others were.

Bro. H. Exley who has been preaching for some years in N. Z., is about to return to America. I regret his departure. We are very short of preachers in New Zealand, but our brother has had a cordial offer from California and he has not succeeded in placing himself on the best of terms with the more conservative of our Auckland brethren. He has, however, worked earnestly and accomplished much good. We find it difficult to get good preachers to come and stay in these colonies. Victoria is the premier colony, both for numbers of members, churches and preachers. It is now being considered whether an institution cannot be established in or near Melbourne for training young men for the work of preaching and teaching. They find that though quite a number of young men go to America to fit themselves to preach the word, very few return; so the brethren are considering what can be done to train them at home, and by this means keep them in the colonies.

Sometimes unpleasant circumstances have arisen in churches in these colonies, through the desire of some teachers to give a place to "open communion" practices. The feeling of the brethren generally is strongly adverse to this policy. In South Australia recently quite a sensation was created on this question, and a serious rupture was imminent. But wiser counsels prevailed and the danger is now past. Speaking of this matter, reminds me of a paragraph I saw a few days ago, to the effect that for some time a Pedo-baptist preacher occupies the pulpit of Bunyan's Church. The change was effected through admitting the unimmersed to membership. These gradually became more numerous until at last they outvoted the Baptists. So that what was once a Baptist Church is now presided over by a preacher who sprinkles babies.

Bro. Floyd, who recently arrived from America is doing well in Wellington. The church in that town is one of the most energetic in New Zealand. Dunedin is also a progressive district, but Auckland is very slow. We have really made no progress