

without a preacher is one of the things that is settled among us forever. The great and important question that is agitating us now is "How can we supply this demand? Where can we get good and true men to accomplish this important work?" Speak right out and tell us how we may settle this question as to when and how we are to get men to take the fields so ready for the harvest.

My visit to the Island was one of the pleasantest visits of my life. I have long believed that our Island brethren were good and whole-hearted and noble-hearted, and now I know it. I regret that I was not able to do more in helping them in their work of faith and labor of love. H. MURRAY.

NOTES OF TRAVEL.

Friday, June 21st, found me travelling by rail on my way to Southville, Digby County. On my arrival I found a number of brethren and friends from different parts of the county. Bros. Cooke of Westport, and Devoe of Tiverton, being among the number. On Saturday afternoon Bro. Cooke preached a discourse. In the evening Bro. Devoe preached, taking for a theme "A Godsend." A slight fall of rain made us fearful of the morrow; but oh! how glad we were when the sun rose beautiful and clear on Sunday morning. This was a red-letter day in the history of Southville. At nine o'clock we had a fine social meeting conducted by Bro. Geo. Weaver. At half-past ten the building was packed to its utmost capacity. The service was conducted by the writer; reference was made to the organization of the church thirty-six years ago by Bro. Crawford of P. E. Island. It then consisted of eleven members, six of whom were living and present at the meeting. Reference was also made to Bro. Greenlaw, Bro. Steele, Bro. J. A. Gates, all of whom were instrumental in bringing the church to its present standing. There are now about sixty members, and with their increased facility for doing good they should grow and flourish. In the afternoon the house was again packed long before the hour arrived,—a great many could not gain admittance. At three o'clock the writer again preached, taking for his theme, "Who are the Christians—What do they believe?" At the close of this meeting we gathered around the Lord's table, Bro. Thomas Ossinger of Tiverton, and Bro. Benj. Wagoner, of Riverdale, presiding. In the evening we had another good congregation although a great many had gone home. Bro. Devoe gave us a discourse on "The Seven Golden Candlesticks."

Monday morning was devoted to a business meeting, when it was decided to make an effort to do something more than has been done for the advancement of the cause of Christ in Digby County. A committee of three were appointed to correspond with the various churches with that end in view. A social meeting in the afternoon, a discourse from Bro. Cooke in the evening, and the Quarterly was over. Everybody enjoyed it and went home pleased with their visit. I remained over another Lord's day. One was added to the number by baptism; others might have been constrained by the love of Christ, if I had been able to have had continued the meetings.

The last Lord's day I spent at Southville I preached at Weymouth Bridge in the afternoon in the exhibition building. Quite a large audience gathered and an apparent interest manifested. I had sent an appointment to South Range, but was unable to fill it, so Bro. Weaver kindly consented to go and fill it for me.

The first Sunday in July found me at Shubenacadie, and another new meeting-house to be opened for the worship of God. A large audience greeted us in the morning; in the afternoon we had a grand social meeting with the Lord's Supper at the close. In the evening we had another well attended meeting. The church here has been in existence for

about fifty years. Bro. Crawford has done some evangelistic work here. Bro. John B. Wallace has also labored successfully, and others might be mentioned. After a long hard struggle they have succeeded in getting a nice little house of worship to meet in, free of debt. Now before I leave this subject of opening meeting-houses, I want to make mention of one brother, who, although not present, was honorably mentioned on both occasions. Bro. Howard Murray was in both cases the progenitor of the plan for building. I remained over another Lord's day with the brethren here, and one was added to the church.

We had the pleasure of listening to Bro. A. Ellmore, of Indiana, three times. He dropped down on us unexpectedly, and gave us three plain gospel sermons. We were sorry he would not stay longer for he was not well.

At my present writing I am at West Gore. A great many brethren are dissatisfied with a certain article that appeared in the columns of the *Christian Leader* of a late date about our Annual Meeting. I hope outside brethren will not take it to heart. Bro. Donald McDougall met with a sad misfortune this week, his house and everything it contained being burned up. Himself and wife and family of seven children left without clothes to wear or a bed to lie down on. His house was a new one hardly completed. His loss is very heavy, as there was no insurance. Oh! the uncertainty of life and its surroundings. Let us make sure of the only sure thing—eternal life. W. H. HARDING.

Dear Christian,—I was considerably surprised on taking up the July *CHRISTIAN* to find in its columns a part of a private letter written to Bro. Capp. But as that portion of the letter referred to a public calamity in which the public was supposed to be interested, I freely forgive the editor for the liberty taken. Perhaps some further items concerning the great floods which have swept our state will be interesting to your readers. But first let me correct an error in my last communication. Either a slip of my pen or a blunder of the printer's imp made me say that the water was thirty-five feet above high-water mark. Now that is fearful to think of to those who know where high-water mark is in our river. Had this been true there would be nothing left of our town to-day, and possibly I would not have written the letter from which the extract was made. The statement should have been "above low water mark," which makes quite a difference.

Well, we have been slowly shaking off the mud and drying out since the second of June, until now we can begin to see where we are and calculate what is left us. I am glad to say that things are not as bad as was at first supposed. On that awful Saturday, June 1st, while we stood helpless in the face of the fast rising angry waters and saw them lift on their heaving current millions of dollars worth of property and bear it out of sight; as we saw the homes of the people invaded and practically ruined, if not totally destroyed, and the business places turned into floating bedlams of besoaked and ruined goods, we thought that almost everything was gone, and that the future of our beautiful city was gloomy indeed. And then as the waters subsided and we saw the wreck and ruin left in their pathway, streets filled with debris mountains high, homes with their countless conveniences and ornaments plastered inside and out with the slimy mud of the torrent, stocks of goods worth tens of thousands of dollars rendered almost or entirely useless, mills and factories damaged almost beyond repair, and vacant lots where once stood happy and comfortable homes, our spirits sank still lower. But in the light of succeeding events we saw that much was left us and that the future may be only the brighter in contrast with this gloomy background.

First. We had left to us the sympathy and benevolence of the outside world. Never perhaps in the history of public calamities was the response to the cry of distress so prompt, so generous and so persistent, as that which greeted the appeal from the afflicted localities during the late floods. From almost every city and hamlet in our own state, from almost every state in the union, and from foreign lands, the supply of food, clothing, money and other necessaries came streaming in. Millionaires gave out of their abundance, and washer-women gave out of their penury, that those who had lost their all might not suffer. Such abundant and substantial sympathy touched the hearts of our people and inspired them with new hope and determination. A people to whom the hands of a world were held out in sympathy and help in a time of distress could not afford to despair; and the rebound from gloomy depression to cheerful, earnest effort to retrieve their fortunes was a most gratifying and inspiring thing to see.

Second. We had a vast reserve of business pluck and enterprise among our merchants and manufacturers. This has been shown in the dexterity with which immense stocks of damaged goods were replaced by fresh lines in almost all our stores as well as by the fact that our lumbermen have arranged with the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. to haul back 100,000,000 feet of the logs which escaped from the boom, and which are scattered along one hundred miles of the river below, that they may be manufactured in the mills of this place. This "grit" of the business men has inspired all classes with confidence in the business future of the city and has contributed very largely to our rapid recovery from the effects of the flood.

The old proverb that there is no great loss without some gain has received a fresh illustration in our recent experiences.

The waters filled collars and depressions on the surface with rubbish, spread a deposit of slimy mud over everything they touched, and left the city in an exceedingly bad, sanitary condition. It became the duty of the Board of Health to rigidly compel the thorough cleaning up of every part of the city; and the faithful use of the disinfectants so liberally supplied from outside sources. The result is that the collars, outhouses, back yards and alleys, many of them, are cleaner and sweeter now than they have been for years, and the public health and safety have thereby been promoted.

The great calamity that fell on rich and poor alike, broke up, at least, for the time being, the selfishness of society; and wealthy men and cultured ladies lost themselves in the desire and effort to minister to the unfortunate, and many a hand was involuntarily stretched out in mercy that had never before ministered but to selfish interests.

There was a revelation of character which is a rich legacy to society. What was in a man was then brought out as never before. In some, an abnormal selfishness and avarice were developed by the occasion, which men had never suspected in them. They were ready to take advantage of the extremity in which their fellows had been plunged to advance their own interests. In others, the better nature blossomed out as the century plant does, with the reserved force of a lifetime, to the surprise and delight of those who thought they knew them thoroughly. On the whole we know our fellowmen better than we did, and this is a rich recompense for much suffering.

In all this unusual experience the Christian can recognize the hand of God overruling all things for good. He leads His children through thorny paths as well as in pleasant places, and causes them to pass through the deep waters at His will. But in all this they have the cheer of His promise—"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." "Blessed is the man who putteth his trust in Him."

M. B. RYAN.