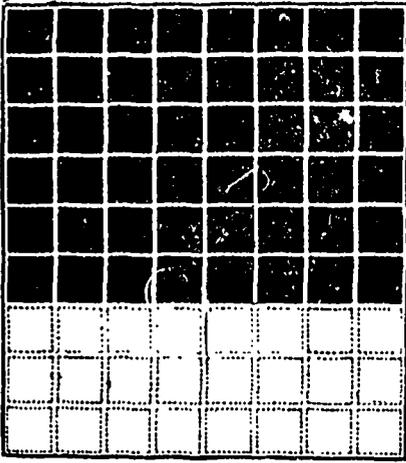


THE CRUSADE.



We have in round numbers 7,200 churches. Each square in this diagram represents 100 churches. There are 72 squares, representing 7,200 churches. The *black* squares represent the churches that did not give to foreign missions last year, the *white* squares those that did give. There are 24 white squares and 48 black ones. That is, 2,400 churches made contributions and 4,800 did not. We removed six black squares last year. That is, we gained 597 contributing churches.

We can and ought to remove the last black square this year. Only one-third of our churches gave last year. We are doing better year by year, but we are not moving fast enough.

There are two things demanding special attention: 1, The churches that gave last year must not fail this. Last year about 500 churches failed to respond that gave the year before. The churches must be steadfast in their offerings. 2, Every preacher and every friend of the work must enlist at least one new church. There can be no justification for the existence of a church if it takes no part in giving the gospel to those who have it not.

Every church should have fellowship in this work, however weak, or whatever its struggle for an existence may be. Let us take a pride in wiping the black squares from the diagram in the approaching March offering.

A. MCLEAN, } Secretaries.
F. M. RAINS, }

Correspondence.

WEST GORE LETTER.

Owing to numerous requests and many warm expressions of appreciation, I have decided to continue my monthly letters under the above heading.

I was talking with a prominent member of the church the other day about THE CHRISTIAN. He said, "I have been taking THE CHRISTIAN since it started, and I think this month's (January) paper the best yet." That is encouraging for 1896.

On Christmas eve the brethren and friends at Upper Rawdon met at Bro. George Wallace's to attend to the regular donation service. Owing to my being sick with a heavy cold I could not get there, but I received as a token of remembrance the sum of \$22.00.

On Monday, 30th of December, the brethren and friends met at Bro. B. S. Vaughn's, Newport, for the same purpose. I was still unable to be present, but they remembered me to the extent of \$24.00.

On New Year's night, the brethren and friends of West Gore met at the parsonage at West Gore for the same purpose. Bro. M. B. Ryan made one of the number. A very pleasant evening and \$31.00 in cash was the result, and we began to feel quite rich. These occasions make us feel that we are among kind and thoughtful people.

Bro. Ryan preached for us on the first Sunday in the new year. We all enjoyed his discourse very much.

Our work is moving along quietly and we do not anticipate any rapid advancement for a while. Still we are looking forward with hopes to a more active work when the spring comes with its warm sunshine and budding leaf. On account of our expecting to have the Annual at West Gore, we are planning to have our June County meeting in Newport.

W. H. HARDING.

FROM THE PACIFIC COAST.

THE CHRISTIAN find us in this far-off land very regularly, and is always read with much interest. The editors and correspondents are making a very readable paper, and I wish it could be larger or come more frequently. It is a medium of communication in the provinces without which you would be at a great loss, and those scattered in other lands are kept informed of the condition and progress of the work in the home churches. My order of reading is first the obituaries, then from the churches, then editorials and essays. Seldom a paper but tells of a friend of former years who has finished his course and gone to receive his reward. Will you allow me to mention a few of these from the large list in the January number. They were not only true friends of mine, but of the Master, and as I read of their death I soon found myself living among scenes and events of earlier years.

Robert Fenton is a name nearly as familiar to me as my own. He was one of the landmarks of Rawdon, and a pillar of the church there. At a very advanced age he has passed away. He was a constant reader, a careful thinker, a safe adviser, and a generous giver. "Uncle Robert" was every person's friend. He loved his Saviour, his Bible and his church.

Another, whose obituary is of much interest to me, is Mrs. James McDonald, of P. E. Island. Many years have passed since then, yet I well remember the happy hours spent in her pleasant home. Next to her family her heart was in the church. The roads were never so bad, nor the day so stormy, that Bro. and Sister McDonald and the boys and the girls, could not be at the meetings. And never were parents happier than these when seeing their children turning to the Lord and coming into the church. Sister McDonald in those days knew much of the Bible as well as other books; she delighted in the English poets, and as a conversationalist on religious subjects had few superiors. Though about thirty years have passed since then I wish to record my obligations to Sister McDonald as well as to many others of the East Point church, some of whom have crossed the river, for words and deeds of encouragement and help, in those early years of my ministry.

Nor can I refrain mentioning the name of Mrs. Alexander Wallace of Rawdon, N. S. Her death is a sad surprise to me, for though for some years past her health has not been

perfect, yet as to age she was but in the prime of life. Mary was the youngest of four sisters, who, though of Methodist parentage, and brought up in that faith, all, while young, intelligently received the truth as taught by the Disciples, and have continued zealous steadfast members of that church. The eldest and youngest have now gone to the better land. May the Lord sustain our brother in his great loss, and watch over those dear girls who are early left without a mother's care.

And now a word of things here. We are just in the midst of our rainy season, and though the rain is falling in torrents to-day, we have had the brightest of days for more than a month past. These big storms are unpleasant, but they secure to us the abundant harvest for which the people so anxiously look.

Our churches are holding their own and in some cases gaining ground. There has been a good deal of political agitation, business depression, and, of late, outbursts of patriotism, all of which have taken attention from the greater work of the church. Yet there are faithful men engaged in preaching the gospel who are doing much good. While attending to business here, I am preaching regularly at Geyserville and trying to build up the church there. Twelve years ago there were two Disciples there; five years ago there were forty; now about one hundred and twenty. There have been twelve additions, nearly all by baptism, during the last year, and nearly sixty the preceding year. This is certainly no rapid growth, yet for this State it is not discouraging.

I am glad to read of the success of the cause in the provinces, and felt like shouting a little on hearing of the new movement in St. John. For zeal, push, and liberality the St. John church has few, if any, superiors.

HIRAM WALLACE.

Healdsburg, Cal.

Home Mission Notes.

By the death of Sister Matthews, of Letete, we lose a faithful worker. Although dead, the seed she helped to sow will go on bearing good fruit.

The sisters at Kempt, have kindly remembered our fund. We would be glad if all the sisters would follow their example.

Brothers E. C. Ford and H. Murray are doing missionary work, but are not receiving any support from this fund. We trust they will be supported by the churches.

Read Bro. Wallace's letter from Halifax and you will conclude that we are helping a worthy church. They had one confession and baptism this month.

Bro. Fullerton and the Board are corresponding with two preachers; one of whom we hope will locate in Pictou.

Have you resolved to give more for Home Missions this year? If not, you ought to, and then see that it is carried out.

J. S. FLAGLOR, Sec'y.

RECEIPTS.

Previously acknowledged,	\$390 54
St. John Mission Band.	8 00
" a Sister,	5 00
Milton, per Miss A. A. Collie,	5 00
Kempt—Woman's Aux. per Miss S. M. Freeman,	2 00
Cornwallis, per Mrs E. C. Ford,	1 50
Letete, Elder W. Murray,	1 00
do. per W. R. Wentworth,	5 00
Halifax, per T. H. Blenus,	25 00

\$441 64

J. S. FLAGLOR,
Secretary.

Post Office, St. John.