

THE CHRISTIAN.

“FAITH COMETH BY HEARING, AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD.”—Paul

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Will all of our subscribers look at their direction label and see if they owe us anything, and if they do, to send us the money at once. Some may think 50c is a small amount and neglect to send it, but when several hundreds are of the same opinion it makes quite a difference in our receipts. Some have responded to the above during the past month, but there is a large number yet to hear from. Address your letters, J. E. EDWARDS, P. O. Box 106, St. John, N. B., Canada.

OUR Annual Meeting will be held with the church at Milton, Queen's County, N. S., commencing the Friday before the first Lord's day in September.

BRO. MURRAY intimates that the coming Annual will surpass in excellence any of its predecessors. We hope it may. Our increasing love for the cause of Christ, and our enlarged experience, should better fit us for the conducting of such meetings.

It is expected that Bro. and Sister Darst of Boston will be at our coming Annual. We are acquainted with these brethren, not by reputation simply, but from personal experience, and can testify that their presence will add greatly to the interest of the meeting; for they are indefatigable workers in the cause of the Master, and wherever known are loved for their work's sake—whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the church.

OUR thoughts are our companions, and in keeping with their nature influences us for good or evil, give shape and direction to our course in life, and ultimately yield the fruit they bear. Edmund Burke said, Tell me what are the prevailing sentiments that occupy the minds of your young men, and I will tell you what is to be the character of the next generation. Said Solomon, Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.

AN exchange is responsible for the statement “that during a religious gathering in the state of Iowa a revivalist asked all those in the audience who paid their debts to rise. Nearly all arose. He then requested those who did not pay their debts to rise. One lonesome man arose. He was the local

editor, who explained that he was unable to pay because everybody in the house owed him subscriptions. Rather an awkward outcome that, but think you that congregation were delinquents above all who dwell in the land?”

A GOD-FEARING mother gives to a silly giddy society kind of a woman a well-merited rebuke. The Westminster Teacher records the incident as follows:

One evening in a parlor at a summer watering-place the young people were dancing. One young lady was not taking any part in the exercise. “Does not your daughter dance?” asked another lady of this young lady's mother. “No,” was the reply. “Why, how will she get on in the world?” “I am not bringing her up for the world,” was the quiet answer.

TO THE question, Why do you drink? a young man replied, “To make me work.” “That is right, you drink and it will make you work,” said an old man. “Hearken to me for a moment,” continued he; “I was once a prosperous farmer. I had a good loving wife, and two as fine lads as ever the sun shone on. We had a comfortable home and lived happily. We drank ale to make us work. The two lads now fill drunkards' graves; my wife died of a broken heart and now lies by her two sons. I am now seventy-two years of age and am obliged to work for my daily bread. Drink! drink! and it will make you work.”

How meaningless is much of our so-called worship: A prayer is offered in a prayer-meeting to fill in the time. Something is put in the collection plate, because, forsooth, not to do so would appear mean and cause unfavorable comment. A song is sung without considering whether we endorse or not the sentiments expressed. It has been said, and truthfully too, that there is a good deal of devotion exhibited that is not devotion. See that man going to church; he has an abundance of this world's goods, and an exchange is our authority for saying that on Sunday mornings he is frequently known to hunt around for change of a five cent piece that he might have a cent to throw into the collection box. Yet with upturned eyes and apparent devotion he will sing—

“Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were a present far too small.”

IN response to certain questions, a gentleman with an almost unlimited experience in the tobacco business, said, “A man that simply smokes a pipe will, putting it low, spend \$12.50 per annum. The moderate cigar smoker will consume in the run of a year 300, and at ten cents apiece equals \$30.00. There are men, however, that smoke ten a day. Those who smoke and chew will spend from \$14 to \$20 a year.

Now, just fancy what kind of a conscience can that brother have who spends any of the above amounts for the poisonous weed and yet argues against our missionary efforts, or the educational fund! A contemporary states as a fact that a certain Methodist layman spent \$145 for tobacco and sixty six cents for church extension. And then adds, “Such laymen are not confined to the Methodist body. We fear that a large crowd of guilty sinners could be collected from all denominations if this test were applied.”

HENRY FRANCIS ADAMS, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Yarmouth, N. S., treats unmercifully (and rightfully too) the abomination of church lotteries. He calls it an “ungodly business,” and classed them with the tables of money changers that were so baneful in their influences that the Saviour was moved to overthrow them and to charge the bankers as making God's house a den of thieves. Here are a few of his utterances:

“When I was in Weymouth last year I saw a bill on a church, and while waiting for the train I read it. It was to advertise a social to which so much was charged for admission. Each person admitted was to have a vote concerning a gold-headed cane, which was to be presented to the most popular man in Weymouth. It is humiliating to think of Protestants resorting to a sly sort of a lottery as that for making money. I suppose the originator of that scheme thought it would be a degree more respectable than the real out and out lotteries resorted to by other representatives of Christianity. Occasionally raffles for articles at Protestant bazaars have been reported, and with shame I have to confess that such reports have had good foundation. At those raffles a person has paid five or ten cents for a “chance” of receiving in return an article worth many dollars. These gambling schemes and many other methods for raising money by Protestants have lowered the spirituality of the churches, have degraded them from the high plane as protestors against the corruptions of Rome, and have dishonored the glorious name of our blessed Lord and Saviour. If the Lord Jesus were to return on earth to-day, I am sure that He would use the whip of small cords again, and clear out all the money making schemes in vogue in Protestant churches to-day. He would certainly find reason for repeating the language uttered by Him; when He turned over the tables of the money-changers, and drove out the bazaar from the Temple, when He said, “take these things hence; make not my Father's house a house of Merchandise.”

REMEMBER cheap rates of travel to our Annual have been secured. For particulars read Bro. Murray's letter on page 4. The Bay of Fundy Steamship Company will return free of charge those who in going paid it a full single fare; and upon returning present to the purser a certificate of attendance signed by the secretary of the meeting. When purchasing tickets mention the fact that your purpose attending the Annual at Milton.

Our August number said: “We have the assurance, too, that the International Steamship Company will favor with reduced rates those coming from Eastport to St. John,”—that the brethren and friends of Deer Island, Back Bay, Letet's and Lubec should not lose this opportunity of being at our Annual. Here is the Company's response to our Secretary:

Your favor of the 9th referred to this office for reply. We will make tickets from Eastport to St. John and return for \$1.50. If your people buy a one way ticket, paying therefor \$1.50, they will be entitled to return passage free of charge by showing a certificate signed by yourself or some other officer of the convention,
Yours truly,
E. A. WALDRON, G.P.A.

The Yarmouth Steamship Company also favors our Secretary with the following:

Your favor to hand, and in reply would state that delegates to Disciples' meeting at Liverpool, N. S., will be returned free on a certificate properly signed that said party has attended such gathering as a delegate, and has paid a full first-class fare on steamers of this line in going to Liverpool for such purpose.
Yours respectfully,
W. A. CHASE.