

Original Contributions.

SALT.

H. MURRAY.

"Ye are the salt of the earth." So says the world's greatest Teacher. Here we have the relation of the Disciples of Christ to the world. Christ uses the plain, simple things of the world to teach us the greater and more important things of life and duty.

We have in the above lesson the tremendous fact that the world must be lost unless the church fulfills its mission. The only hope of the salvation of the world is the introduction of an element that will check the force of evil. This element is none other than the disciples of our Lord and Master. "If the salt loses its savor, wherewith shall it be salted?" It is possible that the salt may lose its saltiness; and just as possible that the disciple may lose his saving influence, and if so, what good is he? Good for nothing but to be cast out and rejected by the Lord and trodden under the feet of men. This answers the question, so frequently asked, "Why the church is losing its power with the moving, active, progressive world." The world has no more use for savourless Christians than for savourless salt. The respite of the wicked is in the life of the righteous. For ten righteous ones God would have spared Sodom. "The Latin church employs actual salt in the baptismal service. The priests puts it into the mouth of the person who is baptized." It is of course an unauthorized ceremony, but it is a sort of traditional witness to the obligations resting on all disciples.

History informs us that the disciples of Christ were the salt of the Roman Empire during the evil days of the decline. It is within the power, to-day, of the followers of Christ to save and reform the evils of society; unless they do, the curse of the evils must fall on the disciples. The fact is made too plain to admit of a doubt, that the preservation of Christians depends on their preserving others; this practical conclusion is very noteworthy. The mission of the disciple, like the salt, is not for self but for others' good. Cuyler has said, "that everything depends upon the salt being put into the right place. A barrel of salt set in the corner of a butcher stall is of no more use than a barrel of sawdust. It must be brought into contact with every inch of the meat in order to preserve it from decomposition. Spiritual salt is of little value to the community as long as it is barreled up in a church, however orthodox it may be; the salt must be scattered so as to come in contact and touch those who are tending to moral corruption." The study of God's word, the daily prayers, and the regular attendance to the worship of the Lord's house, are necessary to the possession of the salt of divine grace; and the exercise of our powers in behalf of the salvation of others, is absolutely necessary to the retaining of grace. When we lose our interest and our labor in the salvation of others, then we lose our own salvation, and will be cast out as useless.

Home Missions.

(Address all communications and remittances to W. A. Barnes, Secretary, 223 St. James Street, St. John, N. B.)

We hope that the brethren in these provinces will make a grand forward movement in this Jubilee year. The results of such a movement will be deeper consecration, more additions, and more money for the work of missions.

In the spring the brethren of the Main St. church, North End, will commence building a church house on their lot on Douglas Ave., which was bought by them some time ago.

The brethren at Nauwigowauk, where Bro. William Murray has been laboring, have also decided to build a house of worship. No appeal as yet has been made for financial assistance, but we feel sure that all who are anxious to see the cause prosper, and are able to help, will do what they can.

Bro. William Murray will take up the work in Pictou (beginning January 29th) until a preacher can be secured.

The brethren at Westport regretted that Evangelist Stevenson could not have remained with them longer. They considered ten days too short for a successful meeting. A brother writing from that place says, "I think if he could have remained longer we might have seen more results from his labors. He was much pleased with the collections and pledges made. He has done much good in the community and also in the church."

Bro. Stevenson has been fourteen weeks in the evangelistic field. The churches where he has held meetings speak very highly of his work, and the good done in the bringing before the people the plea of the "Disciples of Christ," the strengthening of the churches in the faith, and impressing upon them the necessity of giving to the work of Home Missions.

Report of Evangelist R. W. Stevenson :

Services rendered, .....	14 weeks.
Sermons preached, .....	106
Confessions taken, .....	14
Amount raised by collections, .....	\$110 67
Amount in pledges, .....	118 60

RECEIPTS.

Previously acknowledged, .....	\$268 54
Coburg St. Mission Band, .....	2 32
Marcarene, per Nelson Leland, .....	3 50
Westport, per E. A. Payson, .....	1 50
Miss Carrie Payson, pledge at annual, .....	1 00
Milton, per M. G. Freeman, .....	5 00
Collections from churches, per R. W. Stevenson, .....	93 45
	\$375 41

W. A. BARNES, Secretary.

The Foreign Society has more than doubled its receipts in the past five years, and it has been encouraged to enlarge its work in every direction. There must be an increase in the receipts this year or it will close the year with a debt. It behooves the churches and every friend of this work to see that the March Offering far surpasses that of any previous year.

Foreign Missions.

Maritime C. W. B. M.

Expect great things from God.  
Attempt great things for God.

MILTON.—"We regretted very much that Sister Rioch's stay with us was so very brief, and that the weather was so very stormy. Very many of the sisters were disappointed in not seeing her. But those who did have the pleasure of meeting her and hearing her, have a much greater and deeper interest in mission work; and we shall always hold her in loving remembrance, and anything from her pen will be very interesting to us now. Our earnest desire and prayer will always be, that she may be blessed and spared to us many years." The statement from Milton, we can safely say, is the prayer of our sisters all over the Maritime Provinces where Miss Rioch was able to go; and where she was prevented from going we trust they will still manifest the same loving interest in her that they have done hitherto. To them I would say, that before she left here she thought it could be arranged to have the magic lantern views, with the explanations and perhaps some of the curios, sent down next summer.

Good words from all along the line of travel of our missionary and Sister Payson! How delightful were her talks and what pleasure it gave one to meet her personally! We hope new inspiration has been given to the work. We know also of Sister Rioch's powers of persuasion, as two have already offered for the foreign work; and how many more are thinking of offering time alone will tell.

How about our pledge—\$300 is it? We must be up and doing to keep up the honor of our Maritime Provinces; and this should be a great year for us to do a little by way of thank-offering for the pleasure of having our own missionary visit us. So Mission Bands, Auxiliaries, and workers everywhere throughout these fair Maritime Provinces, let us do our part faithfully.

"The gospel of Christ is a mission gospel, and those who receive this gospel in its fullness become missionary working christians."

You will all with us, I know, extend to Brother and Sister Flaglor (our faithful secretaries for so many years) your heartfelt sympathy in the loss of their dear little twins Ella and James.

"As the sweet flower that scents the morn,  
But withers in the rising day,  
Thus lovely seemed the infant's dawn,  
Thus swiftly fled its life away."

Yours in the work.

CONVENOR TO MISS. COM.

St. John, N. B., January 25th, 1899.

RECEIPTS.

Previously reported, .....	\$97 63
Lord's Cove, Ladies' Auxiliary, .....	3 50
Receipts Miss Rioch's trip, N. S. and N. B.:	
Pictou collection, .....	3 40
Halifax " .....	18 62
Newport " .....	2 50
" Miss N. Stevens class, .....	1 00
West Gore collection, .....	7 10
Cornwallis " .....	6 30
Milton " .....	13 25
South Range " .....	5 25
Tiverton " .....	3 53
Westport " .....	9 50
St. John, Coburg St. col., .....	14 85
" Main St. " .....	1 32
Money refunded on tickets, .....	1 55

\$184 30

SUSIE FORD STEVENS, Treasurer.