

ing it out of its obscurity upon the high sea of popular interest and recognition. Another day, soon after, saw two thousand more names added to the number, so that "the number of the men came to be about five thousand." A great contrast to the little company which a few days before was waiting, half hiding, in an upper room.

And this growth was not the result of a sudden and temporary spasm of public interest and favor. It was marvelous, but it was natural. The world has a new thing in it now, and that new thing, the Church, has its own characteristics. One of these is the power of growth—marvelous growth, if judged by worldly standards, but *natural* growth when the character of the church is considered.

So the growth continued. "And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women." "The number of the disciples was multiplying." "And the word of God increased, and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem exceedingly; and a great company of the priests became obedient to the faith." The Church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace, being edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, was multiplied." But the Word of God grew and multiplied, so the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in number daily.

Thus does the historian, himself evidently impressed with the significance of the fact, bid us look upon the constant, wide, and startling expansion of the church.

And this growth is a growth in area, as well as in numbers. The small seed has become a great plant, a tree indeed spreading its branches out into every country. The little band of Galileans in the upper room in Jerusalem has multiplied itself in a dozen countries, until groups of men and women, among whom are both Jews and Greeks, Barbarian, Scythian, bond and free, meet in Samaria, in Antioch, in Ephesus, in Philippi, Corinth, in Rome, and in the numberless unnamed places where the gospel of Christ was carried by its first enthusiastic stewards.

There is something sublime about this onrush of the Church's life. We are filled with admiration as we watch its development. What an exhibition of virile power is that where the church, by its rapid and substantial gains, in the stronghold of the opposition to Christ, makes the priesthood tremble and confess in alarm, "Ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine and intend to bring this man's blood upon us." What a proof of its inherent vitality and its aggressive power, when Philip, a Jew, went to the city of Samaria, and so preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, that the people turn to Christ in multitudes. What a demonstration of its fitness to triumph, when slaves from the purlieus, and noble men and women from the market places and forums of the heathen world, are alike gathered to its ban-

ner by the men who proclaim its head, the Christ. With what reverent interest must we watch its advance, from Jerusalem to Judea; from Judea into hostile Samaria; from Samaria onwards in its resistless march toward "all the world;" seeing it everywhere waking men from their sleep, rousing them from their indifference, creating within them a hunger and thirst after righteousness, and moving them out of their sins, and sensualism, and slavery to form, into the new life of righteousness and spiritual freedom.

This power of growth is one of the true tests of the church. The Church of Christ is his body. It has his spirit, his life, within it. Life induces growth. Everywhere, life induces growth. The church which does not grow, cannot be a true church of Jesus Christ. To the church that is filled with his life growth is natural, even a growth marvelous in the eyes of the world.

HOW TO HAVE A REVIVAL.

WILL F. SHAW.

As we have had a revival and are among the survivors, we shall endeavor to follow the track Bro. Murray has blazed out.

Inasmuch as in us lies we preach the following conditions unto revival:

1. Set everybody to praying. Acts i. 14
2. Get all in unison together. Acts ii. 1.
3. Provoke all to search the Word. Acts xvii. 10-12.
4. Induce all to take part. 1 Cor. xiv. 26. Notice, with *purpose*: unto edifying. Every service should be "unto building up."
5. Encourage all to preach the Word. Acts viii. 1-4. Preachers cannot do one-tenth the preaching this world needs. The early church preached. Every point of contact was a pulpit.

When these five apostolic requirements are complied with, holy brethren, need we doubt Christ's presence and God's blessing. With these conditions, even if you cannot get the most popular evangelist, "owing to previous engagements," or "numerous calls," you can pin your faith to New Testament practice and to Christ's precious word, and do the work of his church anyway.

6. Keep your increase. Many revivals fail because young Christians are suffered to lapse; then people "don't believe in revivals." Put converts to work. Take them to weak churches, schoolhouses, missions and slums, and make them read, sing, talk and pray. In the past three months I have accomplished more than in any previous year in the field; yet not I, but the young Christians enlisted as an active evangelistic force. The reflex influence has doubled our prayer-meeting attendance, enlarged the Bible school, and deepened interest and spirituality in all work.

Revivals are only permanently successful when the material acquired is made a revival force. "Stir up the gift that is in others, as well as in you," is a wholesome admonition to us preachers.

Correspondence.

DEER ISLAND LETTER.

I would call attention to the notice of the Christian Church in Boston. If any who read this have friends or relatives living in or near Boston and will write to Brother Mohorter, the pastor, giving name and address, he will gladly receive the information. I learn that the Boston church is taking on new life, and hope it may grow and flourish.

Would it not be well if our preachers and teachers said a little more on the subject of giving? Some of the brethren seem to think that if they pay the preachers and keep the running expenses of the church down, that they are giving to the Lord, but that is a mistake. Brethren, when you do that, you are only paying for value received. The people of this community do not "give" me money, they pay me for my time and work. Whatever they do toward relieving the poor or for missions, that is what is given.

Many churches, when they have no preacher, seem to think they need not pay. Well, that may be so, but they can give the more. If this principle was realized, I am sure we would have \$1500 this year.

The church at Lord's Cove is rejoicing in freedom from debt. For some years a small debt has been on the church, and last year a parsonage was purchased and partly paid for; this fall the debt both on the church and parsonage has been paid, and the church starts with a clean sheet for 1900. I also add that this money was raised without the aid of pie-socials or other degenerate means.

Our house of worship has been put into good shape and new carpets have been laid, and we are hoping for a successful winter's work. We are planning on a "roll-call" for New Year's evening, during which I will give an epitome of the history of the church at Lord's Cove; this will be followed up by a protracted meeting, and we hope to have more names to add to the roll. With its increase in strength, its freedom from encumbrance, its facilities for work, this church ought to be a great power for good. It will soon be two years since I came here first, and the Lord has abundantly blessed my work. I shall resign the work here at the expiration of this year, believing that there will be a greater door of usefulness opened for me. I have not yet decided where it will be, but when the time comes the door will be open. I have a call from a church in a town in Western Pennsylvania, but would rather remain in the provinces.

On Thursday evening (14th December) the Ladies' Auxiliary gave a very creditable programme in observance of C. W. B. M. day. The collection amounted to fourteen dollars.

I expect to hold a meeting in Back Bay as soon as I can do so. If the Board does not get an evangelist the work will have to be done even if it is by some humble instrumentality. Of course it would be better to have