

THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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THE ANNUAL MEETING.

OCTOBER 5th to 8th, 1899.

The Coburg Street Christian Church, St. John, has decided to invite the Annual Meeting of the Disciples of Christ of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to meet with them, October 5th to 8th.

The church agrees to provide free entertainment for two delegates from each church, and one from each Woman's Auxiliary, besides the officers of the convention, the members of the Home Mission Board, the officers of the Women's Society, and all the ministers, *provided* their names are sent to W. A. Barnes, 228 St. James Street, St. John, N. B., *before September 30th.*

SPECIAL RATES.

Delegates coming to the Annual Meeting by the Dominion Atlantic Railway will ask for a Standard Certificate when purchasing their tickets for St. John. This company will grant a return ticket free if ten or more delegates come over the line.

Delegates coming by I. C. Railway will ask for Standard Certificate. If there are ten or more attending, a free return ticket will be granted; if less than ten, a return ticket will be granted at half first-class fare.

Delegates coming by I. S. S. Co. from Eastport will receive a Certificate from the Secretary of the Convention at St. John.

Delegates by Shore Line Railway will ask for Certificate on purchasing their ticket, which will entitle them to a return ticket free on Oct. 9th.

NOTES AND NEWS.

With this number THE CHRISTIAN completes its sixteenth year.

The N. B. and N. S. Annual Meeting in St. John, October 5-8.

Let those who come up to the meeting in St. John come with prayer, and let those who cannot come pray for God's blessing upon the gathering.

In a short time bills will be sent to subscribers who are in arrears. Such subscribers will save us no little trouble if they will at once send in the amounts due.

Let some church be prepared to ask for the Annual Meeting for 1900, that there may be none of the confusion, delay and disappointment that have occurred this year.

The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved. So many an one must say. "Not saved"—how deep and awful is the full meaning of these words.

In the country the season of greatest activity is ending and the long evenings of leisure are coming on. These evenings can be profitably spent in reading good books. The hours are too precious to waste.

Dr. W. A. Belding, who is so well known to many of our churches as a godly man and an earnest preacher, has just completed his eighty-second year. In his long life he has baptized many thousands into Christ.

The great Jubilee Convention at Cincinnati is almost upon us. It opens Oct. 13th—four days after the convention in St. John closes. The latter convention should send a regularly appointed delegate to the former, and pay his expenses.

Has any of our churches thought of sending its preacher to the great convention in Cincinnati? It would be a thoughtful and profitable thing for the church to do—indeed for all the churches. The writer cannot go, and so feels free to throw out the suggestion.

F. D. Power, Washington, D. C., has entered upon the twenty-fifth year of his ministry with the Vermont Avenue Church. These have been very fruitful years. In the great advances which the truth has made we see a strong commendation of long pastorates, when once the right man has been found.

It is well to take advantage of our opportunities while we have them. We know of an aged sister who attended church and Sunday school with such faithfulness, notwithstanding her age, that her friends were astonished. She said she did not intend to make the mistake of a friend of hers, who did not go when she could, but was very anxious to go when she could not.

There should be a good representative attendance at the convention in St. John, Oct. 5-8. Every church should be represented.

Important matters are to be considered—matters in which all the churches are interested. The delegates should be able to speak for their respective churches in these matters. It may be that some change in our methods will need to be brought about. Let us have a full representation.

The N. B. and N. S. Annual Meeting sought admission at the door of every church that could entertain it, and when it became evident that no meeting would be held if it were not held in St. John, the Coburg Street Church, with only a month in which to prepare, decided to invite a representative meeting. If this arrangement does not suit any church, they will remember that they had the opportunity of doing better, and did not take it.

Hand-picked fruit is best. When the tree is shaken violently there may be a great shower, but most of the fruit is injured. Sometimes there are big protracted meetings that may be likened to the shaking of the fruit tree. Many additions are reported; but a year or two later the sad news comes that "many who came in at our last meeting, which was held one year ago last February, have never attended, or supported the cause in any way."

A child that never goes to school, or goes irregularly and at long intervals, stands a very poor chance of ever becoming a scholar. The intellectual powers will not be trained. So with the person who seldom or never attends church and similar means of spiritual culture. Their spiritual nature is weak. They have no taste for, or they have an increasing dislike of spiritual things. Is it not a crime against ourselves to thus neglect the means of grace?

W. J. Russell, writing in the *Christian Standard* on "The Sunday School of the Future," gives these characteristics: 1. It will be founded and carried on in faith. 2. The officers and teachers will be carefully and prayerfully appointed by the church. 3. It will be a Bible school, where the Bible will be systematically studied. 4. It will be an educator, and will have the hearty co-operation of all Christian parents. All of which is quite a serious reflection on the Sunday school of to-day.

What a weight of dead material many churches are carrying. How seldom we hear of any member being excluded for ungodly living; but that does not mean that all are living, or trying to live, as they should. There is nothing that would be such a benefit to many churches as the withdrawal of fellowship from those who no longer walk in the truth. It would give the churches a better standing and a more powerful influence. As a result of a short series of meetings at Salem, Va., eleven were added to the church there, and perhaps as many incorrigible ones will be excluded.

Lathrop Cooley, Medina, O., is a pioneer preacher. His voice will soon be silenced, but he has made provision that another may