

Lord of men. And they endeavor to lead men to accept Christ and enjoy his salvation.

II. THEY TEACH DEFINITE DUTY TO CHRIST. Much of the uncertainty in religion arises from a lack of definiteness in instruction. Men are told to come to Christ, and are not told how to come. They are exhorted to accept Christ, and are not taught how they may accept him. They are taught that pardon is free, yet are not instructed as to how even a free gift is to be appropriated. They are pointed to the promises of God, and left in ignorance of the conditions on which these promises are made. They are assured that God is willing to save them, yet are not told what they must do to be saved. As a consequence men struggle honestly, but blindly, after pardon and peace. They depend on their feelings as an evidence that they are saved. When their feelings undergo a change they are plunged into doubt and uncertainty; their joy flies away; they sink into despair, or drift into infidelity.

The preaching of the apostles remedies all this. They bring a most definite message to men. They preach a duty of men to Christ, and tell them plainly what it is. They tell men what they must do to be saved. They proclaim the conditions on which God offers to save men. They urge the acceptance of these conditions. They lead men into "the way" through the gateway of obedience. Then men stand with their feet upon the solid rock of divine promise, knowing that they have fulfilled the conditions, and that God will keep His word. There all storms beat against them in vain. Their feelings may change but the word of God abides the same. Their joy abides. It is the joy of conscious salvation.

We cannot but be struck with this aspect of apostolic teaching. In marked contrast with much modern preaching, they lift up Christ as supreme, and urge immediate acceptance, and bring men into the kingdom the same hour. So we read that "there were added unto them in that day about three thousand souls."—Acts 2: 41. We read of Philip preaching Christ to a man, stopping by the wayside to baptize him, and sending him on his way rejoicing.—Acts 8: 26-40. We read that Paul and Silas preached the gospel to a heathen official and his household, baptized them the same hour of the night, and thus enabled him to rejoice in God with all his house.—Acts 16: 19-34. There were no long delays here. The way of salvation was a plain way, and men could readily learn it. It was a way of prompt blessing, and men were induced to enter it promptly. And when they had entered "the way" they were filled with the joy of the Lord, having received the end of their faith even the salvation of their souls.

It would be well for modern teachers to study apostolic methods of teaching the way of salvation. Drowning men need prompt succor. Bewildered men need definite instruction. Lost men need salvation above all else. Why should men not be instructed and led into the way of salvation the same hour and day, as in times past?

M. B. RYAN.

"LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT."

To what lofty heights of character is the Christian permitted to attain. Do we realize our possibilities? Do we strive to express by our life and conversation our highest conception of a Christian? Or do we rather see dimly the possibilities for those who are strong to resist temptation and overcome their weaknesses, and say "I cannot reach a high standard of Christian life, I am so weak." Say not so. All are weak. All who trust in their own strength must fail. Christ is our strength and He never fails those who trust Him. With our hand in His we can press onward and upward to the highest reaches of Christian living. What a glori-

ous thought for the Christian, that we can see the glory of the Lord reflected from His word, and by studying His word and image we may be transformed into the same image, and reflect to the world, by our Christ-like lives, the glory of the Lord. Do we not all long to represent the Christian life in its highest type? Do we not long to show to the world by our individual lives the beauty and riches of the Christ? Do we not long to "throw out the life line" to some sin-wrecked mariner on the ocean of life? These joys and triumphs are for the Christian alone. We measure our desire for material things by the zeal and energy displayed, and the time spent in obtaining them. So with spiritual things. We must work daily, hourly, energetically, with our selfish natures, to bring them into unison with Christ. Yield to His will in order to receive His blessing. Many times we will fail, but our failures prove that we have been trying, and

"We rise on stepping-stones of our dead selves to higher things."

So from failures we glean experience and are careful not to fall the same way again.

Sometimes people start out in the Christian life trying to carry too much of the world with them. Did you ever see children go to the seashore for a holiday. As they wander over the rocks and sands they see many pretty things to attract their fancies. Pebbles, shells, mosses, seaweed. These they collect in profusion. But when starting homeward they conclude that most of their collection is worthless. Some, more pleasing, they take with them. As they proceed on their way they become tired and throw away from time to time portions of the burden that is detaining and wearing them, and before reaching home all are thrown aside as worthless. They cease to please and only impede the progress towards home. Is it not so with the Christian? We try to serve God and still cling to worldly pleasures. We do not succeed. We do not grow in grace as we expected to. But if we are earnestly desirous of serving God we will lay aside these weights that bear us downward. We will look to Jesus for faith. He will strengthen our faith and save all who trust Him. The great need of the Christian to-day is faith. Who can read the life of Spurgeon and then wonder why he did so much for the cause of Christ? He desired to work for Christ, and asked God to bless his efforts, believing that He would. That was the secret of his success. It should be no secret to any professing Christian.

Then let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of faith.—Heb. xii., 1, 2. Let each Christian ask himself or herself this question: Is my life proving to the world that I am a Christian? that Christianity is real and desirable?

"Have you to all been true and kind?
Have they in you seen the Christ mind?
Have you led them the heavenward way?
Have all seen Christ in you to-day?"
A. W. O. MANN.

THE BIBLE THE VOICE OF GOD.

It speaks to us telling how to act and how to live towards God and our fellowman, warning us to be diligent in making our calling sure. It is something like the notice which the magistrates put on the fence for people to read; it is his voice, yet is a dead letter, as it has no value or action beyond that which the one who reads it gives to it; while the Bible, which is the word of the living God, lives on, as it has the power in it. We know that when the Lord Jesus brought Lazarus to life again it was by his word alone, for he said "come forth," and he came forth. It was also what he

said when he freed the child of the deaf and dumb spirit, when he spoke, saying "I charge thee to come out of him." So we see that the word of God was quick and powerful, and God compares it to a fire which consumes, a hammer which breaks the rock, a sword which pierces and penetrates, and to a lamp which burns. Again God caused his voice to be heard when he pronounced the ten commandments at Mount Sinai, which filled the people with terror. This voice was also heard near the Jordan at the baptism of our Saviour, when it said "this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." Paul, the persecutor of the church, heard this voice while on the road to Damascus. When a person plays upon the organ all the notes or stops of this instrument have not the same kind of sound; for whilst the soft flute gives the same note as the principal, it does not give it, so to speak, in the same voice as the other. But yet is it not the same wind which comes from the bellows which causes the sound of one and another of the notes?

Thus it is with the inspiration of the prophets and apostles; it is always the same Holy Spirit which moved them and produced a celestial sound in the different human instruments or hearts of the people that it employs.

We believe that God has kept his word and has caused the original to be copied with care. Let us listen to the voice of God and daily submit to his teaching, ever warning those who are without hope to flee from the wrath to come, and lay hold of the hope set before them in the gospel; and then at the end of our journey, if faithful, an entrance into the everlasting kingdom will be ours to enjoy.

W. R. McEwen.

Milton, Queens Co., N. S.

Home Mission Notes.

We said last month that Bro. Stewart would bring home a good report and here it is:

To the Home Mission Board of N. B. and N. S.:

DEAR BRETHREN,—On the 7th inst. I went to Burt's Corner, York Co., and remained until the 24th. I found the people busy, but not too busy to attend the meetings. I did not have to arouse them, as they were ready for the work. There was very little, if any, prejudice to contend against. During the meetings we did not have a stormy day. Indeed the circumstances were so favorable that the work was easy and pleasant. A church with a membership of about thirty was organized. Bro. Geo. Boone was chosen elder; Bros. Angus McDonald and Medley White, deacons; and Bro. John Jones, clerk. The prospects for a large and flourishing church, full of spirituality and full of power, are excellent.

Days in the field.....	17
Sermons preached.....	21
Visits made.....	53
Baptisms.....	14
Added otherwise.....	5
Amount collected.....	\$10 00

Fraternally yours,
HENRY W. STEWART.

St. John, May 29, '94.

We learn that last Lord's day, although it was wet, a good number came together to break bread and that two more took membership, making a total of thirty-nine who have decided to unite with the Disciples of Christ.

We are glad to report that in Bro. Lhamon's meeting at Milton there was thirty-eight additions and that Milton raised \$80 for Bro. Lhamon's support. This shows what can be done when all work with a will and when consecrated men lead.

Bro. Ford continues to report additions in Halifax. Since he went there there have been seventeen additions, with good prospects for more. We made no mistake when we took hold of the worthy band there. We trust the day is not far distant when they will be self-supporting.