

# THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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## The Christian.

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BRO. STEVENS reports one addition at Lord's Cove.

BRO. HARRY MINNICK has started a meeting with the brethren at Leonardville. We hear that a good interest is shown in the meeting, and that one person has made the good confession.

BRO. FORD's work in Halifax is highly approved of by the brethren there. The church is growing in usefulness and prospects are bright for the future.

We are devoting considerable of our space this month to the General Christian Missionary Society. We trust the brethren and sisters will remember that at our annual meeting we resolved to take up at least one collection—to assist in sending out preachers in our home fields. Send to J. H. Hardin, Y. M. C. A. Building, Cincinnati, Ohio.

THE March Quarterly is now being held with the Coburg Street Church, St. John. Bro. Lhamon, of Minneapolis, is assisting Bro. Stewart in the meeting. The attendance at the meetings is excellent, although bad weather has interfered somewhat with the progress of the meeting. Six persons have been led to confess the Saviour at this date. Bro. Lhamon is an earnest worker and a fine speaker.

The first Lord's day in March was the day for the annual collections for foreign missions in the United States. So far as heard from, the collections generally were good. The prospects for the present year are bright, notwithstanding the very hard times. It seems clearly to be the will of the Lord that the laborers shall not be driven from the heathen harvest, nor allowed to suffer extreme want while in these fields. This will strengthen the faith and hope of those who sympathize and help.

Our preachers in different places are greatly cheered in seeing the people turn to the Lord. H. T. Morrison, who preached a few months in Nova Scotia and P. E. Island last summer, writes the 1st of March that he and his son, a singer, were holding a meeting in Atterton, Iowa, with thirty-five added to date.

His son, C. C. Morrison (called the boy-preacher, who is yet in his teens) was conducting a meeting in Osceola, and up the 6th of March had 102 additions. One of the converts was the principal infidel in the city, a man eighty years of age.

There is no lack of talk about giving, no lack of writing on the subject, no lack of needy places and worthy objects, no lack of means to meet the demands, but there is a sad absence of the giving spirit.

Think of people whose whole aim in life seems to be the accumulation of wealth, going to the house of God regularly and singing with a sham earnestness, "I care not for riches, neither silver nor gold." Think, too, of professing Christians of independent means refusing to sing until paid for it; and then, when shining sovereigns are before them, singing, "Were the whole realm of nature mine," etc. This is not the spirit of Christ, for the spirit of Christ is the spirit of giving. He gave himself for us. We should give ourselves to him, and giving ourselves we put all that we have at his call. He will never call on us for more than he needs, never for more than we can give. He needs what we spend in luxuries, and if his followers would give to him what they spend in fashion or in foolishness his treasury would be full, and his heart would be emptied of the sorrow that must swell it, as he sees those who claim to be his disciples dwelling in their coiled houses while the Lord's house is in desolation, as he sees them spending on their own little bodies more than they give for the souls of millions, as he sees them eating and drinking the best the land or all lands can supply, while myriads are dying for the bread and the water of life. When will people learn to sacrifice for Christ? Not till they learn to give up luxuries and scrimp in necessities, not until they say we will first satisfy the claims of God by giving the best we have to him, instead of saying, as is too often done, we will spend all we can on ourselves and if there is any left we will give it to the Lord. *Wonderful generosity!*

Our missionaries in the foreign field have felt the pressure of the financial crisis in the western world. Owing to the slowness

**A Good with which money came to the Board, under whose direction they are working, they have**

learned lessons in economy and self-sacrifice, such as those by whose gifts they should be supported have never studied. The churches were hurrying God's blessings from them when they permitted nearly all the self-denial to be practiced by the missionaries. The last few months have been months of great anxiety, great earnestness and great activity on the part of Bros. McLean and Rains, of the Foreign Christian Missionary Society. They had thrown their whole souls into an effort to make the March collection for foreign missions nearly proportionate to the ability of the churches. Few know the suspense in which they have waited for the result. It may be that few can sympathize with them in the greatness of their joy as the encouraging reports are coming in. Churches that seemed to never think of the heathen abroad, and, consequently it may be, paid little attention to the heathen at home, have been enlisted in the work. Now that they have tasted the sweetness of participating in this work, it will not require so much effort to keep their eyes turned from self to the world. Churches that in years gone by have been doing something, have in many instances doubled

their offering to the Lord. The result is that the first few weeks since the collection show that an increasing spirit of liberality is abroad, but it is by no means the spirit of self sacrifice. In the week beginning March 7th, \$5,318.78 were received. To us in these provinces that may look like a large sum, but to the dying world it seems very, very small, and to Jesus it appears smaller still. It is a good sum to be received in one week; but if as much were to come in during each week in the year—and there is no reason but selfishness why such should not be the case—the whole amount would be but a trifle compared with what is needed to sustain messengers of light in the regions of darkness.

As our readers will remember, Bro. J. H. Hardin, the Corresponding Secretary of the General Christian Missionary Convention, was present at our annual meeting in St. John in 1892. He was then assured of

**Another Duty.**

the desire of the brethren assembled to cooperate with the brethren in the United States in the prosecution of home mission work; the General Board was asked to consider favorably the matter of assisting us in the support of evangelistic effort in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia; and as an evidence of the genuineness of our purpose, it was determined that all our churches be recommended to take up the annual collection for general home missions in common with the churches of the United States. The outcome of this was that by some of the churches the collection was forwarded to the General Board, and Bro. Northcutt was sent down here by them to assist in evangelistic effort in these provinces. His labors, as is well known, were successful, not only, or mainly, when measured by the members added to the churches, but also by the momentum he imparted to our work and the greater good feeling and earnestness he helped to enkindle in our churches. So well pleased were the churches with the willingness of the Board to assist us, and with the man whom they sent for that purpose, that the churches, gathered in the annual meeting at Lord's Cove last year, passed a resolution that all our churches in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick be requested to take up a collection for general home missions this year. It may be worth noting that this "resolution passed by a unanimous standing vote." Bro. Hardin is making herculean efforts to enlist all the churches in the United States in this work. He sees the great needs of the western states and he is not ignorant of the needs of the Canadian north-west. Thousands of places are appealing, some loudly and others silently, but no less truly, for help; and his heart at times must be heavy, because so many of these cases have to be heard, but cannot be answered. The offering for this work is to be made on the first Lord's day in May, and if every church in the United States, and in Canada, too, will do what it can—or even half so much—the work that should be done among the heathen in the large cities and the unchurched and indifferent thousands in the west and north can be undertaken. What we give to the General Board will in time come back to us laden greatly with blessings. But we should help, even if there were no such prospect. Will we?