

Will the Brethren in N. S. and N. B. who so kindly promised to support the Board in Mission work, please send at once the amounts subscribed. Should any one be at a loss to know where to send the money, we say, address your letters: T. H. Capp, Box 83, St. John, N. B., and acknowledgment will be given in *THE CHRISTIAN*.

BRO. GUNN, now laboring on P. E. I., while in the midst of a very interesting meeting in Charlottetown was taken suddenly ill. On arrival of the doctor grave doubts were expressed as to whether he could live twenty-four hours. But we are pleased to learn that he is now on a fair way to recovery.

THE BRETHREN of P. E. I., will hold their annual meeting in Lot 48, commencing the Saturday before the second Lord's day in July. Further particulars will be given hereafter.

F BROS. GATES AND NOWLAN have returned to N. B.—the former with the churches at Letete and Back Bay; the latter with the Brethren at Letang and Black's Harbour.

A LETTER informs us that Bro. Dwyer has left Cornwallis, and is now spending a Lord's day or two at West Gore, preparatory to leaving for the States.

THE coming Quarterly will be held with the Church at Kempt, Queen's Co., N. S., the second Lord's day in this month.

IT IS NOW officially declared that the hoped for visit of Mr. Moody to St. John and Halifax, will not take place this year.

BRO. FORD writes: I expect to be with the Brethren at Newport, Hant's Co., the third Lord's day in June.

BRO. HUGHES, while in St. John, paid us a visit. Though sick during the winter he is now in good health.

THE REVISED EDITION OF THE BIBLE is now being sold in our city.

## ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

### DIGGING IN FAITH.

A very interesting and instructive incident is narrated in the third chapter of the second book of Kings. As it conveys a valuable lesson to Christians in all ages, we may read and study it with advantage to ourselves. Jehoram was reigning over Israel, in Samaria, and Jehoshaphat was King of Judah. The country of Moab was subject to the king of Israel, rendering unto him an annual tribute of an hundred thousand lambs, and an hundred thousand rams, with the wool thereof. But the king of Moab rebelled against the king of Israel, who at once proceeded to take a census of his fighting men, and finding himself unable to cope, single handed, with the Moabites, sent unto the king of Judah, asking him to unite his forces with those of Samaria, and go out to battle with the king of Moab. The answer of Jehoshaphat being in the affirmative, the kings of Israel and of Judah, with their united forces, started on their expedition against the Moabites. They journeyed by way of Edom, whose king seems to have joined them with his army. At the end of seven days they found themselves in a sandy region, where there was no water for man or beast, and the heart of the king of Israel began to fail him. "The Lord hath called these three kings together to deliver them into the hand of Moab," he cries in the bitterness of his soul. Many men, since the days of Jehoram, have blamed the Lord for the unpleasant positions in which they have been placed by

their own acts! Neither of these three kings was overburdened with the fear of the Lord, yet in their extremity Jehoshaphat bethinks himself that perhaps they may be present in their forces some prophet of the Lord of whom they might enquire what was the will of God concerning them. While all went well, they cared nothing for the saintly Elisha, who happened to be with them; but when destruction threatened them, they were glad to bespeak his good offices in their behalf. This is not unlike what frequently occurs in the nineteenth century! We are in good health, our worldly affairs are prospering, we have plenty of water to drink; what care we for the Lord or for his prophets? But by and by we reach a place where there is no water, and we are glad to call on the Lord to help us out of our difficulty. Human nature appears to be the same in all ages. Elisha, for the sake of Jehoshaphat, who undoubtedly was the best of the three kings, consents to enquire of the Lord concerning them. "And he said: Thus saith the Lord,—*Make this valley full of ditches.*" And he tells them that though they shall neither see wind nor rain, yet the valley shall be filled with water sufficient for their hosts and for their cattle, and furthermore that the Lord will deliver the Moabites into their hand. All night long they digged away at those ditches in the dry and parched valley, but still no sign of water. Did they stop after a certain amount of digging had been done and there was still no sign of water? No. The Lord said,—*Make this valley full of ditches,—and they toiled on.* In the morning their eyes were gladdened by the sight of water coming by the way of Edom, and as the sun shone upon the same it looked to the Moabites as though the whole country was red with blood, and they thought they had nothing to do now but to fall upon the Israelites and gather in the spoil. But the forces of the three kings, refreshed by the heaven-sent water, soon put them to flight and destroyed their cities, as the Lord had commanded. Christian Minister, perhaps you are digging away as hard as you can in some dry and sandy valley where your lot has been cast. You see as yet no sign of water in the ditches you have already digged, and you are ready to despair of accomplishing anything by your labors of love. But hear the voice of the Lord coming unto you, not from the lips of some living prophet, it is true, but from the sacred page, "*Make this valley full of ditches.*" You may see no water in your trenches now, but if you have digged in faith, *in the morning* they will be full of overflowing, and the thirsty souls refreshed by your labors will rise up to call you blessed. Yes, make the valley full of ditches, and leave to the Lord the accomplishment of His precious promises, for His word cannot fail. You may see no wind, no rain, yet as Elisha said to the three kings, "it is but a light thing for the Lord to do this." It may appear impossible to you that all these ditches should be filled with water, but all things are possible with God, whose you are and whom you serve. And, *in the morning*, when you behold the effect of your labors, give Him the glory.

W. H. E.

MONTREAL, May 1885.

### OPPORTUNITY SAVED.

Frequently we have the subject discussed from the pulpit and through our religious periodicals of "An Opportunity Lost." But this short sketch is of an opportunity saved. The story is a true one, as many in the vicinity are familiar with the circumstances. A boy by the name of John Andrew came to Montague some years ago, at the tender age of twelve years, aboard of a vessel. He waited on the captain and helped the cook. The vessel and boy were from France. The boy frequently received very harsh treatment from the

captain. On the occasion of the vessel coming into Montague the captain was sick and the boy was ordered to take the sugar bowl to him, which he did, but unfortunately let it fall in his presence when in the act of reaching the bowl to him. The captain became angry and told him he would lace him when he got the rope. John knew what that meant, and the first opportunity he ran away and hid in the woods. He was found and taken to the home of John McClarens, where he lived sometime. He then lived for some time with his son James. He attended church and finally was baptized by Bro. R. W. Stevenson, and became a very zealous young Christian. On one occasion while living at Bro. James McClarens, when Bro. James was away from home, and the time came for family worship, and Sister McClaren was getting ready to attend to family worship, he, seeing she was about to read, said there was some one to read, but none to pray—whereupon Sister McClaren said pray yourself, which he did in an earnest, intelligent way. An opportunity was saved in coming to Christ and performing a duty devolving on all dear young Christians. Let us all encourage these babes in Christ to use wisely the blessed opportunities to save them, as did John Andrew. How many leave the church and go back to the weak and beggarly elements of the world because they are rather encouraged to lose the opportunities than to save them. John frequently talked to others to be wise and save the opportunity, and he has an earnest desire to become a preacher of the gospel of Christ. He loved to sing,

"Awake my soul! and with the sun,  
Thy daily course of duty run,  
Shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise,  
To pay the morning sacrifice.

CARROLL GHEENT.

### THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL.

DEAR BROTHER:—Ever since the first edition of *THE CHRISTIAN* I have been looking anxiously to see a part of it devoted to what I consider one of the most important parts of our work, viz., the Sunday School. And I have often thought I would suggest to you that you set apart one column at least, for that purpose. So far, I have seen but very little concerning them. I am afraid we, as a Church, do not recognize the importance of Schools. I know as a rule our Churches have Schools; but year after year we meet at our annual gatherings and quarterlies and this matter is passed over without an hour's notice. Even the meeting of the School, of the Church with whom we meet, is dispensed with for the time. I believe this to be a mistake. I believe the ideas of the Christian, at our annual meetings and quarterlies, are that we confer with one another and devise ways to build up the cause, and when we neglect so important a part we do wrong. I would suggest that one column, or more if needed, of the paper be devoted to this work. In the first place let every school report its numbers, officers, &c. And then perhaps it would not be out of place for each one to give their mode of conducting the School. In this way we may learn of some better way to further the work.

Then when we come together at our annual, let us have a Sunday School meeting, gather ideas one from another, and give the schools an impetus that will last them until we meet again. I, as one that has from a child been interested in the matter, do not feel satisfied to go along in the same old way, but feel we should progress in our Sunday School work as in all other Schools. I write this hoping it will meet your and the Brethren's approval, and that they may all respond to the work. If there is any Brother who has anything against it, let him speak out freely. I would be pleased to hear of anything for the welfare of our Schools, and in this way we may get it.

Yours interested, A. J. F.