

business transacted was insignificant. Our Auckland brethren have a shocking dread of the 'pastor,' and are afraid to look to America for preaching help lest they may get a pastor. They consequently turned their attention to seeking for a suitable preacher in England, believing that English brethren are sounder in the faith than our American brethren, especially the 'pastor' preachers. A year has passed but no preacher has yet put in an appearance. Those in England seem to be fully employed and unwilling to come to Auckland at present. At the annual meeting held this year a more liberal spirit was evinced, and it was decided to try elsewhere, even in America, for a preacher, and the committee is now on the lookout for a suitable man. It is quite time something was done. The Church at Auckland is one of the oldest, if not the oldest in New Zealand, and has had many good opportunities, but it is far behind what it ought to be. The field is large and good, but requires skilled workmen to engage in the work, before the cause can attain the position its importance demands. I sincerely hope the services of a good, able and wise brother may be obtained, when I feel sure the work would go on and prosper. In Dunedin, where the churches have had for some months the services of two preachers (from America,) Bros. Houchins and Moore, some hundreds have been added, amongst the number a Presbyterian minister—Mr. Hensholwood, noted for his piety and ability. Bro. Moore has recently returned to America, but is expected back. The work is still flourishing. Bros. Houchins and Hensholwood are the chief laborers.

The division, which occurred in the Wesleyan church in the Kingdom of Tonga and out of which arose the "Free Church of Tonga," (which I mentioned in a former letter,) has developed into a bitter feud between those who adhere to the Wesleyan cause and those who have started the Free Church. Blood has been shed and a man-of-war has had to be sent to Tonga to restore peace amongst the professed followers of the Prince of Peace.

I think this letter is long enough, I will tell you some of the particulars of the Tongan troubles in my next. With affectionate greetings to you and all the brethren.

I am,

Yours fraternally,

L. J. BAGNALL.

Sandea Street, Thames, N. Z., }
21st May, 1887. }

Dear Christian: I have been enjoying a brief period of rest, and visiting my home and friends in Prince Edward Island. I reached the Island in time for the Annual Meeting, which was held in New Glasgow, one of the most beautiful regions of this lovely country. Of this meeting I will not speak now, as you will have a report of it.

I wish rather to write of a new acquaintance I made. On this visit I was permitted for the first time to see a copy of THE CHRISTIAN. I had heard of it, but it surpasses my expectations. It is modest and sensible enough to stand a few words of well deserved praise. And if I can commend it to all those in the Dominion who have not subscribed for it, I feel that I will do it and them a most important service. To induce a brother or sister to take a good religious paper, and pay for it, is the best service one can render to those who are trying to get along without any. The amount of good that is thus put within their reach for a year, is hard to estimate. The value of such a paper as THE CHRISTIAN, to the churches and Christian homes of these provinces, is much greater than many suppose.

1. It is a great help in the family. You can tell in ten minutes whether the family you visit reads a good religious paper or not. Where such a paper comes regularly and is read, you find parents and children intelligent and bright. They are wide awake and full of interest in the great cause the paper promotes. They know what is going on at home and abroad. People are not interested in

what they know nothing about. That family is better prepared for every Christian duty, and better qualified for every good work at home, and in the church, and in the world, for reading such a paper.

2. In the Church. The same is true here. The church is a family on a larger scale. If you can interest them in good religious reading, they will be intelligent and active members, and ready for every good work. It is the duty of every preacher to see that his people are all supplied with a good, clean, peaceable, progressive Christian paper. But may God deliver us from creaking contentious, selfish sheets. I am grateful for the spirit and aims of THE CHRISTIAN, and rejoice in its success. All this is a promise and prophecy of incalculable good to the churches in the provinces. Every friend of the cause of Christ ought to labor to extend its influence and increase its power, by enlarging its circulation. It ought to find its way into every Christian home in these churches. Its low price, and the unselfish labors of its editors and publishers, place it within the reach of the poorest in the land. There ought to be some young brother or sister in every church that would attend to this work, and I am sure it would be easy for them to introduce the paper into every family.

3. In another way, that is unique, this paper is furthering the Gospel. Its profits, after paying the printer, are all given for the purpose of preaching the Gospel. Every subscriber not only gets the full value of his money, but becomes indirectly a contributor to the spread of the Gospel in all these regions.

Now, let all the churches make a common effort, or an uncommon one, to double the present circulation of THE CHRISTIAN. It will not be difficult to do. Let every church through its preacher or some one else, send in reports of its work. These reports will be of great interest to all the churches, and will serve to stimulate those that are cold and idle to renewed effort in the work of the Lord. And if any church thinks it has nothing to report, it might be good for its soul to make an honest confession, that it is idle and dying. Tell us about your church, your Sunday-school, your prayer-meetings. Give account of your work. Remember the time is coming when we must all give an account of ourselves to God. We had better be getting our reports ready. If we are idle when there is so much to do, what will we say to the Master when He comes, and what will He say to us? Let us come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty, and there is no failure in this work, but the failure on our part to do our duty.

I only regret that my visit among the church in Prince Edward Island was all too short for me to see many of them, and meet the many friends I love among them. I carry with me many happy recollections of their kindness, and leave with them my love and my blessing. I shall hope and pray for still greater prosperity for THE CHRISTIAN, for I know it is of the greatest importance in the work of the churches of Christ in these provinces.

My love be with you all in Christ Jesus.

NEIL MACLEOD.

Evansville, Ind.

Dear Christian: In my last letter of June, I suggested to the brethren throughout the provinces that we make an effort to build up the cause of Christ by each member donating one dollar towards Home Missions. I see by the July CHRISTIAN, that Bro. Capp has opened a subscription list so that all can send in their dollar, and have their names recorded in THE CHRISTIAN of each month. Who will be the first? This is a time of need, as we hear of young men giving their youth to the Lord, sacrificing everything else to save the unsaved. Now it is our time to make a similar sacrifice for once that we might be able to support

those noble young men, whoever they may be, in sustaining their labors in this province. You moneyed men, don't wait until you are just drawing your last breath, and then make a will and leave a large lump to some institution or other, who, perhaps, could do without it, but give now and see for yourself the good it will do while living. I am going to give all I can make to the cause of Christ, with the exception of what is necessary to keep me. While here, friends, that is all we need in this life, we can't take anything with us. This is plain talk, and it is plain talk that we want. If there was more plain preaching and teaching the world would be all the better for it. We want to be just as plain as the New Testament, and that is all plain to us that have our eyes open to the truth. We don't see any difficulty in understanding it. Just so, we want men to see that the gospel can't be preached without the dollars and cents. You all understand this better than I do, no doubt, and I suppose it would be better for me to say less and give more, as we often hear people say, O those people that talk the most do the least, and give the least; they want to have something to say, and they take this opportunity of saying it. Say what you like, friends, but don't forget to send in your dollar as early an convenient to Bro. Capp, who will acknowledge it with thankfulness, and also cheer the hearts of those who have the home mission at heart. Dear brothers and sisters, it is in our hands to build up the cause, and you would be astonished to think how little it would be from each member, that would start all the churches going, and each to have a permanent preacher. When I read of the success of the brethren in the United States and the amount they give, and whenever there is a call from a poor church for money they make an effort to help them. And just what we want now from every member throughout the provinces is the gift of a dollar, we won't ask you for more this year. Only what you are disposed to give. Trusting to see a long list of subscribers this month.

Yours,

W. J. MESSERVEY.

Dear Christian,—Leaving St. John on 6th ult., on board the good steamer "Secret," we crossed the Bay of Fundy on our way to Port Williams, N. S., where we had been kindly invited to spend a few weeks with Bro. E. C. Ford, and with him make my start as a public proclaimer of the Gospel of our dear Lord and Saviour. Nothing worthy of note occurred on our journey by boat or rail, and about five o'clock I found myself standing at the Port Williams station with Bro. Ford waiting with his horse and carriage, ready to drive me to his home across the river. Only those who have enjoyed the privilege of a sojourn with Bro. Ford and family know how well we were received and entertained while there. As it was prayer-meeting night we all repaired to the meeting-house at the usual hour and found a goodly number present, considering the very busy time of year in the country. We were agreeably surprised, both at the large number who took part, and with the superiority of the singing. While at Cornwallis we were made to feel that we were truly among brethren with whom we made many pleasant acquaintances from whom we felt loth to part, beside those whose homes were at this place. We had the pleasure of meeting Bro. and Sister Carson of Halifax for the first time. We look back with a feeling of pleasure to our short acquaintance and feel glad to know that we have met them.

We remained at Port Williams over two Lord's days, and then left for Tiverton, Digby Co., and remained over night on our way with Brother and Sister Eldridge, at Sandy Cove. We left this good Brother and Sister feeling much refreshed, and with the assurance that they were of the number who at last will be found among the faithful, and proceeded on our journey and reached our destination in safety, and were received and kindly entertained by Bro. and Sister John A. Smith, to whom we shall always feel grateful for their kindness shown.

H. A. DEVOR.

Tiverton, July 30, 1887.