

persecuted and suffering preacher of the gospel of Christ. It is a truth of nature's which every man can justly utter. The process of death is ever going on within the human body. So is it in every animal organism and in every plant. Existence is a struggle to live. And life is not self-wrought. It comes from God. "In him we live." He gives us the victory over death's encroachments. All worlds, and all creatures are sustained by him.

III. GOD IS THE PROVIDER. He feeds the birds of heaven. He sees the sparrows when they fall. He clothes the lilies of the field with beauty. He gives from heaven "rains and fruitful seasons," filling our hearts with food and gladness. He giveth to all life and breath *and all things*. Man and bird and beast and fish are alike dependent on him and are alike provided for by him.

What a comfort there is in this! The power that made the worlds is behind our feeble needs. The hand that packed earth treasuries with wealth, and which beckons from nature's full heart a constant and ever-growing stream of bounties, is stretched out, full and fondly, to supply us.

Is not this power and this goodness of God our sufficient guarantee? There is nothing too wonderful for it to accomplish. We call the feeding of the five thousand a miracle. So it was to our meagre power. Not so to God's power. Greater miracles are being constantly wrought. America to-day feeds seventy millions of people, and ships food away to feed many millions more, where a few centuries ago some thousand of half-fed Indians were the only inhabitants. We are too ready to say, "See what man has done!" But man has done but a small part of it. The wealth of soil and climate, and the life of seed and plant and animal have all come from God. Man has brought the five barley loaves and two small fishes. Their multiplication has been of God.

Well may we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." Well will it be with us if we do not forget what that petition implies. Not only our daily bread, but "every good gift and every perfect boon is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation, neither shadow that is cast by turning."

Can we not trust him? He who made us, will he not sustain us? He gives us life, surely he will give us food to sustain it. "Is not the life more than the food and the body than the raiment?" The greater gift implies the lesser. He feeds birds and decks lilies. "Are not ye of much more value than they?"

In your plans for life don't forget God. Remember he controls the world. Don't say, as though you had the disposing of your own life, "To-day or to-morrow we will go into this city and spend a year there, and trade, and get gain." You don't know what shall be on the morrow. God knows. Say, "If the Lord will, we shall both live, and do this or that."

In your needs for this life don't forget God. "For your Heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things." "Therefore, in nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus."

OBSERVATIONS.

H. MURRAY.

We were always a believer in the wisdom of annual gatherings. The best way to convert the unbeliever in such gatherings is by getting him to attend one of our annual meetings, such a one as we had at Westport. We noticed that those who were making faces at the idea of such meetings changed faces when they came in touch with the noble, whole-hearted souls of these meetings. There is nothing like the association of devoted consecrated hearts, to put a new spirit into us.

When we hear a person say they have no "desire whatever" to attend such meetings we conclude they have no desire to go to heaven. If they are going to heaven they must be going where they don't want to go. Such a meeting is a "heavenly place," when we sit together in Christ Jesus. We don't remember of ever seeing a better natured and better behaved crowd at our annual meetings. Our brethren who make fifty cent speeches and ten cent offerings were not present. Those who came were there to get better plans and more power to execute the plans; they were there for broader and higher conceptions of the work of God. More love for Christ and more faith in his word was the tone and tenor of the meeting. The reports from the churches were encouraging, showing an increase of numbers, and that the churches were coming into line. Nothing is more certain than the prosperity of those who are faithful to their obligations. Trials may come that seem crucial, but if faithfully endured, peace and prosperity will certainly and eventually follow. We have a just reason for joy and gladness for the degree of success in our provinces the past year. Now is the time to begin our work for our next Annual meeting. Study, think, plan, and put your ideas into shape and send them to THE CHRISTIAN. No doubt we will make improvements on our former meetings.

Correspondence.

EVANGELISTIC TOUR.

My last three weeks in the Provinces were spent "on the wing," and though my movements during this time are known to most of you, I think it may be well to make this formal account of them. After leaving St. John, I spent a pleasant week at Mascarene, LeTete and Back Bay, preaching in all seven sermons and delivering two lectures. That grand man of God, Wm. Murray, is the preacher at LeTete, and is deep in the affections of the people. Bro. W. H. Harding was just closing his work at Mascarene and Back Bay. As all Province disciples know, Bro. Harding is a very active man and able preacher, and he has done a great deal in Charlotte county.

I spent one night at Lord's Cove, Deer Island. Here we have a large congregation and the largest building but one in the Provinces. As the fruit of the faithful sowing of his predecessors, as well as by his own labors, Bro. Harding has added many to the church here. By the consent of the Board, I passed over the border and spent four busy days at Lubec, Maine, preaching three times and

lecturing twice. Here I could fully appreciate the story of Rip Van Winkle, for it has been just twenty years since I first saw Lubec, and eighteen years since I left it. The people whom I knew are nearly all gone, another generation has come on, and what with the growth of the town there were few there that had any knowledge of poor Rip. Of the work of Bro. Harry Minnick and the growth of our cause there you are too well informed to make it necessary for me to go into details here. We have three good churches in the township of Lubec.

From Lubec I went to the annual meeting at Westport via St. John and Digby. At St. John it was my privilege to meet with the Douglas Avenue church in the evening, to participate in a large C. E. meeting, and to meet with the pastor and his bride. The next day, August 30, will never be forgotten by me. The delightful ride across Fundy's Bay with the New Brunswick disciples; our landing at Digby and the two hours we spent together there; the coming of the Dominion Atlantic train and our greeting by the Halifax, Cornwallis and West Gore delegations; our ride to Weymouth, and our sail to Westport—well, if this all be but a foretaste of heaven, I feel that I must not fail to get there!

The convention has been so well and fully written up that you won't want to spare much space to me, but this being my first attendance of a convention in the Provinces, I would like to record some of my impressions of it:

1. The singing led by such men as R. E. Stevens, Lyman Peters and Frank C. Ford, was hearty, soulful and inspiring; and the solos of Mrs. R. E. Stevens, Miss Murray, and J. Barry Allen were enough to give one a spiritual uplift for a life. No desire to show off, no musical gymnastics, but just the plain, hearty singing of the songs of Zion. And along with this, the deep spiritual feeling that pervaded all the meetings. Surely it would be a hardened heart that could attend such meetings and not want to be a Christian.

2. The large proportion of consecrated laymen that attended this convention could not otherwise than forcibly impress a stranger. The Province brethren give the ministry due honor, but do not believe in leaving it all to the preachers. Some of the very best speakers in the meeting belonged to God's unordained ministry. All this is most commendable.

3. While young preachers are encouraged, and it is the great sorrow of the brethren that there are so few of them, yet the old are honored in the Provinces, and a man is not laid upon the shelf about the time he has sufficient experience to do his best work. Many of the best positions are held by men long past fifty.

4. And what shall I say of the C. W. B. M. and the noble women of the Provinces? I wish I could mention them all by name, but this is out of the question. For liberality and consecration, deep spirituality and downright good sense, I have never seen these women excelled. Many of them would grace any cause or country in the world. There