

work. He is worthy of our admiration who can truthfully say that he makes it his constant aim to be always in his place among the saints of God.

Thoreau said long ago that it is not enough to be good; we must be good for something. By this he meant to condemn the spirit that "would sit and sing something itself away to everlasting bliss" while immortal souls were hurrying onward to destruction, or while needy ones were pleading for encouragement and help. But no one can be good and at the same time useless. And the Bible study and the praying and the church-going that do not increase the desire to be of service in the world, and at the same time give the power, have failed measurably in their object. Such a failure would be a marvel, for it is of the most infrequent occurrence. But useless people—even among professing Christians—are not hard to find. It may be, however, that they are not altogether without value to the world. As those who hung upon Roman gibbets serves to warn the passers by, so these people in their indolence may, in spite of themselves, teach a lesson that they themselves had not learned. But we shall give them no credit for that which they give with such evident reluctance. It is not nearly so pleasant or satisfying to warn the world by our unfaithfulness or our depravity, as to lead them by our purity and consecration. And in this we should choose the more agreeable course. To be designedly useful is to have happiness without the pain and toil of searching the world for it. And hence, if for no other reason, it should be the ambition of everyone to be active in well-doing; to be prominent in Christian endeavor. This is no time to sit idly by and let the Lord's work be neglected, or to see others taking up the work that is laid at our doors. He who does our work is entitled to our reward and he shall have it too. No one need complain that for him there is no place in Christian activities. In the commercial world there are often more men than work, but the scales tip the other way in the philanthropic and religious world. There are always too few to do what should be performed. No one can say that he has had no call to service. May this year see a great increase in the number of useful Christians.

Home Mission Notes.

EVANGELIST'S REPORT.

During the month of December I have visited Leonardville, Lord's Cove, LeTete, Silver Falls and Portland and preached twenty-one sermons, besides three addresses to young people's meetings.

I found the brethren on Deer Island greatly in need of regular ministerial labor. Although both churches on the Island have maintained their regular services with comparative regularity, there has been, especially at Leonardville, a dropping off in attendance and interest for a month or more. I shall begin a series of special services with the Leonardville brethren the first of the new year and shall endeavor to revive sufficient interest to enable them to join hands with Lord's Cove at once in procuring an efficient permanent worker for that important field. During my labors there, the young people's meetings were revived and placed on a good working basis, a greater interest in mission work was aroused, and regular stated collections for the general work will be taken for the future. I am now in communication with two or three ministers and as soon as we can possibly arrange preliminaries we expect to have, at least, two additions to the ministerial force of New Brunswick. I found the brethren at LeTete with-

out regular meetings, but anxious to have something done, and at once, I shall visit them again soon and shall aid them in reviving the work and arranging for regular service. The little church at Silver Falls meets regularly, and is developing some active workers. The brethren there are arranging to lift the little balance of debt off their beautiful little chapel. The pastor of the Coburg Street Church of St. John, preaches at times at this point, and otherwise encouraging them in their work. I have been carefully and prayerfully examining into the wants and needs of this part of the provincial field. I find that some need just what they do not want, and others want what they do not need—but with love, care and patience, I trust that we can soon see that we want what we need and need what we want, and as far as we are enabled, procure both.

Since writing the foregoing, I have visited the brethren at Keswick, remaining over one Lord's day, and preaching to excellent congregations while there. I found strong efforts being made looking to the immediate erection of a house of a worship.

I preached three times in the Burt's Corner Baptist house. Our brethren at Keswick are alive, and although working under adverse circumstances, are hopeful. We left then strongly urging our early return. T. H. BLENUS.

Bro. Blenus has preached during his first month at Portland, Silver Falls, Lord's Cove, Leonardville, Letete and Keswick. He finds the brethren willing to work, and anxious to see the cause advance. He has written for a Bro. Miller, a worthy man and a good preacher, to come and locate at Letete and Back Bay. He can do a good work there; also at St. George, Second Falls, Letang, and other points. Bro. Blenus hopes to have a suitable preacher settled on Deer Island in a short time. He begins a meeting at Leonardville, January the third. The prospects are bright, and Bro. Blenus is being blessed in his efforts. There has been a young people's meeting organized at Lord's Cove and Leonardville. This will prove a great source of strength to the churches, and fine schools for church work.

The secretary has received urgent letters from Halifax, Tiverton, and other places in Nova Scotia, urging the Board to send Bro. Blenus over to hold meetings for them. At present, it is deemed wise to keep him in New Brunswick until we can get at least two more preachers located there. Bro. Blenus is anxious and the Board is willing for him to help all our churches, but the needy places and the places where he can do most good, will be considered first.

St. John, Portland, Halifax, and Tiverton Sunday-schools send contributions this month. Will not all our schools unite in this collection? The Portland school has decided to take up the collection on each "Review" Sunday. This makes it easy to remember. Those schools that have not yet fixed a day, would do well to follow the example of Portland.

And now the Endeavor Society of Halifax takes the lead, and sends the first Endeavor contribution for Home Missions. We have seven others who ought to do likewise. Which one will be next?

Letters from Halifax state that Bro. Shaw is preaching fine sermons and is doing good work there. His reports are most satisfactory and encouraging.

We have not received \$120 00 this month, but if everybody tries, we will get it next month. Now, brethren, the day of small gifts are past. We want large gifts in order to carry on the work as it can and should be in these provinces.

We are God's stewards.

RECEIPTS.

Previously acknowledged,	\$147 14
Southville—	
Wm. Gates,	4 00
St. John—	
Mission Band, Per Miss Lingloy,	13 32
St. John Sunday-School,	16 67
Portland Sunday-school,	5 55
Milton—	
Per Miss A. A. Collie,	3 25
Halifax.	25 00
" Sunday-school,	5 32
" Endeavor Society,	1 84
Tiverton—	
Per H. A. DeVoe,	4 00
Sunday-school,	1 00
Keswick—	
Ladies' Sewing Circle,	7 00
Collection,	4 69
Total,	\$238 78
	J. S. FLAGLOR,
Post Office, St. John.	Secretary.

Foreign Missions.

Maritime C. W. B. M.

Expect great things from God.
Attempt great things for God.

EXTRACTS FROM MISS RIOCH'S LAST LETTER.

In reference to the war now going on, it does not affect us at all as far as bodily injury is concerned; but the stand England has taken, makes the Japanese look with disfavor on all British subjects, and consequently the work is crippled. Yet it gives a hold in another direction; for although the Japanese government will not allow us to help the soldiers, it says nothing about the families they have left; many of whom are almost destitute. My! You cannot imagine the poverty of these people, in this large city. It is one of the greatest problems of the day—how shall we help them? Many of them would embrace Christianity, not because they love Christ or His cause, but because of the loaves and the fishes.

In my work in this district, I have tried to be very careful about this. I want them to accept Christ because they love Him, and look to Him for salvation, not for the help they may get. I feel sure that the two women who were baptized last month, are really in earnest—they are trying so hard to live good lives; they are both very poor, but I dare not help them at present, I want to try them. I tell you my heart aches for them all; in this whole district they are equally poor.

We have been having some shakings up in the way of earthquakes, of late. They are very frightful. One never knows what is going to happen next. It is a very strange sensation, and not a pleasant one on the whole; but I do hope they will awaken these people to a sense of their need; that they may seek after righteousness. The work is prospering nicely. I am studying very hard; this is my last year to devote principally to study.

We have still some inquirers—some whose minds are not altogether taken up with the war.

I am, your sister,

MARY M. RIOCH.

Those who read Sister Rioch's letter in the last CHRISTIAN, will remember that she speaks of her charity school being so crowded that she positively cannot take in any more little ones, and of the urgent need of a small building in which to teach the children who come to her. She offers to give the fifty dollars sent to re-pay her for what she had expended in keeping open one of the schools, when it otherwise would have had to close for want of funds. She now is willing to use it in this way, and only asks for fifty dollars more to erect the building they need. Some in St. John, after reading her letter, expressed their desire to help, and the secretary has now about \$5.00 on hand toward the building of this charity school in Japan. This work must recommend itself to all. It is in fact the missionary's stronghold. Their greatest hope is to get these children under their influence and