

THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Our readers have learned through the secular press of the outrages that the "unspeakable Turk" is perpetrating in Armenia. The thought of these bloody scenes fills us with horror. Bro. Shishmanian, one of our missionaries to that stricken country, reports that five of our brethren in the little church in Sevaz have been murdered. Eight hundred other Christians were butchered on the same day. This is awful to think of, but what must it be to be *there*?

Legal obstacles have arisen which make it inexpedient to remove the Acting Board of the G. C. M. C. from Cincinnati to St. Louis; as the Society is an Ohio corporation and its removal to Missouri would result in the forfeiture of its charter. So the headquarters will remain at Cincinnati, and the corresponding secretary's address will be as before, B. L. Smith, Y. M. C. A. Building, Cincinnati, Ohio.

We learn through the *Christian Guide* that Henry A. McDonald, late president of West Kentucky College, slipped into Louisville and was married at the residence of E. L. Powell, January 10th, to Miss Cora Merriam, of Massachusetts. We know many of our readers will be interested in this news.

The first Lord's day in March is the date chosen for the general collection for Foreign Missions. An effort to make this collection amount to \$50,000 is being made. The sum is ridiculously small in view of the wealth of many of our churches, and the urgent calls and pressing needs of the Christless millions. The churches assembled in convention in Dallas, Texas, recommended that "a company of missionaries be sent to Africa as soon as the funds will permit; that a competent man be sent to Turkey; that a medical missionary be sent to each mission station in India; and that twenty-five missionaries be sent out during this year.

Some figures are interesting,—these for instance: In Missouri the Disciples of Christ have 136,000 members, in Indiana 100,000, in Kentucky 100,000, in Illinois 77,000, in Tennessee 65,000, in Ohio 64,000, making the aggregate membership of six states 542,000, or over half a million.

We take this news from the *Christian Standard*. A few faithful members had been living at Curlew, Iowa, for some time, praying that a New Testament church might be organized. Their faith and faithfulness have been rewarded, for a meeting has recently been held there and a church organized with seventy-five members. This proves "how much better it is to earnestly and continually contend for the faith than it is to unite with the denominations."

Bro. J. V. Coombs, of Irvington, Indiana, had nine hundred and ninety-eight additions during the year. He has now two hundred and seventy-three calls for meetings. He says it would take him thirty years to hold them all. At his last meeting held in Jamestown, Ind., there were eighty-two additions. But we must remember that an evangelist has an easier time in Indiana than he would have here; for there the principles of the Disciples of Christ are better understood and in consequence there is not the opposition that often confronts us in these parts.

There is now appearing in the *Christian Evangelist* a series of Letters to an Inquirer, by Bro. M. B. Ryan. They deal with the characteristics of the Disciples, and the editor says they will be found very helpful to other inquirers concerning the meaning of the current religious reformation and should be passed around.

We must not think that a pastor's or an evangelist's success is to be summed up in the number who confess the Christ under his preaching. This is but one, though an important, element in success. There have been grand meetings during which no one accepted the Saviour. The church was aroused and put in condition for aggressive work, and good seed was sown for a future harvest.

We rejoice exceedingly in the fact that 185 were added to the church in Greencastle, Ind., during the recent meeting held there by Bros. Boyer and Brower; that in the last week of Bro. A. Martin's meeting in Windsor, Ill., fifty-three were brought to the Saviour; and that twenty-four persons responded to the invitation when it was given in the Central Christian Church, Denver, Col., on the morning of the first Lord's day of this year.

The writer of these notes intends hereafter to send to the *Christian Standard* about once a month a letter concerning our work in these parts. If you send him the news he will put it where one hundred thousand people can read it. He hopes that the letters will increase the interest of our United States brethren in our work. If you have any interesting church news send it to Box 56, St. John, N. B.

Last year the G. C. M. C. gave \$300 to the support of the cause of Christ in Halifax. In the annual report the corresponding secretary says "an appropriation has been made for Pictou—a promising point. We are seeking a suitable man for that work." The General Board asked our churches for \$100 last year and received \$115.07, of which Nova Scotia

gave \$52.61 and New Brunswick \$62.46. Since the Board wants to enlarge its operations we should seek to add to its resources.

Bro. E. T. Edmunds, writing to the *Christian Standard*, says that the South End Tabernacle gives way to the Disciples' Tabernacle, the latter name being recently adopted. He also says that "a splendid interest is developing in our congregation. Our Sunday evening audiences so completely fill our large auditorium that we are at a loss to account for this unprecedented state of affairs." Let our provincial members visiting in Boston, or locating there, remember that the Tabernacle is on Shawmut Avenue, corner of Madison Street.

It used to be said that Jesus could not have been immersed in the Jordan, the current was too strong, or the water was too shallow—or there was some other insuperable barrier. But intelligent people use that argument no longer. Every year many people are baptized there. Bro. Growden, who is now travelling in the Holy Land, had a Scotchman come to him desiring baptism, and they both went down into the water and he was baptized in the Jordan.

The communion is the central act of Christian worship. When, in Troas, the disciples came together on the first day of the week, it was to break bread and not to hear Paul preach. The preaching was a secondary matter on that occasion. Now the preaching is given the place of greatest importance. All that goes before it is by some preachers termed "preliminaries," and the communion is given a subordinate place. Indeed, a writer in the *Christian Evangelist* says he is familiar with instances where it is observed in some obscure corner, and the importance of its weekly observance treated as of little consequence. Is this an evidence of loyalty to Christ?

In the republic to the south of us thirty-five states have local organizations to carry on home mission work within their own boundaries, in much the same way that the churches in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are trying to carry on co-operative home mission work through the board which they have selected. The success attending the efforts in the States demonstrates the wisdom of the plan. The last Year Book shows that, during the year, 295 preachers were employed, they organized 221 new churches, and had in all 20,000 additions. These figures should arouse our churches to greater endeavors.

We rejoice in the large circulation that THE CHRISTIAN has among our churches in the Maritime Provinces. But our space is so limited that we cannot tell of the great advances that the Disciples of Christ are making in the United States and in other parts of the world. Only our large weekly papers, such as the *Christian Standard*, Cincinnati, Ohio; the *Christian Evangelist*, St. Louis, Mo.; and the *Christian Guide*, Louisville, Ky., can do this. Those of our readers who do not see such papers are missing a great deal that is edifying and encouraging.