

## NEWS OF THE CHURCHES.

## NOVA SCOTIA.

FROM DIGBY CO.

On Tuesday, the 22nd of April, the pastor of the Church of Christ in Westport completed his 46th birthday, and his wife her —, well for prudent reasons I will omit the age in this last instance. This double birthday was duly celebrated by quite a number of their friends gathering at the parsonage and spending a very enjoyable evening.

The table was literally loaded with the good things prepared by the sisters for the occasion. There were several presents, prominent among which was a very nice easy-chair, and also a beautiful counterpane—birthday gifts from our friends.

This is but another of the many expressions of kindness we are continually receiving from our friends in these parts, and for which we hope they will receive our grateful thanks.

This chair for the preacher's study is to me very suggestive. Evidently the need of some inducement to confine him more to his study was felt by the brethren. We shall try and take the hint as gracefully as possible. Taken altogether this was a very pleasant affair, and the gifts a complete surprise.

Bro. J. A. Gates is now visiting his brethren at Southville, and South Range, Digby Co. He proposed spending a few weeks among the brethren in those parts. We hope to hear of success from his labors.

Bro. P. D. Nowlan leaves his home in a few days to labor in Charlotte Co., N. B. This good brother is now about going fully into the work of the ministry. He has been for about two years teaching school and preaching. We trust the brethren will do all they can to encourage Bro. Nowlan, as we believe he will come to be of much service to the cause in these Provinces.

Our one great need now is faithful men to go into the field to preach the simple Gospel of Christ. I have been so saddened by the death of our dear young Bro. Journey that I have felt somewhat discouraged. We had all hoped so much from him. We who know him best, knew him to be a grand and noble young man. This, to me, is a dark providence. Why one so promising should thus be taken from us I do not expect to know in this world.

Are there not some men, good and true, who love the cause well enough to break away from the cares of life and enter the work of the Lord, and labor to build up the kingdom in these Provinces?

E. C. F.

Westport, April 23, 1884.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Editor:—Knowing that tidings from the field are welcome to your readers, I would gladly speak to them through your pages. The sense of loneliness inevitable to a separation by the diameter of the globe from dear friends, is lessened by these messages to and fro, and we are yet further cheered by the thought that to the All-loving Father, prayers ascend for the welfare and spiritual prosperity of those they have sent forth to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. We indulge the reasonable hope that some may through us hear and 'ive, who otherwise would not, and in the day of the Lord they, and you, and we may be found on the right hand of the King, rejoicing over the result of this work.

The winter in Yokohama was in strong contrast with the winter at home. It was very pleasant. It gives the only really good season for study, the

summers are so enervating. One-fifth of the missionaries who come to Japan are obliged to yield to sickness in themselves or their families, and as the climate has little recuperative power they generally return home for a year. "How to keep well" is a frequent subject of conversation, and that anxiety which the Master forbade is doubtless in many instances a concurring cause of disease. It may be a comfort to some of your readers to learn that a professedly careful induction of the facts shows that no missionary who smokes has broken down. The additional fact that only three able-bodied men smoke out of the one hundred missionaries, may lessen the value of this induction.

To be in the heathen land, to see the degradation of the people, to behold their blind devotion to hideous idols, their need of purity and of Christ, drives one into an intense longing to proclaim the truth of God; but he is dumb, and only by patient years can he find a tongue. The day we landed here we secured a teacher and have kept steadily at work since. We have had two teachers all the time. We spend our days somewhat as follows: On Monday morning we get up. This is imperative. At 7 o'clock, during the winter, we sat down to breakfast, at the close of which, before prayer, each one repeats a portion of Scripture. The little girl is sent to school, which we are fortunate in having this year. Before 9 o'clock our teachers have come, and we study until 12 o'clock. In the afternoon one teacher returns, the one who cannot speak English. The afternoon is our time for exercise, an essential to good health in this land. In our evening worship we read the Scripture, according to a plan followed by a thousand Japanese. Monday evening, once a month, there is a concert or conference on the missionary outlook in Japan. Wednesday evening we sing Japanese hymns. Thursday evening there is a prayer-meeting of my Bible-class. Friday evening we devote to a study of the Scriptures. On Saturdays our teachers do not come. We need that day for letters and leisure. It is very convenient to have that day for taking bearings, and to tuck in the edges nicely for the next week. The Lord's day is well occupied. At 9 we go to hear the native preacher at the Baptist or Methodist Church; from there to the Union Church to English services. In the afternoon I teach a lately formed Bible-class. Early in the evening, we observe the Lord's Supper, and from 8 to 9 there is a union prayer-meeting near by. In our communion hour we usually have an Englishman and his Chinese wife, both of whom Bro. Garst immersed; so that, with a widely scattered nativity—viz., Ohio, Nova Scotia, England and China—we sit down together in Christ.

The outlook for mission work is encouraging. There are additions continually to the churches. The figures are as follows: In 1859, there were 0; 1872, 11; 1876, 1,004; 1883, 4,987; 1884, 6,000. With this same scale of increase, all the empire would be Christianized in less than twenty-five years. It is also worthy of note that the native churches are becoming more and more self-supporting, looking to the time when they can be entirely free from foreign aid.

Mr. Eby, of the Canada Methodist mission, lately read a paper before the missionaries of Yokohama and Tokio, which advocated bold steps toward the immediate Christianization of Japan.

Among the excellent features of his paper, one was the consolidation of the Protestants of Japan into five bodies, viz.: Episcopal, Presbyterian, Congregational, Methodist and Baptist. He then proposed—and the proposal was adopted—to call for 100 additional missionaries—young men and women—to be rapidly prepared for work, so as to go throughout the empire and to preach to every Japanese. He also proposed to build a large lecture-room in Tokio to be devoted to the defence of Christianity, and to build and endow a Christian

university in Japan. The money, it was thought, could be easily raised in England and America.

The glowing idea is, that Japan, won to Christ as soon as possible, will be a mighty lever by which the Orient could be moved.

In the name of Him whose right it is to rule, for this end let us work and pray. O. T. S.

Yokohama, Japan, 222 Bluff, March 1.

[Many of our readers are personally acquainted with Bro. Geo. T. Smith, and with his wife who is a native of Cornwallis, N. S., now missionaries in Japan. Others know them by report and will, we are sure, read with interest the above report received from his own hand for THE CHRISTIAN. In the good providence of God a wonderful door has of late been opened in that empire for the Gospel of His grace. This fact gladdens the hearts of His children, and who on due consideration but will feel it a duty and delight to assist in carrying to these idolatrous millions the Book that tells of Jesus and His love, at the same time praying to the Heavenly Father for those who are laboring for their salvation. We know how easy it is when appealed to for assistance to cherish the idea that times are hard and money scarce. Notwithstanding the hardness of the times, money is passing through our hands, and be it little or much, it is certain that in a short time it will all have passed through. While it is passing, the poorest can devote some to the Lord's cause, and such giving does not and will not impoverish. Experience as well as the rich promises of the Lord amply confirm this. In all our means for usefulness let us endeavour to live more for heaven than for earth, especially if we regard heaven as our eternal home.—Ed.]

Dear Editor:—After we left the Island to come to this place, we received the first issue of THE CHRISTIAN. I thought then I would try and help it along as much as possible, but in that I have failed as there are so many things here to take up my time.

St. Thomas is a hard field in which to labour, and as some persons may wish to know in what way, I will enumerate some of the difficulties to hinder the progress of the cause.

First, It is a fast-growing city, and sometimes called "the baby city." Ten years ago it only numbered two or three thousand inhabitants, but now eleven thousand. There is a continual rush in business affairs; the mighty dollar seems to be the great object with very many. They are buying and selling every day in the week—Sunday scarcely excepted.

The first things that greet our ears, after rising on Lord's day mornings, are the shunting of cars and the shrill whistle of the engine, this being a great railroad centre; and men are at work in the shops and on the roads of the Grand Trunk, Canada Southern and Credit Valley Railroads, all day Sunday. This state of things seemed very wrong to us who came from the quiet regions of P. E. Island.

I understand petitions were sent to the proper authorities by many of the inhabitants to have the Sunday traffic stopped; but they did not accomplish anything. The plea offered by the railroad authorities was that perishable stuff must be allowed to pass over the road on Sunday or there would be a great loss sustained. But most everything is perishable, if we are to judge by what we see passing along the roads on that day.

The passenger trains are run, and men, women and children must be perishable articles; well, some of them do look as if they could not stand a great deal of exposure.

Secondly, There is a great deal of intemperance in this city; every hotel has its bar-room; besides the many taverns and billiard-rooms, and it is no uncommon thing to see a great many drunken men on the streets most any day in the week.