

Home Circle.

CHRIST said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." And they left all and followed him. What did they lose? What do we lose by strict and prompt obedience to Christ? Has He not promised ample reward, both in the present and future? Read, mark, learn and inwardly digest. Consider: Is not Jesus well able to fulfil His promises—to honor His bonds? For of Him it is written, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." "Ask what ye will in my name." "My father is greater than I." Sometimes the flesh is weak even when the spirit is most willing, and the tired body, jaded and chafed with much serving, saith, "I really do not feel able. Who is sufficient for these things?" Church care bowed even the mighty Paul, and made him groan and pray many a time. But the Master's admonition and answer of love, "My grace is sufficient for thee," so effectually renewed and restored his spiritual manhood that he rises to his task like a giant refreshed with the new wine of the Kingdom. Peter, James and John went fishing, toiled all night and caught nothing. Doubtless Peter, worn with the labor and disappointment of the night, did not feel either anxious or fit in the morning to renew efforts apparently so profitless. But the Master's bidding was enough to spur him to a hopeless task. Somewhat dispiritedly he said, "We have toiled all the night and caught nothing." How grandly comes in the words which show his loyalty and confidence in the Master, "Nevertheless, at Thy word we will let down the net." The result—glad, grand surprise, so many great fishes, yet was not the net broken. So it often happens when we try to obey we forget our weariness, and renew our strength in the flush of unexpected success.

Our Social Tea and Fancy Sale.—It was a day of pleasure and wearying excitement, but at its close one could but exclaim, Thank God; God bless our people; it is just like them. By their united, hearty and loving co-operation, they not only raised the interest money, which, thank God, like the pastor's salary, has never run behind, or been unpaid; but the result will be quite a nice little help towards clearing the lot, and thus aiding in the erection of the new Church. Our treasurer took home over one hundred and twenty-one dollars that same evening. From the various tables, etc. the sum total will be considerably swelled when all the ticket money comes in.

One special cause of pleasure was to note the evidences of development of our resources, and the evident growth of talent and artistic taste among our own young people. In fancy work, we had designs, original and imitative, evidencing that many fingers had been moved and prompted by loving hearts and skillful inventive brains. Tokens were not lacking that outsiders had kindly feelings towards us, and we saw their handiwork on the tables, and know that not a little of their cash made a merry jingle in the money basins of those who served. We should like to thank all personally, but fear to specify because we could not give a complete list; but should like to do so at our effort when we shall plan to gather the offerings of our friends towards the superstructure, and hope this will be a sufficient hint to commence to fill in all the spare moments. Provisions were not lacking, and, best of all, nothing was wasted. The kindness and liberality of the donors allowed us to gather up and sell of the unbroken fragments over nine dollars' worth; so that nothing was lost. We feel that much of our success has always depended upon the careful avoidance of leakage and wasteful expenditures. Mr. W. G. P. writes: "I wish your trials may always end in triumphs. I send the accompanying volume to be sold to aid the work."

The Ladies' Fancy Table sold \$42.50; Mrs. Avery's Bible Class Table, \$31.26; Door, \$8.10; Sale of provisions, \$10; Refreshments, \$5.11; The Little Girls' Table, \$2.50; Mrs. Byers' S. S. Class Fancy and Refreshment Tables, \$30.05, to be credited to clearing lot. The total proceeds, as far as known, will be a hundred and seventy dollars.

Donations towards clearing Lot.—Deacon W. Davies, Y. M. B. Class, third donation, \$10, for two lots; Mrs. Estano, per Miss Spry, one lot, \$5; Part proceeds of Lantern Lecture, less expenses, \$18; Mrs. Avery's Class, another lot, \$5.

Our Home Mission Work.—Sent out 268 copies, equal to 10720 pages, of Buds and Blossoms. Besides, we have distributed during the month 6,450 pages of tracts and other papers; total, 17,170 pages. Received donation for printing paper from Mr. A. F. Turney, \$5 several papers from Mr. Templeton, Mrs. G. Hiltz, Miss McEachren. Also, a splendidly-assorted bundle of tracts and booklets, per Miss Weatherby, from the British-American Book and Tract Society. They are specially suitable for our work. Capt. J. Arnold gave as a donation 50c. towards the work. Mrs. G. M. Peck, \$1 and some papers. Bigheart, a widow's mite, 60c. Mrs. Burges sends hat for our own baby boy.

Members received during the year.—Since Jan. 1st. By Baptism, 20; Letter, 9. The special work of grace goes on.

Our books show not a few delinquents for B. and B. parties to the present year 1886, over a hundred and fifty, repre-

senting more than \$160, which cash, if we had it, would very materially assist us. Some may find it hard to pay up promptly, and we always consider this; but we are persuaded in some cases it is worse than neglect and inability. We cannot in justice drop such bad debts, of which we have not a few. We hope every reader will honestly consider this matter. Drop a post card, and we are always willing to wait any reasonable time, and to have consideration of changing circumstances. Please do not act meanly. In our faith-work we simply tell Jesus, and those who would wrong us must settle with our Master.

The following in remitting have cheered us by sending \$1, and we credit the 25c. on all subs. for this year to our free-list account: Mr. Bookaw, 50c.; J. L. Kerr, 25c.; Mrs. J. Holmes, 25c.; Mrs. Taylor, 25c.; Mr. Alex. Molniss, 25c.; Jos. Thomas, 25c.; Z. Hubloy, 50c.; Seymour Burges, 25c.; John Ehler, 25c.; Darius Durgin, 25c.; Rev. Potter, 25c.; Rev. Hayward, 25c.; Mrs. E. Sutherland, 25c.; Mrs. W. A. Nichols, 25c.; Mr. Looner, 25c.; Mrs. Oxner, 50c.; Allon Spidle, 25c.; Louis Griffin, 25c.; John Dixon, 50c.

Personal Notes.—This is, in part, a draft of a letter written to an enquiring friend, and may be interesting to others. We make extracts:—"To many it is little known the keenness of the conflict I have had in trying to stand to the front, fighting for the King, and preaching to the poor the Gospel. My income has always been from the weekly free-will offerings, everyone giving as he wills. To reach further in my work, I started B. and B. in faith, and you know something of the manner of the work and its growth. Much of my time, means and strength have been thrown into my work, looking for the rewards, as Abraham, prospective. So far the way has often been toilsome, but greatly cheered by the Master's smile. I continue to this day with enlarging plans and responsibilities. Your kind words and help in the past have cheered me beyond measure, for it is from the Lord's weak ones, rich in faith, that I have so far received my strength and help; and it has been to me a special source of pleasure, out of weakness to be made strong. Lately, the Lord has thrust larger service upon me, to the testing of my faith. For a long time I have been anxious to conserve my time, and enlarge my work by employing some one to aid me in some of the minor details of it, so as to give me more time and opportunity to enlarge in other and more spiritual directions. With the New Year I resolved I would take to my home and board a young sister in the Lord. She is, I believe, heartily in sympathy with the work. I assumed the entire responsibility, and asked no aid of the church, knowing the kindness of their heart toward me in all my enlargement of service for Christ, and the 'it is only limited by the present demands made to arise and build the Tabernacle wherein to worship and work for Jesus who gave Himself for us. Some time ago I built in faith a barn, feeling my body must have ease, or I could not continue to overtake the rapidly enlarging work. For nearly twelve months I have waited to see if the Lord approved and would send me a horse, feeling, unless He indicated, my income would not allow the extra expense. To my surprise, a fortnight after I engaged the young sister, a pony was brought to my stable and left. I always said I should not make known my want other than build a stable. About a month since, one of the young men of the Bible Class sent up a pony. It had through rough usage a shaggy coat, and evidenced a need of kindly care. Nevertheless we received the best of character, from several witnesses, that there were more good qualities done up in a rough and small parcel than can generally be found in the same quantity of horseflesh. So the little stranger was installed. It was soon evidenced that no un-casiness need be felt as to other expenditures, the matter being of the Lord, the great Provider.

First came the halter, brush, curry-comb, harness, oil, etc., the donation of the good brother who was instrumental in introducing Dolly into missionary service at Mizpah. He and the other young men of the Bible Class propose to have a feed-box in their class, wherefrom can be drawn a supply of provender. The pony came harnessed. The same evening a friend came in and put a lock on the stable door. Another sent some Condition Powders. Mr. Margeson put on the shoes, and all seemed desirous to give Dolly a fair start. A friend sent \$5; another, \$3.50; Mrs. Bennett sent from the United States \$5 for herself, and \$10 from a friend who is over eighty years of age, with the hope that the carriage would soon come. Thank God, the way has been opened. Mr. Thomas Spry, Senr., having a carriage, said, "It is a suitable one for the pony, and I will give it if you like to have it properly repaired and done up." So we feel of good cheer that in due time all needed for this service will be supplied, and begin to wonder why so much strength, which could have been utilized, has so long been wasted. The legs of a horse may be a vain thing to trust in, but they certainly can be made useful in God's service, as we have here no small proof, by kindly help rendered in the past by Bro. Wm. Davies. Mr. Jamieson, since we wrote the above, has sent word that he is good for \$15 towards the expense.

Kind Words from the Editor of the Maple Leaf.—"Buds and Blossoms for April is a splendid number, and the publication is so pure in tone and so full of valuable reading that every home should receive its regular visit. Send 75 cents to Rev. J. F. Avery, Halifax, and try it a year."