

THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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NOTES AND NEWS.

1897

"Year after year, wave upon wave,
Of Time's vast changeful sea,
Still bears us onward to the shores
Of God's eternity."

—H. J. Evans.

We wish all our readers A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Will our contributors endeavor to mail their "copy" early enough for it to reach us by the 23rd of the month.

This a good time to take a backward look. Are we better than we were a year ago or are we worse? Have we come nearer Christ or have we drifted from him?

The Foreign Christian Missionary Society has issued in tract form the very admirable address on *Business in Missions*, delivered at the Springfield Convention by R. T. Matthews, Dean of Drake University. It can be obtained at one cent per copy or fifty cents per hundred, by addressing A. McLean, Box 750, Cincinnati, O.

Many years ago a now famous debate on Baptism, etc., was carried on by Alexander Campbell and N. L. Rice, one of the most talented Presbyterians of his day. Here is a good thing to remember. A short time ago, Prof. J. B. Rice, an author, lecturer and evangelist of some note, and a nephew of the renowned debater, severed his connection with the Presbyterian church, was immersed by I. N. McCash, Des Moines, Iowa, and is now simply a disciple of Christ.

No year is all clouds. Our sorrows impress us more deeply but our joys are more numerous. One week of sickness is longer remembered and oftener mentioned than fifty weeks of uninterrupted and abounding health. We have but to call up our blessings to see how good God has been to us in the past. From him comes every good and perfect gift. He gives us all things richly to enjoy. No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. But we must let him decide what is good. He knows.

The editor concludes his Association sermon in this issue of THE CHRISTIAN. Let the reader get the back numbers and read the entire sermon. It will repay a careful perusal.

E. T. Edmonds, who has been pastor of the Shawmut Avenue Church, Boston, Mass., has resigned and will return to Fort Smith, Ark., some time this month. His successor has not yet been announced.

What did you do with the bill that was in your paper last month? Some took it as a polite intimation that the amount of money which it called for would be thankfully received at this office, and they sent it. We thank them for their promptness. But what did *you* do with yours? Don't destroy it till you pay it. We hope to hear from you this month.

Dark clouds hung by times over many homes during the old year. Sometimes the clouds broke, but often the angel of death, like a flash of lightning, came through them, and today there are many vacant chairs. Here it is a father's, and there a mother's. Here a son's and a brother's, and there a daughter's and a sister's. But shining even on the dark clouds we may see these words: "God is love;" "He doeth all things well."

We know not what the future has in store for us. Between Jan. 1st and Dec. 1st there are three hundred and sixty-five chambers, dark with uncertainty. What joys and sorrows, what triumphs and failures they hold for us, we cannot tell. Each day must open the door to its own secrets. But undoubtedly in each of these chambers, now so mysterious to us, there are places for Bible reading and for prayer; for kind words and for loving deeds; for service to man and service to God.

It is likely that Ontario will soon have a paper to take the place of the *Canadian Evangelist*. W. J. Lhamon says that the management of the Board of Co-operation in Ontario "is so well pleased with the style and spirit of THE CHRISTIAN published in St. John, that it is the intention to bring out something similar, as far as can be done. By the way, speaking of THE CHRISTIAN, I have long felt that it is among the neatest and completest in its class. A short visit to the Maritime provinces has made it a welcome visitor to me ever since." Thanks, Bro. Lhamon.

Near or more remote, a good resolution is behind every good deed. On trees where there have been no blossoms there shall be no apples. We may have blossoms without apples as we may have resolutions without deeds. Let the new year be magnificent by reason of the abundance and beauty of the blossoms, but see to it that these, with the passing away of the days, turn to fruit which at the close of the year shall be large, beautiful and bountiful. When the final day comes our reward will be measured not by our good resolutions but by our good deeds. By patient continuance in well doing we shall inherit the promises.

The handbooks for those who take up the course of study for young people of which we spoke last month will soon be ready. That on the Bible is being prepared by Pres. J. W. McGarvey, that on Missions by A. McLean and that on the History of the Disciples by B. B. Tyler. The handbooks will cost twenty-five cents each.

We lately heard a Congregational minister tell how to bring about Christian union. He had the picture of a wheel before him. The denominations he said were trying to get nearer to one another by running around the rim. They would succeed better if they would all come in between the spokes to the hub. The nearer they come to that, the nearer will they come to each other. Christ is the hub. They should come nearer to him.

We notice by the annual report of the American Christian Missionary Society which has just come to hand that our Maritime churches contributed about \$150 for general home missions, and thus aided in a small way to support the evangelists who preached 3844 sermons and added 2177 persons to membership of the churches. Of this amount St. John gave \$66.50 and Halifax \$32.00. As this Society is liberally aiding us in our work we should give unmistakable evidence of our gratitude.

The *Christian Standard* says that while John Logan, one of our preachers, was holding a meeting at Richmond, N. Y., a Methodist Protestant pastor, S. B. Stephens, of Orwell, found out that he (S) was in harmony with the position held by the Churches of Christ of which he had not known. He had largely built up the church to which he ministered and all the members had been immersed. He desired to enter our brotherhood and many of his people, including all the officers except one, had the same desire. Fifty of them received the right hand of fellowship on Dec. 13th, and at least twenty-five more were to come and probably have by this time. This endorsement of our position by these people is the result of independent Biblical study.

We find an interesting calculation in the *Christian Standard*. E. S. Muckley says that in 1895 the Disciples of Christ in the United States reported 923,663 members. In 1896 the number went up to 1,003,672 an increase of 80,009. He says that if this rate of increase is maintained for ten years, (it is like a compound interest problem) our membership will be 2,303,227 or more than twice what it now is. This is not an improbable increase, for in the ten years, from 1880 to 1890, our membership went up from 350,000 to 640,000. But even if we are not sanguine of such marvelous growth in such a short time, we can readily see that if the Disciples of Christ remain true to the old book and continue to plead earnestly for Christian union, the future has glorious things for them. In the days of their greatest prosperity may they still be humble followers of Jesus Christ.