

mend him to any pastor desiring outside help. He is now in Campbellton, helping Pastor Keirstead. From there he goes to Sussex to assist Pastor Camp. Mrs. McLean, who accompanies her husband, is just recovering from a severe sickness at the Parsonage, Fairville. Rev. Ira Smith of Leinster street Church, was with us three nights, and preached the gospel with great eloquence and power. We are still continuing our meetings, with a hopeful outlook.

A. T. DYKEMAN.

St. FRANCIS, ME., We had special meetings during the week of prayer—taking the subjects for texts.

Several have expressed an interest in their salvation and two have been quite regular to prayer and testimony. We are continuing our meetings, and wish an interest in your prayers.

CHAS. HENDERSON.

HOPEWELL, N. B. We have been holding a few special meetings at the "Cape," and the Lord has greatly blessed us. On Sunday, Feb. 3rd, we baptized seven happy believers, and received one on experience. One other has been received for baptism and quite a number profess to have been saved. We hope to be able to send some more good news soon.

F. D. DAVIDSON.

BRUSSELS STREET, BAPTIZED ON FEB. 3RD. Our Young Men's Association is manifesting a good deal of energy. The rooms in the rear of the church have been fitted up for reading, games, exercise meetings, etc., and are open every evening. Under the auspices of the Association an enlarging class of forty men on Sunday afternoons are led by the pastor in instructive conversations on the great questions about and in the Bible.

FREDERICTON.

The reports submitted at the annual church meeting were of a most encouraging nature. All departments of work reported progress and several recorded unprecedented prosperity. The Sunday School continues to grow in power and the missionary societies have steadily gained ground. The financial report was inspiring. About \$4000 was raised for all purposes. Upwards of \$1000 was given to missions and \$500 for church repairs. We have had the pleasure of welcoming new members lately. Our great need is a spiritual quickening throughout the membership.

J. D. F.

CENTRAL
CHEBOGUE.

This church has recently experienced a season of blessing. During November and December the interest in our regular meetings constantly increased. During the first month of the new year we held some special meetings, which by the blessing of God, have resulted in much spiritual quickening to the whole active membership, and a profession of saving faith in Christ on the part of some fourteen or fifteen most promising young people. Five were baptized on the 3rd inst., and others will come forward later on. In these special meetings Pastor Parker was with us two evenings and Pastors Mode and Price one evening each, rendering service which was most helpful to the work.

E. J. GRANT.

GIBSON, N. B. God continues to bless our feeble efforts. Despite the severe storm of Sunday, February 24th ult., good congregations were present at all our services, especially in the evening when three precious souls followed Jesus in baptism. On Sunday March 3rd, eight were baptized, two received on experience and four by letter, a total of seventeen. All of the Gibson church. Twenty-seven received the right hand of fellowship. Pray for us.

W. R. ROBINSON.

Rev. A. B. Macdonald has been supplying of late at Mill Cove and the Narrows, in the field where the greater part of his ministerial life has been spent. He continues in good health and finds no difficulty in filling his appointments.

"An Ancient Benediction."

An abstract of a sermon preached by Rev. A. J. Hughes in Music Hall, East Boston, Mass., where the Central Square Baptist church, of which he is pastor, is now worshipping, prior to taking possession of the late Trinity Church edifice, which has been transferred to the Central Square Church, but which they cannot occupy till the lease of the edifice to the School Board of Boston, made before the transfer, has expired. The Central Square edifice was sold a year ago, and the purchaser has taken possession of it, which necessitates the use of Music Hall as a place of worship. The sermon was preached on the opening Sunday in Music Hall, and was on the text.—Numbers 6: 24, 25, 26. The abstract is as follows: God wants to bless every person in the world. This fact is contradicted by certain ideas that are held concerning God. Some regard Him as an Omnipotent Tantalizer, delighting in worrying people by harsh and inscrutable providences. But these strange providences are simply means which God adopts to win the hearts of men and women from the unworthy loves of earth to Himself, the worthy object of the heart's love. Others regard God as a cold-hearted stoic, looking with calm indifference upon the miseries of his creatures. But the Bible represents Him as a Father, grieved because of the world's sorrows, but whose hands are tied by the world's sin; not hopelessly tied, however, for contrition on account of sin will untie them, and to the contrite soul He will cause the strange workings of Providence to effect its good. The text can be explained only on the basis that God wants to bless people. He had blessed His ancient people by delivering them from their bondage in Egypt, by befriending them along the dreary marches of the desert, by ultimately conducting them into Canaan. He wants to bless every soul by delivering it from the Egypt of its spiritual bondage, by befriending it across the wilderness of life, and by leading it eventually into the Canaan of everlasting rest. This old benediction is worth the time we may give it this morning.

1. The mystery it contains is worth investigation. The name Jehovah is repeated in it three times, where once would seem to be enough. Then, every time the name occurs it is, in the original Hebrew, with a different accent. Jewish writers have admitted the mystery of this strange fact, as have Christian writers, too. Is there a key that will unlock this mystery? There is, and it is the doctrine of the Tri-Unity of the Godhead, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As the doctrine of a personal God unlocks the mystery of the universe, so the doctrine of the Trinity unlocks the mystery of this otherwise incomprehensible passage of Scripture. But what is the doctrine of the Trinity? Is it a piece of human speculation, or a fact of divine revelation? Let us see. Jesus Christ was not a speculator concerning unseen verities. You never hear Him indulging in a guess; you always hear Him making bold affirmations. So authoritative, indeed, was the tone of His teachings that the multitudes regarded them as conclusive. Well, Jesus revealed the Trinity as a fact; first, by affirming the existence of God; secondly, by affirming His own equality with God; thirdly, by affirming the equality of the Spirit with both God and Himself. This revelation of the Trinity on the part of Jesus Christ is a solution of the mystery that inheres in this ancient benediction. Notice, moreover, that this solution of the mystery of the passage is confirmed by the distinctive office that is assigned to each person of the Godhead designed therein. To God the Father is assigned the office of blessing people, "The Lord bless thee and keep thee." To God the Son is assigned the office of illuminating people. "The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee." To God the Holy Spirit is assigned the office of pacifying people. "The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace." Now God the Father has earned the title of being the world's Benefactor, for He blessed the world with the gift of His Son. And God the Son has earned the title of being the world's Illuminator, for it is He in whose face, and life, and teachings, and death, there shines as nowhere else the "light of the knowledge of the glory of God." And God the Holy Spirit is earning all the while the title of the world's Pacifier, for He is continually

coming to people disturbed by sin, by sorrow, by anxious fear, and in lalling to rest the surging waves of inward disturbance. Thus, the solution that the doctrine of the Trinity gives to this old passage of Scripture is sweet and comforting to the human heart. 2. But there is more than mystery to this old passage; there is blessed reaching to it as well. And the teaching is a reinforcement of my original proposition, that God wants to bless people. He does. (a) He wants to bless people with the blessing of comfort. The ache of bereavement in a human life is one that touches Him. In the Talmud there is a story of a young laborer in a vineyard who, after a few hours' toil, was invited to leave the scene of toil and walk to and fro with the king in the courtyard of the palace. It was a reward of diligence. The story was told by the Talmudist to comfort a Jewish mother who had lost her son—a youthful Rabbi—by death, and she was to make her own application of it. If the Bible be true, and it is, God, like the king in the story, often invites our loved ones away from us, and from the toils of time, to walk with Him the scented walks of Paradise, and by telling us so He blesses us with the blessing of comfort. (b) God wants to bless His people with the blessing of moral attractiveness. A young lady at boarding school was much discouraged because of her plain looks and ungracious manner. Her teacher noticed it, and gave her a coarse and scaly bulb, and with the remark "That is you," told her to do with it as she knew. She planted and tended it, when there finally emerged from it a beautiful Japanese lily, fit emblem of what she might become if she put herself in the keeping of Him whose hand paints the lily and touches with their tints all the flowers that bloom. She acted on the suggestion, with the result of a moral attractiveness that shines out so conspicuously in face and manner as to be the subject of remark in the circle wherein she moves. God wants to bless in similar fashion every unlovely life.

(c) God wants to bless with the power to live a strong and worthy life. The world is full of people who want to live better lives. There is pathos in the late Prof. Huxley's words when he said, "I protest that if some power would agree to make me always think what was true, and do what is right, on condition that I be turned into a sort of clock, and wound up every morning, I should instantly close with the offer." That is the cry of a man, willing to sacrifice his manhood and become an automaton, if thereby he might be assured of becoming permanently good. Is there any hope of a man's realizing that desire? Yes, there is. God wants people to be good, and He will help them to be good. How? Well, in this half, yesterday I saw two children learning to dance, and for the time being they were given up to the dancing master, who was instructing them from another part of the hall. You yield yourself up to God, as these children were given up to the dancing master, and as they will undoubtedly learn how to "trip the light fantastic toe," so you will learn how to be good. (d) God wants to bless us as a church while we are worshipping here. You say, "The place is secular, and has never been dedicated to God." True. But the stony field, where Jacob slept, just outside the town of Luz, and where he had his wonderful vision, was never dedicated to God either. Yet, the patriarch named it Bethel, the house of God, and it was the very gate of Heaven to him because of the communicating stairway, and the ascending and descending angels. Moreover, it has been a spot of universal religious interest ever since. Yes, and the upper room in Jerusalem where the spirit of God descended in Pentecostal power, was never formally dedicated to God, but the centuries attest to the interest and blessedness of the place. So with us. Let us be receptive, as Jacob was in the open field, as the disciples were in the upper room, and we may have cause to point back to the months when we worshipped here as being months of signal manifestations of the presence and power of God with His people.

Don't begin to curtail expenses by stopping your religious paper and lessening your payments to the church. Begin at the other end of the line. Pay less for selfish gratification and your religious claims will be easily met.