

THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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THIS issue is somewhat late, being held back for the reports of our Annual.

BRO. RYAN leaves Rochester, N. Y., and returns to Williamsport, Pa.

ON Monday, August 29th, Bro. E. T. Williams and wife made a start for their work in China. May God bless their labors in that foreign land.

WE have been requested to state that the Annual Meeting of the Disciples in Worcester, Mass., will take place on Friday, the seventh day of October, instead of the date previously announced.

AMONG our preaching brethren who attended the Annual, was Bro. T. S. K. Freenan, on his way to visit his friends at Milton, N. S. Just before he left P. E. I., he made a very satisfactory visit to Tignish, where he baptized one person.

A FEW DAYS before Bro. H. A. McDonald left the Island to resume his labors as President of West Kentucky College, he received a letter from the President of Lafayette College, Pa. (Presbyterian), informing him that in consideration of his scholarship and merit the college had conferred on him the degree of M. A.

OUR readers will notice that quite a number have responded to the request to aid financially the mission work in these provinces. The tone and spirit of the letters sent have indeed encouraged us in our efforts to push forward this work. Here are a few items from three letters. We would like to receive a host of just such letters; and why shouldn't we?

"Brother, please accept my mite (\$2.00) towards the cause of Home Missions."—G. W. F.

"Brother, on receiving my paper a few days ago, which at all times is a welcome visitor and read with care, not only by myself and family, but by others to whom I send it, I see a request for a little help financially to aid the work of the Lord. We, as workers in the Lord's vineyard, should be more earnest in the work than we are, and not wait to be reminded of our duty. Enclosed find \$1.00, and will try to give more in the future than in the past. Wishing you success in all your endeavors, your brother, G. W. A."

"Brother, we like the call made upon the brethren to aid the young men that have decided to give their time and strength to preaching the Gospel of Christ. A higher calling can not be found on earth, and we hope there will be no lack of money.

My wife and I enclose \$1.00 each for the work.—T. K. E."

THE *Patriot*, of Charlottetown, P. E. I., gives some interesting facts in connection with the Stevenson family. Bro. R. W. Stevenson, now preaching at Mankato, Minn., is a son of Robert Stevenson. There are other facts of equal interest concerning this family which ere long we hope to give in the columns of THE CHRISTIAN.

"A very remarkable group was photographed at Thomas Cook's gallery, Queen Street, Charlottetown. It consisted of six brothers, whose united ages amounted to 465 years, or an average of 77½ years each, as follows:

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|---|----|
| Charles Stevenson, Tignish. | 86 |
| John Stevenson, New Glasgow. | 82 |
| Andrew Stevenson, Fredericton. | 80 |
| William Stevenson, Fredericton. | 77 |
| George Stevenson, New Glasgow. | 73 |
| Robert Stevenson, Rustico. | 67 |

They are all hale and hearty, and are fine specimens of ripened manhood. With the exception of the two younger, they can all read without spectacles. They are all members of the Church of Christ on this Island, Charles and John being elders. The whole family consisted of six brothers and six sisters. Three of the sisters are dead, namely, Mrs. Wm. Bagnall, of New Glasgow, Mrs. Dickieson, New Glasgow, and Mrs. Simpson, of Cavendish. The surviving sisters are Mrs. George Bagnall, New Zealand, Mrs. James Houston of Rustico, and Mrs. Samuel Worth, late of this city, but now of Worcester, Mass. Our esteemed townsman, Mr. Matthew Stevenson, is a son of Andrew Stevenson, and nephew of the others."

A BROTHER signing himself "Senex" writes us:

"In your August issue, first page, referring to the Church in Smyrna, you say, 'Let it be remembered, too, that this was the only church of the seven upon which the Spirit passed no censure.'

"Do you not in this remark do injustice to the church and to the brotherhood at Philadelphia? Please allow your readers to re-read the following: 'To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: . . . I know thy works; behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it. for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept My word, and hast not denied My name. Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly, hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out; and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God [which is] New Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God; and [I will write upon him] my new name.' Rev. iii. 7-13.

"It is true that Smyrna received the divine approval, but in no stronger or more emphatic terms than did the church in Philadelphia."—SENEX

We are thankful to our brother for calling our attention to what he terms—and to some extent justly, too—injustice to the church and brotherhood of Philadelphia. But the phrase "thou hast a little strength" suggests to our mind that things were not just as they should be; that in this phrase there is at least an implied censure, not found in the message to the church at Smyrna. We think, therefore, that the church at Smyrna received the divine approval in stronger or more emphatic language than did the church in Philadelphia.

OUR ANNUAL AT ST. JOHN.

Our Annual Meeting of 1887 was the thirty-third Annual of the Disciples of Christ of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. In many respects it was the best. If I am not right in saying it was our best Annual Meeting, I am certainly right in saying it was a grand success. The weather was all we could wish, both on our journey to the Meeting and during the time of the Meeting. But as our return home was an after consideration, we will keep it a profound secret.

We had over a hundred visitors. I have the names of a hundred, and no doubt there were some present whose names I did not ascertain. New Brunswick sent us visitors from Leonardville, Lord's Cove, LeToto, Nauwigawank, and Fair Haven. Nova Scotia gave us a number from different places, viz: Halifax, West Gore, Cornwallis, Kingston, Tiverton, Westport, Southville, River John, Kempt, and Milton. The banner church was Leonardville; there were eighteen of her members present. The smallest number was from Milton—only one. There were visitors also from P. E. I.; from Swampscott, Springfield, Worcester, Boston, Mass.; from Eastport, East Machias, Lubec, Vanceboro, Maine. There were twelve preachers in attendance, besides the resident preacher, three of whom did the preaching, viz.: Bro. Rogers of Swampscott, Bro. Minnick, of Lubec, and Bro. Crawford, of P. E. I.

On Friday evening the time was improved by Bro. Rogers, who gave us a discourse from James iv. 8, which was well received.

Saturday morning, ten o'clock, we had an informal meeting. The subject of the meeting was—"How to have a good, successful prayer-meeting." Remarks were made, experiences and observations given, questions asked and answered, and many good things said that impressed on every heart the necessity of the prayer-meeting in every church, and also how to make the prayer-meeting more interesting and profitable. All seemed to be pleased with this meeting and spoke of it as being a "departure" in the right direction. We sincerely hope that this feature of our Annuals may increase, that we may go to these meetings with matured ideas on church work and exchange with each other our ideas; by so doing we will soon have a knowledge of the practical workings of church interests that will secure success in all our churches. We may, at some future time, report some of the good things said at this Saturday morning meeting.

Saturday afternoon we had a social meeting, in which many took an active part. In this meeting we missed the voices of many who, in former times, were always heard. Oh, how fast we are passing away! But to mitigate this sorrowful feature was the fact that other faithful, noble young men and women are taking the places of the departed, some of whom we were delighted in seeing and hearing at our Annual. The afternoon meeting was good and left some impressions on our hearts never to be erased.

Saturday evening Bro. Minnick spoke to a fine congregation on the subject of "Justification." He made himself well understood. He kept company with his subject all through his discourse. We were all pleased with the man and his preaching, and wished we could keep him in the east. At the