

# THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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## The Christian.

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J. E. EDWARDS, . . . . . St. John, N. B.

T. H. CAPP has resigned his work at Springfield, Missouri.

Bro. HARDING's people believe in donations. Read his letter.

H. A. NORTHCUTT is holding a meeting at Cincinnati, Ohio.

THE new meeting house at South Lubec, Me., is nearly completed.

J. A. L. ROMIG has gone to assist the church at Aberdeen, Dakota.

THE Sunday-schools of St. John are alive. Look at their report this issue.

NEARLY all our brethren and sisters at Keawick, N. B., subscribe for THE CHRISTIAN.

E. B. BARNES is preaching regularly for two churches in the vicinity of Lexington, Ky.

E. C. FORD has arranged to preach for the church in Halifax until a permanent preacher is secured.

R. E. STEVENS has returned to Lord's Cove. This church is helping nobly in the home mission work.

THE Tiverton brethren have placed a bell in the tower of their meeting house. We know of some other churches who need waking up.

BRO. R. CURRIE, one of the many faithful workers that the Coburg St. Church has given to other fields, has been elected a deacon by the church in Somerville, Mass. From what we know of Bro. Currie we believe that church has acted wisely.

THE brethren in New York are planning for an orphan's home. Already a gentleman has donated a fine house and grounds adapted for the purpose. This is practical Christianity and every true Christian should aid such a worthy enterprise.

OUR preachers should see to it that THE CHRISTIAN should be well circulated among the members of the churches. We should have a few hundred new subscribers added to our list. Please remember that all profits accruing from the publication of THE CHRISTIAN go to aid the fund for home mission work.

To see the armies of great nations slaughtering each other is a sad sight. To see a vessel crowded with passengers going to pieces on the rocks in an angry sea would fill any humane heart with pity.

A Sad Sight. To see a fellow mortal casting imploring glances from the fifth story of a flame wrapped building would stir up some of the deepest feelings of the soul. But there are signs of the times which have in them elements of sadness, just as great, if not so striking, as in these cases. Take this as an instance. It is a very unusual thing for the writer to enter an auction room; but not long ago he was induced to enter a place where fancy articles, that did not bring fancy prices during the holiday season, were being sold for what they would bring. Soon after entering, the auctioneer held up two packs of playing cards. The very sight of them seemed to send a thrill through the room, and the young men and boys became suddenly filled with strong desires, not to leave the place, but to get the cards. How quickly they bid! You would have thought that upon these cards was to be found the secret of health, wealth and happiness. Bids flew like bullets from a repeating rifle. The conscience of the auctioneer would not allow him to hold out any longer, and so he knocked them down to some unfortunate boy for about ten million times their worth and five times their cost. A fine spirit of rivalry had now been developed, and the salesman concluded to take advantage of it. He held up a Bible and a prayer-book and asked for bids. They were beautiful books, but no one seemed to want them; or, if they did, their tongues were paralyzed and they could not speak. The moments passed in silence, save for the pleadings of the auctioneer. Finally, by hisculean efforts, he found some one willing to give twenty-five cents for the books. And perhaps it was to get them out of the way that something else might be offered. Were all the young men there supplied with Bibles? Probably some of them had not seen the inside of one for years; and still they had no desire to obtain a copy of the Book of books. A sad sign, truly.

The simplicity of the plan of salvation is one of its glories. God could have made it so hard to find and difficult to follow that only minds the most cultured, and experience the most protracted, would be able to comprehend it. Who, then, could be saved? What would become of the great mass of the people who have no time to search into the intricacies of theology, and no ability to solve the problems which have puzzled the intellectual giants of all ages? They would be lost. And still there are religious teachers who, apparently, think that before a person becomes a pupil in the school of Christ, he must be able to answer some of the most difficult questions in the realms of theology. But the Lord, in His wisdom, made the highway of holiness so plain that a person of limited understanding, and small chances for culture, need not err therein. Even boys and girls of twelve years, and sometimes younger, can know all that is needed for them to understand before becoming Christians. Then they are to be taught to observe all things that Christ has commanded. The unadulterated milk of the word has great sweetness for those who have been feeding on the dry sawdust of

theological speculations. It is no great wonder that they are anxious to turn from the latter as soon as they see the former. And especially is this true of young people whose taste has not been perverted. Somewhere in North America the Disciples have a Sunday school in whose classes there was a considerable number of scholars whose parents belong to a denomination wearing a name that does not honor Christ. They have ceased to attend. And why? The minister demanded that they be taken from under the influence of the truth as taught in that school. And why this demand? Listen to his answer. "I know a good deal about these people. I have watched their progress and I have found out that there is something in their teaching which commends itself to young minds, and we frequently lose our children when they are permitted to be under this influence." Could there be a grander acknowledgment of the simplicity of the truth as it is in Jesus? It is so easily understood that he who runs may read.

Truth's Simplicity.

We are straining our eyes trying to catch a glimpse of some one willing to enter the home mission field. And, while we wait, hands are outstretched imploring us to help. Instruction is what the people desire. They want to have their Bibles opened up to them. They are anxious to have the fundamental principles of the Christian faith made plain. Have we not a messenger in our midst ready to go anywhere we ask with the sheaves of truth? Yes; we have THE CHRISTIAN. Let this willing preacher be sent out every month with the instruction that is needed to show men and women the way of salvation and to ground them in the things that pertain unto the kingdom of God. How necessary it is that all should know how to study the Bible. When people have learned to rightly divide it, they are like the man who has mastered the mariner's compass—prepared to use it to advantage. The two covenants need to be clearly distinguished. Combining them makes a tangled web that few can unravel. The establishment of the church needs some attention. There are many who think they can find its beginning in the time of John the Baptist, and some look for it even earlier. The proper name for the church and for God's people is a matter of no trivial importance. A name that ignores Christ is not the name for his church. A short article might be given to the conditions of admission into the Church of Christ. Is there any uniformity here? Do the conditions vary? It might be well to then take up faith, repentance, confession and baptism, and consider each separately. The Lord's supper would demand its place in the series, and so would the fellowship. A subject so important as prayer could not well be omitted. Three brief articles, on the relation of the Holy Spirit to the apostles, to the sinner and to the child of God, would seem to be in place. The Lord's day—why observed and how—would be a fruitful theme. Such are some of the subjects that need to be discussed; and if they could be treated in articles of not much over a column each, there cannot be a doubt but that great good would be the outgrowth. Many of the young people in our churches need instruction along these lines. Some of them probably have very indefinite ideas on some of these topics. Then there are not a few young members of the

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