

# THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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## The Christian.

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SPECIAL attention is directed to the programme of the Annual Meeting. The church at Westport extends a cordial invitation to all. It is to be hoped we may have a good representation of our churches.

We are glad to know that the church in Halifax has secured Bro. Gordinier. Bro. G. comes to the provinces highly commended as a faithful minister of the Gospel.

From a private letter we learn that Bro. Belding is still at East Point, P. E. I. in a grand meeting. Nine additions when last heard from.

THE sketch of Bro. Crawford's life and labors will be found to be very interesting reading. We have had extra copies of this issue printed, so that subscribers who wish to order extra numbers may be supplied.

We are glad to have a report from Bro. Minnick in this month's issue. Bro. M. is doing a noble work for Christ. The churches in Lubec district are in a very prosperous condition. We hope Bro. Minnick may find time to attend the annual.

ALL who intend going to the Annual at Westport should inform E. A. Payson by what route, and when they should arrive at Westport. Brethren, please attend to this as it will be of great help to those who are to entertain us.

Not far from Springfield there is a school-house at which a preacher from Arkansas (pronounced Arkansaw) has been holding religious meetings for a few nights. Though not an educated man, still he preaches with much acceptance to the people. He is a good man, and in a style and tone of voice peculiar to himself, presents the truth in a forcible manner. His illustrations are drawn from facts well known to the people before whom he stands. Yes, said he, "What a little ache in the head will set you at work thinking up some good excuse for not going to church on the Lord's day. When a brother comes to me with such excuses I know he wants to 'roost out.' We in 'Arkansaw' take the eggs from the nests of the wild turkeys and have the hens to hatch them out. For a while we can scarcely keep those wild young turkeys from under our feet, but in a few months they begin to wander off and to roost out at night, and unless we watch them mighty close, they are soon on the

mountain top and lost to us forever. Now, brethren, watch that Christian. Lord's day comes and with it the hour of meeting. See him. In he comes and takes the front seat. His face is all aglow. After a while he sits about the middle of the house—soon back by the door. Time soon comes when he is standing outside with a number of others, under a "Black Jack," smoking and discussing the merits of a mule colt. Another Lord's day or two pass away, and you call at his house and find him at his home *salting his cattle*, and when asked a reason for such conduct, and why he neglects the meeting of the saints, replies: Well, a certain brother hasn't treated me right and I can't fellowship him!!! Brethren, you can't fool me. I know when you want to *roost out*." The people saw the point and felt the application. We need to change but a few statements in the foregoing to make it suitable to some so-called Christians in the East.

**COSTLY MARRIAGES AND FUNERALS.**—Young men at the time of marriage frequently spend in a few days what has taken them months of labor to collect. Fine clothes that make them conspicuous; costly breakfasts, dinners, and suppers; a large number of invited guests; and a trip to Boston, New York and other eastern cities seem to form the ideal of a modern wedding. But the young man had far better hold on to his savings lest a "rainy day" should demand the amount so carelessly and senselessly thrown away.

Funerals, too, have become quite costly affairs—mere displays and advertisements for undertakers—the relatives of the deceased thinking that a funeral without a fine casket and five or six coaches, etc., etc., might suggest poverty, or a want of interest, or love for the departed. The only streak of economy shown on these occasions is in the treatment of the preacher. Frequently he (the preacher) is called upon by a stranger to go into the country to attend a funeral. Though he rides along the dusty road, preaches a sermon, and is gone all day, yet he receives NOT A CENT. The undertaker is paid, the coaches receive their pay, but the preacher scarcely gets "Thank you;" the idea being—he has but done his duty. Reform is needed. George William Curtis, in Harper's, says some good things on ostentations at funerals: "It is a sad commentary on a Christian community, which takes that distinctive title from a religion whose founder is called the Consoler because His word plucks the sting from death, that it surrounds death with every circumstance of woe and gloom. The distinctive ministry of the faith seems to fail at the very point to which it is especially addressed. The natural Christian tone at the burial of the dead would seem to be the cheer that springs from the thought of immortality—a sublime hope, a tender resignation. The Christian thought in that hour should instinctively dwell upon the soul, not upon the body, and the simplest and most unostentatious rite of burial would seem to be the most truly Christian. But the ostentation of Christian funerals has become so great that burial reform associations are formed, both in this country and in England, to relieve the poor of the painful and needless cost which, from mistaken respect for the dead, they will not spare so long as ostentation is the custom.

## THE ANNUAL OF 1891.

The following arrangements have been made with the railways and steamboats for persons attending the Annual Meeting at Westport:

The Yarmouth S. S. Co. will grant a free return ticket to delegates who have paid full fare on going, on presentation of certificate from the Secretary.

The Weymouth S. S. Co. will grant a return ticket to Westport at one fare. Those who intend going by this line must be in Weymouth not later than Sept. 4th.

The Western Counties Railway will give a return ticket at one-third fare to delegates who have paid first-class fare one way, on presentation of Secretary's certificate.

The Windsor & Annapolis Railway will give a return ticket at one-third fare to delegates who have purchased a first-class ticket one way.

The Bay of Fundy S. S. Co. will grant return tickets at one-third fare on presentation of certificate from the Secretary.

## PROGRAMME

of the Annual Meeting to be held at Westport, N. S., commencing Friday, September 4th, 1891:

Friday, 7.30 p. m.—Informal Meeting of welcome and greeting by Bro. H. C. Cooke.

Saturday, 9 a. m.—Prayer-meeting, led by Bro. J. A. Gates.

" 10 " —Preaching by Bro. Wm. Murray. Subject: "The Prayer-meeting." Followed with a conference on the same subject.

" 2 p. m.—Preaching by Bro. H. Murray. Subject: "Church Work." Followed with a conference on the same subject.

" 7.30 p. m.—Preaching by Bro. E. C. Ford.

Sunday, 7 a. m.—Prayer-meeting, led by Bro. H. A. Devos.

" 10.30 " —Preaching by Bro. D. Crawford: "The Annual Sermon."

" 11.45 " —The Lord's Supper.

" 2 p. m.—Sunday School Work, with a Question Box.

" 3 " —Preaching by Bro. J. H. Gordinier.

" 7 " —Prayer-meeting, led by Bro. H. Carson.

" 8 " —Preaching by H. W. Stewart.

Monday, 9 a. m.—Business-meeting.

" 2 " " "

" 3.30 p. m.—Business-meeting of the Sisters.

" 7.30 " —Mission Meeting.

TO OUR READERS.—We are desirous of making a good report at our Annual Meeting in September, and we wish to call the attention of the brethren and friends and ask their assistance in this important matter. To those in arrears we say, *Please pay up*. To those not in arrears. *Send along your next year's subscription*. To those who are not subscribers, *Send us [a year's subscription (50 cents), it will pay you and help us in the good work. Let us make a good report at our next annual.*