

We should be very careful that we do not make the ordinances a substitute for Christ. To make the truth vital it should blend with the Christ-life. We have no quarrel with "systematic theology." It is certainly important. But when it becomes a speculative belief, it is of no value. The doctrine of Christ has in it the practical element. To make the doctrine or truth of Christ vital, it must find its fitness and completeness in the person of Christ. If the truth of God brings to the soul a life that "blossoms into the Christ-life," it is then the connection is made between the soul and God, and then it has the power of God without. It is then that God's truth and God's law and God's energy have come to the soul and gives a powerful influence for good. Herein we see the grandest possibilities of our nature. Christ becomes not only a pattern of what we may be, but a pledge of what we must be.

More knowledge of the truth is not our first great need. The Rev. Joseph Parker once said, "We were not so much in need of more prayers as we were in need of more prayerfulness." Can we not as truthfully say, that we are not so much in need of more knowledge of the truth as we are in need of the Spirit of truth? Our Saviour has said, that "If any man willeth to do his will, he shall know of the teaching," etc. (John vii. 17, R. V.) Here is the fact plainly revealed, that unless we have the Spirit of truth, the complete submission and consecration of our will to the will of the Lord, we cannot know His teaching. When the Apostle Paul saw the Saviour, and became convinced that He was the Christ the Son of God, his whole heart and soul were surrendered to His will. His heart was then in the anxious condition to know and to do whatever the Lord commanded. He meant every word when he said, "What wilt thou have me to do?" He was ready to do the Lord's will, and was therefore in the right condition of heart to know it.

Here is our pressing need to-day—a consecrated will, a determination to do whatever the Lord wants us to do. When we come up to this standard of practical personal life, then, and not till then, will we increase in the knowledge of God's will. When we are very anxious to find the way to Zion, then we will successfully inquire the way there. When we are committed heart and soul, hand, tongue, and pocket, to the service of the Lord, then the "Word of the Lord will be more desired than gold, yea, than much fine gold, sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb." But to know God's will without a consecrated life, would be to add to our misery in the great audit of the world: "For he who knoweth his Master's will and doeth it not, shall be beaten with many stripes."

May the time hasten when there shall be an increase of spirituality, devotion and consecration to the hungering for righteousness that we may be filled.

"BE NOT DECEIVED."

H. MURRAY.

To appear what we are not at heart clothes us in a false garb, and makes the outward unreal and the inward assumed. The heart may be deceitful and yet the deceit may not take shape in actions. The inward condition may be better or worse than appears outwardly. Either case is a deception. It is wrong to appear either better or worse than we really are, it is a forfeit of our truthfulness for the time being, and mortgages it for time to come.

We can deceive ourselves as easily as we can others. We must neither deceive nor "be deceived." The final result in either case will be ruin. We may think we are right and yet be deceived. Thinking we are does not make us right. Thinking we are poor is no sign of poverty. We know a lady who thinks she is so poor that she cannot pay anything for the support of the gospel, who paid four dollars for a silver ladle that she has never used and probably never will. She was deceived. Her poverty was in her mind. The brother who said he was too poor to help the mission work, yet who was giving dollars annually for what he chewed but did not swallow, was strangely and painfully deceived. The Christian (?) who is not working for the salvation of souls, who has no special interest in the church more than an "ark" for his own salvation, is under a deception that is simply a pious fraud. The one who clings to "doctrinal soundness and produces spiritual unsoundness," is deceived. Those who speak well of God but ill of their neighbors are deceived.

The church that thinks it is walking in the way of the Lord and fulfilling the mission of the church without employing a preacher, when possible, to hold forth the word of life, is unpardonably deceived. The idea that the *worship* of the church is the work of the church is a fearful deception. To meet on the Lord's day and attend to the ordinances of the Lord's house, and to sing, pray and talk is no more the *work* of the church than the sitting of a servant at a well-spread table is the work of his master. However faithful we may be in the worship of the Lord, it is of no value or profit unless it is supplemented by the work of the church in building up the cause of Christ in the salvation of souls and the enlarging her borders. Let us be very careful that we are not deceived and thereby lose our reward.

Home Mission Notes.

Our total receipts last month should have read \$707.96.

Brother R. E. Stevens has decided to labor in Pictou. Let us give him the aid that is necessary to make the work a success. Our prayers, our influence and our money is what is wanted now to establish primitive Christianity in that field. We have no more worthy people than the steadfast little band in P. ctou. May the word of the Lord have free course and be glorified there.

Brother Devoe has made three visits, and preached each time, at Gulliver's Cove. He reports good meetings and intends going again in August.

Bro. Blenus reports two more additions at Halifax, making sixteen added in the eleven months he has labored there. The attendance and interest this summer is good and more additions are expected.

We engaged Brother Wm. Murray to visit the Silver Falls church for two weeks. He also preached at Garnett, a point about twelve miles farther out. Two were received at Silver Falls, who had been previously baptized. The brethren were delighted with Brother William, and are anxious for him to return. They contributed freely to his support; we offered him some more for his labor but he refused to take it. So here is another good meeting held which has not cost us a cent. Who will be the next preacher to do likewise? Our receipts are splendid this month, but we must frankly say we are much disappointed in the amounts raised by some of our churches. We trust next year they will do better and thus become partakers of

the blessedness of spreading the gospel. We urge a careful reading of Brother Ryan's article in last month's CHRISTIAN, on our needs. Brethren, give heed to its excellent suggestions.

Our Annual is at hand, and every one should attend who has the interest of the cause in these provinces at heart. Business of importance will be transacted. The advice and counsel of our best members is needed, so that we may plan wisely for our future work.

We think there should be a change in our Mission Board. We think there should be a re-adjustment in the amounts voted at the annual, and many good brethren think it is not wise to bind the Board to give a definite sum to any church, but leave them free to distribute to each church or mission in *proportion* as the funds will allow.

We think some plan should be worked out so as to give our weaker churches the benefit of our best preachers. The stronger churches should be willing to do this; and it can be brought about by an exchange of pulpits, that, we think, would help both the churches and preachers.

We will also hear from our P. E. Island churches, in regard to uniting with us in the support of an evangelist.

Let us give this Annual our best attention, our most earnest prayers and our wisest counsel.

RECEIPTS.

Previously acknowledged,	\$707 96
Halifax, per T. H. Blenus,	50 00
Kempt, per Miss S. W. Freeman,	4 00
South Range, H A Devoe,	6 00
Elder Wm Murray,	1 00
St John, Mission Band,	4 85
do "M"	2 00
do A Brother, for Portland,	10 00
Newport, per B S Vaughn,	5 00
Lord's Cove, D F Lambert,	5 00
do do	18 75
Westport, per E C Bowers,	7 17
do Sunday-school, E C Bowers,	1 10
Milton, per Miss Freeman,	3 00
Tiverton, per J W Bolton,	6 00
Leonardville, per Wm Kay,	1 00
Southville, per H A DeVoe,	2 00
Brooklyn, N S, Mrs Dr Minard,	50

\$884 88

J. S. FLAGLOR,
Secretary.

Post Office, St. John.

Foreign Missions.

PROGRAMME.

C. W. B. M. MEETING.

1. Devotional exercise.
2. President's address.
3. Paper, Mrs. M. B. Ryan.
4. Address R. W. Stevenson.
5. Solo
6. Paper
7. Address Howard Murray.
8. Solo Susie B Ford.
9. Address and Appeal for Collection.

DEAR SISTERS,—I trust that you are all making preparations for our coming annual, and that very many of you will be present to assist in every way possible in making the meeting a success.

I would like to again remind you of the reports from your societies. Please state number of members, names of officers and amount collected during the year; also anything of interest in connection with your work, especially any plans that you have found helpful in enlisting others and in keeping alive the interest. Will you not