

THE CHRISTIAN.

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THE FOREIGN SOCIETY HAS ISSUED ITS ANNUAL REPORT.

This is a handsome pamphlet of eighty-three pages. It contains a full report of the Board of Managers; also a full report of the treasurer. At Indianapolis these reports were read only in part. They were too long to be read throughout. In addition, there is an account of the proceedings at the Convention. In addition to this there is a full account of the receipts of the Society for the year; also a list of the officers and the missionaries, and their addresses. This is just such a work as every intelligent Christian ought to have at hand. It should be read through carefully and then filed away for future reference. These reports will be even more valuable in the future than they are now. No one should destroy a copy of one of these reports. No one should think they are dry and uninteresting. Thousands of people helped to make this report. Every missionary in the field has contributed something. These short reports from the field are gems. The work of the year is described in the fullest possible words.

NOTES AND NEWS.

One of our successful young preachers writes: "I wish, too, that more of our preachers would write Church news. It makes a paper interesting, and tends to spur each other up to greater efforts." He always sends interesting items.

We intend cutting down the space formerly given to original contributions, and thus make room for selected articles. By so doing we give more variety to our readers, and hope to make the paper even more interesting. There will still be plenty room for short, original contributions.

We notice in the report of the F. C. M. Society that during the past year the Disciples of Christ in these provinces contributed \$360.74 for foreign missions through this Society. Of this amount the churches in New Brunswick gave \$117.44, the Sunday-schools \$22.29 and an individual \$10—a total of \$149.69. The churches in Nova Scotia gave \$99.50 the Sunday-school \$4.24, and individuals \$1.75—a total of \$105.49.

The churches in P. E. Island gave \$92.87, the Sunday-schools \$10.59, an individual \$1, and miscellaneous \$1.10—a total of \$105.56. In addition to this a large amount—but we know not how much—was contributed by the three provinces, especially for the support of Miss Ruoch.

Our readers should remember that the Crawford Jubilee will be held in the Christian Church, New Glasgow, P. E. I., on Dec. 16th, 1897. All contributions should be in the hands of R. W. Stevenson, Montague, P. E. I., not later than Dec. 10th. A list of the names of contributors will accompany the purse when it is presented.

A noted preacher recently delivered a sermon on "Hell: What is it and where is it?" We do not read that he told how to escape it, and this knowledge would be most desirable. However, if he described the place as Jesus was wont to, his hearers would probably be quite anxious to find a way of escape.

Another of our young preachers has gone—in the good old way; he has married a wife. On Thanksgiving day, S. W. Leonard was married to Miss Mary A. White of Sussex. THE CHRISTIAN extends hearty congratulations, and hopes that both may spend many happy years of earnest, successful toil in the vineyard of the Lord. We understand they go to Kentucky.

A few weeks ago one of our Louisville pastors preached a sermon on "Forsaking Christ," and, strange as it may seem, there were twenty-four additions to the church at the conclusion of the discourse. Perhaps they were prodigals who came back to their Father's House. If so, it is a pity the same sermon could not be preached in many churches with the same effect. It is needed very much.

What did you do with the financial statement enclosed in your paper last month? If you have sent the amount due, you have our sincere thanks; but if, for any reason, you have neglected to do so, we hope you will send the amount as early in December as possible. Only a few have heeded our call. We would much rather not write these "money notes," and if all our subscribers will pay up we will promise to write no more for a year. That is fair.

In a few weeks more, says the *Christian Oracle*, the Church of Christ will have nine houses of worship in Des Moines, Ia. Only fifteen years ago one small building held all the Disciples of Christ in that city. "What," the paper asks, "has caused this marvellous increase?" We would venture to reply that the increasing desire for Christian union, and the fact that the Disciples of Christ stand on the true basis of such union, are largely responsible for this rapid growth. Local conditions may have aided some.

How are you going to spend the long winter evenings? Many will waste them in pleasure or pollute them by sin. Be wise and

use them as opportunities for culture. "Give attention to reading." Do some systematic studying. "The Bethany Christian Endeavor Reading Course" is helpful and inspiring; there are three small hand-books for it: one on "Bible Study," by Pies. McGarvey; one on "Missions," by A. McLean, and one on "The Disciples," by B. B. Tyler. The three can be obtained from J. Z. Tyler, Cleveland, Ohio, for only one dollar.

The American Christian Missionary Society has issued its annual report. It is full of interesting facts. The churches do not support the work of the society as generously or as liberally as they should. The society starts out to raise \$100,000 this year for American Home Missions. The Maritime Provinces last year contributed to this general work \$119.50. Of this amount Nova Scotia gave \$72.50, New Brunswick \$46.00 and P. E. I. (which has never received any assistance from the Society) \$1.00. The Halifax church gives the largest amount—\$30.00.

We read in the *Christian Standard* that a Sunday-school superintendent in Omaha, on every Lord's day, after the lesson has been taught, takes about five minutes to press the claims of Christ upon the scholars. "After a short, earnest talk the gospel invitation is extended, and, not strange, but most naturally, they respond." We think it would be wise to give the invitation on at least each review Sunday. The teacher should have in view the bringing of the unconverted to Christ. This plan might be the best one to show how well they have learned the lessons of the quarter.

J. A. L. Romig held a meeting during November with the church in Plattsburg, Mo., for which T. H. Capp preaches. Of him Bro. Capp writes in the *Church Register*: "His method of conducting a meeting is simple; no catch-penny, clap-trap trickery, under-current maneuvering are employed. His sermons are interesting, instructive and Biblical. When presenting so-called doctrinal points, he makes no apology, but kindly presents what he believes to be God's will upon the subject. His denunciation of sin, his presentation of better things, his earnest pleadings with the sinner to forsake his ways, and his own exemplary conduct make him beloved by all."

Behold what ten years of earnest, united labor will bring forth! In 1887, in thirteen counties of West Pennsylvania, there were only 1,940 Disciples of Christ, and in 1897 there are 12,113. One county shows an increase from 0 to 500, and another from 208 to 1,878. These are eloquent figures. They tell plainly that co-operative mission work, well supported and wisely prosecuted, will give large returns. The Home Mission Board of West Pennsylvania is entitled to great praise for its management of the work committed to its care. But it never could have been successful if the churches had not given liberally. Let our churches—all of them—generously contribute to our Home Mission work.