

ditions and the meeting was being continued. We suppose parental opposition explains why the number baptized is nearly always smaller than the number who make the good confession.

The next issue of the CHRISTIAN will appear about June 22nd, and will contain important announcements of great interest to the brethren in P. E. Island. Will our correspondents please make a note of the date, and govern themselves accordingly.

A brother for whose culture, piety and ability we have great respect, surprises us by saying, at the recent congress in St. Louis, that "very likely we shall come at last to find that the book is inspired because it is true, rather than that it is true because it is inspired." This is about as bad as the statement of another brother who believed the Bible to be inspired because it inspired him. It is strange that such diligent efforts should be made to bring down the Bible to the level of other good books.

The Christian Evangelist tells us that at the Congress at St. Louis (we call it a school for speculation), "it was agreed on all hands, that we must have a theology." We find the best answer to that in the same paper, of the same date, when it says of Calvinism: "Who can tell how many characters have been dwarfed or deprived of greatness, or turned into infidelity by its influence?" Perhaps we can get on without a theology a little longer. We have done very well so far without one, and we do not see why we must have a theology in the future.

The May Collection for Home Missions has been taken up by many churches and the reports are encouraging. The First Church, Allegheny, Pa., gives \$700; so does the Central, Cincinnati. The Walnut Hills Church, Cincinnati, gives \$609. The Central Church, St. Louis, gives \$650. Some churches have greatly increased their offerings over last year's. For instance, the contribution of the Euclid Ave. Church, Cleveland, O., has gone from \$195 to \$400; of the East End Church, Pittsburg, Pa., from \$150 to \$300; of the Seventh St. Church, Richmond, Va., from \$50 to \$300. This gives grounds for hoping that the \$100,000 asked for will be raised.

News of the Churches.

ST. JOHN, N. B.

COBURG STREET.

Since the last issue of the CHRISTIAN we have had two additions by confession and baptism, and one from the Baptists.

Bro. O. B. Stockford, one of our active and working members left here on the 9th of May to take up his abode in Rainy River, Western Ontario. On Monday evening (8th) at the young people's meeting, he was presented with a Bible and an address by the church and congregation as a slight token of the esteem in which he was held, to which he made a suitable reply. Bro. Stockford has been doing missionary work at Silver Falls and Garnett Settlement on Lord's days.

Bro Howard Murray left on the D. A. R. steamer "Prince Edward" on Wednesday, to fill an appointment at Gulliver's Cove. During his six months' pastorate, he has made many friends and is much beloved by the members of the church not only here, but at North end, Silver Falls and Nauwigewauk.

The young people's meeting on Monday evening (28th) was a very interesting one, the subject being "Established in Heart." A large number took part and Bro. H. Murray was the leader.

The young people will hold a meeting every second Friday evening in the month, at the Seamen's Mission. Other churches have one night for the same purpose.

Bro. Stewart arrived in the city on the C. P. R. on Tuesday, 30th, after an absence of six months in the south, and is looking well.

The annual business meeting was held on Tuesday May 9th. Trustees were elected for the year and reports of the treasurer, secretary, and relief fund were read. Bro. Stewart was engaged for another year.

Bro. E. Stevens and wife arrived in our city on Tuesday (30th), on their way to Cornwallis, N. S. Bro. S. will assume the pastorate of the church there.

HALIFAX, N. S.

Since my last report the church in Halifax has again had to say good-bye to four more of its worthy members. Two weeks ago Bro. and Sister James Stevens, with their daughter, Sister H. L. Wallace, and her three children, left for Montreal, and the same week our young Bro John Brown left for Boston. We feel the loss of these very keenly. How much we miss their companionship, their counsel and words of cheer, cannot be put in words. Thus in one year, counting the children as well, fully thirty-four have been lost to this little congregation, twenty two of whom were members of the church. This is a serious loss and a heavy blow to the cause we plead in this city. But we have true and faithful ones left, and we believe the Lord is with us, and his cause will be sustained in this town, notwithstanding all these discouragements.

Our good Sister Cornick made us a short visit of a week or two and then returned to Massachusetts. But while we are mourning the loss of those whom we have long known and loved, we are glad to welcome some back who have been away for some time. We are very glad to see our Sister Carrington with us again after an absence of two years. We are also glad to see our young Sister Grace Crawford with us again after an absence of nearly a year. The return of even a few cheers us in our work.

Two weeks ago I baptized a young man who came in from Shubenacadie for this purpose. This young brother has been doing evangelistic work among the Presbyterians for about two years, but having met some Aquilas and Priscillas about six months ago in Shubenacadie, was led to study the Word of God more intelligently, and as a result he came to the conclusion that he was an unbaptized man. Hence, this step that he has taken. One of our brethren accompanied him, assuring us that the young brother was worthy. We believe a bright future is before him as a worker in the vineyard of the Lord. He will probably attend one of our colleges and prepare himself for the work of the ministry, in which field he can be very useful.

When we had been in our new home just two or three days our friends gave us a surprise by coming in on us one evening uninvited and took possession of us and the house. They were considerate, though, and brought plenty cake and coffee, which made us good-natured. In the course of the evening we were called to the floor, when a very pleasant address was read by Bro. Richardson, expressing the appreciation of the brethren for the work we are doing, and their hearty interest in our welfare, and at the same time presented us

with a very nice secretary and centre table, and a nice book rack and fern holder. The whole thing was a genuine surprise and highly appreciated by the preacher and his wife. It was certainly a real profitable and pleasant house warming. The Halifax brethren know how to do this thing. But while I am on this subject I must not forget to mention a very pleasant reception the friends in Cornwallis gave us while we were with them for a few days some four weeks ago. Between thirty and forty met at the parsonage, our old home, where we have met our friends so many times, and spent a very pleasant evening, and enjoyed the good things they brought with them. This was a very happy re-union, and gave us the opportunity of seeing many of our friends, whom otherwise we could not have seen, as our stay was necessarily so short.

I am hoping that in the near future the church in Cornwallis will have a preacher settled among them.

E. C. FORD.

HANTS COUNTY.

Cold winter, which held us so long in its hard grasp, has gone, and spring, with its loveliness, for which a few weeks ago we were rather impatiently waiting, has gladdened our hearts by its return. Our life here has been compared to the seasons; childhood to spring, youth to summer, manhood to autumn, and age to winter. As the seasons rapidly follow each other, so we pass through the periods of our years, childhood, youth, manhood, age. Then what? When the seasons have revolved their course, without delay they repeat the circle; but we will not repeat the circuit of our life, but enter that higher state not measured by the flight of years.

Bro. Wm. Murray is again in Newport. His preaching for several months last summer was very helpful to the little church there. I have been visiting those brethren once a month until they can be better supplied.

Shubenacadie had the benefit of several discourses in the winter by Bro. Frank Ford, which were, I learn, very acceptable to the church at that point.

Bro. E. C. Ford, of Halifax, is supplying Elmsdale by preaching the first Monday evening in each month.

Sister McNeil, wife of Bro. A. McNeil, a very faithful and intelligent disciple of that church, has for some time been very ill, and has been much missed from Bible class and meetings.

A few days since two obeyed the gospel at West Gore, and I am hoping that others who have come to sufficient age and knowledge will soon heed the call of Christ as these have done.

Last Saturday we buried Bro. Erwin Wallace, son of John T. Wallace, at the age of nearly 32 years. Eleven years ago he went to Fresno, California, being engaged the most of that time in the fire department of that city. There he obeyed the gospel and became a member of the Christian Church under the pastoral care of W. C. Martin. Nearly three years ago his health was broken, and since that time consumption has marked him for its victim. Of late, but when it was too late, he determined to return home. He reached Shubenacadie, twenty miles from home, and died there thirty-three hours after his arrival. Not knowing death was so near, he sent no despatch to his father, and the family knew not he had come until his death. That they could not have seen him again before his death, when he had come so near them, could not but increase their sorrow. How blessed to be able, in the time of sorrow, to look to Him who comforts those who are cast down.