

the living. The Christian life is real and earnest and the grave is not its goal. It is a life full of activity. There are those who profess the Christian life but do as little as possible, while there are Christians who do as much as possible. The name of the Christian is to follow Christ, to live as he lived and to love as he loved, and to suffer, if needed, as he suffered. Christ was born a worker and respected the worker, high or low, rich or poor, black or white. He protected the dignity of labor. Many are ready to say that this working and talking about another life is only sentiment and poetry, and will do for dreamers and those who have nothing else to think about. But what does our Guide Book think about it. "O that they were wise and would consider their last end." "Make me to know my end and the measure of my days." "Teach me to number my days that I may apply my heart unto wisdom."

This true life is not asking for ease or for health or wealth, but that God's will may be done on earth as it is done in heaven. It is an entire, complete surrender of self and a submission to him upon whose head has been placed the crown of authority, and in whose hands the sceptre of universal power. It is in fact the bringing forth the royal diadem and crowning Him Lord of all. It is the part of the Christian to see that the will of Christ is done whatever may be the sacrifice, we need have no fears as to the results. If we are faithful to the will of God he will fulfil in us all that is needful and noble. Here is the question we should ask every day, "Are we working out in our lives the will of God." We know that it is his will that we should know the truth in order that we may do it.

But just here is a danger that we should escape *i. e.*, in being satisfied with the knowledge of the truth. Some one has said that a "knowledge of God's will in order that we may do it is more than a rattling skeleton of abstract dogmas very many and very dry." As sure as we live we are in danger of an unpractical, unworkable theology; "having a form of godliness but destitute of the power." Does our Christianity work, is the question the world is asking. Knowledge is good only when it works and molds conduct and character. "What God has joined together let no man put asunder." We must have this true and profound conception of truth that it is not only a revelation but an inspiration that will lead us to noble deeds. There was one thing especially commendable in the return of the prodigal to his father and his home. He went back to work. "Make me as one of thy hired servants." To work for his father was his ideal life, and how ready his father was to receive him and help and bless him. Here should be our highest joy to serve the cause we have espoused. We have the assurance that we will not have to work alone. Our partner is the Lord himself. He has promised never to forsake us.

He only lives who is seeking to know God's will and to do it to the best of his ability. They who live in pleasure are dead while they live. The future life will be just what we make it here. We are weaving here the tissue of the life to come. The Christian life is the noblest life that can animate our hopes. A true, unblemished manhood is the Father's great aim and work through his son. As Alex. McLaren has said: "We ought to keep very clear before us this as the crowning object of Christianity not to make men happy except as a consequence of holiness, not to deliver from penalty except as a means of holiness, but to make them holy and being holy to set them close to the throne of God."

HOME MISSIONS.

E. C. FORD.

The subject of home missions is very largely in evidence just now, and, it is hoped, will receive the consideration its importance demands. The churches in these provinces are being asked to co-operate with the American Christian Missionary Society in evangelizing America, and this, in the practical language of this the mother of all our missionary societies, means the Dominion of Canada as well as the United States. Of this we have the assurance of their good faith in the fact that in different parts of this dominion of ours the American Board is assisting the work in weak points, thus showing that the board knows nothing of national boundaries in the kingdom of God. Hence, while this May collection is taken, especially in the interest of the A. C. M. S., indirectly it is as much for the aid of our home work as though it were taken directly for this purpose.

There are many reasons why all our churches in these provinces should take this collection the first Lord's day in May, or as near that date as possible, only a few of which can be named in this paper. 1st. The churches should show their appreciation of the broad-minded international and Christian spirit manifested by our great brotherhood in the United States toward the struggling churches in these provinces and in other parts of Canada; and there is no possible way by which our appreciation can be made so forcible as by a hearty and liberal offering to aid the American Board in evangelizing America.

2nd. Our work in these provinces demands this of our churches. If the aid of this Board is to be continued, the churches must see to it that something is done in return for all the help we have been receiving in all these years. It is a fact that we have been receiving more than three dollars from the American Board for every one dollar the churches in these provinces have paid to help the Board. This one fact alone should wake us up to our duty. The success of the work in Picton is worth much more than all it has cost. Notwithstanding the liberality of Bro. Fullerton, this work could not have been sustained but for the aid given it by the American Board, and our own Home Mission Board. And now, that such a glorious victory has been gained, we cannot afford to see the work crippled for the want of support just when that heroic little band of disciples are almost ready to stand alone.

But there is danger of this if this May collection does not exceed any of other years. It must be remembered that there are far more demands on this Board for help than they are able to grant; and unless their hands are strengthened some of the interests must suffer. In the interest, then, of our mission points in this province, and the future of our work of evangelizing these provinces, I make this earnest appeal to all our churches to see to it that this offering is made in the interest of our common cause. The success of this, and all other missionary collections, largely depends on the interest taken in them by the preachers. The people are generally willing to give toward every good work if they have the opportunity.

But I must close this appeal, as my letter is getting too long already, with the promise of writing in the interest of the mission work in these provinces in the next CHRISTIAN. The strong appeal of the president of our home board, Bro. L. A. Miles, in last CHRISTIAN, was read with interest, and should bring many substantial responses in the shape of paid-up pledges and voluntary contributions to our Home Mission Board.

MARITIME PROVINCES

OF CANADA.

AN URGENT MATTER.

About three years ago the members of the Coburg Street congregation at St. John, N. B., Canada, began mission work in the North End of the city. Notwithstanding many and severe difficulties the work has continued to grow and develop until a lot was purchased and a church building begun. Soon after this fire reduced to ashes a large part of the North End and the mission was thus deprived of financial assistance that would otherwise have been available. Nevertheless the work was continued until it is now well along toward completion, but after every effort and sacrifice to finish it the building is now at a standstill.

All who are acquainted with the Maritime Provinces know the important position of St. John and will understand the powerful influence that will be exerted throughout these Provinces by the success or failure of this effort to plant a congregation for the teaching of Apostolic Christianity. In this time of need a call is made to the brethren who have gone from the Provinces to settle in the United States. The work of Christ in their old home land may be greatly built up by the ready and liberal response of those who have gone out from her. We therefore most earnestly appeal for immediate help from all who read this.

A friend of the work has generously given a large number of the "Acadian Vistas" to be used for the benefit of the new building. It is a beautifully printed book, six by nine, and contains about a hundred views of the Maritime Provinces. These views are excellent in every way and cannot fail to be appreciated by anyone who has visited or lived in the Provinces. A copy of this book will be sent post-paid in acknowledgment of contributions of a dollar or more, and all monies received will be devoted to the completion of the new building.

In behalf of the North End Mission,

J. C. B. APPEL,
JAS. W. BARNES, } *Building*
ROBERT ROBERTS. } *Committee.*

Address:—J. CHAS. B. APPEL,
St. John, N. B.

Home Missions.

Address all communications and remittances to W. A. Barnes, Secretary, 110 St. James Street, St. John, N. B.]

\$1,500 for Home Missions!

500 Souls for Christ!

THE MAY OFFERING.

Let all the Churches remember the May Offering for the American Christian Missionary Society, the first Lord's day in May (6th). For some years they have helped the cause in these Provinces, and are willing to aid further. This will depend somewhat on the offering that our churches give. If each church will send an offering it will show that they are interested in our home mission work. Send your offering to Bonj. L. Smith, Y. M. C. A. Bldg., Cincinnati, O.

Why don't the Board get an evangelist? How many have said this and have never