

The Christian.

ST. JOHN. N. B., - - - - - JUNE, 1895

EDITORIAL.

SEEKING THE LOST TO SAVE THEM.

For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.—John xix. 10.

The above leads us to consider—

I. The great Missionary.

II. His mission.

I. Jesus, the great missionary, is an extraordinary person. He is human and divine. When speaking of himself the human is prominent; when his disciples speak of him his divine nature stands pre-eminent. They are saved by believing with all their heart that Jesus is the Son of the living God, confessing it before men and holding fast that good confession till death. Jesus calls himself the Son of Man, virtually telling every man and woman on the globe, "I am your brother. You partake of flesh and blood, so do I; you live on earth far away from heaven and happiness; I came all that way to live with you. You are tempted to sin, so was I; you may suffer from sickness, cold and hunger, I have suffered all these things. Even death itself awaits you, I have felt its bitter sting."

Jesus was God's first missionary to the whole world. He came down from heaven to do the will of him that sent him. Not to condemn the world, but to save it. His history fully testifies that he was sent on a mission from the Father, and would again return to God.

II. His mission was to seek and to save the lost. It was entirely different from what the scribes and Pharisees expected of their Messiah. It was two-fold—to seek the lost and to save the lost. He might have come to seek the lost to judge and punish them, but he came not to judge the world, but to save the world. Instead of asking the lost to come to him, or waiting for them to come, he came to find them out so that he might save them. Who ever heard of a nation or a single individual seeking after Christ or his salvation. Man never goes after the gospel till he is first sought out. He is too completely lost for that, but Jesus seeks men that He might save them. This was his work when he was on earth. And when leaving the world and going to the Father, it was his last solemn command to his Apostles to seek the lost that He might save them. The grand work of the Apostles till their death was to seek the lost and point them to Jesus, and through them and the converts they made, the Son of Man is still seeking and saving the lost.

At the present day the lost are found in the same way. Jesus tells his true disciples, "Ye are the light of the world," because they tell the lost of his dying love and anxiety to save them. Their own joy and peace in believing stir up their heart's desire and prayer to God that others may be saved. They feel anxious to

"Tell to those around
What a blest Saviour they have found."

And when opportunity offers, they cheerfully assist in sending the gospel to "the regions beyond."

When John Williams, who was afterwards killed and eaten on the island of Erromanga, preached the gospel on Rorotanga and a large number of the natives were saved, he held a missionary meeting one night. "You remember," he said, "how dismal was your state when you were in dark idolatry, and how happy you are now in Christ's salvation?" "O yes!" they replied, "Well," he said, "it was Christ's people who sent you the gospel. Would you not like to send it to those islands that are now as you were once?" "Yes, we would," they replied, "but we have no money and can't raise any. Will you tell us how to make some money?" He said, "If you would take a number of those hogs (which were abundant on the island) kill and dress them, the captains of these ships in the harbor would buy the pork." That night he could not sleep for the squealing of the hogs. They were so delighted to get money that they could not wait for daylight, but had the carcasses all ready, and the next day took a considerable sum for them which they gave for the mission. Nearly all these islands have embraced Christianity, and not only support the gospel at home, but send money to other parts. Before Williams' death, he had the joyful satisfaction of seeing very many turn to the Lord.

When we compare the attitude of the so-called Christian world to Foreign Mission with that of a hundred years ago, we can but exclaim, "What hath God wrought."

In 1792, William Carey was considered even by many of his own brethren, as fitter for an insane asylum than a Christian pulpit, because he insisted in going to India to preach the gospel. The society which favored him raised less than a hundred dollars for his mission. In 1891, the same society proposed to raise one million dollars for the same mission. Among the many things the Lord enabled him to do but one will here be mentioned. He and his associates translated the Bible into about forty languages and dialects of India, and thus left the Word of God to be read by its hundreds of millions until the end of time.

Our own brethren are interested in Foreign Mission, and although this interest may not be as intense and widespread as could be desired, yet we rejoice, yea, and will rejoice, that it is steadily increasing. Our brethren and sisters who have left friends and the endearments of home to tell dying heathen why the Son of Man came from heaven to earth, and what he has done and suffered to save them, are meeting with encouraging success; and although climate and the mode of living are constantly admonishing them of sufferings and premature death, yet none of these things move them, nor do they seem to count their life dear unto themselves, so that they may finish their course with joy, and the ministry which they have received, etc. We observe with joy the increasing efforts in

these provinces to sound out the Word of the Lord to those who have it not, and we are not without hope that even the little the CHRISTIAN has been doing to aid and encourage the work, will not be overlooked by Him who counts the hairs of our head.

We would earnestly and affectionately ask our readers' attitude to Foreign Missions. We can hardly ask—are you for or against it. The latter seems too revolting to think of. But what are you doing or planning to do? The heathen are dying in darkness. Will you send them the gospel or not? Will you plan to lay money by for that purpose, and earnestly pray for their salvation, or will you lay money by for other calls and let this call go unheard? Decide deliberately, for the judge stands at the door.

We think that our brethren, above all others, should be earnest in having the gospel preached in all the world, for at least the following reasons:—1st. We believe that the good seed is the *Word of God*, and it is where that word is received into honest hearts there will be joy and salvation. Hence all men should hear it. 2nd. No people are better pleased with preaching the Saviour's last commission than we, because Jesus tells so plainly in it how he determines to save sinners, and no anxious inquirer need remain away from Christ. Why should we insist on obeying the last part of the commission more than on the first part? It is right to be clear and positive on the last part. "This ought ye to have done and not to leave the other undone."

Original Contributions.

A CAPITAL SUGGESTION.

A few weeks ago Bro. J. S. Flaglor suggested to me that in the interest of the work in Halifax the preachers attending the annual there in August agree to pay their own expenses and that the usual collection for that purpose be taken to aid in paying off the debt on the meeting-house. This suggestion meets my hearty approval, as, I believe, it also will that of all my preaching brethren in these provinces. But this means a contribution of from \$5.00 to \$10.00 from our preachers, this being about the amount they usually receive from this collection. But I am sure that every one of our preachers will feel it a privilege to make this little offering for so worthy a cause.

My object in speaking of this thus early through the columns of THE CHRISTIAN is to bring this matter before the brethren generally, feeling assured that there are many of them as deeply interested in the cause we plead in Halifax as the preachers, and will gladly avail themselves of this opportunity of contributing as liberally as the preachers toward paying off this debt. There may be those, too, who may not be able to attend this meeting who will be glad to send their Christian greetings in the shape of a \$5.00, \$10.00, or a \$20.00 contribution to help swell