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FAITH COMETH BY HEARING, AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD.—Paul.

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AN NEW YEAR.

LET it be a grand year for the cause of Christ.

AND don't forget to pay your subscription for this year's CHRISTIAN.

You should also make an effort to gain at least one new subscriber. Bear in mind that the paper is published in the interests of missionary work in the Maritime provinces, and every dollar (above actual expense of printing) is expended in preaching the gospel.

NOTICE THIS.—The Cecil St. Church in Toronto, for which Bro. Lhamon preaches, is carrying a heavy debt which should be removed as soon as possible. Toronto is a centre of commerce, culture and influence, and a strong, working untrammelled church in that city means much to the Disciples of Christ in Ontario and the rest of Canada. A united effort should be made to wipe out this debt.

NOTICE THIS ALSO.—The *Missionary Intelligencer* is one of the best papers published by the Disciples of Christ. It is issued monthly, and is a magazine of knowledge and of power. It tells of the missionary fields at home and abroad, the needs of the people, and the triumphs of the gospel. It is an interesting paper, and the subscription price is only 50 cents per year, or 40 cents in clubs of ten.

NOW NOTICE THIS.—In view of some literary work that Bro. Lhamon is doing for the *Missionary Intelligencer*, the publishers have agreed to give the proceeds from the circulation in Canada for the Cecil St. Church building fund. Here is a chance to benefit yourself and at the same time help others; and who will not take this chance and subscribe? Take two copies if you can. Subscribe through Jas. D. Higgins, 9 Adelaide Street, East, Toronto.

ELDER F. T. NORTON, of Lexington, Ky., has recently held at Antioch church one of the most interesting and successful meetings ever held in this part of the county. The result of his seven days' labor being 46 additions to the church. Bro. Norton is just 26 years old, yet as an orator and expounder of the gospel he has few equals. His sermons are full of gospel truths, and his exhortations reach the hearts of the people. Happy is the church that has him for a leader. Elder Norton will preach once a month at Shiloh in Anderson county for the ensuing year.—*Kentucky Paper.*

The border line between the old year and the new year has become a favorite place for reflection and resolution. Only few can fail to realize the onward flight of time, and the drawing nearer of their final year. The

mile posts are passed with great rapidity. How they seem to fly backward! Those before are shrouded in impenetrable gloom, and how many there may be for us to reach, and for the world to pass, no one can tell. It may be well for all to pause a moment on the dividing line, and take one searching glance over the distance traversed in the last year, and to count up its gains and its losses, its helps and its hindrances, its failures and its successes; and to do this not merely in compliance with a time honored custom, but that the lessons of the past may be guiding stars for the future. It is vain now to hope to change the record of the dying year, to call back its lost opportunities, or to live it over again. The evil and the good are written in pages more enduring than the most imperishable marble. If there should come to us the full significance of the thought that we pass through life but once, and never are permitted to go backward in time, we would undoubtedly give greater heed to our steps. But how many hurry away from opportunities, or lie contentedly and let these bright moments sweep by without even a lazy recognition. A little introspection would show to many a man that he is no better now than he was twelve months ago, that his influence is no more potent for right, that his light is no brighter and no steadier. The days and months have advanced, but there has been no advance in holiness. This is a reflection to make one sad. But how many there are if they reflect at all who must stand before this lamentable fact. And these lines may be read by some who have gone backward in spirituality, while the year has been carrying them onward to the grave. Their love has grown cold, their efforts have slackened or ceased. There is a case calling for sackcloth and ashes, and a bold and prompt determination to change the course which is leading them into the deepest depths of densest darkness. All honor to that glorious band of ceiling saints who have been steadily climbing, who from their present vantage ground see behind them duties done in loving obedience to Christ, and who see before them, growing brighter and brighter each day, the path that leads to God. How may this band be increased?

Every new year means so many new opportunities and responsibilities; and in the religious world this is strikingly true.

Reading and Praying. There naturally comes up the question, how can I gain power for usefulness and expend that power in the most effective way? What programme shall I lay out for myself? Let this year be one of earnest Bible study and impetuous, secret prayer. In the rush of business cares and family anxieties, and in the pressure of social engagements and demands, there is danger that the Bible will be neglected and that the closet will be forsaken. The publication and sale of cheap books is not an unmixed evil. The daily paper with its sensations and its news has not elevated the world's Great Book nor developed a strong love for its teaching. It may be set down as an almost inflexible rule

that the book or the paper that destroys the appetite for scriptural study, is not worthy of our most serious attention, and should have no claim upon our time. It is an enemy to our best interests. Many a designing effort is being made to show that the word of God is not of great value in this advanced and progressing age. It might be during the intellectual infancy of the race when man had to walk by faith; but now, they say, man can walk in the light of his own reason. He can, but whither? Toward rationalism, materialism, infidelity, and perdition; not toward holiness, helpfulness, and heaven. There cannot be the strong Christians whom the times demand, unless there is constant feeding upon the Word of Truth. How that shall bring strength may seem mysterious, but it is not more remarkable than what we daily see in the material world. Bread and meat are converted into physical energy, and the Bread of Life brings spiritual power to him who feeds thereon. It places a sword in his hand, and gives him strength to use it against his spiritual foes. It would be well if this year should see a greater interest in the study of the Holy Scriptures, and a more general and frequent recourse to the chamber of secret prayer. These two privileges are anchors to the soul, and no one will drift very far who neglects neither.

There are those who cannot meet with their brethren and sisters in public worship. The infirmities of age may have fallen upon them, or the hand of an unmerciful disease may hold them fast. There are many too, who must necessarily stay at home from time to time, and some times frequently, but their hearts are with those gathered the house of the Lord. But in every community it is easy to find some who have no great inclination toward the church, except when there is a concert or a sociable. There are even professing Christians who could easily be present who come but once in a while to public worship,—and they really profess to be Christians; if they die they hope go to heaven, and they would be very much disappointed if at the funeral a hint should be given that they had found their own place somewhere else. Here they neglect the Lord's table, and very generally there is a good reason. The church member who voluntarily keeps away from the communion table puts himself under the suspicion that he is not walking as he should in his daily life. He advertises his character and his advertisement is read by many. Those who fail to remember the Lord's death are nearly always sure to fail in being present at the prayer-meeting. The atmosphere is not congenial, the surroundings and the devotions are apt to condemn them, and no one wants to be condemned before the time. The church-going people are the choice spirits of the earth and they are the ones who are journeying Zionward. They go for the good they receive, for the strength and comfort they obtain, and they go for the good example they can set, for the silent influence they may exert for the sake of truth and righteousness. It would be well if the members of all our churches could be famous for church-going—not the church-going which glories in simply being present, but the church-going which springs from pure desires and hallowed longings—to be Christ-like in life and