

# THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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## The Christian.

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BRO. W. MURRAY is now with the brethren in East Machias.

We are glad to see that Bro. Emery has still a warm place in the affections of the brethren among whom he is laboring.

BRETHREN, remember the Mission Fund. We are helping to sustain two brethren in the work of the Lord. There are others who need assistance to work as they would wish, but we lack the means.

BRO. H. DeVoe writes—How came the term Rev. to my name in the marriage notices of January issue. Well it was not your fault, Bro. DeVoe, the printer by mistake put it there and it escaped the eye of the proof reader.

BRO. MURRAY's article, "Retrospective," renders unnecessary any further reference to the erroneous inferences that might be drawn when comparing the reports of ten years ago with that of our last.

WORD reaches us that Bro. Hammond Smith has been, and is, very sick. It was thought, at one time, that he would never be able to preach again, but later accounts speak more hopefully of his recovery. Bro. Smith has been laboring with the brethren at Summerside and Tignish, P. E. I. He is much beloved by these brethren, and their prayers (and ours) to the throne of grace, is, O, Father, if possible let this cup of affliction pass from him and restore him again to the work of his Master.

The article on "Home Mission," page 6, was written for Our Young Peoples' Mission Band—which meets the first Friday in each month. Evenings spent in listening to such kind words of truth and soberness can not be otherwise than pleasant and profitable.

BRO. W. A. WATKINS now laboring with the brethren of Lubec, Me., writes in a most complimentary manner of the brethren and friends in his present field of labor. And from a personal experience with these friends we know that every word he says is true.

Our highly esteemed Bro. Minnick, formerly of Lubec, Me., but now of Norfolk, Va., in addition to an article found on page 4, writes us, that since undertaking his present work in September, the . . . ences, though small, are growing. His labors

have been blessed—seven having united by letter and eight by obedience to the Saviour.

THE WEATHER during the past month has been exceptionally fine. The oldest residents say—"Never saw such a mild winter—and so little snow for the time of year." Some persons call it unseasonably, but would enjoy it but for the KNOWLEDGE they have—that before the season is over something just awful will happen.

In an exchange we see that A. B. Chandler of Bowling Green, Va., attributes the want of success in Church work to two causes. "One is in the pulpit and one in the pews. The first is that too many men not qualified insist on preaching, and the second is that the saints in the pews want a better quality of preaching than they are willing to pay for. These words of an observant and zealous layman will do to think over. The two evils can be and ought to be speedily remedied."

We have received a copy of *The Apostolic Guide*, a weekly of sixteen pages, published in Louisville, Ky., at \$1.75 per year. In looking through its columns our verdict is, that it is a grand paper. It could scarcely be otherwise, when for its leading spirits it has such men as C. P. Williamson, R. T. Matthews and J. W. McFarvey. Should any of our readers in these parts need a paper that is instructive and helpful in the Christian life, we feel safe in commending *The Apostolic Guide*. Address: Guide printing and publishing company, Louisville, Ky.

THE following, taken from *The Christian Leader*, will be read with pleasure by all who know Bro. Wallace. May God bless him in his work of faith and labor of love.

On Monday, December 31st, the brethren and friends made their annual donation visit to Bro. J. B. Wallace, at his residence, Pleasant Valley. They came with full baskets, with open hearts and pockets, and, although the day was dark and rainy, a good number gathered and spent a very pleasant evening. The wants of the inner man were generously supplied, and we felt it was good to be there. The rest of the evening was enjoyably passed in social converse, with music, vocal and instrumental, some stirring recitations by Sister Agnes Wallace, and a poem, called "The Happy Women," composed for the occasion, and recited, after some remarks by Bro. D. McDougall. During the evening a pitcher was presented to Bro. Wallace, containing upward of fifty dollars cash, accompanied with a speech by Bro. John McDougall. Bro. Wallace expressed his thanks in feeling terms, and gave a little talk that did us all good. Bro. Wallace has labored faithfully and well. He, with his family have passed under dark clouds, and we think it good to try to brighten their entrance upon a new year, and do what we can to make it to them a Happy New Year.

We, as a people, are advocating that Christianity can and should exist independent of sectarianism, that it is broader, deeper, higher and grander than any human system or "ism" in the world; that all the professed followers of the Saviour should return to the spirit and practice of primitive Christianity. We have contended that there is a common ground to which a large part, at least, of so called Christianity can come without the sacrifice of principle, requiring only the setting aside of a few confessedly cherished preferences that receive no encouragement in God's Book. Among other points we have ever

pressed to the front this one, that to recognize the name of any man, man, office or command, as a religious designation is wrong. We are not authorized to take any one truth, and exalt it high above the heads of its fellows. When we do this we are in fact violating the doctrine of the Bible—we are placing a barrier in the way of that union for which our Saviour prayed so earnestly. In keeping with the above are the words of Dr. Adam Clarke (Methodist), when referring to Act. XI. 26—the Disciples were called Christians at Antioch.

How very few of those who profess this religion are satisfied with the title. That very church that arrogates all to itself has totally abandoned this, and its members call themselves Roman Catholics, which is absurd, because the adjective and substantive includes opposite ideas, catholic signifies universal, and Roman signifies of or belonging to Rome. . . . The term Protestant has more common sense in it; but not much more piety. Almost all sects or parties proceed in the same line; but Christian is a title seldom heard of and the spirit and practice of Christianity but rarely occur. When all return to the spirit of the gospel they will probably resume—the appellation of Christian.

SOME one has divided church members into two classes—grumblers, and workers—the grumblers haven't time to work, and the workers haven't time to grumble. Yes, how true this is, we find some that do nothing else but object. When dead and laid away in the cold grave there epitaph if correctly written would simply be—"He was good on an argument." Yes, it was the only thing he was good on. And why not, seeing that anything else scarcely ever arrested his attention. When he gave it was to quote the words of a certain class, NOTHING to nobody. He would waste a whole afternoon in arguing some trivial point yet, not give a cent for missions. He opposed Sunday-schools as being anti-scriptural, and yet spent the Lord's day afternoon in lounging about the house, snoozing, chewing tobacco, smoking, or taking a walk, discussed politics or anything else to WEAR away the time. And do you know all such characters are not dead yet. We have in our mind's eye at this very moment, a number of just such men. Let each one ask himself—Do I belong to the grumblers, am I only good on an argument.

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