

In the evening the home of this worthy couple was crowded with guests, who whiled away the happy hours in songs and happy conversation.

TURUA, Auckland, N. Z.,
20th November, 1897.

ELDER D. CRAWFORD, New Glasgow, P. E. I.

My Dear Bro.—By a notice which appeared in THE CHRISTIAN, I find that the church and the brethren are about to make a presentation on the occasion of your jubilee as a preacher. I need hardly assure you that we were very much pleased to see this spontaneous action on the part of those who have so long been the recipients of your labors, and we feel that we would like to join in the movement.

The time fixed in which to communicate with Bro. R. W. S. is too short for our contribution to be sent to him so as to be added to the fund which he will receive; but to be as near in time as the mail arrangements will allow, we have decided to send direct to you.

I enclose a P. O. O. for £5, contributed by the brethren here, and with it we send our very best thanks for the invaluable Christian teaching received from you, and our earnest wishes and prayers for your peace and joy all your days here below and a happy entrance into the home above.

I remain, on behalf of the brethren at Turua,
Your loving brother,

LEMUEL J. BAGNALL

[The above, from so small a church, manifests a true Christian affection.—ED.]

Original Contributions.

CHRISTIANITY MORE THAN SENTIMENT.

T. H. BLENUM,

There are doubtless some truths taught in the Bible about which mistakes do not make us guilty of fundamental error; and, on the other hand, it is equally true that there are great principles there taught that we must believe and act upon understandingly before we can claim to be the children of God. It is the practical reception of the truth of the cardinal principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ that determines in us the true spirit and genius of Godliness. I also believe it is possible to have a speculative belief in these cardinal principles without having a particle of vital Christianity in the soul.

Many a struggling church is cursed with this kind of religion, all head and no heart, all blow, and brag and bluster, but devoid of goodness, justness, holiness and purity in heart and life. Christianity is never inconsistent with itself. All truth is consistent. Lies, deceptions, double-dealing and hypocrisy are all inconsistent. If our religious principles in any way foster in us a spirit of indifference to practical Christianity in the every-day life, if they allow us to neglect the family altar, the Lord's table, the assembly of the saints, the prayer meeting, the cultivation of the spirit of love for the brethren and the unsaved around us, or allow us to engage in wordly indulgences, then they are grossly inconsistent, and the whole system of our religion is a hollow mockery, and a God-dishonoring sham.

The aim or end of Christianity is to make men better, and it is simply senseless and ridiculously absurd in the extreme to suppose

that an infinitely holy and supremely righteous Being should give us a system of religion not adapted to meet His aim and end. A belief that does not bring the human character nearer, by a gradual, progressive development to the Divine standard, is not, and never can be, the faith of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Home Mission Notes.

A Happy New Year.

We have received from Bro. B. L. Smith a copy of the *American Home Missionary* for November. It is packed full of information about our mission work on this Continent. It shows that the General Board during the year ending Sept. 30th employed seventy-one preachers. They labored at 294 places, had 4,849 additions, and organized thirty-four churches. The Board received \$31,000. The General and State Boards during the same time employed 304 preachers. They labored at 963 places, had 18,548 additions, organized 169 churches and 228 Sunday-schools. The total receipts were \$193,132.

It seems from this that over one-third of our increase in numbers last year was the result of Home Mission labor. We have now 10,029 churches; membership, 1,051,679. We gained during the year 422 churches and 47,407 members, and the total amount raised for all mission purposes was \$429,919. We have now 5,780 preachers; gain, 420. Sunday-school members, 676,949; gain, 37,418; and there was \$781,000 added to value of church property. Surely we have reason to thank God, and take courage over the blessings of the past.

Bro. Smith makes the following appeal for volunteers:

"The spirit of heroism is not often recognized as belonging to Home Mission work; nevertheless it is there. When we passed through the suffering caused by our debt, unable to meet our payments to the missionaries, the heroic quality of those men and their wives and children show out beautifully, a sight over which God's angels and all good men rejoiced. In all that time of trial not one soldier deserted his post.

We feel that the time has come to appeal the heroic and self-sacrificing young men of our churches. God and the church want Home Missionary volunteers—young men who are ready to go anywhere, everywhere, with or without compensation, for the advancement of His cause in America.

We call for volunteers for these fields. We want young men without families, for no support is guaranteed; young men who are efficient and who are lovers of the cause of New Testament Christianity. The Lord's cause says: "Whom shall I send?" Who will answer, "Here am I; send me?"

Now, a word in regard to our own work. Is there a reader of THE CHRISTIAN who does not know our needs? Will it be necessary for someone to call on you personally to tell you of the need, and ask you to give to this fund? We wish this were possible in order to keep home missions to the front. In the meantime will you heed another call for aid? Five months are past. We should have received \$250, but aside from profits of CHRISTIAN we have not received \$200. At this rate we will be \$100 in debt at the end of the year. Do you desire to see that? So far only ten churches have contributed, and some of them gave small sums. The following have: Westport, Pictou, Milton, Cornwallis, Southville, St. John (two),

Lord's Cove, Leonardville and Letoto. Will the churches not named respond to this appeal. There was \$163 pledged at annual, \$93 of which is still due. If possible, redeem your pledge. Thus ends the first appeal in 1898.

J. S. FLAGLOR, Secretary.

RECEIPTS.

Acknowledged, St. John--	....	....	\$169 96
Coburg Street Mission Band,	..	....	3 65
" Sunday-school,	....	....	8 04
Main Street Sunday-school,	....	....	4 08
" Mrs. Morrison,	....	....	2 00
Leonardville--			
Mrs. (Dr.) Murray,	....	....	3 00
Pomerooy, Iowa--			
R Jackson,	....	....	5 00
Profits from CHRISTIAN,	....	....	51 86
			\$247 50

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Received in December,	....	....	\$77 68
<i>Expended.</i>			
Due Treasurer,	....	....	\$11 18
Halifax, December,	....	....	21 00
Pictou,	....	....	16 63
Main Street, St. John,	....	....	12 50
			61 29
Bal. on hand,	....	....	\$18 34

Foreign Missions.

Maritime C. W. B. M.

*Expect great things from God.
Attempt great things for God.*

TOKIO, JAPAN, Oct. 28, 1897.

To the C. W. B. M. of Ontario and the Maritime Provinces:

DEAR SISTERS,—My time is so fully occupied that I find it difficult to get time to write letters. With our large family there is much to be attended to—the little ones especially taking up my time. The restful parts of the day are the Bible lesson for the girls, and morning and evening prayers. Then the poor schools must be visited and directed, and frequently a teacher's place supplied. Then the homes of the pupils are to be visited and the message of salvation brought there, for one must know the people in their homes to get near to them. Then there are the women's meetings, church and Sunday-school services, and the Wednesday prayer meeting. In short there are so many duties awaiting one that it is often difficult to decide which would best be done first. Sometimes in the moment of doubtful hesitancy a crunching of the pebbles on the walk in front of the house announces the approach of a visitor, so one must drop everything and welcome the caller. The Japanese are never in a hurry, and it would be considered very impolite to exhibit any. Perhaps it is someone who wishes to learn more of Christ, or to ask about the meetings, or more commonly, to know if you will teach them English; or it may be a fellow missionary who, though her own hands are more than full, has left it for a while to cross this city of immense distances to cheer one with words of sympathy and encouragement.

The poor school on Matsugaya Cho is doing well. Of course, as usual, the older pupils left at the end of the summer term, and now a great number of new faces have taken their places. One of the women of the Bible training school has graduated, and has gone up to Akita to be with Dr. Stevens, and is now doing full Bible woman's work.

I have not yet told you, I think, of the nice new home the Board has purchased for Miss Oldham and me. It is the first European house either of us has been in since we came