## The Christian.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., . NOVEMBER, 1893

## EDITORIAL.

The present number begins the eleventh volume of The Christian. When we remember its success, and that the good hand of the Lord has been upon it, we feel it a refreshing duty to thank God and take courage.

In the first number reasons were given for adding a new paper to our already ponderous bulk of periodical literature. It was there stated that no paper in the Maritime Provinces advocated what we consider the following important facts, viz.: That a man can be a true Christian without being a sectarian; that a church can be a true church of Christ and not be a secturian church; that we can contend for Christianity unmixed with anything else, and that the Bible, without any other book, or ciced, can be-and is-nsed by the Holy Spirit in leading the anxious enquirer to Jesus for salvation, and in guiding the saved in the narrow path to heaven Although much valuable instruction is given in other papers on many points, yet the above facts, not being advocated especially by any periodical in these provinces, we teel anxious to spread them before a reading public. Believing that it is not what is in the Bible, but what is outside of the Bible, which divides the people of God, we would earnestly urge men to believe what the Bible says and obey what it commands, and let the doctrines of men go, as nothing but God's teaching and God's love can unite His people. For what the paper has done for God and His truth, we sincerely thank Him, and pray that He may pity and pardon its and our points of failure. We would like the reader to compare what is said in the first number with what Bro. II. W. Stewart says of the labors and aims of the Disciples in the first page of the last

It is gratifying to know that the paper has, in a reasonable degree, adhered to its plans and promises. While it has been open to a full and free discussion of scriptural subjects that are good to the use of edifying, it has refused questions which administer strifes rather than godly edifying. The correspondents, as well as the conductors, seem to have the general good in view. While thankful for the aid of friendly correspondents, as well as considerate subscribers, we would urge the apostolic injunctions, "Let brotherly love continue." "Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory," etc.

Seeing how difficult it is to keep up a small religious paper with comparatively few subscribers, it is no small satisfaction to know that one month in ten years has not passed without a visit of THE CHRISTIAN to its readers, and also to know that instead of its being in debt, expenses are paid every year and a surplus added to the missionary fund. Let all its friends pray for its usefulness and labor, to improve its pages and increase its circulation. Where one stops his subscription (which is sometimes though seldom done) let others see that at least two are added. A incderate effort on the part of many would wonderfally increase its circulation. And it is noticed that where it is carefully read there is manifested au increasing interest in the spread of the gospel, both at home and abroad. Let each ask, Where will I be at the close of the next decade?

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A SERMON TO YOUNG PEOPLE.

## THE PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUTH By James Lediard.

"Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth." Eccles. xi. 9. "Young men rule the world, and young men always have ruled the world, and young men ought to rule the world," so says a modern writer. The statement is a startling one, if true, and may well arrest our attention; but whether this statement is true or not, it is true that young men and women have an important place in the world of today, and it is not the least of the peculiarities of this wonderful nineteenth century that it is prepared, as never before, to estimate at its true value the power of youth and to accord to them their rightful place in the world's activities.

We talk of the revolutions caused by the introduction of steam power, of the wonderful things made possible by the application of electricity, of the influence these things have on all phases of our social and national life; but the e is a movement in progress more surprising than any of these powers—I mean the applied power of youthful tives—the application to the world's needs of the strength and wisdom and enthusiasm of the youth of to-day.

The book of Job gives us a fine illustration of the wisdom of youth and of the possibility of the young possessing a wisdom quite equal to that of the aged, and in this particular case superior to Job's more aged and experienced friends.

The youthful Elihu had long kept silent in the presence of these aged friends, but there was such an evident want of wisdom in their speech that he braves their displeasure and speaks. It was judged out of place, no doubt because of the current belief that "days should speak and multitude of years should teach wisdom;" but like many another current saying, it was only partly true, and this young man manifests a truer wisdom than they when he realizes that true wisdom is not the exclusive possession of age, but that "the breath of the Almighty giveth understanding." It is not the great that are always wise, nor the aged that always understand judgment. Youth, then, has a supremacy over age; and youth, with its capabilities, opportunities and responsibilities, is the subject of our thoughts to-night.

I note, first, that the world's attitude towards the youth of to-day is that of a royal welcome. It is a hearty call to come up higher. It is offering them its choicest and best things—its rewards and its thanks. Step for one moment into this home. From the beoks on the shelf to the costly piano, or the sweet-voiced organ; from the pictures on the walls to the flowers in the window; the many comforts, the cheerful atmosphere; in the cottage, or in the more pretensious mansions, each according to the ability of their owners, have laid their best on the altar of home.

It represents loving care. It tells of years of sacrifice and toil. And for whom are all these things! For the young, for sons and daughters who are destined to fill higher places and wield a larger influence for good than their fathers before them. It is the home's royal welcome to youth.

More than this, the nation with a youthful care for youth's best interests joins in this welcome. The nation comes to the help of the home in this work of preparing youth for its rich future, as witnessed our unequalled educational system. Step with me into this common school, this collegiate it stitute, this business college, this university. For whom were these costly buildings creeted? these libraries stored with their wealth of knowledge, ancient and modern? For whom have all the educational appliances been gathered, these laws made, these conventions hold, these training

schools established, this noble army of teachers engaged? An army more potent than any arm; of Greece, Rome, or Europe, an army of which any land should be proud, winning victories over darkness and ignorance continually, an army not yet bonored as they should be; men and women more worthy of the cross of the Lagian of Honor than many who have won it by a doubtful kind of bravery on the battle fields of the world. For whom, I repeat, are all these things? To what does this colossal scheme of education point? It is the royal welcome of the nation. Nor is the church of Christ slow to welcome the youth of our day to a place of honor and usefulness. Youth has no warmer friend than the church of Christ, and none who has put forth more wise effort to help and bless them. Do you doubt it? Come into this church. Do you say "it is a beautiful structure." It ought to be, its services full of warmth and life. Its very sermons are full of the present, and dry creeds and ancient formulas are giving place to a simpler story of Christ's love and Christian duty. What is this? It is because of the church's love to the young. It is her welcome, and the youth of to-day value these blessings. Look in the pews, look in the gallery, look in the choir, in the Sunday-school, the Bible class and in the prayer-meeting, and what do you see? Youth everywhere. For whom does the pastor pray and think and plan and labor most? I reply, for the young, and every true Christian of riper years joins him in this; even the children are in these days in speaking terms with the minister, a significant fact; thank God for it.

Church and state, school and college, commercial life, political life and home life are all holding out their hands to the young and offering them its richest and best things. It is the royal welcome of the nineteenth century.

I note next the young peoples' response to this welcome. It responds by presenting, first, its past history as a proof of its ability, a history full of grand achievements. It matters little in what field the comparison is made. The historic evidence favors the supremacy of youth over ago.

Alexander, of Macedon, was at thirty-two the world's ruler, through his personal force and energy. Hannibal was only thirty when he dealt a staggering blow to Rome's power. Charlomagne was master of France and Germany when he was thirty. The younger Pitt, one of the foremost men in Great Britain, was prime minister at twenty-five. Alexander Hamilton, one of the brightest of American statesmen, was a leading spirit in congress at twenty-five.

In art and science it is the same; Newton made his great discovery before he was twenty-five. Bacon had etarted out on the line of a new philosophy before he was twenty. Watt had the principle of the steam engine clearly before his mind before he was thirty. Dante, Shakespeare and Milton gave evidence of their poetic genus while quite young. Mozart, great among musicians, died at thirty-seven. Raphael, great among painters, died at thirty-seven. Michael Angelo was great at twenty-three.

In religion, Luther proclaimed his position in conflict with the current theology of Rome when he was twenty-nine. Calvin published his institutes when he was twenty-seven. Wesley and Whitfield were great early in life, and Spurgeon had a world-wide reputation when little more than a boy and maintained it till his death. The names of men and women who may be added to this list are legion. In every walk of life youth has won its victories and influenced the world for good, and with reverence let it be said, "The Man Jesus Christ" completed the work of the werld's salvation when He was little more than thirty.

the educational appliances been gathered, these One of the responsibilities of youth I would laws made, these conventions hold, these training emphasize to-night is this one of serving God and

Tiverton, N. S.