

to him from Heaven, with an audible voice, assuring him of the fact. I do not remember that I ever used "For remission of sins" in baptizing a person. My reason for not using it is, that I consider it unnecessary where I am preaching, as I try to make that clear in my preaching. I have heard some of our preachers make use of it when baptizing. There is no difference in the religious world in the use of what Christ gave as the formula, so far as I have ever heard, only in one little word, and that has been the fault of the translators: some say, "in" the name, etc.; others, "into."

J. A. GATES.

LeTete, St. George, N. B., Sept. 23rd, 1884.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### VACATION NOTES.

NO. II.

I spent two Lord's days with the Coburg street Church, St. John, preaching every evening during the intervening week, except Saturday evening. Bro. Capp had been delegated, by the Mission Board, to visit the Churches in Nova Scotia, in the interest of the Mission work, and the writer was requested to fill his pulpit during his absence. Of this, I was glad, as it gave me an opportunity to cultivate the acquaintance of the brethren in St. John; and, I am free to say, that my stay there exceeded my anticipations in the pleasure it afforded me. I can heartily congratulate Bro. Capp on his pleasant situation and congenial associates in his work. Our meetings were well attended throughout, and a deep interest was manifested in the things presented.

My stay was made pleasant by the kindness of friends, who, in conveyance, or on foot, conducted me to points of interest in and around the city, of which, St. John can boast of not a few. Drives to Suspension Bridge, Rural Cemetery and Red Head, an outlook from the observatory of the Custom House, and a sail on the Harbour, with Bro. W. W. Wilson at the helm, and Bro. George Barnes acting as movable ballast, were among the pleasant incidents. I was made to feel at ease in the hospitable home of Bro. J. E. Barnes, where every attention necessary to comfort and contentment was shown. This Church has lost some of its pillars in the recent past, and it feels their loss sadly; but the increased responsibility thrown on those who remain is being nobly borne; and under the earnest and efficient labours of its much esteemed pastor, the Church is doing a good work for God and man. Their Sunday-school is in a very flourishing condition, and under the superintendency of Bro. J. E. Barnes and his assistants, is being educated in active work for Christ. The missionary spirit in the school found expression last year in the significant sum of over (\$100) one hundred dollars raised for missionary purposes. Where such schools exist as the "nursery" of the Church, the future attitude of the churches toward the missionary work cannot be a matter of doubt. The habit of giving for religious purposes is one that grows on a person, and the earlier we can foster it in individuals and communities, the stronger will it become. No church does its duty which neglects to educate the young within its influence in this matter, neither can any such church hope to perpetuate itself in vigorous life.

On Monday morning, Oct. 13th, I left St. John on the steamer *Empress* for Annapolis, on my way to West Gore. As the Bay of Fundy is notable for its rough water, and the morning forbode a somewhat rough day, Sister Barnes kindly gave me Bro. Ford's recipe for the prevention of sea-sickness. The recipe is short, and easily remembered by all, and would, doubtless, prove very effective to any

person who understood how to use it. It is as follows: "Keep the stomach full." I regretted that I was unable to follow its instructions. Probably it requires calm weather and a smooth sea to make it practicable.

This was my first trip by this route. The disagreeable experience on the Bay is almost forgotten in the delightful remembrance of the passage through Digby Gut, and the sail up the Annapolis Basin and River. Nature seldom paints a lovelier picture than was presented by that placid sheet of water on that October day. Unruffled by the storm that beat on its side, it nestled in the bosom of the everlasting hills that surround it, like an infant in its mother's arms, while from high-water mark to their summit the hills were wreathed in a crown of autumnal glory, broken here and there by the white cottages and green garden-plots of the fishermen's villages that dot their sides. On my way from Annapolis to Newport, I made the acquaintance of Bro. LeCain, one of the gentlemanly conductors on the W. & A. Railroad, and one of the staunch Disciples of Nova Scotia. I regretted that I had not the privilege of a more extended acquaintance.

After taking leave once more of the many kind friends and brethren in West Gore and vicinity, we started on our homeward journey Oct. 22nd. In the evening of that day I preached to a good and attentive audience at Shubenacadie, N. S. The next morning we took the train on the Intercolonial Railway for Boston via St. John. We remained in Boston over one Lord's day. In the morning I spoke in Swampscott, and at 3 p. m. in Horticultural Hall, Boston. I was agreeably surprised to see so large an audience assemble there. The brethren have since moved their place of meeting to Wesleyan Hall, Bromfield street, a short distance from Horticultural Hall. Bro. J. H. Garrison, of St. Louis, one of the editors of the *Christian Evangelist*, has been selected to take charge of the work there; and with a pleasant place of meeting, and a faithful able man in the field, the prospects for efficient and successful work in that great city, the Athens of America, are certainly encouraging. There are many of our brethren from the Provinces identified with the work there; and there is a home for all such who come to Boston to live; and every Disciple coming to Boston or vicinity should seek that home. It is perilous for Christians to be deprived of Church privileges; it is criminal for them to deprive themselves of them when there is an opportunity to enjoy them.

We arrived safely in Williamsport on Friday, Oct. 31st; we found our house set in order, dinner ready, and a number of the brethren and sisters present to welcome us home. We feel much the better of our visit among old friends and familiar scenes, and we are thankful that our Heavenly Father has attended us with His loving care, and returned us in safety to the field of our present labours.

M. B. RYAN.

### FROM GORDONSVILLE, VA.

DEAR EDITORS,—Often have I intended, recently, sending you a few notes from the "Sunny South," but till the present writing other matters have so fully occupied my attention that I have not found the time to send you even a brief communication. Your bright and cheery little sheet is over a welcome and looked for visitor with us, and is always read with avidity. I am much pleased to learn through its columns that THE CHRISTIAN is a success, and I hope and pray that it will be supported as it deserves, and that the noble brethren who are at the helm of its affairs may live long to aid in perpetuating a work so much needed and calculated to do so much good. Although separated from the land of my nativity, by distance, and so

completely engrossed by my present surroundings, it is with unfeigned feelings of delight that I hear and read of any advance made by my brethren in the British Provinces. If agreeable to your wishes I will here give your readers a brief account of my present field of labor in connection with a short description of this beautiful and healthful State:

Gordonsville is situated in the County of Orange, at the base of the Southwest Mountains, only two and one-half hours by the Chesapeake Ohio Railway, from Richmond, and about five hours by the Virginia Midland Railway, from Washington, D. C. Our thriving town is near the centre of the Piedmont District of Virginia, the most healthy, fertile and delightful portion of the State. It is truly a thriving town, full of wide-awake business men, of which the Christian Church has a large number. This town enjoys a large and increasing trade from the rich agricultural Counties adjacent to it, and offers peculiar advantages to manufacturing enterprises. It possesses splendid educational advantages—the Gordonsville Female College—several large schools of private interest, a graded school of high standing, and a private and public school for colored people, are located here. The climate of Virginia is all that could be desired. I can speak from experience in this particular. I have now been one year in this section, and have not had an hour's sickness; and Mrs. B., who had almost decided to be reckoned on the list of invalids, when we left Nova Scotia, can say the same; and, in avoidance, has reached the height of her most earnest expectations, while the writer 'kicks the beam' at 206 lbs., and is still looking up; and we do not think that a life of ease will alone account for this when we inform your readers that in addition to the laborious work of preaching on an average of three and four times a week, we are regularly giving daily instruction in Ancient classics and Natural, Moral and Mental Science at the Gordonsville Female College, which alone occupies about five hours daily.

Our climate here seems peculiarly adapted to the prolongation of human life. Bronchial and pulmonary complaints, so common in the North, are very rare here. The location is a happy mean between the extremes of heat and cold. But space will not allow me to dilate on the climate and other natural resources of this beautiful State.

The Disciples of Christ are well represented in Virginia—Richmond, the Capital, has two large and prosperous churches, with a Mission point in another part of the city. Throughout the entire State the cause we plead is steadily advancing. From experience and observation we find the average Virginian intelligent, wide-awake, cultivated, and well educated. Some of the best preaching talent we have had in the United States have preached through this State. The names of Errett, Pendleton, Louis, Cave, Lucas, Rowe, Cutler, Hopson, Tyler, with many others that I might mention, are household words here among our brethren. Bro. R. Cave, one of our leading orators, is preaching for the Seventh St. Church, Richmond, and Bro. L. A. Cutler for the Marshall street Church. Bro. I. J. Spencer, well and favorably known to many of your readers, has charge of the *Atlantic Missionary*, at Cuckoo, and is doing a noble work. We have a large number of churches in Virginia, and as far as I know, one and all are moving steadily ahead. We have a fine church property in Gordonsville, without doubt the finest location in town. Our property here has, during the last few years, undergone a thorough repair, and has been fitted up with commodious and convenient improvements. We have a membership of two hundred or above, working earnestly and harmoniously. I have just completed my first year's engagement with this church, and have been unanimously called to remain, if agreeable to myself, an indefinite term of years. We have learned to love