

# THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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## The Christian.

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All communications, intended for publication, to be addressed:

"THE CHRISTIAN."  
P. O. Box 106  
St. John, N. B.

EDITOR:

DONALD CRAWFORD, - - New Glasgow, P. E. I.

FINANCIAL MANAGER:

J. E. EDWARDS, . . . . St. John, N. B.

### THE CHURCH IN HALIFAX.

In this issue we give the readers of THE CHRISTIAN a cut of the new house of worship in Halifax. And when they see it they will be glad if they have contributed toward the erection of such a beautiful building. But if any feel sorry on account of their failure to assist, they will be pleased to know that an opportunity is still afforded them. The house will be opened in February, and in our March issue we hope to give a full account of the occasion. In the meantime let us give a brief account of the struggles of the Church of Christ in Halifax.

In 1864 the late Dr. Knox left P. E. Island to spend a short time in Halifax. He found no church there, but decided to preach the truth, and some heard, believed and obeyed the gospel. He soon returned to the Island; but these brethren and one other disciple met in a school room from Lord's day to Lord's day, breaking the loaf and edifying one another.

Bro. T. B. Knowles visited the city in 1871, and was persuaded to remain with the church for six months. During his stay the membership of the church was increased by fourteen. His leaving put the church again upon its own resources, except when preaching brethren visited the city, and spake words of encouragement and of truth.

In 1872, Bro. Ira J. Chase visited the church, remaining four days and baptizing four believers. Thus the church was growing, slowly, it is true, for these were the days of small successes and large discouragements. But this stage has generally to be passed through before the days of small difficulties and great successes appear.

Seven years later, or in 1879, Bro. T. H. Blenus went to Halifax, and preached to the little band; but like all the preachers who had gone before, he did not remain long, and at the end of a few months the church was again left to struggle on as best they could.

It was found that if a successful work was to be carried on, a concerted and protracted effort must be made. So in 1881 Bro. F. W. Pattie was called to labor with the church, and during that year eleven were added by baptism and twelve other-

wise. Here were evidences of success, and if he could have remained for several years the whole future history of the church would probably have been brightened. But he left; not, however, until he saw the church worshipping in a house of their own — they having purchased the old building on Cornwallis street, formerly owned by the Baptists.

In 1883, Bro. J. J. Cathcart undertook the work of building up the church; but the work was hard and the circumstances untoward; and at the end of three or four months he abandoned the work.

The fact of the church building being out of repair, added to other considerations, convinced the brethren that they had better dispose of it. This they did and the net proceeds were deposited in the savings bank and formed the nucleus of the present building fund.

A recital of the further labors that led up to the present success may very well be deferred until after the dedication of the new church home.

Since writing the above we learn that the brethren at Halifax expect to open the new church building on the second Lord's day in February.

A western paper in classifying the membership of a certain church does so in the following comprehensive manner: "Those absent

**In Which Class.** from the city; the old and infirm who can seldom attend church;

those whose business and family cares keep them home, those who rest on Sunday, either in bed or at some place of recreation; those who sometimes attend, especially when it is very convenient and the weather is suitable; those who are active and always at church, and would count it a privation to remain away from the Lord's house." In which class are you? If absent we have no quarrel with you. Do your duty wherever you are. If you are deprived of the privileges of the Lord's house through sickness or the infirmity of old age we sympathise with you, and trust you valued your blessings when you had them. Business and family cares may be an excuse, but both have been ridden to death. A man has no right to push his ox into the ditch on Saturday and then spend Sunday getting it out. The pleasure seeking Christian and the fine weather Christian are without excuse. Congratulate yourself if you have so learned Christ as to be among His active followers.

The church is a divine institution, organized for a definite purpose. What

that purpose is we **Its True Character.** would never discover by examining the methods and performances

of the popular church of to-day. It is of the earth earthy, and has no more claim to be regarded as a copy of the apostolic church than the clergyman has to be a successor to Paul. Wallace Radcliffe states very tersely what a church is not and what it is, in the following words: "The church is not a social club, nor an æsthetic confectioner's, nor an intellectual prize ring, nor a mutual admiration society, nor a spiritual hammock; but a workshop in which you are a worker — do not quarrel with your tools; an army in which you are a soldier — do not stain your honor; a republic of which you are a citizen—do not be disloyal to her history or her claims; a body of which you are a member — do not become paralyzed or diseased; a family

in which the old are not to be arrogant nor the young presumptuous, but each serving the other." As soon as the church degenerates into a place of amusement the quicker its true nature is known the better, so that all who desire to grow spiritually will understand that they need expect no more help there than they can find in a music hall or a theatre.

On the 2nd of February, 1881, the first Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor was organized. Since then the number of

**Christian Endeavor.** societies has increased to about 25,000, with a membership of more than 1,400,000. This rapid growth indicates that there was a place for such a movement, and that the place is now filled. Like the Sunday school it has become an efficient agent in



NEW CHURCH BUILDING IN HALIFAX.

### ITEMS AND NEWS.

Bills will be sent to all subscribers in arrears, in our next issue.

The Coburg St. Church, St. John, have started a mission at the North End of the city. Already they have a Sunday school of over fifty. Bro. Stewart preaches one evening every week at this point. The outlook is promising.

Bro. H. W. Stewart has been requested to preach for the brethren in Halifax at the opening services of their new house of worship. Lord's day, February 12th, is the day set apart for the opening services. Brethren who intend being present from abroad will be warmly welcomed by the Halifax brethren.