

# THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY, 1887.

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## The Christian.

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., FEBRUARY, 1887.

THE Temperance people of St. John, have nominated for Mayor of the City a temperance candidate. A man thus will, if elected, enforce the present License System.

STILL NOT SATISFIED - Recent statistics, given in a contemporary, shows that the Romish Church in Ireland receives annually from the public funds nearly £700,000, in addition to £21,000, being interest accruing annually from the capital given the Maynooth college at the time of the disestablishment of the Irish church

PLEASE examine the narrow slip of colored paper that appears on each number of THE CHRISTIAN and see if you are in arrears. Should you find on the slip accompanying your name Nov. 85 it means your time expired at that time; Nov. 87, you have paid in advance, which on our part, at least, is very desirable and necessary.

THE exciting times of election will soon be on us. Let every follower of Christ be careful to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith he has been called. How often has a Christian destroyed his influence for good by allowing himself at election times to be excited beyond measure, talking excitedly and at times almost frantically. Brethren, let us be temperate in all things; let our moderation be known unto all men.

THE Christian Standard of January 15 has the following: "Just as we go to press a card comes from Bro. Neil McLeod of Evansville, Indiana, giving the sad news of the death of his dear wife. He writes on the train, as he is on his sorrowful journey to Bethany, W. Va., taking her body there for burial. She died on the 9th inst."

The brethren of P. E. Island, especially those of Summerside, will deeply sympathize with our Bro. in this, his sad affliction. Summerside is only a few miles distant from Bro. McLeod's birth-place, the place where he obeyed the Saviour, and up to the time of his going to college, was his home church.

HUMAN creeds as bonds of union are a failure. That but little importance is now attached to them is shown from the fact that in many churches, professing (when questioned) to have them they are seldom if ever seen in these latter days. The words of the *Central Christian Advocate* (Methodist), are, to use Paul's phrase, words of truth and soberness: "The statements of Christian beliefs, which are giving some churches so much anxiety just now, are treated as if they were a later revelation, and had peculiar authority, when they are simply the opinions of good men who lived long ago, and nothing more. They were neither wiser nor more spiritual than some men of to-day, nor were they quite so well prepared to penetrate to the exact meaning of the Scriptures. The tenacity with which men cling to them shows how deep is the bondage into which men have been brought by an unreasonable doctrine of churchly and ecclesiastical authority."

WHILE we have at times some things to discourage us, and who hasn't? still every now and again some kind brother or sister gives us a word of cheer. Here is one of many; it came from a brother on P. E. I.:

"I think those labels a very good method of letting each one know just how they stand. I may say again, the only fault I can yet find in the paper is, it don't come often enough. I hope and trust that during this year we are just entering upon, it may receive the large measure of success which it merits, and thus enable its editors to see their way clear, in the near future, to edit, at least, a semi-monthly. From my own personal experience with it in the past, I can assure them its arrival would then be as eagerly looked for and its pages as carefully read as at the present time

THE mission work in China is certainly making rapid progress. It was in the autumn of 1808 that Robert Morrison was the first missionary to set foot in the empire. After six years of ceaseless toil there was but one convert. For over thirty years the work went slowly on, the growth being almost imperceptible. But during these years the seed of the kingdom had been sown and the Bible translated into the Chinese language. From 1842—regarded by some as the year in which the work really began—the growth has been wonderful. In 1853 there were 350 converts; 1863, 2,000; ten years later 8,000; and now over 22,000 that have renounced idolatry and professed their faith in Jesus as their Saviour, and, as stated in our Dec. issue, over thirty-one of the inmates of the palace have turned to the Lord.

It is to help carry on this grand work that Bros. E. T. Williams and F. E. Meigs, with their companions in life, will leave their homes this coming Fall. May God's richest blessing attend their every effort.

THE question of union among the religious bodies has come to stay. Each day it becomes a more vigorous topic of discussion. Its possibility and necessity is being conceded on all sides. The men who can look approvingly upon the divided condition of Christendom as an army with its infantry, artillerymen and cavalry, are behind the times. In

the near past, more so, perhaps, than now, their various divisions appeared to us as so many armies contending against each other more than against a common foe. It has been said, a strong opposition makes a strong government. True, but we don't want discordant elements in the government. We have enough opposition in the devil and the agents and means he has at hand. In keeping with the foregoing, are the words of the *Christian World*: "Christian people are becoming more ashamed of the appearance which they present as wrangling sects, to the great scoffing hosts of worldliness. \* \* \* \* May we not hope, too, that a truer perception of the meaning of the prayer of Christ, that His disciples may be one, and a deeper reverence for its spirit, are taking possession of His disciples?"

A CORRESPONDENT to the *Liverpool Times*, N. S., referring to the marriages mentioned elsewhere in this issue, says:

All Milton was astir at two o'clock on Wednesday (Jan. 19) to witness the double marriage of Mr. Rufus Morton to Miss Belle, youngest daughter of Mr. Leander S. Ford, (brother of E. C. Ford); also Mr. Harley Ford to Miss Jennie, only daughter of Elder H. Murray. The Christian Church was handsomely decorated with plants and flowers. The ceremony was performed by Elder Howard Murray assisted by Rev. H. Goddard, and was attended by as many of our village and townfolk as the seating capacity of the edifice could comfortably accommodate. At 2.15 the music from the organ announced their arrival. The bridegrooms entered, followed by the brides, each leaning on her father's arm. After the ceremony Mr. Morton and wife left for their future home, Minneapolis, Minn.

To these young people, with three of whom we have the pleasure of a personal acquaintance, we extend our congratulations and wish them every happiness in this life, and trust that among that number they may be found, to sit down at the great marriage feast of God's dear Son.

Knowing that some facts contained in a private letter from Bro. Ira C. Mitchell will be of interest to his friends in these parts, we take the liberty of presenting the following:

On Dec. 17th, he (to use his own words), "was called upon to assume the duties and dignity of a grand father"—his son's wife giving birth to a son. On the 29th of the same month his own family was enlarged by the advents of another daughter. The church at Wellsburg has extended to him an invitation to settle permanently as their preacher, with permission to go out and hold protracted meetings whenever he may deem it advisable.

While rejoicing with Bro. Mitchell in the above good fortune, we are remembered by the following note that the bitter is often mingled with the sweet—if a Christian having finished his course and gone home can he call bitter. Still our Bro. will feel keenly the loss of his father, and in this we sympathize with him. My father, Nathan J. Mitchell, died at Loch Haven, Pa., Dec. 10th, 1886, at the age of 78 years and 9 months—59 of which years were devoted to the proclamation of the ancient gospel.