

PERSONALS.

We are sorry to hear that Bro. Lister had been sick, but we judge by the last Index that he is not dangerously ill.

Bro. David Barclay from Pickering, was with us during our meeting, about one week. He left for home on the 5th. He was accompanied by his wife.

Our strictures on J. B.—may seem rather sharp, but it should be remembered that he is a man that makes personal attacks and regards not the person of man. In addition to this, the best brethren of the Province are slandered by his effusion.

James Anderson of Garafraza, left for Kansas where he intends to make his future home, and preach the gospel, on the 21st ult. Thus another is lost to Canada, but gained by Kansas. The CHRISTIAN WORKER wishes him success.

Old Father Bently, from Kings Mill Ont, who is on the shady side of 80 years, has been with us all through our meeting. Grand old man, quietly he goes about, always with a good word for the cause of Christ, of which he never tires of talking.

Bro. C. H. Jay left Meaford, on a tour to England, on the 2nd inst. He intends to be gone about three months. He will visit Scotland and France—during his absence. He will find many changes in the old home in thirty years.

R. B. in the last Index, tries his hand on his dancing question, again. We have exposed the rottenness of the "Beaty idea," and will not soil our columns with any more of it. These few lines are written to let him know that I have not more to say.

Bro. James Kilgour, went up to Gore Bay on the 4th of this month. He is to be chief speaker at their big meeting at Gore Bay, which begins on the 8th. When he landed at Meaford, he threw off a letter for us. We hope they may have a successful meeting and win many souls to Christ.

Elder D. L. Layton, is going on a trip to Nova Scotia, to recuperate his wasted energies and to visit relatives. He has been a faithful servant in the Post Office here for 26 years, and his faithfulness in the church has long since become a proverb. To say "as faithful as brother Layton," means as faithful as is possible for mortal man to be. This is not a trifle of what will be said when it is "no more." Why not say a few of the merited good things while there is life?

Bro. J. J. Johnston and the writer attended the meeting at Kilsyth on the 12th. Bro. Harding will hold a meeting at Warton next, and pay Meaford a short visit, and likely hold a meeting in Collingwood before he returns to Kentucky. We advise the brethren at Collingwood to secure him for the meeting, it can be done now. He is a workman.

Bro. Duncan McColman from Gore Bay, on Manitoulin Island gave the CHRISTIAN WORKER a friendly call on the 14th, and left us letter off in pursu.—Thanks.

Bro. H. A. MacDonald has been at Warton for some two weeks preaching the Word. We do not know what his next move will be, but have been informed that he is going to New York. We are sorry to hear that he continues in poor health.

Some excellent articles crowded out of this issue which will appear next month.

A married lady confessed Christ at our regular preaching service at Meaford on Lord's day night, the 16th, and was baptized on Monday.

The Editor is continuing the meeting at Ephraim this week. Had a fine audience on Lord's day, the 16th at 11 a.m.

Some of our wise brethren have agreed to contribute regularly for our columns during this coming year, and the WORKER will be better that ever on this account.

We had made arrangements to leave Canada, but it seems to be ordered otherwise, and if turns out well, we will give God the praise for overruling it for good.

DISHONEST.—In the last Index is copied our editorial on the "Acton meeting," and the proper credit is given, this is honest. The nine items of the committee's report, as adopted by the meeting which was in the body of the editorial, is detached, and printed separately, headed, "THE BASIS OF A NEW SECT." This is grossly dishonest and misleading. An "awards honorable" is now in order.

The following extract from a postal, will explain itself. "Why do the heathen rage and the people imagine a vain thing?"—David.—"Bro's W. Campbell and S. Kaffer, were at Deansville, Mich. holding a June meeting, had a fine hearing, much opposition from United Brethren and Mormons. They formed a Christian Union during the meeting to oppose the preaching of the ancient gospel. They had 16 additions. Bro. Kaffer told them he did not care to associate with adulterers, which put something of a quietness upon them. The Devil is good on Christian Union when he sees his kingdom in danger, and it is in danger when the gospel is faithfully preached.—Jos. Assn.

An article on "The glory of the New Age," in another part of this issue may deceive some proscribers. The writer says the great occurrence of which he writes will take place in "1897." We advise you not to put off your preparation until then, for it may come sooner "That day so cometh as a thief in the night," and a thief, if he is shrewd, does not give signs of his coming. So that we can certainly know when to look for him. "What I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch."—Jesus Christ.

The Editor and wife will leave Meaford for three or four weeks visit to Indiana on the last day of this month. We long to mingle again with the brethren with whom we were associated in days gone by. We will visit our parents and other relatives, and return in time to open the Provincial campaign, Sept. 1st. We will probably be at Lawrenceburg on the first Lord's day, and at White's Run, Ky., on the 2nd, with my mother and child associates on the third, and in Deatur County the week following. As the WORKER goes to all of the places mentioned we give this outline of our trip for their information. Providence may cause us to change this some.

DEATH.

What a cruel monster is death! Too strong to be overcome by man, chooses his victim, bends his bow and with unerring certainty lays his victim low. Generally he comes around and gives evidence of his approach by pinning the pale on the victim's cheek, he catches the hectic fever and hacking cough and then seemingly withdraws for a time, allowing hope to revive, then cruelly dashes in the new-born hope to pieces and in fleashly mockery prowls around our loved ones room, tapping at the windows first, then raising the door latch and stealing to the bedside and lays his feeble clutches on the vitals, the spirit goes out to God. But death has robbed his victim at last through the Lord Jesus Christ. But he has done his work, he has left bleeding hearts and wounded souls for time to heal over, but not to cure, the ugly scar is there for life, the place is a tender spot when touched in after years start the unbidden tear. What poor sympathy is human words in an hour like this! What solid comfort is derived from God's promises! Scarcely could we appreciate the precious promises of our Heavenly Father if the afflictions did not come to show us the absolute necessity for divine sympathy.

We have spoken to the readers of the WORKER in our familiar way for the last nineteen months and begin to feel that we are acquainted and have a right to know each others sorrows. A black cloud has settled down over our once happy household.

Math Manerva Sherman quietly and calmly sank to rest at 9:30 a.m. on the 26th ult., aged 12 years, 6 months and 26 days. Beloved by all that know her, and loved by us as a darling child and a blessing from heaven. Before actual sin had pierced her mortal nature with its poisoned shaft. She was a Christian by nature. We firmly believe that she never did an intentional wrong. When she found that she must die, she was not afraid, but met death like a Christian hero of 40 years, spoke of going home as calmly as though he was on a visit with us and a time had come to go home. She dictated loving epistles to her grandma, uncle and aunts in the States, made a distribution of her things to the members of the family. Her loving gift to her "pa" was her Bible, to her "ma" she gave her canary bird. The future being all bright, she took an affectionate leave of us all, with her thin arms around my neck she said "oh my dear pa, I love you very dearly. I am going home, meet me there," and kissed me again and again. She did the same with her "ma" and each member of the family. She said in reply to my question, "I have no pain, I feel good," after this was said and done, her breath became shorter and longer between the breathings and was with him who said "Suffer little children to come unto me," in less than three minutes. She died without a struggle. Very few know how noble she was. Kind friends have come by the score, and expressed their sympathy, this was very kind in them and I appreciate their motive, but I would not give one of the many precious promises of God, in his word, for all the human sympathy this world can give.

There is not a particle of insidelity in my nature, I believe every promise that God has made, and I believe that the Sainted spirit of my child is joyously happy in the home of God. Let sinners and seducers have all the comfort they can get without a

promise from God, but give me one promise and I am satisfied.

Here, over the grave of my child, I consecrate myself anew and stronger to the service of God. I have ever had the higher incentive to work for heaven, now I have the additional one, a hope to have those "same arms" twining round me fondly as in days of yore.

Life is but a tramp on the beach of the great Ocean of eternity upon which settles the mist of mortality not far from the shore, Death, is a penetrating the mist, and landing where the everlasting sunshine dispels all darkness. Shall we fear to enter the mist, since Jesus has led the way? On this side is sunshine and shadows, joys and sorrows, on the other side all is joy and peace, never a shadow will cross the path. God be merciful to us.

THE CHRISTIAN WORKER.

We desire to say a few words to our readers with reference to the CHRISTIAN WORKER and its future course. In the future as in the past, we will try to make it a respectable medium through which Zion's progress may be heralded to the brethren. We are sure that it has many friends now and hope to secure many more for it, by pursuing an upright course. We are assured that there is a work for it to accomplish which will be a benefit to the cause of Christ. We are encouraged to make this statement by the many favorable comments during its short career from its supporters. We have no doubt that it will continue to grow in favor until its power for good will be felt in many quarters where it is now almost unknown. We are sure that the brethren in Canada feel the need of a medium through which they can communicate the good news of Zion's progress and sound out the word of God, and a paper that will favor all legitimate efforts to combine the forces for more effective work in spreading our plea before the people. While Sectarians are combining their forces and making a valiant fight, worthy of a better cause, we lose all and gain nothing by sitting down and groaning over the manner of work, while doing nothing. Jesus Christ, our great teacher, has told us to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." He said this to men of sense, hence he did not tell them how to go, but to go and left it to their good sense to decide how or by what means they would go and do his bidding. Therefore we think that time spent in quarreling over "plans" for carrying out the commission is worse than thrown away. It is to be lamented that many of our otherwise good brethren have spent their whole life in finding fault with this plan or that, and have done nothing in the line of duty. Some men seem to think that they have done a great service to the cause of Christ if they have found fault and crippled every effort that has been made to extend the cause of Christ in the land. Such ones should remember the true saying "that it takes no brains nor love for God or man, to find fault." An idiot can do as much. Let them show a better way, or else keep still. If they have a better way, let us see some of their work by their better way. The WORKER will assist in all legitimate work of the brethren. The brethren throughout the Dominion will find a steadfast friend in the WORKER to all co-operative efforts of the brethren to spread the gospel. If it thinks the manner of work is not the best, it will say so, and show what it thinks is the better way, but it will not vilify the brethren who

are trying to do something, because it thinks they act unwisely. We cordially invite the brethren to write their best thoughts for our columns. Send in any item of news that will cheer the hearts of the brethren. Tell of your success and wants, in short use the WORKER for the good of the cause in every legitimate way. We shall endeavor to keep its columns free from all personal wrangling. This has been done in the past, although this issue has some personal allusions that are not a "sweet savor," this shall not occur again. We shall "content for the faith once delivered to the saints" with unflinching fidelity to the best of our ability, and we invite all who desire to assist us in this, to occupy our columns. Will you help us?

HUMAN WISDOM.

In all matters of faith, and with reference to all commands and ordinances, we should unflinchingly demand a "thus saith the Lord," and nothing short of this should be regarded as sufficient authority for believing or obeying; but there are two writers left to human wisdom that do not effect our faith or obedience to the positive commands of the Lord. For instance, Elders are selected for Bishops because they have certain qualifications which qualify them for ruling the Church. It takes good sense and sound judgment to rule well, but if the Lord dictated everything to the Elders, how everything should be done, yet a "thus saith the Lord," there would be no use for these qualifications in the Bishops. General rules and instructions are laid down in the Word of the Lord, and wise men are chosen to govern in harmony with these general teachings. If specific instruction was given for every possible case that might come before the Bishops, the meeting house would not be able to hold the book of the law. "Withdraw from the disorderly one," is a command of the Holy Spirit, but he does not enumerate the hundreds of misdemeanors that are "disorderly." Wise men are able to decide what is disorderly by the general teaching of the Holy Spirit. Here is where human wisdom is sanctified to the good of the Church of God. Christ commands that we "go and preach the gospel to every creature," but he does not command us to walk, ride on a horse, go on the cars, steamboat, or how to go. Now how shall we go, oh! says the Stiller, there is no "thus saith the Lord" for this or that way of doing it. Well, but we reply—here is a plain "thus saith the Lord" to go. Shall we be disobedient to this command because we cannot find a "thus saith the Lord" as to whether we walk or ride? Here, human wisdom is brought into requisition. Christ never gave such an important commission to fools that had to have a "thus saith the Lord" whether to stand up or sit down when they spoke to the people, or men who had to be told to go by ship or by land. No, my brother, the how-to-get to the people to preach the glorious gospel to them, is left to our human wisdom, but whether we go or not, is a question of obedience or disobedience. So we conclude that a gathering of the Elders and wise men of the Church to gather to devise the best means of getting the gospel to the people, is in harmony with the word of God, and that we are not doing our duty if we do not thus convene for this purpose if we can more effectively carry out the commission of Jesus by so doing. We are not afraid of a successful attack on this position. That meetings of this charac-

ter do sometimes transcend Scriptural bounds there can be no doubt, and the same is true of one individual, often we find him going far beyond the limit of the Word of God. Will we refuse to do individual will, and denounce it as a dangerous heresy, because individuals transcend their powers sometimes? Oh, no! Well, then, do not condemn meetings of several individuals because meetings have transcended their powers. There is nothing half as consistent as consistency itself. It takes human wisdom to find out what the "thus saith the Lord" is, on any given subject. "Let us be wise as serpents and harmless as doves." The Holy Spirit only guided the apostles where they needed its guidance. Paul and Peter had a debate. Paul says, "I understood him to the contrary." Both were not right. Paul settled the matter with Peter by argument. If the Holy Spirit dictated everything to them, Peter would not have acted as inconsistent as he did. Paul and Barnabas separated, because of a difference of opinion as to what was best to do about taking John with them on their Missionary tour. Paul reasoned that it was not best to take him for he had shown cowardice on another occasion. Here is human wisdom used in a matter of expediency. He did not say to Barnabas, "the Holy Spirit says that thou shalt not take him," but gives a reason for his decision. A hundred cases can be cited as examples of the use of human wisdom in matters of this kind, but always in harmony with the divine injunction. Here is food for reflection. We cannot find a "thus saith the Lord" for erecting a meeting house, nor putting windows, in it, for seats, for backs to the seats, nor lamps etc. Here again, human wisdom is to be used. But when it comes to the faith and the worship, without precept or example, we will not accept anything that is offered but call for a "thus saith the Lord," and must have it or we will not accept it.

God has given us our minds and holds us responsible for their proper use. It is not sufficient to say that there is no "thus saith the Lord" against a thing. This position opens up the flood gates and will admit everything, dog fights, horse races, and everything of this character, if we allow everything against which no "thus saith the Lord" can be found.

We have carefully written on the subject of "human wisdom" in another part of this issue. We know that it is a subject that needs considerable thought, and we should carefully avoid extremes on this question; and we commend the subject to our readers for a careful investigation. If you have some good thoughts on the subject, if you will write them out carefully we will be glad to lay them before our readers. We will not take assertions of any, nor will we print them if sent, but candid articles will be welcomed, for we feel sure that this is the subject that must be ventilated thoroughly before we are able to make much progress in the work which God has entrusted to our hands. To our thoughtful brethren we commend this subject, and hope that they will give no uncertain sound, so that we may put down the brakes when we approach a dangerous place on the road. We have no space for those who only raise the cry "Work, work," and have nothing sensible to say afterward.

All matters pertaining to the WORKER, whether communications or business, should be addressed to the "CHRISTIAN WORKER," after August 1st as the editor will be absent during all the month of August. Let the renewals come in now thick and fast. A few more now subscriptions can be tolerated also.