

# THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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## The Christian.

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### SPECIAL NOTICE.

The Annual meeting of the Disciples of Christ, of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, will be held with the church at Lord's Cove, commencing Thursday, August 31st, 1893. The brethren of Lord's Cove, extend a cordial invitation to all who love the Lord Jesus, and are laboring for the restoration of primitive Christianity, to be present and aid in making this meeting a grand success.

Arrangements have been made with the various lines to return delegates at reduced rates, on presentation of Certificate from the Secretary of the Annual Meeting.

There will be a special boat leave Eastport for Lord's Cove, Thursday, August 31st, at about 2 p. m., for the accommodation of those wishing to attend the Annual. The regular boat leaves here Monday, September 4th, at 7 a. m., for Eastport, connecting there with American and St. John boats.

It is requested that all who intend coming to our Annual Meeting notify us by postal not later than August 24th, that arrangements may be made for their accommodation, etc. Address

R. E. STEVENS,

Lord's Cove,

Deer Island, N. B.

### PROGRAMME

For the Annual Meeting of the Disciples of Christ of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, to be held at Lord's Cove, Deer Island, N. B., Aug. 31st—Sept. 3rd, 1893:—

THURSDAY, 7 P. M.,	Welcome—R. E. Stevens. Responses by visiting brethren.
" 8 P. M.,	Sermon—
FRIDAY, 9 A. M.,	Social Meeting led by Wm. Murray.
" 10 " "	Business Session.
" 2 P. M.,	do.
" 7 P. M.,	Social Meeting led by H. H. E. Cooke.
" 8 " "	Address—Our Plea and Our Field, by R. W. Stewart.
SATURDAY, 10 A. M.,	Prayer-meeting led by H. Murray.
" 11 A. M.,	Business Meeting.
" 2 P. M.,	Women's Missionary Meet
" 7 " "	Prayer-meeting led by H. H. A. Devou.
" 8 P. M.,	Missionary Meeting.
LORD'S DAY, 7.30 A. M.	Prayer-meeting.
" 10 " "	Preaching
" 12 " "	Breaking of Bread.
" 3 P. M.	Preaching.
" 7 " "	"
" 8.30 " "	" Farewell Social Meeting.

More definite announcements will be made next month.

Useful things are not useful under every circumstance. Rubber boots are needful at times; but no one wants to wear them on dusty roads, just as no one would choose to tramp through the snow with slippered feet. The builder of brick or stone structures must have his cement, or, if he works without it, he usually labors in vain; but the man who is blasting the rocks in the quarry has no need of cement. His purpose is to divide and not unite. He calls for wedges and he forces them into the rocks until fragments are lying at his feet. There are people who are more skilful with the wedge than with cement. They delight to pull down rather than build up. The bane of the church has been the appearing of men whose mission seemed to be division. Their constant cry was, Let us divide; and they went around with eagle eyes to discover any crevice, no matter how small, and into it they inserted their wedge. Then they hammered away with all their strength, and before they became tired they called others to their assistance. So the church has been rent and torn, and so many congregations in many places have been ruined; and all the time and in almost every instance, the starting point of the trouble was an unimportant trifle. How much better it would be if time thus wickedly spent were used to heal wounds and unite hearts. It would be more in the spirit of Christ who would that all should be one, and that there be no divisions among his followers. Men and women standing upon the truth and power and sufficiency of God's Word, and holding with an unyielding tenacity to the fundamental principles of the gospel of Christ, should never let mere matters of expediency, such as forms of worship and methods of work, prevent their most hearty co-operation in spreading the knowledge of the name of Jesus both at home and abroad.

The coal that is now being used in factories and in homes, or steamers and on trains was buried in the ground for many centuries. If it had remained in the earth for two thousand years more it would not have lost its caloric-producing power. It would simply be waiting to be used, and it would wait until used. With it time is a matter of small moment. A day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years are as a day. How different it is with things that are perishable. The harvest must be gathered in the autumn, or winter with its frosts and snows will come and spread ruin over the fields. The fruit must be picked in its season or it is useless to gather it at all. The only time to employ the steam generated in the boiler is when the steam is there. The engine may then be started and the whole machinery of a large establishment put in motion. But if delays are allowed to eat up the moments until the steam is condensed into water again, we will find that when we want the power we are too late—it has its disappeared. More steam may be produced, but what was ready is gone forever. So, to a great extent, it is with the latent powers in many of our congregations. There are young men and young women who have the ability to do a much needed but much neglected work for Christ. In many ways their energies could be employed. There is no scarcity of work in his vineyard; and still it remains true

that in a majority of our churches the talents of many of our young members are buried in the ground. We would not regret this truth so much if, like the coal, they are being stored up for future use, and in the meantime were not depreciating in value. As it is, however, they are being lost. They are rusting away. When their possessor disappears they, too, shall go. The church that fails to find work for its younger members, or refuses to encourage them, or throws obstacles in their way, is doomed to an early death. The hope of the future of our churches in these provinces is in the young. If they are not trained to work what will become of our cause? Any one can answer that question but no loyal disciple can find pleasure in the reply. In it all may find food for a month's thought.

The universe must ever be an inexplicable mystery to the infidel. To his inquiries of whence? and why? he is unable to get a satisfying answer. The believer gazes upon it and sees God's hand and His purposes in all. But even then all causes of wonder and argument are not removed. Creation was a marvellous act, but the maintenance of created things is only a little less astonishing. To govern a kingdom in righteousness, and without mistakes is what no king has ever been able to do. It would be vain for him to hope to please each one of his subjects. How much more difficult the task of governing a continent with its sections of conflicting interests. Enlarge the kingdom to a hemisphere, then unite the hemispheres, then add the sun, moon and stars; then think of the angels, seraphim and cherubim; and then contemplate the vastness of the universe whose affairs are controlled by Jehovah. How weak are man's strongest powers, how insufficient his highest wisdom, when confronted by such a task as this. And still man complains at God's management. In the vanity of his mind he sometimes thinks, and in the recklessness of his utterance he even dares to affirm that the All-Wise One makes mistakes. There is an undercurrent of murmuring and repining and distrust that is dishonoring to God, and out of harmony with that faith which should fire every Christian's breast. If every one had his wish just when and where he desired, special miracles must be of momentary occurrence; for consider how different, and often diverse, man's wishes are. The farmer looks at his hay field with its short and sparse growth, he thinks of the large herd he has to feed through a long winter, and he longs for rain. At the same time others whose work would be seriously retarded by wet weather, are congratulating themselves on the protracted drought. Their constant hope is that no rain clouds will pass their way. So it is in millions of instances: what one man hopes for, another man dreads. It is no wonder then that every man's whim is not gratified. The surprising thing of all is that notwithstanding man's conflicting desires and harmonious grumbings, God in the end makes things work out in the majority of cases to the satisfaction even of those who thought disaster was just ahead. God knows how to contrast the sunshine and the clouds, the storms and the calms, the abundance and the scarcity. If He were to give His power to man for a month, leaving his wisdom insignificant as now, the universe with its beauty and usefulness would soon be at an end.

### His Way Is Best.