

THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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NOTES AND NEWS.

This is the last number of THE CHRISTIAN for 1896. It should show improvement since the year began, and so should each of its readers.

Don't forget to renew your subscription. It will cheer us and make you feel better. Besides you will be more anxious to see and read the paper when you know it is paid for.

Some new writers appear this month with original contributions. Many more of our young people, and older ones too, can write acceptable articles. Let them send us their best thoughts, briefly expressed.

The brethren in Ontario are talking about a new paper to take the place of the *Canadian Evangelist*. We hope it will not end in talk. THE CHRISTIAN needs company in Canada. It is not big enough to look after the whole Dominion!

O. B. Stockford, who gives us such a clear, pointed article on "Christian Bigotry," is a member of Coburg St. Christian Church, a genuine Christian, and a painstaking and reliable lawyer. He has an advertisement on the last page of this paper.

If you find a bill in your paper this month, it should claim your immediate attention. We need the money that it calls for. When being generous with your Christmas gifts, do not forget to be just to the printer. It takes money to run a paper.

The *Christian Standard* tells us that just five years ago, the Dunham Avenue Church, Cleveland, O., was organized with a membership of thirty-one. Over five hundred have been received into fellowship since, and after losses by letters and death, four hundred and seventy-nine still remain.

If you want the best Commentary on Acts of Apostles, send one dollar to the Standard Pub. Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, and they will send you a cheap copy of McGarvey's two volumes bound in one. We write this for your benefit, not for theirs.

Our brethren in the United States know a good thing when they see it! At our N. B. and N. S. meeting at West Core, we had a careful and systematic study of the epistle to the Galatians, conducted by M. B. Ryan. The great Convention held in Springfield, Ill., nearly two months later studied several books in a similar manner. Good examples are worth following.

These provinces were never so well supplied with preachers as at present. Within about three years the following have been added to our forces: Geo. Manifold and R. W. Stevenson, on P. E. I.; T. H. Blenus, J. W. Bolton, R. E. Stevens and H. Wallace, in N. S.; and J. Charles B. Appel, and M. B. Ryan, in N. B. The coming of so many good men is ample reason for great thanksgiving.

For several years we have been in the habit of saying that the Disciples of Christ number about one million. We can now say they number more than a million. The figures given at the Springfield Convention are one million, three thousand, six hundred and seventy-two. These figures are likely to be below rather than above the real number. They show that we have much to be thankful for. We may well be gratified, but not satisfied.

We see by the *Christian Standard*, that Bro. C. H. Devoe is meeting or making great success in Richmond, Indiana. He entered upon the work there January 1st, 1895. The audience soon began to increase and additions were frequent. Before the year closed, "one hundred of the best people" in the town joined the church. This year there has been a further increase of fifty. A vigorous mission has been carried on in West Richmond.

Next year thousands of Sunday-schools—millions of scholars—are to study the book of Acts of Apostles. Let us hope and pray that they may study it to good purpose. They will then know, much better than some preachers seem to, what they must do to be saved. We would like to give every teacher in Canada a copy of McGarvey's new Commentary on Acts. It is a pity our Literature Committee cannot find a gold mine somewhere. They could make good use of it.

Some people are unfortunate in the choice of their illustrations. To them they seem to have all the force of a mathematical demonstration; but there is a serious mistake at the start, and so the conclusion is wrong. We once heard a preacher try to show that different denominations are all right because people are different, and he illustrated his argument by the busy, troubled Martha, and the wise Mary, who chose the good part. What denomination is willing to be the rebuked Martha? We find differences even in the apostles, he said. John was loving; Peter, bold; Paul, logical; and Apollos (who was not an apostle) eloquent. Very true; but they all preached the one gospel and all belonged to the one body; and Paul rebuked those who would build up denominations around Apollos, Peter, or himself.

John F. Rowe, who was on the editorial force of the *American Christian Review* with that mighty man, Benjamin Franklin, and who afterward became editor-in-chief, holding that position till the paper ceased publication, has for years been conducting the *Christian Leader*. We learn from the *Christian Evangelist* that his son, E. P. Rowe, "has recently been elected an elder of the First Church in Akron, O. He is also president of the Christian Endeavor Society and one of the most active workers in that city."

At last the Disciples are going to enter the dark continent. Ethiopia has long stretched out her hand to us. For more than a year E. E. Faris, a consecrated young preacher, has been waiting for some consecrated young doctor to say, "I will go with you." Dr. H. N. Biddle is willing to go, and early in the new year they will sail for Africa. Jesus taught and healed; he sent out his disciples to do the same. The healing won a hearing. In heathen lands to-day the work is most rapid when the doctor and preacher go together. The former opens the heart and the latter plants the seed of truth.

The rainbow fallacy is still being used to justify divisions among the followers of Christ. Seven different colors made up one beautiful rainbow; so, it is said, the many denominations make up the Church of Christ. The argument proves that as no color has all that is essential to the rainbow, so no denomination has all that is essential to the Church of Christ. If you take a cross section from the rainbow, you have a small portion of all that goes to make up the rainbow; but if you take away a longitudinal section—if you, for instance, take away one color—you do not have any portion of six remaining colors that enter into the rainbow. If any body of believers is a cross section of the church it has every characteristic that is found in the one body of Christ; but if any denomination is a longitudinal section, there is very much which is essential but which it does not have.

A writer in the *Christian Evangelist* gives a copy of a letter written by a preacher who applied for a vacant pastorate. Certainly orthography and syntax have both suffered in this letter, but we do not believe that "no man is fitted to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ" who so writes. It is very doubtful whether some of the apostles could write any better. Some of them were "unlearned and ignorant men." Some of the pioneers among the Disciples of Christ were not noted for their learning; but they did much to bring about the success that the more learned ministers of to-day are enjoying. There are places even as late in the nineteenth century as to-day, where humble God-fearing men, who know men better than they know books, can do a much needed work and do it well. Let us have as many well educated ministers as possible; but let us not say that no man is fitted to preach the gospel who has not had a long acquaintance with the school master. That is an ultra position.