

THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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ANNUAL MEETING OF 1887.

The annual meeting of 1887 will soon be here. All who love the Lord and His cause are, evidently, anxious that our coming Annual might be a profitable one. The Annual of 1886, at West Gore, was excellent in many respects. One thing was especially noticeable, that is, all who came to that meeting came for the express purpose of attending the meetings. This gave us a large number at all the meetings. Our meetings on Monday for business were the largest we ever had. This was very encouraging to those who are anxious for the prosperity of the cause in our Provinces. But if there is any one thing that is perfectly willing to one's courage, it is in seeing a number absent from the meetings, when they are the most needed. I know if we give the subject any thought we cannot neglect any of the meetings. I have seen persons who would take the benefit of the reduction on the lines of travel and also receive the kindness and hospitality of the brethren, and instead of seeking the interest of the meetings would spend much of the time that should be given to the meetings to sight-seeing and pleasure. This evil in the United States has driven the annual gatherings out of many of the large cities into the country towns. Let us consider this matter, and as the brethren in St. John have kindly invited us to their city to hold our twenty-third annual, let as many as can attend it with the desire and purpose to make it the best and most profitable meeting of the twenty-three. When we compare our first annual meeting in June 1865, with only six visitors present, with our annual meetings now, and mark the increase, we are greatly encouraged. But when we forget the past and look at our present strength and opportunities, and compare it with what we are now doing and see how far short it is from what we might and ought to do, it hurts our feelings badly. There is nothing but our own indifference to prevent us from increasing four-fold the prosperity of the grandest plea upon earth, the salvation of souls and the union of all God's children.

The design of our annual meetings is to promote and increase the interest in every department of Church work. We all feel the need of a better understanding of the ways and means of successful work. The most of those who are workers in the cause of Christ have some good, matured ideas, and we want the benefit of their knowledge. We

ought, therefore, to have some time of the Annual given to these different interests of the church—the prayer-meeting and the Sunday-school as well as other interests should be made a specialty. This would give an opportunity to all for exchange of thought and for asking questions and imparting their matured ideas relative to these various interests. We want more knowledge in the way to conduct a prayer-meeting. We know how to kill one, but how to conduct one successfully is a very important question, and is not yet a settled question.

Let our brethren shape their best thoughts on this subject, and on the Sunday-school work, and mission work, etc. Think and read up on these subjects and come to the Annual with your hearts and pockets full, and we will have a mutual, beneficial, instructive meeting. We need have no fears in regard to our bodily needs. The brethren in St. John will attend to these liberally. Our special anxiety is that we may get a good supply of the good things of the kingdom that will help us in our respective fields of labor during the year.

H. M.

STEAMBOATS AND RAILWAYS.

Correspondence with the various Companies controlling the lines of travel to and from our city enables us to report as follows:—

The Yarmouth Steamship Co., the Nova Scotia Steamship Co., the Intercolonial, the New Brunswick and the Grand Southern railways will give to delegates returning from the meeting a ticket free of charge to any station (or port) from which when starting to the meeting they paid one full first-class fare, and on presenting to the purser on boat or at station a certificate duly signed by the Secretary of the Meeting.

Our friends, then, will remember that when coming to the meeting, whether by boat or train, they have nothing to do but to buy a single first-class ticket to St. John. Their returning free of charge will be arranged for in St. John at the meeting.

The Windsor & Annapolis railway, N. S., writes. Persons having attended the meeting will be taken back for one third of one first-class fare, on presenting to the agent at Annapolis a certificate from the Secretary of Meeting.

The agent of the International Steamship Co., in a courteous note, says. We cannot make special rates during the summer season. Our fares are only about half those of the railroads; hence your delegates, by taking our regular excursion tickets, will meet with low rates.

Those coming from Eastport, Lubec, Deer Island, etc., will do well to buy excursion tickets to St. John.

Much confusion and annoyance to our visiting friends could be avoided by them dropping, a week beforehand, a card to T. H. Capp, Box 106, stating the time of coming, the boat or train.

J. E. BARNES,
Secretary.

ENCOURAGING reports come from Bro. Freeman, now on P. E. I. The Lord is blessing his efforts to do good. Bro. Devoc has been strengthened in his efforts to preach Christ, by the many kindnesses shown him by the brethren at Cornwallis and Tiverton. Among many others he mentioned especially the name of Bro. Dwyer, as one that encouraged him greatly.

WE ASK our readers to peruse carefully the excellent article—"Soundness vs. Fruitfulness" by Bro. Ryan. And also that of Bro. MacLeod's under Correspondence.

A FEW brethren have, in response to Bro. Messervey's suggestion, sent us a dollar each for mission work. We report not the amount this month, but expect to next—when we hope to have a longer list.

DURING this month two of our young men—Bro. Ellis Barnes of St. John, and Bro. Weaver of Nova Scotia—start for the college at Lexington, Ky., to prepare themselves for the work of the Lord. May God bless these young men in their efforts to serve Him. May they be kept from the snares that beset their pathway; be kept humble and prayerful, and come back to us again—workmen that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Brethren, remember them in your prayers.

T. DEWITT TALMAOE, when speaking recently of the Bible said:

The Bible is right in its doctrines. Man, a sinner. Christ, a Saviour—the two doctrines. Man must come down—his pride, his self-righteousness, his worldliness; Christ, the Anointed, must go up. If it had not been for the setting forth of the Atonement, Moses would never have described the creation; prophets would not have predicted; apostles would not have preached. It seems to me as if Jesus in the Bible were standing on a platform in a great amphitheatre, as if the prophets were behind Him, throwing light forward on His sacred person, and as if the apostles and evangelists stood before Him, like footlights, throwing up their light into His blessed countenance, and then as if all the earth and heaven were the applauding auditory. The Bible speaks of Pisgah, Carmel, and Sinai, but makes all mountains bow down to Cavalry.

MR. POWDERLY, Grand Master of the Knights of Labor, gives no uncertain sound as to his position on the Temperance question. In a speech recently delivered, among many other good things, he said:

"I know that in refusing to even touch a drop of strong drink I was and am right. In refusing to treat another to that which I do not believe to be good for myself to drink, I know I am right. In refusing to associate with men who get drunk I know I am right. In not allowing a rum-seller to gain admittance into the order of the Knights of Labor, I know I am right. In advising our associates not to rent halls or meeting-rooms over drinking places, I know that I am right. I have done this from the day my voice was first heard in the council halls of our order. My position on the question of temperance is right. I am determined to maintain and will not alter it one jot or tittle."

BRO. ERRETT'S account of the brethren at Smyrna is very interesting, especially when we remember that here was one of the seven churches (Rev. ii. 8), to which the apostle John, while on the Isle of Patmos, was directed by the Spirit to write—"These things saith the First and the Last, who was dead and is alive again, I know thy works and tribulation and poverty (but thou art rich)," etc. Let it be remembered, too, that this was the only church of the seven upon which the Spirit passed no censure, such as "I have somewhat against thee," and that during a long period of time, while all traces of Christianity were lost sight of in six of the seven places mentioned, the candle-stick at Smyrna was ever present, holding up and forth at least a flickering light amid the severest times. And now that light is brightening, and we trust will do so until, as in the days of the apostle, it may meet without censure the divine approval.