

*The Christian.*

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## EDITORIAL.

END OF VOLUME XVII.

This number closes the Seventeenth volume of THE CHRISTIAN.

The brethren who started THE CHRISTIAN on its mission saw many circumstances that opposed its work and threatened its defeat. One of these was the great hardship of keeping up for a length of time a small paper in a community already growing under a load of literature. They anticipated the reply of those asked to take THE CHRISTIAN. "We have so many papers seeking support, why ask us to take yours?" And had this reason read, viz., "This paper advocates Christianity and nothing else—a Christianity without sectarianism of any kind."

No one expected to make money by the publication of THE CHRISTIAN. Its sole aim was to advocate the teaching and spread the religion of the Son of the living God, to urge the lost to read and believe Jesus, so that he may save them from sin in the same way that he saved believers in the Apostle's days; and according to his last great commission and when saved according to Jesus promise to receive his teaching and walk in his steps until they meet him in the air.

As it was, and is, the sole object of THE CHRISTIAN to point all to the Son of God we greatly rejoice to know that his unseen hand still upholds it. The intelligent Christian does not expect

"To be carried to the skies  
On flowery beds of ease."

nor to gain the victory without fighting the good fight of faith.

Many things occur in these provinces to impede the progress of the cause for which we plead. One is the continual loss of church members by emigration. This is so great that some churches lose more than they gain and a few lose their entire visibility, others remain stationary, while a large number grow and increase notwithstanding this obstruction. But what is a loss to us proves a gain to others, and many churches in the eastern states are largely made up of provincials.

Contrasting the present with the past shows much for which we have reason to thank God and take courage. About forty years ago some foreign preacher attended the Annual held at Summerside, P. E. I. What was then considered our greatest need was more preachers, and a resolution passed that efforts be made to find suitable young men and encourage them to preach, and at the same time that earnest prayers be offered to God to send laborers into his harvest. A very few years after the same little church at Summerside

then struggling for an existence, held a series of meetings, in which the church was greatly revived; quite a number converted; four of whom have been nearly ever since preaching the gospel with great acceptance in the United States; and this is but the beginning of the chapter. Here and there all over these provinces noble young men have turned to the Lord, and with a heroism that defies obstruction have gained an education which, with the grace of Christ, qualifies them to take their position at the front of the army of the living God.

Without any intention of ignoring or underestimating other extraordinary cases or grand men which we hope other pens better fitted than ours may yet describe in THE CHRISTIAN, we will refer to a few cases we know and mention to glorify God.

Since the time mentioned above a few brethren in city of St. John met for worship in a hired hall every Lord's day. When a preaching brother visited them he was joyfully received, and from time to time others were added to the church. Finally a lot was purchased and then a commodious house built. The church grew in numbers and influence until another was organized in the city and a good house built, and recently opened nearly free from debt. Can we not see God's hand in this?

In Pictou, N. S., a man lives who is perfectly satisfied with Christianity and has long and earnestly desired to have the gospel as Jesus has sent it to all nations preached in that place, but could scarcely obtain even a hall for the purpose. But he erected at his own expense a suitable house. Even then it was difficult to get a hearing. But now a church has been organized, a number added the house generously given to it, and a useful preacher is giving his entire time to the ministry of the word. Is not this the Lord's doing and marvelous in our eyes?

Less than two years ago the faithful and beloved George Manifold to labor in other fields left the little church in Charlottetown. As their number was small and expenses high it was generally thought that their meetings would cease at least till help came. But they met regularly for six months when Robert F. Whiston visited them greatly to their joy. His preaching was faithful and attracting, and the people flocked out to hear him, so that he and the church were satisfied that the Lord had good work for him in that city, and he remains. His labors are so indefatigable that the result has been the purchase of a good lot in one of the best localities, and an excellent House built on it with the most of expenses paid. The impression is that if he and the church, by God's grace, continue to work together faithfully, the result will be glorious.

On the day of the opening it was very gratifying to witness the kind feeling of the people and their readiness to offer money toward the building fund. But more gratifying still to observe the close attention of the large audience to Bro. Mohorter's eloquent discip-

tion of the glorified man, his ardent love for his lost brethren, and his full ability and deep anxiety to save and forever satisfy every one who comes to him. Such preaching to such an audience will not, cannot, be wholly lost.

Another cause of thanksgiving to God is the supply of new preachers where they were most needed, and the satisfaction they give in their respective fields. Space only permits the mention of a few. The brother in Pictou is highly spoken of as the right man in the right place. The same is abundantly evident in Charlottetown. The long continuance of the brother in the new church in St. John speaks volumes in favor of him and them. We are pleased to hear that the young brother at Summerside is deep in the peoples' affection, and gives promise of extensive usefulness. The report coming from the church at Montague is highly gratifying and a credit to the preacher.

But the last to mention is the church at New Glasgow, the one nearest to the writer's heart. To learn of its prosperity will be a benediction while life and breath remain. Last year Bro. A. N. Simpson was engaged to preach for this church one half of his time. This year he is engaged for the whole time. Besides the esteem in which he is held by the church he has chosen for a life companion, a faithful member who is known by almost every member in the church, and known only to be loved for her amiability and faithfulness to the Master. May the good Lord guide them and spare them long to be a blessing to each other and to the cause of Christ. As we compare the present state of the cause with the past, we are constrained to exclaim, "What hath God wrought?"

Some who took part in its past struggles and triumphs remain unto the present, but many are fallen asleep. Let those who now bear the burden remember the words of the Grecian General to his army in the field, "We are not come here to boast of our fathers but to imitate them." Let them especially remember the word and appointment of our Great Commander, "That he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together." What influence this paper may have exacted in bringing about the growth of his cause is fully known to him who owns THE CHRISTIAN and whom we sincerely wish to control it. Brethren, don't turn your back on THE CHRISTIAN, nor give it the cold shoulder, but help to improve and circulate it. It is needed, and will be needed until a better is prepared to take its place.

"It is no sign of imperfection in a peach tree that it does not bear peaches in spring. It is not necessary that an acorn should grow into an oak in order to its being perfect as an acorn. Each stage of vegetable growth—blade, ear, full corn in the ear—has its own characteristic perfectness. The Divine Man was perfect along the whole line of his human unfolding—perfect as a babe, perfect as a child, perfect as a youth, perfect as a man. Beware, then, of a phantom Christ."