

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

ST. JOHN ITEMS.

COBURG ST. CHURCH.—Lord's day services at 11 A. M. and 7 P. M. Sunday School at 2.15 P. M. Young People's Meeting, Tuesday evening at 8. General Prayer Meeting, Thursday evening at 8. Brethren visiting the city cordially welcomed. The Ladies' Sewing Society meets every Wednesday evening at 6.

Our New Year's Meeting was, as usual, very interesting and profitable; there was a good attendance, and about 22 took part in the exercises.

Five persons have taken membership this year, all of whom had been previously baptized.

A children's missionary meeting was held on Friday evening, January 18th. The meeting was a grand success in every particular. The children took part in singing. Bro. Capp gave a very interesting missionary address, which was enjoyed by all. Miss Allie Wilson recited "The Harvest is great but the Laborers are few," by request, which was rendered very nicely. A special feature of the meeting was breaking the "Missionary Jugs," which the children had given to them about six months previous. Each jug was broken and the name of the owner with the amount it contained announced to the audience. Some thirty-six jugs were broken and found to contain the handsome sum of \$54. This with a collection which was taken up, was handed to the Treasurer of the Home Mission Board. The meeting closed by all singing "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name."

Several of the ladies of the church planned to surprise Bro. Capp and wife Tuesday evening, the 22nd ult., being the fifth anniversary of their wedding-day. A large number of the congregation paid them a visit, leaving mementos of the occasion in woodenware of all kinds, both useful and ornamental. A bountiful repast was prepared by the ladies, and all pronounced the affair very enjoyable.

G. F. B.

DEER ISLAND.

Dear Brother,—At our regular meeting on the evening of the first Lord's day in the New Year, two persons who had calmly examined the ground of the Christian's hope, came forward and confessed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and their desire to follow Him. During the week four others came forward and confessed the Christ, and also expressed their desire to submit to all the requirements of the gospel. All were buried with Christ by baptism into death, rising to walk in the new life—the life of faith on the Son of God.

Last Lord's day a young woman residing at Northern Harbor, feeble in health, and therefore unable to travel far from home, sent for the writer and, before God and the solemn and interested company assembled, confessed the Christ, the Son of God, and was baptized the same hour. I earnestly pray that her pure young life may be prolonged, so that among the children of men she may adorn the doctrine of God her Saviour.

The brethren here, at Lord's Cove, are encouraged; and while there is no excitement, in the popular sense, there is more earnestness in spiritual matters. Some who have been resting by the way, perhaps under the false impression that they had not much influence either way, have again taken up the duties of the Christian life, and we hope that many may be influenced for good and the name of Jesus magnified.

There are others who once rejoiced in the knowledge of sins forgiven and whose desire was to run patiently and purely the race set before every child of God; their hearts were full of love to God and men and a strong desire to win souls to Christ; but

in an evil day, yielding perhaps to untoward influences, or allowing themselves to be seduced by the glimmer of the perishing bubbles of earth, they permitted their hope to be clouded—"the fine gold to become dim,"—and whatever otherwise their position in this life may be, spiritually they are poor indeed. O, that each one might arise, like Samson of old, in the strength of Israel's God, and, bursting the withes of earth with which they are bound, march on to victory. The time will come when the Church will stand forth in all her beautiful garments, adorned with the beauty of holiness, fully prepared to meet the Bridegroom. Where in that day will the loiterer be, whose garments are polluted by the contaminating influences of many of the associations of earth? While the young rejoice in the new-found hope, and the strong are growing stronger day by day, may those who have forgotten—who have fallen into the sleep of indifference—"arise from the dead that Christ may give them light."

O. B. EMERY.

Jan. 21, 1884.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY.

I have been trying for some time to think of something to write for THE CHRISTIAN, not because I wish to see my name in print, but I love the cause which we plead, and I feel desirous to say something that will in some way benefit somebody. What shall I say? I will try to give the readers of THE CHRISTIAN some idea of the cause of primitive religion in this county,—our prospects and our needs. Bro. Emery has already told us something of Deer Island. There are two congregations of Disciples on that island; one at Lord's Cove numbering, I think, over one hundred members. They have a comfortable house, but it is not large enough to accommodate the large congregations that gather here from time to time. They have made arrangements to build a suitable house, and the church is taking on new life under Bro. Emery. The other congregation is at Leonardsville. Here they have a fine new house, 30x42, and a live church. Bro. Emery spends one-third of his time with this church. Besides these two congregations there are Disciples scattered all over the island. Two active men would find work all the time here to properly present the gospel to those who are ready to listen. Where is the man to take that field with Bro. Emery?

Leaving Lord's Cove in a boat, three miles brings us to Le Tete. Here we find an old congregation numbering one hundred and upwards. This church has not moved steadily forward as might have been expected. There is now a good feeling in this congregation, and signs of a desire to be at work is apparent. A new house is much needed here, as the one we now occupy is too small and cannot well be enlarged and made in proportion. This, I think, is the general feeling in the community; and, I think, soon a movement will be made in this direction.

From Le Tete we travel nearly east, and twenty minutes on foot we are in the Back Bay Settlement. The church in this community has not yet been organized two years. Seventy-five names are recorded on the church book. Most all of these are showing some signs of life. A house for worship was begun here before the organization of the church, to be free in every respect. This house is now completed and occupied by us. The dimensions of the house is 30x40, ceiling 18 feet in the clear. We have very enjoyable meetings here and the need of working is felt by many of them.

As we pass from Back Bay on the way to St. George, after travelling three miles we make the Settlement of l'Etang. The inhabitants here are somewhat mixed. We find Presbyterians, Roman Catholics, Episcopalians, Baptists of two kinds, and Disciples. There is not a church of any kind here, nor can there be while sectarianism thus divides it.

This is one of my preaching points, and quite a number have obeyed the gospel and others are inquiring the way.

From this point, by crossing a river about a half a mile wide and walking a mile, we reach Black's Harbor where, until last winter, our plea had never been heard. About twenty have been immersed here and a church has been organized. They have a house in building—24x30. The outside of this house is finished, and with a good stove we find it very comfortable. This house we hope to see finished at no distant day. The members here are quite active.

Besides these places there are good openings for preaching at Pennfield, Mascareen and Caithness.

The cause in Le Tete and Back Bay needs the constant care and labors of an active man. Many things need setting in order there. The other places mentioned would give a live preacher plenty of work and some pay. I think that if the Mission Board could aid a man in this field for one year—say pay half his salary—that the cause in the future would sustain itself. One thing I would mention is that in all those places where we have churches organized we have all the ground. There is no other religious society. At some other time I may show the opening for work in other parts of the county.

J. A. GATES.

Le Tete, Jan. 22, 1884.

A TRIP TO BACK BAY.

Bro. Gates' article, and the want of space in this issue compel me to condense and leave out much of what I might otherwise have written on my visit to Back Bay.

Having been kindly invited by Bro. Gates to attend the Quarterly Meeting at the above-named place, though not able to be there on the Lord's day, I decided to slip down and see the brethren through the week.

About eight o'clock on Monday morning, Jan. 14th, I left home, taking the Carleton Ferry was soon on board the Grand Southern. After a lapse of about three hours—length of time not required by the distance, but due to many stoppages and causes common to all new railroads—we arrived in St. George, N. B. In the afternoon, after a pleasant drive of seven miles, we reached the meeting-house in good time to take a part in the social meeting then in progress. Though a meeting had been held in the morning, and another appointed for night, there was quite a nice gathering. The singing, the exhortations and prayers, not only of that meeting, but of those throughout the week, exhibited a warmth of feeling that was quite refreshing.

On my arrival and during my stay I was treated very kindly indeed; and the pleasant interviews I had with many of the brethren led me to believe that in Back Bay there are some true, noble hearted Christians, and a field, if properly worked, productive of much good.

The meeting-house, clapboarded on the outside, is indeed a very neat one. It stands but a short distance from the main road on a high piece of ground, about the centre of the settlement. On entering the door, which is in the end facing the southeast, we find a room forty by thirty, from the floor to the ceiling eighteen feet, nicely plastered, having ten gothic windows, four on either side, and one on each side of the door. The room is furnished with everything that is necessary to make it comfortable. At the further end is a raised platform, and on it a neat and suitable pulpit, and in front on the floor is a small table on which to spread the Lord's Supper. On either side of the platform and over against the walls, lengthways of the building and down the centre are placed settees, thus furnishing two aisles, and if the audience should ever feel cold, or at night the light should appear dingy, no blame can be attached to the present stove, nor the ample means for the provision of lights. The total cost of the