

THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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We wish all our readers A Happy New Year.

Now is the time to get new subscribers. We ought at least to have five hundred more on our list.

H. W. Stewart will preach a few evenings at Keswick, N. B., during the first week of the new year.

The history of the Church in Worcester, Mass. in this issue will be read with a great deal of interest by many of our provincial brethren.

Very few of our subscribers have responded to our appeal to assist the brethren at Silver Falls. The house is finished and occupied, and about one hundred dollars is yet needed to liquidate the debt. The zeal and energy of our brethren at Silver Falls is commendable.

Bro. and Sister Ford have returned to their home after a two months' visit.

Bro. R. E. Stevens, of Lord's Cove, is in St. John, and will fill Bro. Stewart's place during his absence.

The church in St. John has for many years held a New Year's day Meeting which is usually considered one of the best meetings of the church. This year our meeting was a grand one, at the close of the meeting a collection was taken in aid of the poor fund of the church. A liberal offering was received.

Bro. H. A. Northcutt, who so many of our readers will remember with pleasure, is now holding a meeting in Carthage, Mo. Bro. Northcutt is anxious to visit us again. It would be a grand move to have him hold a meeting for each of our churches in the provinces. Those who know him would gladly welcome him to these parts.

The Christian life is pre-eminently one of activity and usefulness. When it is spoken of as a race, we are commanded to *run*; when it is considered as a warfare, we are commanded to *fight*; when the Christian is likened to an agriculturist, he is commanded to *sow*, morning and evening; when he is referred to as a pilgrim, he is exhorted to *press forward* in his journey. Every Christian is expected to be a worker, and to share in all the various labors and activities of the Church. There should be no stragglers or camp-followers in the Lord's army.—*Sel.*

In the library of the years the volume for 1893 has taken its place beside the one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two

The Old Year. which tells the world's history since Christ was born. In this

book the months are chapters, days are pages, hours are lines, minutes are words and seconds are letters. The book has been written full and Father Time has bound it as he did all the rest; he has closed it with a golden clasp, and now everyone may read it, but no one can change what has been written. While we have been helping to fill this new volume in the history of the world, each of us has been writing his autobiography. Some of the readers of THE CHRISTIAN have been writing now for nearly eighty years. What a wonderful collection the volumes of all these years make. Some of the old ones tell the story of happy childhood days. How often aged people take these books down and read again the record of these years. Some of the books relate the events of prosperity and hopefulness, when everything seemed to be bright and no signs of coming clouds were seen. Others tell of misfortunes and sorrows that have been crowded into one volume. The tone running through these has lost the lightness, and the style has lost the sparkle that are to be found in many of the others. The books that our aged readers have been writing for the last few years are growing smaller and smaller. The authors have withdrawn from the busy scenes of life, and now they are writing with trembling hand, the lessons they have gathered from the past; and here and there we find paragraphs which all the younger people should study—paragraphs telling how differently some of the chapters and books should be written if it were possible to do so; how sins would be avoided and temptations shunned; how much more faithfully duties would be done and how steadfastly God would be glorified.

We are all starting to write another volume, and at the top of every page we see in large figures, 1894. We are writing

The New Year. the first pages now, but some of us may be compelled to leave the

last ones untouched. The book will be but a fragment. From the hands of a few the pen may fall when scarcely one chapter has been written. What will the record of that chapter be—joyous anticipations or sad retrospections. In many homes here and there, the story of the year may be carried half way through. The remaining pages will be blank. Some of us may be writing the closing chapter of the year, and before we finish it be called away. Many old people will never begin to write another volume. 1895 they shall not see. May they now write with care, and may every page, and line, and word, shine with a brightness that shall never grow dim. But the strong man and woman, the aspiring boy and the hopeful girl are not exempt. May those who close the volume of their lives before the year is ended, have arising from their recorded deeds the sweet fragrance of a consecrated life—a fragrance arising as naturally, and being as sweet as that which charges the air in the Garden of Delights. But the most of us will write our volume through. It will take its place with the ten, twenty, thirty, forty, fifty, sixty, or seventy, which we have already completed.

The book is now in our hands. As we are writing the first pages, let us engrave and put as a frontispiece, the prayer that God will enable us to place on every page the record of good deeds done in the name of Christ, of souls brought to Jesus for pardon and peace, and particularly that we, individually, are more and more being strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ is dwelling in our hearts by faith, and that we are being filled with all the fullness of God. Let us also determine that we will try and do whatsoever Christ would have us do. And thus exercising care on our part, and being divinely aided, we may feel sure that the volume for 1894 will be one which we can often take up and read with pleasure.

During the year which has closed, each of our churches in these Provinces has been writing a new book. Is not the present **The Church Book.** a good time for the members to take up that volume and study it carefully. Whether the pages

tell of success or of failures, they are full of profitable lessons. Failures may be made the stepping stones to success, or they may be allowed to be hindrances to all progress. Success may urge to increased efforts to spread the knowledge of Christ's name and power, or it may lead to contentment and consequent inactivity, inspiring the thought that since we have done more than others we may well afford to rest. None of our churches has done all that it should have done—perhaps not all it hoped to do. But nearly every one has made some advance. The membership has been increased; there has been a deepening of the channels of religious life; the young people are becoming more active as they are being led to see that there is work for them to do—and work which they can do; the sisters in our churches are finding out more and more that their talents are not to be hidden away, and the year has shown not only that they can work, but that their work has a general tonical effect. Regretting all failures, and thankful for successes, our churches should begin the New Year with strong desires and earnest purposes pointing to a very large ingathering of souls; an increased attendance at the prayer meetings; a larger number of children and of young men and women in our Sunday-schools; a more complete enlistment of the energies of all our young people in every one of our churches; the development of a more universal spirit of giving on the part of all Christians—giving cheerfully, proportionately and systematically. If each one of our churches will plan great things for God, and follow up its resolutions by its endeavors and its prayers, when the volume for 1894 is finished, it will prove to be the best that has yet been written.

Another year in the general work of the Provinces has gone. The book in which its doings are recorded has been closed. Let **The Provincial Book.** be opened and read a few extracts for our encouragement. More money was collected for Home Mission work during the past year, and a greater number were added to the Lord than during 1892. Three new houses have been opened for public worship; and one church and two Sunday-schools, and three Endeavor Societies have been organized, besides several Women's Auxiliary Societies and Children's Bands;