

Correspondence.

OUR COLLEGE IN CANADA.

DEAR CHRISTIAN:

Will you kindly take a message to your many readers, from the west? After years of silence I write you again to represent the brethren of Ontario directly and your readers almost as directly, in fact the cause of Christ in all our fair Dominion. I want to tell you first about the red-letter day we had last Thursday, April 5. The College of the Disciples sent forth its eight first graduates, two of whom, N. D. Wells and F. W. Harlow, go forth ordained by the elders of the church of Christ in St. Thomas to preach the gospel of peace. Bro. Harlow may already have formed your acquaintance as he passes by on his way to the work at Summerside, P. E. I. We had such a pleasant and helpful series of meetings at our Commencement exercises, and you will rejoice with us that the cause of establishing primitive Christianity has received a new impetus, and especially as you are to share with us the fruits thereof.

Now, dear CHRISTIAN, are you wondering why I have spoken of our Commencement as a red-letter day? If you and your readers will stop a moment and think of some very significant facts you will see the answer without my telling you.

1. How many homes do you enter every month of heralds of the Cross in foreign lands who watch with eager eyes for news from home? Heralds who, when the Spirit of Christ at their new birth breathed into them the first sweet impulse of love for dying men, earnestly resolved to prepare themselves for the ministry of Christ. Nowhere in all this fair Dominion could they find a place where they could learn the simple gospel and the best way to proclaim it. Almost every one of them were poor, they are better men for that, and when they went to the United States to get their education and incurred large indebtedness, and found large fields ripe for the harvest, and large (?) salaries whereby they could pay their debts and make a home, what wonder that Canada saw them no more? A. McLean was such an one—except that his home has only been where God's needy want his help—and the Silver Jubilee this year is what it is so largely because of his consecration. We love to call him ours, nor do we selfishly covet him for Canada but rejoice that he found a larger opportunity. J. A. Lord is another, who leads one of the greatest forces for the cause of Christ ever wielded in the world. Neil McLeod, H. T. Morrison, Wm. Bayard Craig, Hugh McDiarmid, R. W. Stevenson, M. B. Ryan, George A. Campbell, leader of another Christian journal of exceptional power. C. T. Paul has left another editor's chair in Toronto to swell the force across the line. H. W. Stewart, too, whom we all loved as ourselves, is over there. Ellis Barnes and a host of others whose names I cannot mention. Why are they not at work in Canada? More

than any other reason because they were not educated by a college of the Disciples in Canada. Secondly, because a college and its influences would have so affected the cause that there would have been the same large opportunities here as in the States.

2. Do you know that the cause of Christ alone and Christian union was preached in Ontario, and I think in the Maritime Provinces almost as soon as it was proclaimed by the fathers in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, earlier than in Missouri, Iowa, Texas, etc. I do not know how many readers you have in the Provinces—and I sincerely trust every Disciple is your reader—but in Ontario we have 45,000 Disciples out of 2,000,000 people. In Ohio there are 80,000, Indiana, 107,000, Illinois, 120,000, Iowa, 60,000, Texas, 70,000; and in Missouri, 163,000 Disciples, or 1 in 16 of the population; in Ontario, 1 in 400!

3. When Bro. Campbell began to preach the simple gospel of the grace of God, why did he simultaneously found Bethany College of the Bible? Because he was inspired with the conviction that men must be trained to present that plea and Bethany is, from a human standpoint, the mother of our marvelously rapid and substantial growth, along with the dozen or two of her sturdy daughters, one in every state where the cause has flourished.

Now, dear CHRISTIAN, you have the reason why our Commencement day is a red-letter day among the Disciples in Canada. Our future success depends upon the prosperity of our own college. Five years ago it started with four students in the basement of the church in St. Thomas. Now we have a commodious building, not large enough, however, for our rapidly growing needs, an enrollment of forty students, mostly ministerial and missionary. During last vacation over 100 were won to Christ and the church by these students. Twenty-four preaching places owe their existence to the college and many more their support and supply.

Our boys are educated far below cost, the college depending almost entirely upon contributions from the brotherhood. Eight teachers last session taught in the college at an aggregate salary from the college of \$780. Tremendous sacrifices are being made, and tremendous results are being attained. This is the only solution of the question of our many pastorless churches. If we educate our young men at a merely nominal cost they can afford to stay and work for the small salaries the churches usually can afford to give. And more, we have among us many young men doing noble work even in their student days who would never have been able to leave home but for the advantages offered by our college. So the work goes on. Brethren, do you not desire an active, earnest share in it? Is there any home or foreign mission work to compare in far-reaching results with this? Truly, Pres. E. V. Zollars, of Hiram, is right in speaking of our educational needs as the "The Overshadowing Issue." Especially is this true in Canada. Write for more definite information than my brief sketch here can give. We have sent you our first-born son. What will you send us, or rather the college, in return? This is *your work*. It is not ours. Send your boys and girls and your contributions. God bless you all, and all his people and his work. *Au revoir.* E. E. CRAWFORD.

St. Thomas, Ont.

DEER ISLAND LETTER.

When I wrote my last letter I had about decided to go west, but the church at Lord's Cove were so anxious for me to stay, and there seemed to be so much need for me that I have consented to continue the work. I pray that by our mutual efforts that the good work may go on. I will preach a part of the time at Back Bay and Mascarene. I expect to have a busy time of it but that is what I like.

The church at Lord's Cove recently appointed several new deacons to assist those who have been in the service and are growing old.

The Mission Band is having a concert on the 24th.

Not long ago I baptized a number of converts one day. After doing so I went to a house where a woman said to me that she did not believe much in water baptism she believed in the baptism of the Holy Ghost. I asked her if she could perform miracles or speak a language she had never learned; she said she could not, then I doubted her Spirit baptism. Is it not strange that people can not discriminate between the baptism of the Holy Spirit and his indwelling in the heart of a believer?

I looked over the April CHRISTIAN for something about the general collection for home work to be taken up the first Sunday in May, but I could not see any reference to it. I think I have read in THE CHRISTIAN and have also heard our preaching brethren say that the more we gave to foreign the more we would have to give to home missions. Would it not be well for our Home Board to encourage all to give to the foreign work, that is if the above is true?

There has been and still is a great deal of sickness on this part of the Island.

We are planning for a county meeting in the near future. We have five churches in this county and ought to have five more. I will tell you more about it in my next.

Bro. F. G. Calder is doing a good work at Leonardville.

Hoping that we may reach the 500 souls and the \$1,500 I toil on.

One confession at Back Bay since I last wrote.
W. H. HARDING.

Original Contributions.

A CHRISTIAN LIFE.

H. MURRAY.

It is more than existence. It is union and fellowship with Christ. He is the life and light of the world. To be separated from Christ is death. Existence is as true of inanimate as of animate things. We never say a stone lives. God breathed into man the breath of life. Not till then had he life, although he was in existence. There is no other possible answer to the question of life. Science, with all its wisdom, cannot, because it has not, bridged the abyss between something and nothing, between non-living things and life. The Christian life is the ideal life because it is from him who alone can impart true life. The Christian life is therefore eternal life, and nothing else can be worth