

was playing in the opera house. The daily papers say that in the afternoon the place was comfortably full and in the evening—when the storm was at its worst—standing room was at a premium. We will venture to say that there were church members out to the Devil's house who thought Sunday was too wet for them to venture to the house of the Lord. It is strange that Sunday-rain should be so much more dangerous than Saturday-rain, and that people should be so much afraid of sitting in damp clothes, in the place of worship, for one hour; and so little afraid of sitting for two hours, in wetter clothes, in the place of amusement.

We are apt to imagine that some religious customs to which we have conformed for years, and, which, too, were the customs of our fathers, are almost divine in their origin. We would not think of disturbing them. Such a custom is that (in churches to which a minister gives all his time) of having two preaching services on the Lord's day and a Sunday-school in the morning or afternoon. Prof. Hamil, a prominent Sunday-school worker, says he would like to disturb this arrangement, and by another plan which he feels would be more successful. He would preach but one sermon on the Lord's day, but into that he would put the best thought and effort of the week. In the afternoon he would have the Bible School, into which young and old would be gathered for the study of the Word of God. It would not be simply a place for children. The parents would be expected to be present. In the evening there would be no sermon, but an evangelistic meeting in which the members of the church would speak and sing and pray, with the end in view of winning sinners to the Saviour. Perhaps the best plan of all is to have the morning and afternoon occupied as he suggests, and in the evening have a short sermon followed by such a meeting as he suggests.

### Correspondence.

#### ON THE WING

We are now at "East Point," P. E. I., on the shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and in view of "Cape Breton." There are a number of settlements at "East Point" where our brethren reside, one of which is "Lake Side," where we are now holding a few meetings. Last evening was the first fine evening since we left New Glasgow (a week ago) and the house was full. The attendance and interest were intense. How we do wish we could have some fine weather! The people here are so scattered that it is next to impossible to get to meeting through the storms and mud.

We have about thirty-five families of Disciples at East Point. We find them very kind, warm-hearted and hospitable. They have a very neat and commodious church-house as near the centre of the different settlements as possible, which means quite a little distance from all of them. They have a small house at "Lake Side," sufficiently large, however, to accommodate the people in this settlement. Not being able, as they suppose, to employ a preacher all the time, they are without the care and instruction and encouragement of a pastor which, unfortunately, leaves them out of the lines of church work that is absolutely necessary to the prosperity of any church. They are coming to see more clearly that the work as well as the worship of the church must be sustained in order to maintain their identity, as well as their growth

and prosperity. We have good reasons for believing that the time is not far distant when this church will move along in aggressive work and sound the truth abroad through their communities and into other lands.

We had a very pleasant and busy time in New Glasgow. The stormy weather prevented meetings several evenings. But when the weather and roads were suitable, the meetings were large and interesting. I am sure I never stood before a more intelligent, appreciative audience. I never received better attention, was never more kindly treated in every respect. I would like to say what is in my heart to say concerning the kindness I received at the home of Bro. Crawford, but this no doubt is well understood, without saying, by all who have enjoyed the hospitality of that home. Bro. Crawford is as clear and vigorous in mind as ever. It is as profitable as it is pleasant to receive the instruction of one whose mind and soul is so well filled with the knowledge and love of divine truth.

We had the pleasure of attending two meetings with the church at Charlottetown. There seems to be an increased activity on the part of the church. Bro. Manifold is a busy man and if retained among them will move the cause on to victory, providing the church will work with him for the salvation of men, and prayerfully and strictly heed Paul's injunction to Timothy. (2 Tim. ii. 22-23).  
H. MURRAY.

#### THE NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Association of the churches of Christ in New England was held Oct. 2nd to 4th in Worcester, Mass. The church in Worcester with their pastor, B. H. Hayden, extended to all visitors and delegates a cordial welcome to home and heart.

The condition of the churches of Christ in New England is varied. Those which have resident preachers, with few exceptions, are doing well; increasing in liberality which reveals deepening spirituality. Those churches which are preacherless, or have spasms of preaching, are waging an unequal conflict. Some of these have had great tenacity of purpose and strong faith.

The convention took a wise step for New England, in deciding to use our missionary offerings not to evangelize in churches, but to supplement the efforts of weak points to secure and support regular preaching. We believe if this course is vigorously supported, in a few years we will have many more permanent preachers among us.

Steps were taken to establish an educational fund, the purpose of which is to assist, by loaning, young men who desire to enter the ministry to take a course of study in one of our own institutions of learning.

By reason of rough weather the delegates going by steamer did not reach the convention till Saturday morning. We missed the address of welcome by Bro. Hayden, and the papers by Bros. Edmonds of Boston and Bolton of Everett. Those who were so fortunate as to hear them were much pleased with them.

Dr. W. A. Belding, who is so dear to the churches in New England, was there. He preached a good sermon full of the word of God and was an inspiration to the hearers.

Our sunny-faced and tender-hearted Dr. H. Detchon of Springfield was there. Dr. Belding and Dr. Detchon led our worship in breaking the loaf.

President E. V. Zöllars of Hiram was with us. All enjoyed his sermons. It was a great pleasure to have him with us and he added much interest to our meeting.

Bro. A. McLean was with us and gave us one of his characteristic addresses. His righteous indignation rose as he recounted the cruel suffering of Armenians caused by the fierce barbarism of the uncivilized Turk. May this long drawn out cruelty be speedily terminated. His presence among us added new earnestness to our mission work.

The brethren in Worcester did all in their power to make all visiting brethren feel at home; and they succeeded admirably. The elements kept us cool and wet; but the meeting was good and the fellowship was excellence.

Bro. R. A. Nichols of Ohio and Bro. J. E. Hawes began a meeting in Worcester Monday night. We hope and pray that much good may be done by these two earnest men.

St. John. N. B., was represented by Bro. Jas. E. Barnes and daughter who were passing through and visited us on their way.

There are some changes we would like to see in our way of conducting our convention and especially of our Lord's day worship, but we will not speak of this now.

I cannot give a full report for I was not there all the time. But we enjoyed every moment we were there.

HARRY MINNICK.

Lubec, Mo.

#### Home Mission Notes.

The meeting at Shubenacadie is another to the list that has cost the Board nothing. The church and the preachers defrayed the expenses.

We are glad to say the American Home Missionary Society has granted \$250.00 for Pictou this year, and a contract has been signed by Brother Stevens to labor there. He also proposes to visit River John at least monthly and preach on week nights.

At Pictou one evening they had twenty-three at prayer-meeting ten of whom took part. Brother Wallace had the largest audience of the summer to hear him preach. We look now for success in Pictou.

The U. S. Board publishes the following in their year's report in regard to Halifax and Pictou:

The church at Halifax, N. S., is under the oversight of T. H. Blemus. He writes: "The North Street Church of Halifax, N. S., is in a healthy, progressive condition. Our audiences are good and on the increase, and the interest in every branch of our church work is growing. We are receiving markedly more attention and courtesy in this city than ever before in our history, and the outlook is very full of promise. Although struggling under the burden of financial obligations which we are gradually reducing, the church is united, active and hopeful."

Pictou, N. S., has just invited R. E. Stevens, a recent graduate of the College of the Bible, Lexington, to become their missionary pastor, an excellent worker, a good preacher, and a man in whose integrity and faithfulness all who know him have the fullest confidence. His term of service commenced the 13th of September, 1896. Pictou is a cultured, conservative Presbyterian town, a centre of influence for Northern Nova Scotia, in which section we have no churches. There is no immersionist body in the place, nor in the near neighborhood. We have one family which, with the three or four other individuals, form the nucleus about which we hope to build a New Testament church. David Fullerton, originally a Presbyterian, has stood alone there for years as an adherent to the New Testament faith. As his children grew up, so potent were his instructions and example that they all accepted the simple gospel and became simply Christians. Bro. Fullerton has built a large building, with an excellent auditorium. This is his free gift to the work there if the work goes on. Also he and his son have purchased a substantial stone residence adjoining this building which will be fitted for a parsonage, and will be a part of the church property. We have thus an equipment to commence with, which many a church has to spend years in acquiring. The field is recognized as a difficult one on account of the conservative character of the people, and the prejudice against anything but Presbyterianism. But we believe that the plea for the restoration of the primitive faith will win there if it is kept before the people.

Brother H. Murray will soon hold a meeting at Gulliver's Cove under the auspices of the board. We hope to hear of good results from it.