

THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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TO OUR READERS. — At the suggestion of many of our contributors, the management will publish next month a fine photo engraving of Bro. Donald Crawford, with a sketch of his life and work in the Maritime Provinces. We predict that the next issue of the paper will be the most interesting and valuable of any yet published. Every subscriber should have one or two extra copies to send to friends abroad. We will mail extra copies to any address at five cents each. We ask all who are interested in the paper to make a personal mention of this, so that it may be widely circulated.

THE annual meeting of the Disciples of Christ of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick will be held with the church at Westport, Digby Co., beginning on the 4th of September next. All arrangements concerning the best way of travelling, will be issued in THE CHRISTIAN as soon as they are made.

THE annual meeting of the Christian Association of P. E. I. will (D. V.) be with the church at East Point, beginning on the second Saturday of July, instant, at 4 o'clock, p. m. The members of the church will be glad to meet delegates and convey them from Souris, the railway terminus, to the place of meeting, and they are desirous of meeting many brethren and friends and hope through the goodness of God to have a good meeting. Dr. Belding, of Troy, New York, and other preaching brethren are expected. From all stations on the Island railway tickets to and from the meeting for one first-class fare will be issued on the 10th and 11th, good to return up till the 16th by the delegate keeping the ticket, and on returning giving it and certificate of attendance to the conductor. Arrangements are also made with Navigation Co. for delegates.

A LETTER from Bro. H. Murray from West Princeton, M. informs us that his meeting there is increasing in interest, and reports three additions.

THE programme of exercises for the "annual" at Westport will be published in the next issue

WE learn that Bro. Overbaugh has left Deer Island on account of ill health. Where he has gone we know not, but hope his sickness is but of a temporary character.

"I CAN PROVE IT."—Of course you can prove anything you like up there in the pulpit, making your own premises. But that is not what your people want. If it's a good-sized truth, they already know it; if it's some little fact, they don't care whether you can or cannot prove it. What they want of you is to enforce, vivify, energize, set on fire, the big truths. Don't syllogize; kindle a fire, put life into common Christian beliefs, make men's consciences cry out. That is preaching.

ACTIVE CHRISTIANITY is necessary, not only to the progress of the Christian life, but to its very existence. There is a class of parasites called saprophytes, which live on decaying plants. They attach themselves to the healthy plants, but as long as the vitality of the plant is well maintained the parasite gains but a slight hold and does little or no injury. But if, by accident or otherwise, the vitality be decreased below a certain limit, the saprophyte obtains control, and the plant is soon destroyed. There are parasites of doubt and passion in the Christian that can be rendered harmless only by active work for Christ's cause.

THE brethren of Kompt, N. S., are rejoicing over the fact that Bro. William Murray is with them again. His services in times past had so endeared him to them that nothing would satisfy them but his return.

RECENTLY we took the train for "Ash Grove," a town not many miles from here, to hear a debate between one of the preachers and a missionary Baptist preacher by the name of Bandy. Each disputant was contending that the body of people to which he belonged was the church established by Christ and His Apostles; and what one affirmed the other denied. We stayed but one day, being satisfied that such debates do but little good. Neither one of the debaters seemed willing to acknowledge the pertinency of the other's argument, but was simply fighting for their party and to establish a reputation for self.

FROM *The Canadian Evangelist* we learn that the annual meeting recently held in Toronto, Ontario, was a grand success. The brethren of the Cecil street church did honor to themselves in welcoming and entertaining in such a royal manner the visiting friends and brethren.

BRETHREN, are you planning to be at our coming annual? It is not too early to think about it. These annuals are good things. They are soul-stirring. Old acquaintances are renewed; new ones are formed; the causes of failure discussed; plans and places for future work presented; the golden opportunities for doing good and our duty to seize them, and our present and final reward are presented so clearly and lovingly that every one feels it was good to be there.

A SHORT time ago a certain preacher, not many miles from here, felt it his duty to warn the brethren against "innovations" and to give them an idea of what he meant and to put them on their guard against such things, he referred them to a given church that was switching off from the "old paths." Yes, said he, they have a college-bred preacher and have bought a brussels carpet for the church!!! *Comment is not necessary.*

THE weather in Missouri, was somewhat hot during the month of June, still Massachusetts and Maine have been much warmer. June 15th in Boston, Mass., it was 98 in the shade, and in Portland, Maine, it was up in the nineties, while here it was but 85 with cooling rains in the evening.

WE are glad to learn that the Coburg street church has secured the services of Bro. H. W. Stewart. Our desire and prayer to God is, that God will abundantly bless his efforts to build up the cause of Christ in St. John.

NOW that we are some distance from our former fields of labor, the columns of THE CHRISTIAN are scanned with an increased interest. THE CHRISTIAN has been and still is a power for good. It has brought the churches of the Maritime Provinces into a closer relation with each other, and the financial profits have been used for preaching the Gospel in destitute places. The time is not far distant when it will be made a semi-monthly, or some radical change for further good will take place—growing out of the good already done by the publication of our paper. Its circulation instead of being 1,000, ought to be at least 2,000, and this could be easily done if the brotherhood would do its part in this direction.

THE pernicious practice of Protestant parents in sending their daughters to Roman Catholic convents is being thoroughly ventilated by a large portion of the American press. But to-day I read from the *Protestant American* the following:

"People are coming to us, and writing to us, saying: I was sending my children to the Catholic school before I read your paper, but I have taken them away. One little girl in Springfield had learned that her mother's religion was all wrong—having no other foundation than the fact that Luther got mad and quit the only true church—because the church would not let him marry. Such Protestant parents ought to send their children to Mexico and then organize a missionary society and make money to send a missionary to Mexico to convert the Catholic heathen—their own children included—to Christianity. That would be in keeping with their consistency and their peculiar types of piety."

SINCE our arrival here we have received a host of letters from friends and brethren in the provinces. We thank them for their kind words and hope to answer each one just as soon as circumstances will permit.

OUR PAPER needs more church news. Surely our brethren are remiss in this particular. From the three provinces only items of news from two churches.

"BUT THESE things are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God, and that believing you might have life through His name." To believe in Christ is to accept both the divine love and authority of Christ. Being the Son of God He has all power and all authority. To reject this power is to reject His divinity. To reject His commandments is to reject His authority, which is the rejection also of His divinity. Our faith in Christ, therefore, involves our acceptance of His commandments. To reject the commandment is to reject the Commander. To say any of the commandments of Christ are not essential is equal with those who say that Christ's miracles are not true. The one is the denying of Christ's power, the other of His authority. Either is the rejection of His divinity.