

THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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BROTHERS COOK AND DEVOR have both held excellent meetings in Digby County.

A. MINNICK of Lubeo and H. W. Stewart of St. John exchanged pulpits last Lord's day.

The "Location Committee" have not as yet decided where the annual meeting is to be held. Something ought to be done quickly as the time is at hand.

We shall probably send bills in our next issue to all subscribers not paid up. We are desirous to have as large a balance as possible to report at the annual meeting.

We publish a condensed report of the convention of our brethren of Toronto, which will be interesting to many of our readers. The report is taken from the *Toronto Globe*.

The brethren of Hants County, N. S., are moving in the right direction. What we most need is combined action. Let all our churches assist in the grand work of saving souls.

Our subscribers will please bear in mind that our yearly statement to the annual meeting will soon have to be made up, all who have not paid a year in advance will please "take heed."

We trust that our P. E. Island brethren will have a good meeting at their convention at Summerside commencing next Lord's Day. Bro. H. W. Stewart, of St. John, expects to be present.

We trust that our churches in the provinces may remember our Home Mission work. A grand work has been done this year in assisting out weak churches. Every church should encourage this work. Send to J. S. Flaglor, P. O., St. John.

The following have been added to the churches during the last month:

Letete	1
Keewick	1
Silver Falls	2
St. John	2
West Gore	3
Halifax	4
Newport	5
Kempt	7
New Glasgow	16
Total	41

This makes 178 additions reported in the past three months.

As seen by the announcement in another column, the Island brethren assemble at Summerside in their annual meeting, The P. E. I. on the Saturday before the second Association. Lord's day in July. Our advices as to who of our preaching brethren from abroad are expected are very meagre; but we presume that Bro. Howard Murray who is now on the Island will be at the meeting, and probably Bro. Neil McLeod, of Evansville, will be present. These, in conjunction with the Island preachers, will no doubt prepare a feast of good things. And it is to be hoped that this meeting shall work the beginning of an era of great prosperity in the history of the churches on the Island. In the past these annual gatherings have been used mainly as opportunities for association, and as such they have been eminently successful. But it was principally association in worship. It was and will be a grand sight to see the members of the different churches on the Island coming together and showing that while there are no ecclesiastical bonds binding them in one great federation, they are nevertheless one—belonging to the one body, which recognizes one Lord, and is animated by the one Spirit. But association in worship is not the only thing, and perhaps is not the main thing, to be sought. Should it not go hand in hand with association in work? We have all eternity before us in which to worship God; we have only time in which to work for Him. He may regard the work which we do for Him here as the most acceptable worship. Do you not think that He was better pleased with the man who sent provisions to the widow and her starving children, than with the other man who satisfied himself by sending his prayers? Let earnest, thoughtful and persistent work be combined with humble, devout worship. And let it be associated work—work which if possible shall embrace every church, and which shall reach out in many directions. We hope to hear of a good report from the meeting, and our prayers are that wise plans may be made for the extension of the walls of Zion.

Those who have the privilege of reading our large papers, such as the *Christian Evangelist*, the *Christian Standard* and others,

Still the shall have noticed how busy work goes on. death has been among the more prominent of our preachers in the States. Only a few weeks ago the brotherhood mourned the death of A. I. Hobbs—an earnest preacher and a successful teacher; and more recently B. W. Johnson, a careful student and a sage editor, has been called away. Each of these has left us, when owing to his vast accumulation of knowledge and his wisdom, we would suppose he could do his best work, and we would be almost prompted to think that his presence amongst us is well nigh indispensable. But we know that God's work does not depend upon any one man. Men are but the agents through whom He works, and when he chooses to discard one he always has another which he can use. As has been said, "He may bury His workmen, but he will carry on His work." As Garfield said when Lincoln was assassinated, "God reigns; and the government at Washington still lives." Isaac Errett was a mighty man in Israel; he was a safe counsellor, and a wise leader. The church thought it could not spare him. He has been taken, but still the work goes on. Benjamin Franklin

stood among the very first of our preachers in his day. None understood more thoroughly than he the plan of salvation, and none wielded a much greater influence. We miss him, but the work goes on. When Alexander Campbell ceased from his toils, there were many who thought and hoped that the mighty reformation and restorative movement to which he gave such impetus would soon lose its force, but in this they were mistaken and disappointed. The work still goes on, and these men though dead yet speak. Their words and deeds are re-echoing in a thousand hearts.

Paul in speaking to the Corinthians about attributing motives, advised them to "judge nothing before the time," and this

Premature admonition is of great expansive- Judgments. ness and applicability. Howbeit it is frequently disregarded.

Learn to wait. We must not rush into a painter's studio and after gazing at an unfinished picture condemn it as a work of art. Let us suspend judgment till it is completed. We may not have the faintest idea as to what a sculptor sees in a marble block, and hence it is not well for us to conclude that he is making mistakes as he chips off here and there. Let us have patience. By the time his work is done we shall probably discover that he knew what he was doing. He is a remarkably clever person who can tell, merely by looking at a pile of bricks and lumber, the style of house that is going to be built. He is a miracle-worker who from the paper, ink and pen on an author's table, can describe the contents of the book that is going to be written. But the age of miracles has gone by. Plans which were pronounced impracticable have in the process of time been proved feasible. Schemes which were condemned by many, have in their turn condemned as premature the judgments of those who were unwilling to wait. Many a boy who while in school was adjudged a failure, has in time startled the world by his success. When Sir Walter Scott was a mercolad, he was set down as a mere blockhead by those who considered themselves wise. Their names are lost in the darkness of the past, but his shines brightly to-day. Isaac Barrow, with whose name all diligent students of the homiletical literature of the seventeenth century are familiar, was considered by his father to be much inferior to his brothers in intellectual strength. But his powers developed, and now though they are all forgotten, his name is by his worth, impressed indelibly upon the ages. It is not an uncommon thing for higher courts to reverse the judgments of lower ones. It is a very common thing for Time, the great arbiter, to vindicate plans, enterprises and men, whom impatient people have condemned.

Those who are hasty in judging man and his purposes, are not always satisfied with the workings of God. They are not willing to wait till "patience shall longer. have her perfect work." If they wait long, they often grumble while they wait. This is because they forget that while "the bud may have a bitter taste; yet sweet will be the flower." They do not understand God's dealings, and cannot see how he can bring good out of seeming evil. They pass judgments upon a work that is in progress yet, or it may be is only begun. How many times have farmers said that they should have