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

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NOTES AND NEWS.

May, June and July are hard months financially for THE CHRISTIAN. We hope any who have failed to renew their subscription will remember this, and not let our receipts fall below our expenses.

On the first Lord's day in May the churches are asked to make a special offering for American Home Missions; but if the collection cannot be taken on that day, we would suggest that it be taken as soon after as possible.

The shortest sermon we ever heard of was preached by Dean Stanley, when requested to make a special appeal in the orphan's behalf. His text was: "He that hath pity on the poor lendeth to the Lord." All he said was: "Now, brethren, if you are satisfied with the security, let him have your cash."

There are times when warships are in great demand. *The Christian Evangelist*, in a recent number, has an admirable article on "The Ships we Need. Three are mentioned: *Worship*, *Fellow-ship* and *Friend-ship*. With more ships of this class the nations would have less need for floating batteries.

We were mistaken in stating last month that the good offering for foreign missions from the Lord's Cove church was made on the first Lord's day in W. H. Harding's recent visit. It was made before he came and when no preacher was on the field. This is even more encouraging. It shows that the church has been trained to give.

None of our scribes has made a reference to "A Suggestion" by E. C. Ford in the last CHRISTIAN. This may be because they do not approve of it, or because they endorse it so heartily, and think that every one will at once see its wisdom, that they thought it unnecessary to say so. In the absence of information each reader can select the reason that commends itself to him.

Is the church member who unnecessarily suffers from the Lord's house and the Lord's supper dead spiritually. Evidently F. G. Tyrrell, St. Louis, Mo., thinks so. On a Lord's day morning not long since he draped the pulpit in mourning. When asked the meaning, he said it was "mourning for the empty pews." He threatened to drape the whole church unless the attendance increased,

and it did. We do not endorse his plan, but it is suggestive of the spiritual state of many a church member.

For six months the *Christian Standard*, Cincinnati, O., has been engaged in a systematic and persistent effort to put "a Christian paper in every Christian home." In this time it has added about 10,000 new names to its subscription roll. Other papers are now engaged in a similar effort. We wish them all success, for a Christian home without a Christian paper is without one of the most helpful allies in building Christian character, and one of the greatest stimulants to Christian activity.

J. A. Judah and his wife came from Pocatillo, Idaho, to Salt Lake City, Utah — a distance of 170 miles — she to unite with the church by letter, and he by confession and baptism. She is the great-granddaughter of one of the heroic pioneers of this Restoration Movement. Some of the old blood is in her veins. We feel safe in saying that it was she who showed her husband why he should and how he could become a Christian. We shall expect to hear, after a time, that a church has been established where they reside.

We read in an exchange that an old deacon in a certain church had long annoyed the brethren by insisting that they were violating the plain order of worship by collecting the weekly contribution after, instead of before, the Lord's Supper. He was never known to put a farthing into the treasury of the church. He belongs to a race that is not yet extinct. May they speedily disappear and their places here be filled by those who believe that the Lord is more interested in the amount that is given and in the spirit of the giver than in whether the offering is made at 11.30 a. m. or 12.10 p. m.

Our missionary to Japan, Miss Mary M. Rioch, is now on her way to Canada for a rest. She expected to start about the middle of April. It is not unlikely that she will visit the Maritime Province churches and tell us of her work. She hopes to be at the annual meeting of the Ontario churches in June. We believe she would be willing to attend the Island Association at Montague, if a request is sent to her in time. It is confidently expected that she will attend the meeting at Tiverton. It will do us good to see and hear one who has, in a special sense, been working for us in a heathen land.

The University Church, Des Moines, Ia., has introduced an innovation, as we learn from the *Christian Oracle*. Ten minutes before the morning service begins, the preacher, the two elders, and the twelve deacons repair to the study and spend a few minutes in prayer. The paper adds that "it would be well in every church, if there is a convenient room, for the preacher, elders and deacons to have a season of prayer before beginning the public service." We would suggest that where there is no such room, each officer, before starting to the place of worship, go to his closet and there pray for the Divine blessing on the services of the day. Indeed it

would be good for them and good for the success of the truth if all the members would do the same.

Reference is frequently made on this page to meetings where more than 100 were added to a church. This month we are pleased to call special attention to the meeting lately held at Lord's Cove by one of our own preachers, W. H. Harding. It is significant that about half the additions are heads of families, and that only a very small proportion are under sixteen years old. The Lord's Cove church has now probably a larger resident membership than any of our other provincial churches, and we hope to see it exerting a mighty power for good both at home and abroad.

The convention of the Disciples of Christ of the Maritime Provinces is to be held with the church at Tiverton, N. S., Aug. 11-14. The church is already making preparations. The programme and rates committee appointed at Leonardville are D. A. Morrison, Geo. Manifold, T. H. Blenus, E. F. Burnaby, and J. W. Bolton. We also notice that the sisters passed a resolution last year, asking for an evening meeting at the convention, and also that the programme be so arranged that their business meeting shall not conflict with any of the regular meetings.

We believe in systematic Christian work — in the good work that is planned and in the good plan that is worked. We believe, too, in the systematic Christian giving — in giving a definite sum each week to the work of the Lord. If a person is obliged to be absent one Lord's day, we believe in him laying aside the amount he would have given if present, and adding it to his offering on the next Lord's day. If he is away on a vacation, we believe in him following the same principle. The expenses of the church go on just the same whether the attendance is large or small, whether the day is fine or stormy, whether the people are at home or on a vacation. Therefore we believe in systematic giving, both as to time and amount.

When a Disciple of Christ goes from one community to reside in another where there is a church of his brethren, he should, we think, take his church letter with him, present it to the church in his new home as soon as possible, and do all he can to build up that church. If his brethren have no church where he moves to, we believe it is better for him to leave his name on the church roll, and to do what he can from a distance to advance the interests of the old church. He cannot attend the services, nor teach in the Sunday-school, nor lead the prayer meetings; but if he is a member of the mission band, or some other society, he can send in his monthly dues, and he can also continue to contribute to the support of the church. When the time for the annual foreign mission collection comes, he can send his offering; also when the home mission day arrives; also when there is any special collection. This, and sending an occasional message to be read in the prayer meeting, will do both him and the church good.