

and everybody stand still with him, if possible. Lucky enough if he does not let fly with his heels and pulverize all objects within reach.

Obstinate? An obstructionist? O, no! he does not intend to be either. He is very "conscientious." And unfortunately he has adopted that familiar definition of "conscientious," namely, "Something within me which 'I wout.'" There is nothing light or frivolous about him. He makes everything a matter of conscience; and when others differ from him, it is always because they are less earnest and conscientious than himself.

When his mind is made up, he is immovable. Argument and persuasion are alike wasted upon him. He usually plants his feet firmly on one or two scripture texts which seem to substantiate his position, and from these he will not budge an inch. You may quote a dozen in refutation, but he will throw them all aside and stand on those he has chosen. It is indeed fortunate when the rest of the team can move on and leave him standing there alone in his glory, like Lot's wife on the shore of the Dead Sea. Too often he gets between the shaft; and then, when he comes to a standstill, the rest must halt with him till he is ready to move on or is taken to his reward. Many a church in our land to-day is standing absolutely still, and has made no progress for years, simply because there is a mule somewhere in the team; perhaps he is in the pulpit, perhaps in the pews.

We can all of us assume this character on occasion. It is one of the strongest points in favor of Professor Darwin's theory, that there seem to be in almost every member of the human family some remaining trace of the ancestral mule. Nothing is more easy than to persuade ourselves that any point which we desire to carry is a matter of conscience. "I feel impelled to do thus or so, therefore, I ought," is a common syllogism. We often mistake obstinacy—in ourselves—for moral courage, proper firmness, decision of character, or some other commendable quality—so nearly are vices related to virtues. When unwelcome advice is offered to us, we thrust it aside, and imagine ourselves to be miniature Martin Luthers, determined to enter Worms though there were as many devils as tiles upon the housetops. Or we fancy that we are but repeating the "Get thee behind me, Satan," of the Master. Very frequently we should find a more accurate likeness in Rehoboam, who forsook the counsel of old men, the wisest and safest advisers in the realm.

Decision of character and firmness of purpose are very desirable qualities in the Christian. The church of the present day needs men with independent minds and strong, straight backbone, men who dare to say "No" clearly and earnestly. She needs men like Joshua and Daniel and Paul, who can withstand temptation, and even the false persuasion of friends. But we must beware lest with the backbone we develop a tail and long ears. "Be not as the . . . mule."—*Rev. George H. Hubbard, in Sunday School Times.*

News of the Churches.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

ST. JOHN.

Our next Quarterly will be held with the church in St. John, commencing with the second Sunday in March.

We are pleased to report that during the month one has been added by confession and baptism and two by letter, one of which is Bro. W. H. Applegate, evangelist for the provinces.

We are anticipating a good meeting in March. If arrangements can be made it is possible that some preaching brethren from other parts will be present to help in this matter. Due notice will be given in the next issue.

The month of January was a very stormy one. Two Lord's days were very disagreeable, yet it did not prevent—even those being at a distance—to be present at the services.

NOVA SCOTIA.

WESTPORT.

Brother W. H. Applegate arrived here on the 9th of January after a somewhat cold and tedious journey. Bro. A. began the meeting on the 10th. Our meetings are well attended, notwithstanding the many difficulties that impede our way. Bro. Applegate is an able preacher, a deep thinker, and a shrewd Bible student. We are expecting good results, although the weather is against us. We hope to report something more encouraging in our next issue of the CHRISTIAN. H. E. COOKE.

FROM OUR ANNUAL.

Whereas the census of the Maritime provinces is to be taken before our next annual and it being desirable that our numbers be correctly reported;

Therefore resolved, That every one present take an interest in this matter, and in their respective localities request our people and adherents (when called upon and asked by the census commissioner, what do you call yourself religiously by?) to answer, A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST. And further, to count as such each member of the family—even though not members of the church—it being the desire of the authorities to learn the relative percentage of the people holding the different religious views.

J. E. BARNES,
Secretary.

EVANGELIST'S LETTER.

TO THE BRETHREN:

The readers of THE CHRISTIAN have been apprised of the arrival of the evangelist for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and are, doubtless, waiting for a word from him. The introduction through the January CHRISTIAN to the brotherhood if the two Provinces is hereby acknowledged. I make my bow and say, "How d' ye do?"

Leaving St. John the 5th for Westport I was delayed at Meteghan River from Monday until Friday on account of the bad weather—the packet was not able to run. I reached Westport at eleven o'clock January 9th. On Saturday night we began a series of meetings which are still in progress. I found here Bro. H. E. Cook, the pastor, a noble, Christian man, much beloved by his people. The weather has been much against us, but we had fair audiences. Nineteen sermons have been delivered, many visits made at the homes and obedience to the gospel urged at the fireside. So far only one has responded. We look for others. The brethren brethren express themselves as encouraged and strengthened.

Brethren, a great work is open to us. Will we do it? The outlook, so far as human eyes can see, may be discouraging; but surely not more discouraging than that which presented itself to Elijah on Mount Carmel. The king and all the royal court was against him; and 850 prophets were against him. Elijah stood alone on the one side. The king, the people and 450 prophets on the other. The issue was drawn and the contest began. Elijah or the prophets must win. Elijah gives the prophets every advantage. Though they are many he is alone. They have the choice of the animals. Everything was very dry and easily set on fire; and he gave the advantage of the heat of the mid-day sun. Elijah would not offer on their altar, but "repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down," dug a trench about it and poured upon it twelve barrels of water. All day the contest waged. Baal refused to answer and the prophets retreated. The people now wavered. At the time of the evening sacrifice Elijah began to pursue the prophets by calling upon the Lord. The victory was to Elijah, and a grand victory it was. He was not alone. The Lord was with him.

Brethren, we are more than one and are not alone. We are many, brethren, and the God of Elijah is with us, and if we will but trust him, and work together in love we shall succeed; for the

Lord hath spoken it and his word will not fail. The victory is not to the strong alone, it is to the brave, the active, vigilant, the trusting, faithful, prayerful band, however few they may be.

Your evangelist cannot do the work alone. He must have the help of the brethren. Will you give it to him? He believes you will, and looks hopefully for a good work to be done.

Yours faithfully, W. H. APPLGATE.

HOME MISSION NOTES.

Some of our good sisters who are living where we do not have a church remember the fund this month. They are doing something towards spreading the truth. They cannot go, so they help send the Gospel. See what a large amount comes from THE CHRISTIAN. Brethren, help the editors in their good work. Bro. Payson says: "I am thankful the interest in missions is growing, and I hope the brethren generally in our provinces will be aroused to see the need of greater work in the Master's cause."

Sister Hunt has done well and hopes to send more next time. She says: "We are praying and patiently waiting for Bro. Wm. Murray's return." We hope their prayers will be answered, and that Bro. Murray will again work in this part of the Master's vineyard.

Sister Carson sends more than Halifax pledged. She says: "We are very glad to learn that you have secured an evangelist, and hope he will be successful in bringing many souls to Christ. Bro. Messervey has gone to British Columbia to join the seal fishing fleet, and does not expect to return until September. We miss him so much, as he is always at his post in the church meetings." We should all so live and act that the church will miss us in their work and worship.

Sister Payson says: "We have organized a Children's Mission Band. The money raised will be divided equally between the home work and the Japan mission. The children must be educated to give to the Lord. I think Brother and Sister Darst imparted some of their missionary zeal to all the churches; they seem so ready to give." A letter from Bro. Applegate, of the 23rd, says one young man made the good confession. This is good news. May the good work go on. May the Lord bless every effort to turn sinners from darkness to light.

Milton, Southville and Tiverton kindly send to the fund again.

"And whosoever shall give to drink a cup of cold water only to one of these little ones, in the name of a disciple, verily I say to you, he shall not lose his reward."

RECEIPTS FOR JANUARY FOR THE N. B. AND N. S. MISSION.

Previously acknowledged.....	\$122 38
Westport church—	
Per E. A. Payson,	\$5 00
Sandy Cove, N. S.—	
Mrs. H. Eldridge,	2 00
Everett, Mass.—	
Mrs. J. Henderson,	1 00
CHRISTIAN fund—	
Per J. E. Edwards,	96 62
Westport—	
Per Miss C. Payson,	1 35
Kempt, Q. Co. church—	
Per Miss U. Hunt,	2 00
Halifax church—	
Per Mrs. H. Carson,	5 00
Milton—	
Per Miss M. Freeman,	5 00
Per H. A. Dvoos, { Southville, ...	1 27
{ Capt. H. Eldridge, S. Cove,	2 00
Tiverton—	
Per Miss Outhouse,	1 73
Total,	\$245 35