

## EVANGELISTIC TOUR.

It was at noon, June 16th, that, weary with my long journey, I landed for the first time in life at St. John, N. B. Bros. L. A. Miles and Geo. F. Barnes met me at the station, and gave me a most cordial welcome, and in Bro. Miles' hospitable home I found every means afforded me for a most needed rest.

The next morning at 7 I boarded the "Prince Rupert" for a 40 miles sail over Fundy's Bay to Digby, N. S. It was my first sight of salt water since landing in New York from old England twelve years ago, and I enjoyed every rod of the way. Soon Acadia's shores loomed up in the south and at 10 o'clock we were in Digby and I first set my feet upon the land of Evangeline. When I was in Old Scotland it was the steamer "Rob Roy" that carried me across Loch Kathrine; but now in New Scotland it was the engine "Evangeline" that drew our baggage from the steamer to the station. We left Digby at noon, and all the afternoon our train ran through a land of enchanting beauty and the most interesting historic association.

Annapolis and Cornwallis valleys—the land of Evangeline—can not be excelled by any country for fertility and beauty. At 9 p. m. we reached Halifax and received a most hearty welcome by Bro. E. C. Ford, the pastor, and Bro. Richardson, and I was taken to the residence of Bro. Clifford Smith, and no evangelist ever had a better home than Bro. and Sister Smith have made for me.

As a stranger I feel inclined to write much about Acadia's beautiful capital, but I know that the limits of your paper forbid; and it is of the church and our meeting that your readers will wish to know, and not of the past history and struggles, but of the present condition of this church will you desire information.

The congregation has a comfortable wooden building well located in the residence district in the north part of the city, upon which there is still a small indebtedness, but this they are rapidly reducing and I think will soon be entirely free from debt.

Since Bro. Ford came to Halifax, nearly two years ago there have been about 20 additions and 50 removals; but it is hoped that the tide has now turned and that the loss will soon be regained. Our meeting continued nearly four weeks, and every Lord's day's congregation was an improvement upon the preceding one until the house was well filled. But it is the wrong season of the year for week evening meetings in a city. From an attendance of from 150 to 200 on Sunday evening we were reduced to an average of 60 on week evenings. We held what we had, but found it impossible to increase it much because of picnics, garden concerts and other out door recreations. But we had an excellent interest throughout and four confessions and I will miss my prophecy if a great preacher does not come out of this meeting. I will leave to others to write about the moral and spiritual influence of the meeting, but

there are some items that I desire to emphasize:

1. Bro. Ford came to this church at a critical time, and has so lived and managed and preached that not only has the church a good influence in the community, but he has grown in power and influence with it, and he and his excellent wife are held in the highest esteem by all who know them, and they have been requested by an unanimous vote to remain for the third year. Let churches everywhere learn the value of experienced men.

2. And a more liberal, self-sacrificing little band than the church in Halifax I have never seen. Only about 50 members, and nearly all of them poor, and none of them rich, and yet they raise *more than one thousand dollars* a year! Can any church excel that? The free will offerings during our meeting were one hundred dollars, which paid their home expenses and made the meeting nearly self-sustaining.

In attendance at the meetings and in contributing of their means the members have made sacrifices that I have never seen equalled, and they are worthy of all commendation.

The Halifax people have quite stolen my heart, and if they are samples of the maritime brotherhood, I shall find it difficult to leave this country at all. Bro. Ford's daughter, Mrs. R. E. Stevens, of Port Williams, led the song service and presided at the organ during the meeting, and I never had this work done better.

I leave to-day for West Gore for a two week's meeting, and thence then to the dedication of the new church building on Douglas Avenue, North End, in St. John, July 29th.

A. MARTIN.

Halifax, N. S., July 13th, 1900.

## PICOU LETTER.

DEAR CHRISTIAN—I was very much interested in reading the last CHRISTIAN, rejoiced in hearing that something was being done for the salvation of souls, and grieved at heart to hear that there were among our people those that make a promise and don't fulfill it. Ananias and Sapphira made no promise only pretended to give all when giving only a part, but was struck dead for their falsehood. To promise to give for the advancement of the Lord's cause, and not do so seems to me equally as bad. The denominations around us are doing far more than we are in proportion to numbers. It seems to me that our people think that as we have the truth and are going according to the Bible we will be all right. But will we get the "well done" from our Saviour at the end of the journey if we have not "done well." I fear not. See what he says in Luke xii, and 47 and 48, "He that knows his Lord's will and does it not shall be beaten with many stripes." A great number of our people are protesting against missionary societies as not being Scriptural, but are they showing by their work that they are trying to obey the Saviour in his command to go (Mark xvi, 15 and 16) or are they helping them that are willing to go? I think not. We need and should have two or three evangelists all the time in these Maritime Provinces. What a good work would be done if all our people would give

according to their means for the spread of the gospel and the salvation of souls. He would be poor indeed that could not give five cents per month, some could give ten, some twenty and up to a dollar per month. Some are able to raise a dollar per month if only willing and interested in spiritual matters. When we cross over the river how small the money matters of this world will seem to us, and it seems to me how sorry we will be that we have done so little to further the cause of the Lord, when how "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have a right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." O, brethren and sisters, let us do our duty and try to obey the Saviour that has done so much for us, and may we at the end of the journey hear him say, "Come you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Yours for the faith,  
D. FULLERTON.

## Original Contributions.

## HOME MISSION WORK.

J. CHAS. B. APPEL.

Under the above heading in the last CHRISTIAN, the president of the Home Mission Board gave expression to the views of the Board.

Their trouble seems to be one of dollars and cents. The churches do not send funds. Aggressive work cannot be done without funds; therefore no aggressive work can be done. But here evidently the conscience of the board gives trouble—the work allotted to them is to enter into an evangelistic campaign, and it is not pleasant to face the annual meeting without having done something along this line. So, "at their own financial risk," the Board have placed an evangelist in the field. This is a matter for thankfulness—they are now Apostolic—"we walk by faith not by sight." From the little I've been able to learn, God has rewarded their faith by enabling the evangelist to collect almost all his expenses.

The Board wants more money, they have a right to receive it, they *must* receive it if we are to do the work for which God holds us responsible. Few, if any, of the churches are contributing anything like what they might *easily* give, to say nothing about sacrificing for the work. These need to remember that covetousness is a deadly sin and need to repent.

In the meantime what is to be done? Shall the work begun at Halifax, Pictou and St. John, be jeopardized by stopping the aid now extended to these points so that the Board may have money to spend? This surely is trying to venter an evil by committing another. Our orphanages take a child and keep it until it is of an age and strength to earn a living. We would have little confidence in an institution that would take children, keep them a short time and then turn them into the street to starve in order that others might be admitted.

But for what is the Home Mission Board in existence if not to spend money in evan-