

THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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Happy New Year to all.

During the Christmas holidays the weather was fine, business good, and to all appearance the people in this city seemed to be having a good time.

Bros. Ellis B. Barnes and Stewart, of the Bible College, intend coming home during the summer holidays to give us a helping hand in the work of the Master.

A BARGAIN.—We have now on hand a number of windows suitable for a meeting house. Their number, shape, size and price can be obtained by writing to THE CHRISTIAN, box 106, St. John, N. B.

BRO. R. W. Stevenson's letter will be read with pleasure by his many friends in these parts. We have the assurance that in the near future other communications will be forthcoming from his pen.

A VERY kind letter from our Bro. Devoe, now attending the college at Lexington, Ky., reached us a few days ago. He has entirely recovered from his severe sickness, and never enjoyed better health than at present. He proposed spending his Xmas holidays in preaching the Gospel of the grace of God.

UNDER date of Dec. 2nd Sister Garrity writes from Chico, California: We are both well and enjoying ourselves. We like here very much, and especially the climate. * * * * The farmers are ploughing and putting in their crops of wheat and barley. They expect to have their crops in by the 1st of January. We have become acquainted some and find the people here very social. We have a nice church, and were kindly received by all.

OUR editor in chief has been kindly remembered by the friends and brethren of Bradalbane and Summerside, and if any one on earth deserves such tokens of appreciation more than our beloved brother we'd like to see them. A knowledge of the foregoing fact will awaken in the hearts of our readers a feeling of pleasure and a wish that they could have been there to have helped honor our brother, who is worthy of double honor for his many years of faithful labor in the cause of the Lord.

Of our exchanges none receive a heartier welcome than the *Missionary Weekly*. Its articles are pure, helpful and timely. There is the absence of that vicious and devouring style of debating that pervades so many of so-called religious papers. Questions are discussed upon their merits without either disputant attributing to the other impure motives or intentional disloyalty to the truth. Still it strikes out vigorously and plants some heavy blows against sectarianism, at the same time keeping in view the policy suggested by the Master—Be wise as serpents, harmless as doves. The *Weekly* has now an experience of ten years, and with most flattering prospects starts out upon another year. A special number has just been issued, and from it we learn that in addition to its regular contributors about fifty of our ablest writers are under promise to grace its columns during the year. May God give to its editors that wisdom that cometh down from above so that in the future as in the past their efforts may be crowned with success is the New Year's wish of THE CHRISTIAN. The *Missionary Weekly* is an eight-page paper, 21x16, published at Richmond, Va., at \$1.50. Sample copy sent free by remitting stamp.

SOME years ago the following letter was received by a preacher from one of his members who was passing through the waters of affliction; and at times was somewhat troubled as to the meaning of certain scriptures bearing on the evidence of pardon. Seeing that the person and preacher were mutually encouraged and strengthened in the Divine Life—the one by being remembered in the prayer meeting, the other by the knowledge that his efforts to do good were not in vain, we give the letter (omitting names, date and place) that it may suggest to our readers one or two, of many, ways to do work for the Master during the year upon which we have now entered:

Dear Brother,—I am very thankful to you for the sympathy and kind remembrance expressed in the prayer meeting. It is so nice to feel in time of trouble that we are remembered. I was very sorry that I did not see you to have that conversation before I left. I was so anxious, if you could show me where the trouble is that it might be removed. You will wonder after the sermons you have preached lately that I should still have difficulties. I must say that those sermons have done me a great deal of good. I think I understand now better the office of the Holy Spirit. I was reading the other day that if a sermon did us good we should tell the preacher. We are apt to tell everyone else before we do him. I know such should not be so, but that we should try to encourage him. I have always liked your sermons because they made me know and remember my duty; they have made me see as no other sermons ever did how I should live.

I have been having a very sad time since I came here. I dare say you know all about what it is to part with those you love. My dear sister was a Christian and was not afraid to die, which is a great consolation to us. But even when we have the hope it is so hard to part. What must it be when there is no such hope of a reunion.

I hope the church is getting along nicely, also the committee to look after the poor.

Christian love to you and family. * * * *

IN our November issue we referred to the fact that on the morning of October 2nd the postman delivered at the house of Rev. Dr. Macrae (Presbyterian) a small package, which upon opening was found to contain an assortment of candy.

Mrs. Macrae ate some and in a short time was taken suddenly ill. The doctor was called but in a few minutes she was dead. Upon investigation it was found that the candies contained strychnine and that similar boxes had been sent and delivered at the houses of three other preachers. On Saturday following a young man, William McDonald, was arrested on suspicion. Since then he has been tried by the Coroner's Jury, by the Police Magistrate, and the Grand Jury, and on each occasion was brought in guilty of murder. The case then came before the Circuit Court, Judge King presiding, and the verdict of the jury was, "Guilty, but insane at the time of the act." The Solicitor General discharged his duties faithfully and hence to the entire satisfaction of the citizens. The lawyers (three in number) for the prisoner resorted to almost every means to set their client free. Their tactics did not meet the unqualified approval of all, as may be seen from the remarks of the St. John *Evening Gazette*:

It is possible that those who arranged McDonald's defence sincerely believed in his innocence and in his insanity, and if so they are not to be censured for the line of defence they adopted. But if the contrary was the case; if, as many are of opinion, it was within their knowledge that McDonald was the poisoner of Mrs. Macrae, then they took a heavy responsibility upon themselves when they undertook to set him at large in this community a free agent, with the power to do as he pleased and to commit other murders if so disposed. There is no code of legal ethics that we know of that makes it necessary for a counsel to disregard all other considerations but the desire to save his client from the punishment due to his crimes. If there is such a rule we think it ought to be disobeyed in cases where not only the general public but the family of the criminal are interested in having him placed in such a position that he will be restrained from doing further harm.

News of the Churches.

ST. JOHN.

Our New Year's Day meeting was a grand one and enjoyed by all. A large number of brethren and sisters assembled. Many were the expressions of thankfulness for the mercies and blessings received during the past year, and a determination (by God's help) to be more faithful in future.

Last Lord's Day Bro. Capp, in his morning sermon, gave a review of the work done by the Church during the year. It was a very interesting talk, and although it was seen we had accomplished something for the honor and glory of God, yet it was felt by all that more ought to be done and greater efforts should be put forth for the upholding of the cause of Christ.

Among other things Bro. Capp noticed that thirteen had been added to the Church. \$1800.00 had been collected for various purposes. The Sunday School was in a flourishing state and helpful to the church. One member of the family—our aged sister Saunders—had passed away during the year.

New windows have been put in our audience room during the past month, which makes our room more comfortable and pleasant. The Church is indebted to the Sewing Society for liberal contribution.