

THE CHRISTIAN.

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

Vol. X.—No. 2

SAINT JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER, 1892.

Whole No. 110

The Christian.

Published monthly by Barnes & Co., under the auspices of the Home Mission Board of the Disciples of Christ of the Maritime Provinces.

TERMS: - 50 Cents Per Annum in Advance.

All communications, intended for publication, to be addressed:

"THE CHRISTIAN."

P. O. Box 106

St. JOHN, N. B.

EDITOR:

DONALD CRAWFORD,-- NEW GLASGOW, P. E. I.

FINANCIAL MANAGER:

J. E. EDWARDS, ST. JOHN, N. B.

As this is the last issue before the Christmas holidays, we take this opportunity of wishing all our patrons A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

RENEW your subscriptions for next year.

SEVERAL articles intended for this number are held over for next month's issue.

BRO. HOWARD MURRAY purposes to hold a meeting with the church at Kempt in the near future.

WE have four active preachers on P. E. Island. We ought to have good news from there this winter. Brethren, report.

As there is such an interest in the new church building in Halifax, we hope to furnish our readers with a picture of it in our February issue.

BRO. FORD's work in Lord's Cove will be a blessing to the church there. The brethren at that point, with a live preacher, are sure to succeed.

WE learn from the *Christian Standard* that our Brother E. B. Barnes, of Bowmauville, Ont., has taken unto himself a wife. THE CHRISTIAN offers its heartiest congratulations.

WE will thank our subscribers if they will make an earnest effort to increase our subscription list. Remember every new subscriber means an increase of funds to our home mission work. Brethren, help.

A PRIVATE letter to THE CHRISTIAN informs us that Bro. Geo. T. Smith, missionary to Japan, has been ordered by his physicians to return to this country. He will be in the United States for a few months and promises to visit the churches in the Maritime Provinces.

FOREIGN MISSION WORK AT HOME.—A Chinese S. S. class has been started by some of the members of Coburg Street Christian Church of this city. They have one Chinaman who is attending regularly. Others in the city have expressed their desire to attend. This is the first effort made in the city in this direction.

THE time is at hand when our brethren in the States cry out for "a movement all along the line."

While they are continually reporting successful meetings, where from fifty to one hundred have turned to the Lord, we may now look for an increased number of such awakenings. As the number of additions at individual meetings has in past years run up through the two and three hundreds, and into the four hundreds, we may confidently expect as encouraging results during this winter's campaign. It would rejoice our hearts if some of our evangelists would go into a great city and preach so earnestly for a month or two that as many would "gladly receive the word and be baptized" as did in one day in Jerusalem, when there "were added unto them about three thousand souls."

WE are sure to make a mistake when we measure the success of a meeting by the additions alone.

When a series of evangelistic services increases the knowledge of church members as to the nature and purpose and privileges of the kingdom of God, it has accomplished good, even if no one has come out and accepted the salvation which there is in Christ. If it has caused God's children to have increased longings for holiness, it has not been held in vain. But numbers are a factor in success. It is often said that the good done in protracted meetings is evanescent; and this is true very frequently as to the work done by many of the popular evangelists of to-day who preach an emasculated gospel and fail to declare the whole counsel of God. The writer knows of a meeting when more than one hundred "stood up for prayers" and "professed conversion." No doubt their feelings at the time were as reliable as feelings generally are; but, as is often the case with feelings, they soon changed, and in a year only three out of the whole number of those who "got religion" could be found to have retained it. Instead of clinging to the Rock of Ages, they grasped at an unsubstantial nothing; and it is not surprising that they did not seize it firmly.

IN many places scattered over these provinces we have brethren and sisters with no church home.

In some localities there may be only one or two; in others from six to twelve, and in a few places more than that. Some of these isolated ones are now reading these lines. It may be they are looking forward to the time when they will have a church in their midst. But are they working and praying for the time? If so, let them not be discouraged. For their encouragement we will relate what has been done in Laurens, Iowa. "Up to last winter the only member of the Christian church known to be residing there was Mrs. T. B. Steol. For many years she had gone in and worked with the Methodist Episcopal people, where they would allow her to do so. But though often solicited to unite with the church, she had always declined, giving as her reason the fact that she hoped some day to have a Christian church established in Laurens. After making several efforts to secure a preacher to hold a meeting, she finally succeeded in securing our young Bro. Bruce Brown to come and hold a short meeting." The result was that

in a short time a church with a membership of one hundred and two was organized. They have built a house costing \$4,000, with a seating capacity of 100. About six months ago they called Bro. C. H. Mattox, a consecrated and persevering young man, and a personal friend of the writer, to the pastorate, and the work is prospering. All this was done in less than one year, and was commenced by a woman whose husband was not a member of the church. If one woman could inaugurate such a work, what should not five or more true disciples do?

ENCLOSED in this issue of THE CHRISTIAN is a supplement in the form of a circular addressed to each reader, and pleading the cause

The Halifax of the church in Halifax. Is it too much to ask of all that they at once Church. comply with the request made?

The money is needed, and must be raised. The brethren there are few in numbers, but strong in faith. They have given to this work up to and beyond their ability. They have made sacrifices, are now making them, and are prepared to make more. But unaided they cannot succeed in this undertaking. Bro. Ford, in whose judgment we may all put full confidence, has lately been in Halifax, and he is enthusiastic over the prospects, provided the house can be completed and paid for as per the agreement. A strong, flourishing church in Halifax will have a reflex influence for good upon the cause in the Maritime Provinces. To fail to co-operate in this work now is to let a God-given opportunity go by. You intend making Christmas presents. Can you give one that will be more appreciated than the one which we trust you have already decided to send to Halifax? It is needed and needed now.

A CHURCH is always sorry to see any of its most active members moving to another city or country.

Small churches especially are but Church poorly able to endure such losses. Letters. But the exigencies of business, the search for health, the desire of

increased educational facilities, or other considerations, oftentimes make such a change desirable on the part of individual church members. If they go to a place where there is one of our churches, and intend to remain there even for a year, experience has shown that they should transfer their membership. And if they intended to settle down permanently, they should feel that it is their immediate duty to present their letter of commendation and enter at once into active work in connection with the church. Hundreds of members are lost to the church and lost to God, because they have failed to take a letter with them when they moved into a new community, or having taken it, failed to present it. They were unknown to the church, and consequently did not receive that oversight and sympathy that otherwise would have been freely given. The result was they lost interest in the cause of Christ, wandered away and made shipwreck of their faith. Their names may be on the church books at home, but they have been erased from the book of God. The surest way of having a church letter presented is to mail it to the church with which the person intends to identify himself, and notify the preacher or the elders of the stranger's address. They can then see him, and the church from which he comes may feel that he is in good hands.