

THE CHRISTIAN.

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

Vol. XIII.—No. 7.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., MAY, 1896.

Whole No. 151.

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 56

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Evangelists go touring through the country asking people to stand up for prayers. They presume very often that a person who thus stands up is converted, and make such an act the basis of calculation when they are summing up the success of their meetings. It is no wonder that in consequence they are able to report that hundreds have been "converted." Standing up for prayers may mean much, although it seems a senseless and unscriptural procedure, growing out of a lack of knowledge of the plan of salvation and an erroneous conception of the character of God. But it may often be taken to mean that the person arising desires to become a Christian. Not unfrequently, however, it means almost nothing at all. No good grows out of it. The person has no intention of going any farther. He rises not so much out of love to his Saviour as out of sympathy with the evangelist who is pleading so earnestly.

They know how to do things out in Iowa, and especially in Des Moines. The Central church is, we believe, supporting one or two missionaries in the foreign field, and their offering for missions on April 5th amounted to \$1,300. The University Place church raised \$800 to send Sister Wirrok, a collaborer with Sister Riioch, back to Japan. That is generous giving; but here is something better: A well known brother in Iowa expects to give his daughter to the foreign work and stands ready to bear all her expenses himself. May the day soon come when many wealthy men will have enough of the spirit of Christ to act in this manner, and when many daughters of wealthy men will be willing to serve Christ even among the poor, degraded heathen.

Of late it is almost a daily occurrence for some one of the many successful evangelists among the Disciples of Christ to close a meeting during which a hundred or more persons turned to the Lord. We give the figures for a few of the meetings reported since our last notes were written. In Danbury, Conn., 125 were added to the church; in Moberly, Mo., 132; in Republican, Neb., 180; in Winchester, Ill., 125; in Fresno, Cal., 210. These figures do not give the number who stood up for prayers. If that were what the people had been asked to do, the numbers might have been three or four times as large as they are. But these figures,

subtracting, of course, the small number who had letters, or who were restored to the fellowship of the church, represent men, women and children who, with the mouth, publicly confessed their faith in Jesus the Christ, the Son of the living God, and who showed their recognition of his Lordship and their desire to follow him by being buried with him by baptism as he commanded. Confessing the Saviour is readily seen to be a very different thing from standing up for prayers. The latter may mean nothing; the former means that the person who does so has decided to become a Christian.

Angola, Ind., has long been noted for its infidelity, and, of course, for its lack of interest in Christ and Christianity. Most of the dwellers there who were religiously inclined were blinded by sectarianism and divided by denominationalism, and so infidelity had a fertile soil in which to sow its seed. Bro. Victor Dorris went there to preach the glorious gospel against which infidelity is powerless and to plead for Christian union, which is the deadly foe of sectarianism; and many who had been confounding the speculations of men with the truth of God saw their mistake, forsook their infidelity, accepted the Bible and obeyed the Saviour; many others saw the evils of sectarianism and its weakness when confronted by infidelity and came in to work with those who are pleading for the union of God's people on a scriptural basis. There were two hundred and ten who during the meeting took the Bible and the Bible alone as their rule of faith and practice.

One of the strong men among the Disciples of Christ is Bro. H. McDiarmid, who, we believe, has the honor of claiming Ontario as his birth-place, or, if anyone should prefer, Ontario has the honor of claiming him as her son. For many years he was on the *Christian Standard* with its illustrious founder Isaac Errett, and we think became editor-in-chief when that prince in Israel died. For five years he has been president of Bethany College; but owing to the long period of great financial depression through which the United States has been passing the income of the college has been insufficient, and he has resigned. Where are the alumni of this grand old college? Many of them are wealthy now, but they might have been hewers of wood and drawers of water all their days had it not been for the help that Bethany College gave them. Let them now return the favor.

The churches are doing better for foreign missions every year, and it would be a poor compliment to them if they were doing worse. There is a large increase in the number of contributing churches. Many churches are giving that never gave before. They are beginning to see that a church must be interested in missions if it be indeed a church of Christ. Many are contributing all, and some much more than they are asked for. This, too, is a good sign. The receipts from October 1st, 1895, to April 8th, 1896, amount to \$43,262.43, a gain of \$8,193.95 over the same time last year. But as the work abroad is enlarging all the time this

ratio of increase should be maintained until the end of the year, and that such may be the case every church should claim its privilege to help. Send the money to Bro. A. McLean, Box 750, Cincinnati, Ohio.

The church for which the noted Talmage preached had 3,000 members; but apparently they were not so much interested in any one thing as in the great preacher. A great many of them evidently attended the tabernacle because he was the most entertaining preacher in the city. Talmage has gone to Washington and church has gone to pieces. He, and not Christ, was the bond of union. It is as sinful to worship a living man as it is to worship a golden calf. We have a glimpse at the heart of this church when we know that it never took up a collection for the home mission enterprises in which we would suppose it to be most interested. It is no wonder that the Lord burned down their meeting-house three times. If they would not give to others, they were compelled to spend on themselves.

Bro. John H. McNeill has had the unanimous call of the twenty-four officers of Home Avenue church, Indianapolis. He has resigned at Rushville, where he has been for about eight years, but the church is greatly opposed to his going away, and in that they show their good sense. If he was not a first class man the church in Indianapolis would not want him; because he is a first class man the church in Rushville should keep him if it can. There are only about one dozen applicants for his place, but that is because he has only just resigned. He has not yet decided what he shall do.

As the American Christian Missionary Society is aiding us in our endeavors to sound out the simple gospel in these regions, and has agreed to help us even more than at present when the right man for the work can be found, we should feel grateful to these brethren and take the first opportunity of showing our sympathy in a tangible manner. During the month of May the churches in the States are going to make their contribution to the home mission work which these brethren are endeavoring to carry on to great success. At the annual meeting in St. John, and at the subsequent meetings, the brethren thought it well for us to have a share in this good work, and particularly so in view of the assistance rendered us. The needs of the home mission fields are great, many of the faithful missionaries are suffering because there has not been money in hand to pay their salaries, some of them have had to mortgage their homes or use up their small savings in order to meet their bills, but they never forsook their posts. They are heroes. We hope that every church of Christ in the Maritime Provinces will feel it a privilege to contribute to the support of these noble, self-sacrificing men. The money is needed now. It would be well to take up the collection in May, or at least early in June. Even if but a small amount can be raised, raise it and send it to B. L. Smith, Y. M. C. A. Building, Cincinnati, Ohio, who will see that it goes to these faithful toilers.