

# THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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## The Christian.

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FROM a letter received we learn that Bro. Ford is being plied with questions for the Querist column. Some of his answers thereto appear in this issue. Read them.

SOMEWHAT accidentally — word has reached us that we have now a preacher in Halifax. But judging from the silence of our brethren there we are led to infer that probably they wish to keep the fact a secret for a while.

WE learn that Bro. Overbaugh is now laboring with the brethren on Deer Island. We welcome him to these parts, and sincerely hope that the cause of the Master may prosper in his present field of labor. We are in hopes to see or hear from him soon.

CORRECTION.—A portion of the November issue was printed before we were able to correct a mistake of the type-setter, in substituting "inspiration" for justification in the note on holiness. It should have read: The Rev. G. W. McDonald \* \* \* in discussing the subject of holiness, is reported by the press in drawing this difference between justification and sanctification; in the justified state, etc.

WE appreciate very much the many words of encouragement sent us concerning our efforts to present to the brotherhood a purely religious paper. Here are a few: From New York: "I enjoy the paper very much, and wish it more success." Nova Scotia: "I wish THE CHRISTIAN a great advance in getting new subscriptions;" and from P. E. Island: "If the paper was larger and came weekly, the brethren, I am sure, would be better satisfied and willing to pay a larger price. That one article alone, "Be not as a mule," is worth 50 cents, the price of THE CHRISTIAN for a year."

SOMETHING over ten years ago Colonel Ingersol assumed the role of a prophet and ventured the prediction "that in ten years from that time there would be two theatres to one church." From an exchange we learn that a distinguished Methodist has recently written him a polite note reminding him of the prediction—that the ten years are up: that the Methodists alone are building four churches every day, one for every six hours, and earnestly requests that he try another prediction for 1890.

THE question is frequently asked, "Why, if a person thinks he is right, and is conscientious in his religious undertakings, don't you imagine he'll be saved?" The Rev. Wm. Bennett, (Presbyterian) of Springfield, Ont., in an open letter to Rev. Dr. McDougall, of this city, makes a statement that in connection with the above question is worthy of consideration. He writes:

"If you take the wrong course, no matter how honest and sincere you were in thinking you were on the right one, you cannot arrive at the desired haven."

THERE is one feature of our work that has been sadly needed, i. e., distributing of tracts. The importance of this work cannot be overestimated. Tracts will get into places where the preacher cannot. People will read them and weigh their words, when the same words spoken would arouse prejudice and a spirit of rebellion. Some of our ablest men, intellectually and spiritually, have written in a kind, loving and forcible manner the truth as it is in Jesus, which, if read, would remove many of the erroneous opinions concerning us and awaken in their readers an appreciation of our efforts to return to primitive Christianity and result in many a conversion.

THROUGH the kindness of Bro W. Murray we have received a "cut" of the house of worship in Haverhill, Mass. The place was formally opened the fourth Lord's day in November last. Bros. E. W. Darst, of Boston, preached the morning and afternoon sermons, and Thos. Chalmers of Columbus, Ohio, the evening sermon. The brethren of Haverhill have secured the services of Bro. Murray for a year. Our readers will wish him every blessing, for no preacher in these parts is held in higher esteem or more generally beloved than our brother, William Murray.

WE congratulate our Bro. and Sister Ford in having reached their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary called their silver wedding. From the coziness and good feelings that reign in their home it is evident that their marriage life has been a silver one—notwithstanding the hardships and bereavements that have often entered their door. That they may have many years to live on earth to work for the Master as they have in the past is the desire of all who know them. And if not permitted to enjoy their golden wedding here we are confident in predicting that they will enjoy it in heaven.

EDUCATIONAL FUND.—At our last annual meeting it was decided that this part of our work should be continued, and to this end the writer of these notes was voted to take charge of this—we can hardly say *fund*, for at the time there was a large deficit, but still we'll call it—FUND. Several private letters have been written (and others are in progress) soliciting aid for this work.

Young men receiving assistance from the fund promise: (1) That at the close of their college course they will return to one of these three provinces, providing a fair support is offered them. (2) Failing to receive such an offer and deciding to labor elsewhere, then they will return to the fund not less than \$30.00 per year until the amount received is refunded. Now if any of our readers have any questions to ask or objection to present, why send them along, and if in our power

we will answer them. But what we need at present is money to help the work along.

MAJORITIES.—Several articles have been written for our columns on this subject. That this question is an important one none of our readers will for a moment deny; that it, like most questions, has its two sides will not admit of a doubt; that the acceptance of one to the rejection of the other leads to insuperable difficulties is apparent to all who have given the subject any thought.

The question so far has been, "Should the majority rule?" This might be answered, and correctly too, with a *yes* or *no*, according to the subject under consideration. For instance, should the question of sprinkling or pouring for baptism be submitted and the majority decide in their adoption, ought the minority submit? Should the Lord's Supper be celebrated monthly or quarterly? be the question for consideration and the large number of those present decide in favor of either one, ought the minority to acquiesce in the voice of the many? No, certainly not. Such questions are not to be decided by vote; and the elders of the church should see that duties and ordinances clearly revealed in the Bible are not accepted or rejected by virtue of such a vote. And no one in the columns of THE CHRISTIAN has contended that such should be decided by majority vote. But are there not questions that need to be submitted to the church for discussion—questions purely of taste, opinion, of convenience—involving no principle really, but still there exists a diversity of opinion? To illustrate: Here comes up such questions as What hymn book shall we use? What hour shall we meet for worship? Where shall we build our new place of worship? What shall be its design, material and cost? etc., etc. Now action is necessary, and this requires a decision by some one. Are such and kindred questions to be decided by the elders without consulting the brethren and in opposition to their desires? Or are they to be settled by consent of the whole church, including elders and all? But suppose the elders or a few (nine or ten) of the brethren are stubborn—we have known such—and will not give way to the majority (say 140) what is to be done? Because of a division should the question be laid on the table for an indefinite length of time? Should the majority of 140 bow to the will of ten? And if not, what course should be pursued by the majority? We have met such difficulties as are referred to above, and we have frequently noticed that on such occasions the majority was in need of the grace of God so as not to aggravate the minority, and the minority was lacking the spirit of humility and sanctified common sense. The absence of these virtues in both parties gave rise to all the trouble.

### EDUCATIONAL FUND.

#### RECEIPTS FOR NOVEMBER.

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E. C. Ford, Cornwallis, N. S. ....	1 00
Susie B. Ford " " .....	1 90
A Friend, " " .....	2 00
C. H. Leonard, St. John, N. B. ....	1 00
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