

ERSKINE CHURCH ECHOES.

"Ecclesiastical Tramps"

Now and then you will find a Christian—so called—who loves all the churches so much that he has very little stock of love left for the particular church of which he is a member.

Like a bird, he is migratory in his habits. He is on the wing, and chirps everywhere except upon his tree. He has an idea that he is not appreciated at home, and so he must fly north, south, east or west—on a mission of universal benevolence. His mission he proclaims is to "do good," and, to give him credit, he is not lazy. Activity moves every muscle and sits enthroned upon his tongue.

He likes to go to the crowded religious meeting. Though a stranger, he takes what he considers his proper place—the front seat—and is the first to rise and say, "I am always prompt to improve the opportunity." He bewails the backwardness of others—exhorts to zeal, and he is happy when he is fanned with the breeze he awakens.—S. S. Journal.

The New Disciple

In many of our churches new members have recently been received into fellowship. There is a freshness of thought and feeling in the new disciple that resembles the first warm days of spring. Life assumes a meaning that it never did before; duty seems easy where once it seemed hard; the body, like the soul, seems to have undergone a transformation, and there is a buoyancy of spirit that in many a person approaches ecstasy. All this, of course, is as it should be. The phrase, "A new creature (creation) in Christ" describes a fact, and not an illusion. If any one in the world has the right to feel happy and to gird himself with hope and courage, it is one who has just "put on Christ" and been united to the Saviour of souls by a vital bond. But as spring does not last forever, so the freshness of the new disciple's feelings is sure pass away. Faith may lose none of its intensity; love to God and love to man may increase instead of diminish; and there may remain the same stout determination to live, with the divine help, the Christian life; but it is impossible for the new disciple to continue in the same state of spiritual exaltation. The novelty of the great change that has come over him is sure to wear off; familiarity with that change will not breed contempt, but will bring about a quieter frame of mind and more matter-of-fact views of truth and duty. Accordingly these young Christians should prepare themselves for something of a fall in the mercury of their feelings. They should be warned not to be surprised at such a fall. If they be really new creatures in Christ, they will never cease to bless the hour when they gave themselves to the Lord; but if their souls continue to glow at a white heat, if they continue

Our Givings.

	CONGREGATION.		W. F. M. S.					TOTALS.	
	Weekly Offerings.	Missions.	S. S.	AUX.	M. B.	The Mission.	Y. P. S. C. B.		LADIES' AID.
Oct. 7.....	\$65 20	\$39 12	\$4 52	\$36 00	.. ..	\$5 76	\$1 55	\$15 78	\$167 93
" 14.....	51 31	.. ..	4 39	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	55 70
" 21.....	46 50	.. ..	4 26	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	50 85
" 28.....	53 85	.. ..	4 84	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	58 69
Nov. 4.....	74 13	20 30	4 95	5 90	.. ..	6 46	85	11 80	124 39
" 11.....	58 59	.. ..	4 16	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	62 75
" 18.....	61 09	.. ..	4 13	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	65 22
" 25.....	64 45	.. ..	4 75	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	69 20
Dec. 2.....	55 90	50 18	5 78	7 55	\$6 56	8 57	.. ..	12 28	146 72
" 9.....	67 71	.. ..	5 44	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	73 15
" 16.....	75 65	.. ..	5 35	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	81 00
" 23.....	62 40	.. ..	5 62	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	68 02
" 30.....	54 60	.. ..	5 19	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	59 79
Social	60 80	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	60 80
Debt Fund....	37 00	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	37 00
Totals.....	\$889 27	\$109 60	\$63 38	\$16 45	6 56	\$20 79	\$2 40	\$44 36	\$1181 21
1895.									
Jan. 6.....	\$69 28	\$19 40	\$4 71	\$11 25	.. ..	\$6 45	\$4 74	\$12 28	\$138 31
" 13.....	56 43	.. ..	4 18	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	60 61
" 20.....	59 45	.. ..	4 79	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	64 24
" 27.....	46 56	.. ..	5 28	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	51 84
Feb. 3.....	60 91	26 85	5 68	10 85	.. ..	6 76	3 07	13 88	128 00
" 10.....	57 01	.. ..	6 00	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	63 01
" 17.....	64 59	.. ..	6 15	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	70 74
" 24.....	54 57	.. ..	5 41	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	59 98
Mar. 3.....	65 20	36 55	5 45	8 00	.. ..	8 17	4 33	18 20	145 90
" 10.....	59 53	.. ..	5 87	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	65 40
" 17.....	58 59	.. ..	5 42	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	64 01
" 24.....	54 55	.. ..	5 70	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	60 25
" 31.....	58 40	.. ..	4 70	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	63 10
Records, Mar. 3	28 85	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	28 85
Social, Feb. 4	35 79	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	35 79
S. S. Anniversary	.. ..	.. ..	25 00	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	25 00
Totals.....	\$829 71	\$82 80	\$94 34	\$30 10	.. ..	\$21 38	\$12 14	\$44 36	1114 83

to run without ever being weary, or to walk without ever being faint, they will certainly have a different experience from all who have gone before them in the way of salvation.

But the new disciple is to expect more than a fall in the temperature of his present feelings. There are such things as temptations and trials, and they will come to him as surely as night follows day. He will learn, though he may not fully realize it now, that he has enemies to guard against, and that while grace will enable him to meet them, with the hope of overcoming them, it will not make him invulnerable to their weapons. He must be prepared for many a fierce assault; remembering that he has enlisted for a war in which, in this life, there is no discharge. So, too, he must remember that, because he is living in a world where there is sorrow as well as joy, pain as well as pleasure, and failure as well as success, there are some dark days ahead, and that it is his duty, as one who has confessed Christ, to make ready to meet them manfully. It is unnecessary to dwell at length on this. It is enough to warn the new disciple that the Christian life is not one of ease, but that it requires courage, patience and self control, hardihood and ceaseless vigilance. He has much to do and to endure; he cannot follow Christ without suffering with Christ; there is a cross to be borne before the crown can be won.

What then must the new disciple do, if he would fulfil the promise of the present moment? Having confessed Christ with his lips, he must confess Him in his conduct. And to do that he must carefully tend the life that has been born within him. That life will not take care of itself—it must be nourished. All the instrumentalities for its nourishment must be used—prayer, meditation, the study of God's Word, and the

daily practice of the virtues enjoined in the Gospel. In no other way can he hope to realize his own expectations. But, if he continue sober and steadfast, and freely avail himself of the helps—both human and divine—provided for the maintenance of his Christian life, he will meet with no disappointments that he cannot endure, or reverses that he cannot repair, and in the end will receive the "crown of righteousness" laid up for those who love the Lord and who serve Him in sincerity and truth.—*The Watchman.*

The happiest heart that ever beat
Was in some quiet breast
That found the common daylight sweet,
And left to Heaven the rest. —Cheney.

IN AFFECTIONATE MEMORY

—OF—

MRS. JAMES MONTGOMERY

MRS. MARY A. DAVIDSON

"Be ye also ready."