

THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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NOTES AND NEWS.

A number of good articles are crowded out of this issue, but they will have the first claim on our space next month.

Lest some of our churches have failed to take up the collection for foreign missions, we suggest that there is still time to fall in line with those who, if they cannot go as missionaries, are willing to aid in sending others.

The hardest months, financially, for THE CHRISTIAN, are just at hand. The expenses go on as usual, but the receipts are apt to come in very slowly. We hope our readers will remember this and forward their subscriptions promptly.

The P. E. I. Christian Endeavor Convention is to meet in Montague, Aug. 10, 11; the N. B. Convention in St. John, Aug. 11-13; and the N. S. Convention in Windsor, Aug. 16, 17. The programme committees are already at work.

Two of our young brethren, E. E. Farris and Dr. W. W. Biddle, sailed from Boston for Africa, on March 6th. They go out under the auspices of the Foreign Christian Missionary Society—the first missionaries the Society has been able to send to the dark continent.

In Chicago, Ill., city evangelization is being vigorously pushed by the Disciples of Christ. The churches are united in a forward movement. E. W. Darst is supported as city evangelist and superintendent of missions. In two years he has held ten meetings with 450 additions. Last year three new churches were organized.

Since Jan. 1st the church in Halifax has given \$12 for the Bible Society, \$25 for N. B. and N. S. home missions, \$33.75 for foreign missions, \$10 for for Main St. (St. John) Building Fund, and \$12 for the Armenians—a total of \$92.75. This is a splendid record. It speaks of a growing unselfishness. The members are learning to give so liberally and they find so much joy in giving that in a few more years the church will be self-sustaining. Does it pay to aid such a church? You have the answer in these figures.

The church at Machias, Maine, has secured a minister in the person of R. E. Jopo, of Everett, Mass. He is to begin his duties there April 1st.

In the *Christian Standard* of March 13th three thousand three hundred and fifty four additions were reported. Surely the hand of the Lord is with his people, as thus we see many turning unto him. The gospel is still the power unto salvation.

We seldom see anything in the papers from T. H. Capp's pen. But in a recent copy of the *Church Register*, Plattsburg, Mo., we find an essay by him that for vividness of description, beauty of expression, and depth of pathos, we have not often seen excelled. We had hoped to give part of it to our readers this month, but other demands on our space prevent.

W. J. Hastie has been holding a meeting at Albia, O. During the first week and a-half, as he reports in the *Christian Oracle*, there were fifty-three additions. On Saturday five made the good confession; on Sunday, two in the morning and fifteen at night; on Monday, five; on Tuesday, ten; on Wednesday nine; "and the end is not yet." He says, "Praise the Lord." We say, "Amen."

J. W. Bolton has an excellent article in the last *New England Messenger*, on "What is the Heart, and How is it changed?" If some of those who affirm that the Disciples of Christ do not believe in a change of heart would read it, they would probably be disagreeably disappointed; for no doubt they want to go on repeating the old lie. They love darkness rather than light because it suits their malicious purposes better.

The hand-book on the History and Position of the Disciples of Christ is in the hands of the printer. B. B. Tyler has prepared it. The first five chapters show the conditions out of which this great movement grew and its beginning. The seven following chapters treat of our distinctive plea. The ten remaining chapters deal with present conditions among us. The young people in all our churches should form reading circles and study this little book. The Christian Endeavor Societies are taking hold of the work heartily. The book will cost only twenty-five cents.

Our provincial brethren are growing in the grace of giving. The churches this year have more generally made the offering for foreign missions, and the amounts contributed have largely increased. This is a good sign. If the churches can be trained to willingly give to such an unselfish cause, there is little danger of the home work being neglected, or of the local interests of the church suffering. It is particularly gratifying to see that churches that are being aided by the home mission board are among the most liberal contributors. This shows that they are being trained to give, and it strengthens the hope that in due time they will become self-sustaining. If they did not learn to give they would never be able to stand alone. Selfishness would consume them.

We notice in the March number of *The New England Messenger* that Harry Minnick reports three additions at Lubec. From South Lubec S. W. Leonard writes: "Four additions at our regular services; two by baptism, one by statement and one reclaimed." Since these reports were made, we think these churches have been holding special meetings. We hope to hear of good results.

In a late number of the *Christian Evangelist* there is an account of the progress of the Disciples of Christ in St. Louis, Mo. The first church was organized sixty years ago, in 1837. This stood alone till 1863, when a second was started. In 1871, a third was formed; and in 1882, a fourth. About this time the importance of building up churches in the centers of populations was recognized, and in St. Louis as in many other cities the progress since then has been rapid until now a new church is opened every year. The fifth church was organized in 1889; the sixth, in 1891; the seventh, in 1893; the eighth, in 1894; the ninth and tenth, in 1895; and the eleventh, in 1896.

The famine in India continues to rage. The rate of mortality seems to be on the increase. Christian sympathy, however, is becoming deeper and stronger. One of the most successful funds is that started by *The Christian Herald*, New York. The amount so far remitted to India is \$30,000. Of this two thirds were sent to forty missionaries in the famine districts, \$500 being sent to each for the relief of the starving. Among the missionaries chosen as almoners we find the names of three sent out by the Disciples of Christ, — J. G. McGavran, Damoh; G. L. Wharton, Hurda; Mary D. Adams, Bilaspur.

Judging by the first fruits we think the March offering for foreign missions will surpass that of any preceding year. The returns for the first four days are much larger than those of the same period last year. The number of contributing churches increases from 230 to 351, a gain of 121; the amount received goes up from \$3,720 71 to \$4,996.26 an increase of \$1,275 55 or \$325.18 per day. If this rate of increase continues to the close of the month, there will be no need of recalling any of the missionaries now on the field. Instead, the work can be enlarged as it should be.

In "Australian Notes and News" in the *Christian Standard*, A. B. Maston in giving an account of a trip through the island continent, says (speaking of Perth): "For some years there has been a meeting of Disciples in this place, but owing to the smallness of their number they have been unable to do very much more than to meet and 'break bread,' which is a universal custom with our Colonial brethren where even two or three of them live in the same locality." Jesus said, "do this in remembrance of me." The individual blessing does not depend upon a large number participating. The command is as plain and the blessing as sure for a company of ten as for a congregation of ten hundred. When the Lord's Supper was instituted there were only twelve or thirteen present.