

The Christian.

ST. JOHN, N. B., AUGUST, 1898

EDITORIAL.

Believing that the following extract from *The Sunday School Times* will be acceptable to our readers, it is given in place of the usual editorial:

OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM.

A True Narrative, By Elizabeth

That very young children sometimes give unmistakable evidence of faith in Christ, and are calm and trustful even in the face of death, has been beautifully demonstrated in the case of a little seven-year-old friend who has just been called from earth to heaven.

It was during the Christmas holidays, while the family were visiting relatives in a neighboring city, that this little girl was stricken down with that dreaded disease—diphtheria.

Never will those who loved her and cared for her so tenderly forget the experiences of those few weeks. The sweet faith, the childish prayers that fell from the little parched lips, and the earnest and constant desire that others should pray for her were most touching, and will ever live in the memories of those who, through the weary days and nights, watched over her.

"Why don't somebody pray for me?" she asked one day, when the suffering had been very great. "Nobody is praying for me, papa."

When assured that they were praying for her constantly, though silently, and that friends at home—some of whom were mentioned by name—were also remembering her in prayer, she seemed much pleased, but was not fully satisfied till both father and mother had knelt by her bedside and offered up a petition in her behalf.

More than a year ago, while visiting at the home of this dear little one, I was deeply touched by her loving efforts to care for me during a slight sickness which kept me on the sofa most of the day, and especially when, in one of our confidential talks afterward, my tender little nurse said, "Auntie, I prayed for you when you were sick," and repeated the words she had used.

Of course, she had long ago been taught to say "Now I lay me," but I am quite sure this was her first voluntary prayer; and the awed tone of voice, and look of reverence on the expressive little face, made the simple words doubly sweet to me.

If this so deeply moved one who, though loving her tenderly, was not one of her very own, what were the mother's feelings when, during that last sad illness, finding her darling's golden head bowed as if in prayer one day, and gently questioning her, she received the answer:

"I am praying for you, mamma. I'm asking God to give you strength to take care of me."

Once she said, "Papa, you and mamma pray for me; I don't know how,"—feeling, I

suppose, her own inability to frame a prayer in what she considered the proper language. But the brief petition, "Lord, help me," and the words "Dear Jesus" and "Blessed Lord," were frequently on her lips, especially during the hours of greatest suffering. Shortly before the end came she attempted to repeat the prayer our Lord taught his disciples, but faltered after the words "thy kingdom come."

"Thy will be done," began the mother, thinking to help her child's failing memory; but her voice broke at the significant words, and the prayer remained unfinished, for the little sufferer's strength was gone.

In the beginning of her illness she had expressed a desire that she might get well, and wanted to be taken to her own home; but a change came.

"God doesn't want me to get well," she said, sweetly submissive to his will. "I'm going to heaven, and that's a better place to live than this."

Never from that time did she express a wish to recover. Though conscious to the last, and apparently realizing her condition, she seemed to have no fear of death, no dread of the great change that was so near. So sweetly did she rest in Him whom, thus early, she had learned to love and trust. She frequently spoke of her heavenly home and its inhabitants as though they were already a reality to her. The Lord himself seemed ever present.

"Papa," she said, toward the end—"papa, I see the river, and God and the spirits are there."

Calmly she bade her dear ones farewell, sending a message of love and a good-by kiss to each of the absent sisters, then sweetly fell "asleep in Jesus."

Can there be any doubt, in the face of such evidences as these, that the religion of little children is a very real thing?—*Kansas City, Kan.*

P. E. I. ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Disciples of Christ of P. E. Island was held with the Church at Montague, beginning July 8th, and closing on the night of the 11th. The several churches of the Island were well represented, and a number from the church at Pictou, N. S., as well as many visitors from other churches were in attendance. The preaching brethren present included: R. W. Stevenson, Montague, P. E. I., Geo. Manifold, and O. B. Emery, Charlottetown, P. E. I., Howard Murray, Milton, N. S., R. E. Stevens, Pictou, N. S., A. N. Simpson, Lexington, Kentucky, U. S. A., Herbert Martin, Lexington, Kentucky, U. S. A., Wellington Murray, Bethany, West Virginia, U. S. A., and a number of ministers of denominational churches.

The meetings were well attended, and the peace, harmony and good will which prevailed throughout, together with the favorable conditions of the weather, combined to make the

Annual one of the best ever held by the brotherhood on P. E. Island.

The meetings opened on Friday night, July 8th, with preaching service by Bro. Manifold, the theme of the hour being "The Glorious Gospel."

On Saturday evening, Bro. R. E. Stevens, of Pictou, preached acceptably from Dent. j. 19, "Kadesh-Barnea."

Lord's day services opened with social meeting at 10 a. m., conducted by Bro. Emery, followed at 11 a. m. by the annual sermon preached by Bro. Howard Murray of Milton, N. S. His theme was the "Growth of Christian Character." Close reasoning and persuasive argument marked the discourse, which was well received by the large audience. At the close of the discourse two young women came forward and made the good confession.

At 3 p. m. the Lord's table was spread and many disciples partook together of the sacred emblems in remembrance of their risen Lord. Bro. Emery presided, assisted by elders Theo. MacDonald and Daniel Gordon, and a number of the brethren took part in social exercises, prayer, praise and exhortation, and this service, being solely for the purpose of observing this solemn ordinance, was very appropriate and impressive, Gethsemane and Calvary seemed very near and the final triumph of the saints assured. It was an hour to be long remembered.

The evening sermon at 7.30, after a short social meeting, was preached by Bro. A. N. Simpson, the subject of the discourse was the "Harmony of the two wills—the Human and Divine," and was ably handled.

On Monday morning at 9.30 a social meeting led by Bro. Manifold, was followed at 10.30 by the business session. Meeting opened by reading of Scriptures by the Moderator, Bro. O. B. Emery, and prayer by Bro. H. Murray. O. B. Emery re-elected Moderator, J. Harry Williams of Charlottetown, elected secretary. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. Reports from churches were very satisfactory. Very satisfactory arrangements were made for missionary enterprise and general efforts to forward the work both in the churches and in the "regions beyond." It seemed to be the great desire of all to make greater efforts this year for the advancement of the cause than we have ever made before. Another step was taken toward strengthening of relations with New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in mission work. May all work together for good.

The only disappointing feature of the meeting was the absence of Bro. Crawford.

The young people's session at 3 p. m. was a new feature in the Association and a decided success. The programme published in the July number of THE CHRISTIAN was carried out with few changes. The papers read on young people's work will be published in THE CHRISTIAN in the near future.

After a good social meeting in the evening, Bro. Wellington Murray, of Bethany College, preached at 6.30, taking as his subject, "Trust in God." At the close of the discourse one young man responded to the invitation and confessed Christ before many witnesses. The ordinance of baptism was then attended to by the pastor, R. W. Steven-