

THE CHRISTIAN.

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

VOL. XVII.—No. 3.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., JANUARY, 1900.

WHOLE No. 195

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 subscriptions and renewals should be sent to Jas. W. Barnes, Box 56, St. John, N. B.

All communications, intended for publication, to be addressed:

"THE CHRISTIAN."

P. O. Box 56

St. JOHN, N. B.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

We are expecting to receive a number of renewals this month. The money is needed. The amounts due are small, but the aggregate amounts to a large sum. "Prompt payment pleases people."

God's blessings must be sought—(1) By prayer; (2) expected in faith; (3) worked for by obedience; (4) waited for in patience; (5) received with praise and thanksgiving.

RETROSPECTIVE.—1. Have I buried or wasted my goods? 2. Have I neglected a dying world? 3. Have I shut my hand and purse against my needy and perishing brother man?

The value of a watch is in its movements. No matter how expensive it may be, if it is defective in time keeping, it is not much good as a watch. So of the church. If it is defective in its working and has not the "go" into all the world, etc., it is of little use as a church.

The person who rejects Christ rejects the creator of his own life, for He made all things and upholds them by His power. Whatever life and salvation we enjoy are the gifts and blessings of Christ. Our very life is in His hands.

That report from Danvers in the last CHRISTIAN is a splendid record for a preacher. Twenty young men brought into the fold of Christ in the course of a year. If these young brethren are true to their profession, and we expect they will be, what a grand work we will see in Digby County in the near future.

Stalker says, "There are four judgments that man is exposed to: (1) That of his friends; (2) That of the world; (3) His own judgment; (4) God's judgment. In every man there are four men: (1) The man the world sees; (2) The man seen by the person who knows him best; (3) The man seen by himself; (4) The man whom God sees."

The first meeting of our Saviour with His disciples, after His resurrection, Thomas was

absent. He had some excuse no doubt for not being there. But the result of his absence was the loss of his faith. He became a doubter. And so it is today when one loses his interest in the meetings where Christ meets His disciples—he loses his faith and becomes an objector to the word and work of God.

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye rob me in tithes and offerings." If a man is a robber in this world who withholds his tithes and offerings from the Lord, what will be the condition of the man in the next world who does not devote even five per cent of his income to the Lord.

Bro. B. G. Stevens writes in the *Christian-Evangelist* that he gives up the ministry after the service of 27 years on account of the failure of financial support. We heard of another preacher who could not get a support for his preaching because he could get only what he was worth.

Gladstone was once asked where the alarm was on behalf of religion. His reply was: "The enormous increase in the material comforts and conveniences of common life, and a proportional multiplication of human desires and appetites have cast a heavy weight into the scale, in which things seen and temporal are weighed against things unseen and eternal."

"Is it not safe to follow the dictates of our own conscience?" Not always. The man in the forest, who lost his head, thought he was going home when he was going away from home. Was it right for him to follow his conscience, his feelings, or his compass? There is danger of a misguided conscience. It is safe to follow conscience only when it is enlightened by the one infallible guide, the Bible.

During the past summer there has been excursions up the St. John river on the Lord's day by the Star Line Steamship Co. At a recent meeting of the directors a resolution was passed deciding against these excursions. One of the directors, who took a particularly strong stand on the question, declined to accept any share of the earnings from these excursions during the past two seasons. These are the kind of men who respect the Lord's day and Sunday excursions would soon be stopped if other directors would do likewise.

ADIEU, 1899.—The joys and sorrows, mistakes and failures, of the old year are recorded. We may look back upon them, but we can't change them. Everything there is just as we left it. We can keep on talking and thinking and acting, but that will not obliterate the old deeds—there they are and there they will remain until God opens the books out of which we shall be judged. "God's graphophone will reproduce the old song, and the old life." As we begin the New Year, let us try to have fewer things recorded that are not good and more that are good, that we may see on the pages of 1900 less mistakes and more things that will gladden our hearts.

Life is "certainly uncertain." Many of our dear ones who entered into the year 1899 have entered into the eternal year, where its sun never sets and nothing ever grows old. May our lives be such that when we close our eyes on this life we may open them to a life that will be brighter and richer than this.

Prayer meeting topics for 1900:

- January 3—Purposes and Hopes for the New Year.—Ex xiv. 18; Phil. iii. 13-16; Rom. viii. 31-39. Concert of prayer for Missions.
- 10—Walking with God.—Gen. v. 22; Deut. v. 33; Rom. vi. 1-4.
- 17—What would Jesus do in my place.—Luke ix. 23-27; 1 Peter iii. 21-25.
- 24—Blessings of the Holy Spirit.—Gal. iv. 6; Rom. viii. 15-27; Eph. i. 13-17.
- 31—Religion in our conversation.—Mal. iii. 16-18; Luke xxiv. 13-32.

"It is very well to talk and write about the duty of giving a tenth of our income and sacrificing for the Lord but why is it not done?" Let me tell you, my friend, this very thing is done in our Provinces; the number of Disciples who are bringing their tithes into the storehouse is increasing. We have a good brother in the Province of Nova Scotia who has, this year, given three acres of his best land and built on it a fine dwelling house and given it to the preacher. Don't be surprised if a number follow his example. This is going to be a year of surprises.

The Rev. Charles M. Sheldon, author of "In His Steps," is not only breaking loose from the ethical standard of the times, but is laying aside the musty theological standards. He has rejected the creed of the church to which he belonged as useless and obsolete, and has prepared a new covenant which he thinks is better adapted to the religious needs of the hour. Probably his next move will be to lay aside all human creeds and covenants as rules of faith and accept the Bible only as authority in faith and practice.

An attempt is to be made during this year to revolutionize the creeds of America. This attempt is not to be made by religious radicals or the apostles of a new faith, but by the preachers of the established churches of all denominations, except the Catholics. To accomplish this they are hold assemblies or conventions in different parts of the country and discuss subjects that bear on the question of union, thinking that in this way harmony will be increased and a new universal religion will be given to the world. The religious world is coming to see that human names and human creeds are not only meaningless but positive hindrances to the progress of truth and righteousness.

Here is a good lesson in arithmetic for the new year.

Notation: "I will put my laws into their hearts and on their minds will I write them."

Numeration: "So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

Addition: "Add to your faith virtue, and