

# THE CHRISTIAN.

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

Vol. VIII.—No. 8

SAINT JOHN, N. B., JUNE, 1891.

Whole No. 92

## 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 communications, intended for publication, to be addressed:

“THE CHRISTIAN.”  
P. O. Box 106  
ST. JOHN, N. B.

EDITOR:  
DONALD CRAWFORD,-- NEW GLASGOW, P. E. I.  
CO-EDITOR:  
T. H. CAPP, - - - - - SPRINGFIELD, Mo.  
FINANCIAL MANAGER:  
J. E. EDWARDS, . . . . . ST. JOHN, N. B.

For the information of our correspondents we simply state that our present address is—530 College st., Springfield, Mo.

THE work in our new field of labor is showing up finely. In our next we may give some of the signs of growth.

THE next Quarterly meeting will be held with the church at Shubenacadie, N. S., on the third Lord's day of June (the 21st.)

THE weather in Missouri during the month of May has been somewhat warm, but June and July, we are told, will give us all the heat we need.

It is sad, but nevertheless true, that one of the necessary qualifications of a preacher is frequently in them conspicuously absent, i. e., SANCTIFIED COMMON SENSE.

YES, for a year or so we are to be in what some persons call the “Far West.” In the near future we'll have something to say of this place and people. After a stay of thirteen years in the Lower Provinces, where but few preachers are interested in our efforts to return to apostolic Christianity, it seems strange to us, when taking a morning walk, to fall in with two or three of “our preachers;” but here such is a common occurrence.

THE man who considers his article so convincing in style, so invulnerable in argument that those opposed to his side of the question are afraid to read or have it read, reminds us of the little boy that ran out of the garden gate with stick in hand to whip the passers-by, but because the man stopped not to chastise the little fellow, or show the impossibility of carrying out his intentions, but walked steadily on, the little chap returned to his playmates saying: Didn't I scare him! Why, he was afraid to look around!!

THE words of Senator Wilson, of Iowa, while, in the heat of an election campaign, deserve to be heralded throughout the world. They are noble words—uttered at a seasonable time—when making a political speech, and referring to the question of prohibition:

“If every political aspiration of my life goes down this moment I will go down also, with a clear conscience. So help me God, no drunkard's pale-faced wife shall point to me as I pass by and say, There goes a man who contributed, by word or act, to my sorrow. No half-clad and hungry child

shall shiver in the cold as the result of any act of mine. I am in favor of rational, consistent prohibition.”

THE other evening while watching an aged brother set out some plants in a garden, he said: “Bro. Capp, in the morning it will be necessary to cover these young plants with something—say these burdock leaves—to protect them from the scorching sun, or they'll soon burn up and die.” Ah! what a lesson, I thought. If the old brethren had looked after the young members of the church—the lambs of the fold—the young and tender vines of God's vineyard, and had shielded them for a while from the storms of life—how few would have wilted, withered and died! Question: Who is consurable for this neglect? How anxious we are to get the young people to obey Christ—to come into the church. What are we doing to keep them there?

DURING the past few weeks a Union Revival has been in progress at this place (Springfield, Mo.) A large tent, holding from twelve to fourteen hundred people, was erected, and the preachers and their peoples were expected to (and to a large extent did) unite their efforts to make the meeting a grand success. All doctrinal distinctions for the time being were to be laid aside; and, with but two or three exceptions, the houses of worship were closed on Sunday evenings in order to swell the numbers at the tent. A Dr. Pierson, of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, and somewhat of the Moody type, was, as the people of Lycaonia would say (Acts xiv:12), the Mercurius of the occasion.

Dr. Pierson's denunciation of sin was admirable. His exposition of certain portions of scripture was grand and inspiring. His boldness in ridiculing some of the orthodoxy of the day bordered at times on recklessness. But, then, again you were astonished at his misconception of other passages, and the manner in which he would state certain things to be facts for which he had no evidences. He had repentance before faith. He affirmed that the Holy Spirit usually operated through the truth, but frequently without it—as in the case of infants, idiots, and Lydia of Paul's time—the Holy Spirit opening her heart, awakening and energizing that heretofore helpless heart.

Several questions will arise in a thoughtful reader: (1) How can repentance come before faith, both being directed to the same person? (2) How does he, or any one else, know that the Holy Spirit works on infants and idiots. (3) Is Lydia's a case of direct operation? (4) Does the scripture say that the Holy Spirit opened her heart?

DR. PIERSON, whose name appears elsewhere among these notes, spoke of the different churches as so many fire companies. Said he: “Yonder one we'll call the ‘Red Ladder Company,’ this one the ‘Blue Ladder Company,’ and that one the ‘Green Ladder Company.’ Yonder is a large building on fire, and at one of the highest windows is a man whose escape from the flames has been cut off. But swiftly through the streets comes sweeping along these various companies to save that poor fellow. Is not that a glorious work? And thus it is with different churches.”

This illustration was received with marked approval by a large portion of those present. But is it worthy of such acceptance? (1) In the light of the present age, when religious conferences and assemblies are proposing and advocating closer relations, even to union; when the heathen are urging our missionaries to return home and settle what is right, and not to plant into their midst so-called Christian differences; in view of all this, is not Dr. Pierson behind the age when advocating, commending or apologizing for the divided state of Christendom? (2) Is such preaching in keeping with the Saviour's prayer, or the exhortation of the great apostle of the Gentiles: “Be ye perfectly joined together in the same judgment?” (3) Does the illustration present the real facts in the case? Certainly not. God has organized but “One Company,” which is sufficient to meet all emergencies; therefore, other companies are unnecessary.

Again: Is there among the churches that unselfish spirit and earnest desire to save the man, as suggested by the Dr.'s illustration? Any one acquainted with the spirit of sectarianism knows better. The condition of affairs is more fairly represented in the following: Yonder is the burning building and the man in danger. The Red Ladder Company in rushing along not only tries to outrun but to keep back, if possible, the Blue Ladder Company. And when the ladder is raised its company needs to watch it closely lest the other company intentionally knocks it away. Yes; frequently one company would rather see the man lost than be saved by the other company's ladder. Such is the present state of affairs. Let us work and pray, as did the Saviour, for that Union which will give glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, good will to man.

THERE are few congregations but need, at least, three or four more “Peace-makers” among their members to counteract, if possible, the evil influences of certain restless, cyclonic spirits.

## EDUCATIONAL FUND.

### RECEIPTS.

B. Allan, St. John, N. B. . . . .	\$1 00
James Flaglor, St. John, N. B. . . . .	1 00
J. J. Christie “ “ “ . . . . .	3 00
E. B. Barnes, Bowmanville, Ont. . . . .	5 00

\$10 00

T. H. CAPP, Treas.

## STOMACH AND BRAINS.

A short time ago Rev. Dr. Deems dropped into our office on business, and we fell to general chatting for a few minutes. Among other things he said: “I met Dr. Wm. M. Taylor last week. His trip did him good. We began to congratulate each other on our several wholesomeness. I surveyed Taylor from head to foot, and said: ‘Doctor, do you know when I was a boy all my admiration was for brains; but as I grow older I find that shot without powder comes to nothing, and now I admire, I admire—’ he interrupted me by looking at me midway between my brains and hoots, and exclaimed, ‘Stomach!’ ‘Exactly so, Doctor,’ and, looking at him, ‘now my admiration is for men who have good stomachs.’ And, do you know,” said Dr. Deems, with a twinkle in his eye, “that dear Dr. Taylor gave me a glance which made me feel that he took my remarks as a personal compliment!”—Exchange.