

through its columns. Bro's. Murray and Emery's articles are to the point and the many letters from all the brethren are interesting and instructive.

I am at present on the Tobique River, where I am a great part of my time in the forest engaged in the lumber business.

The people of Maple View take great interest in the cause of Christ, and though there is no stationed minister, they have a prayer meeting every Sunday afternoon, where great interest is taken by the young in the cause of the Master. There is also a very good Sunday School, where the children early learn to walk in wisdom's ways, where grace and truth abound.

As we now enter on the New Year, might we not, by looking back at the past, see many misspent moments that we might have improved, and thus take the present opportunity to prepare ourselves better for future temptations. We have much to be thankful for, that while many have been called away, we are still left to work more ardently in the Master's cause.

Bro. Capp's article in the last issue on Our Mission, is to the point, and I hope the time will speedily arrive when we will see this great want supplied. "The harvest certainly is plenteous, but the labourers few," and I trust that the brethren will not wait for Bro. Capp to hunt his way to the pocket, but that all will contribute to this cause cheerfully, as the Lord loveth the cheerful giver; hoping that you may meet with the same success in the future that you have had in the past.

J. H. HAMILTON.

NOVA SCOTIA.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

In closing my last communication I spoke of a man, who like the eunuch, demanded baptism as soon as he had decided to serve the Lord Jesus. Some thought this was very hasty, he should have waited a week or longer, and even hinted that they thought he stood on a slippery foundation. How strange, that with the word of God before them, they should ever get such an idea. As we compare this conversion with those in apostolic days, then they heard one sermon about Jesus, and at once submitted themselves to him or rejected him. On Pentecost, of the thousands assembled, three thousand were ready to follow Christ, and these three thousand were baptized. In Samaria, when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. When Paul preached to the jailor, although he was a heathen, he was baptized the same hour of the night. Why did he not wait a month, or at least till daylight. Now, was this man like any of the foregoing? No, he was brought up in a land where the gospel is kept before the minds of the people, his father and mother were christians, his wife had set him an example of obedience years ago, and finally his own children had their young hearts made happy by the reception of Christ, and had given an example to the father of obedience to Jesus; and for two years he had almost been persuaded to be a christian. Now, when this point was decided, why wait? What should he wait for? Is there an example under the gospel of any one waiting only one, Saul, waited three days, and neither ate nor drank, but he was following the direction of Jesus, till Ananias came to instruct him he did not know what to do, but as soon as he learned he did it at once, even before he satisfied his appetite. Strange that our religious neighbors would rather feed on dreams, visions, and feelings than the word of our God. Three persons have decided for Christ since my last. This has filled our hearts with joy and for this we thank our God. We have had a very happy time together here and the cause of our Lord and Master, has a better

prospect for good than ever before; sixteen have been added by obedience, and six restored. Still there is a sad feature in closing this meeting; but it is not an uncommon feature; some who were almost persuaded, still stand with the enemies of God. May the Lord in mercy spare them to another opportunity. I expect before this reaches the readers of the CHRISTIAN to be at home with my family.

J. A. GATES.

Southville, Dec. 26th, 1884.

CORNWALLIS.

The cause of the Master is progressing here in some sense; but from different standpoints it might appear to be declining. The meeting on Lord's Day is not as well attended as we could wish. This meeting for prayer, praise, reading God's word, preaching, and attending to the ordinance of the Lord's Table, is surely a most important duty and glorious privilege of every Christian, and when this is neglected for trivial or imaginary causes, we cannot hope to see a "growth in grace or in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." At the A. M. meeting last Lord's Day, one made the good confession, and the same day was "buried with Christ by baptism into death," and raised again to walk in newness of life, we trust.

RIVERSIDE.

We are now enjoying a visit from Bro. E. C. Ford, of Westport, who has given us, at West Gore, several very excellent discourses. Not learned, or eloquent, in the popular sense; not grandiloquent in artificial elocution; not grand in rhetorical finish, but grand in apostolic simplicity—grand in the power to make us want to be Christians. Bro. Ford has made a very favorable impression here and in East Rawdon, where he preached several times; and we are confident if he would return at some favorable season of the new year, he would reap an immediate harvest from good seed already sown, and find much good soil waiting till the sower goes forth to sow. Behold, sowers go forth to sow! Some to sow tares, Some to scatter broadcast the seed of the kingdom of Satan. Some to sow the good seed of the Kingdom of Heaven: And according as the sowing so will the reaping be. How important then that the good seed be sown in the virgin soil, before it becomes preoccupied and overrun with tares and the wild brier, the thorn and the thistle grow broader and higher.

Brothers of the faith, be this our motto—"My Father worketh hitherto and I work."

D. McDUGALL.

Dec. 22nd, 1884.

P. E. ISLAND.

STURGEON BAY.

CHRISTIAN.—Since my last in the CHRISTIAN, I held a meeting for the Christian Church at Tryon. The meeting began with the first Lord's day in November, and continued for five consecutive Sundays, closing with the night of the fifth Lord's day. The weather was very unpropitious most of the time; this, with the prevalence of sickness in the settlement, prevented our audience from being large during the week, but on Sunday nights they grew and the interest increased, until we had a full house on the night of its close. We had no additions, but if I had not unfortunately been called to another part of the Island, and had continued a few weeks longer, there would have been some turned to the Lord. Many were deeply impressed and led to consider the way more diligently, the good seed of the kingdom was sown, and the church built up and encouraged.

Tryon is one of the hard places on the Island in which to labor. It has four churches, Presbyterian, Christian, Baptist, and Methodist. Each of these has its following of ardent admirers, dissatisfied members, and nominal professors. All these diverse

elements were represented at our meetings, as well as many from the "Big Church." Hence a sister remarked, after a large Sunday night meeting, that our audience reminded her of the multitude that assembled in Jerusalem on the occasion of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples, and Peter preached to them the first gospel sermon. But the effect was far different in our case.

Often and often, as I walked up and down the road in full view of these four churches, did I think what a spectacle these four edifices must present to a reflective mind. Four different religious bodies having the same God and Father, the same Saviour, the same Heaven, the same Bible, the same Gospel to proclaim in order to save the same Human family, the same Holy Spirit to comfort and sanctify them. Yet each proclaiming a different system of religion, in some of its fundamental principles, each claiming to have the Truth, and each condemning those who differ therefrom: and oh, the prejudice, enough to make an angel weep. How many, oh, how many are driven into skepticism and infidelity by these divisions of the Lord's people. Notwithstanding this fact, many are pleased to view these divisions as a good thing, looking with complacency thereon, and replying that all persons can be suited. Little do such superficial persons consider the many earnest prayers of our Lord and Saviour, the privations, the cruel mockings, the intense sufferings, the bloody sweat, the awful loneliness on the cross, forsaken by the very persons whom he came to save, forsaken by his disciples, the whole inhabited earth seemed against Him. Yea, and to cap the climax of bitterness and woe, his own God forsook him, and he died crying in despair, "my God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me." Yes, the Blessed One understood why the Jews forsook him, and crucified him, for they believed him an imposter, and he prayed, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." He understood why his disciples forsook him, for he told them that they would all be offended because of him, "for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered." But oh, he could not, at that time, understand why his Father, whom he had served so faithfully, should forsake him, and no wonder it broke his heart. All this was endured in order to bring man back to God, and to make all the families in the earth One in Himself. I regard the divided state of Christianity, as the prolific source of infidelity. When, O when, will party names, and partizan spirit be observed in oblivion, and the people of God unite as one body in the glorious cause of saving souls? May the Lord assist his children to be faithful to their Master, so that this much desired time may speedily come.

The writer had the pleasure of being present one night at "The Tyron Young Ladies' Literary Society." It was organized some years ago, and a constitution prepared. Only ladies were admitted to membership; but recently—either from choice or necessity—they changed the constitution in order to make gentlemen eligible to membership. Strange, indeed it is, that this society still wears its original name. The reason for this I did not ascertain but I infer that it is because the ladies are in excess of the gentlemen. The society convenes weekly in the homes of its respective members. The order of exercises are: Readings, Recitations, Criticisms, with Vocal and Instrumental Music interspersed, General Conversation, Announcement of Programme for following week. Then they Adjourn. The selections are from standard authors, both prose and poetry; and the effect upon the members is of an elevating and refining character. Would that many such societies were organized, not only on the Island, but everywhere.

MURDOCH GUNN,

Charlottetown, P. E. Island.

Dec. 9th, 1884.