

The Christian.

ST. JOHN, N. B., - APRIL, 1899.

EDITORIAL.

GLORYING IN WEAKNESS.

Therefore I take pleasures in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake, for when I am weak then am I strong. II Cor. xii, 10.

Because Paul found in Christ all that his soul could desire he determined to glory only in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. But the enemies of the cross had so stirred up some of the brethren against the apostle that he found it necessary that the gospel would not be hindered to rise in defence of his conduct and even of his apostleship. In doing this he was accused of self-glory, all of which must be exceedingly trying to one so self-sacrificing and so much enthused with the grandeur of the Son of God. He therefore assured his Corinthian brethren who had compared him to speak of himself, that he would not glory in anything he had or in which he was superior to others, but rather in his weakness, his reproaches for Christ, because when he was weak then he was strong—when human strength gave way, divine strength was supplied, and when we consider how far the latter is above the former, we have the reason why Paul gloried in his own weakness—it was that the power of God might rest on him. A careful observer can often see where God's strength is most conspicuous in the weakness of his children, and to keep this fact ever before their eyes, would save from many a gloomy worry and would stimulate to much noble and successful labor in the Master's cause.

We beg to mention one case. Not many years ago the writer spent a few weeks with a small number of disciples in the City of St. John, N. B. They had no preacher and no house of worship, but met in a hired hall. It was rather startling to hear a brother quietly remark one day, "We think of building a meeting house." Though such a house was needed and quite natural for the people to say so, it was strange to think of a handful without help even to hint of building a house in a city. Who would buy a lot? or who build the house? Another visit was made a few years after. The lot was bought and a good house built on it with basement plainly but comfortably finished, and the church meeting in it till it had time and money to finish the main room.

When we visited them "a little further on," they had a beloved minister and his family kindly cared for and adding to their number those that were being saved. The main apartment, handsomely finished, was opened for worship at this time, and the church has been prospering until it has become our largest and most influential in the maritime provinces. Its members, for years, taught a Sunday-school in the north end of the city, where a new church has been organ-

ized which this year expects to open and own a new church building.

Thus has the Lord remembered the little church in St. John in its weakness, and given another demonstration of the fact that success "is not of power nor of might, but of my spirit saith the Lord."

Our prayer is that the church may always feel how much they need divine aid, and may in prayer and hope and faith and love, work till Jesus comes.

Here is an excellent opportunity for the friends of Jesus, in other parts, to assist the new church and be able to say individually, "I took part in building the new meeting house in Main street."

Original Contributions.

"THE TENTH LEGION."

CARRIE F. PAYSON.

I have felt for some time that I would like to speak to the young readers of THE CHRISTIAN concerning the "Forward Movement" which is being so enthusiastically pushed by a host of Endeavorers. I refer to "The Quiet Hour," "The Tenth Legion" and "The Bible Reader's Band." The first, communion with God, and the third, daily Bible reading, are absolutely necessary to growth in the Christian life. But it is the second, "The Tenth Legion," to which I would call your attention. We all know that "The Tenth Legion of Christian Endeavor" is an enrolment of all Christians that make it a practice, in return for God's goodness to them, to give to his work one-tenth of their income. This may not be really necessary to growth, but I believe it is impossible to attain to the highest spiritual development, unless we are willing to give as the Lord prospers us.

In this day, when methods of various kinds are resorted to by God's children for the purpose of raising money to carry on this work, we are compelled to ask ourselves, Is there not a more excellent way? We find that under the Jewish law, where proportionate giving was rigorously observed, there was an abundance for the building of the tabernacle, temple, etc. We read that "Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing." Why is it that the secretaries of our mission boards never have the pleasure of saying, The people bring too much for the service of the work!

But some will say, "We are not under the law, so this system is not obligatory upon us."—Not under the law but under grace. We must admit that our obligations are increased thereby. Surely God's redeemed children, saved by grace, should consider it a joyful privilege to put aside at least one-tenth of their income. Oh! that we could fully realize the honor of being sons and

daughters of the Lord Almighty. Let us not talk of giving until we have learned what it cost the Father to give up his Son to purchase our salvation, and then I think we will be more than anxious to make the right disposal of our time, influence and money. Already more than thirteen thousand Endeavorers have enrolled as systematic and proportionate givers. I wonder why this subject cannot be considered at our next annual meeting. I know that many of us can give but small amounts, but God only expects us to give according to our ability. We hesitate before giving a bit of our own experience to others. We feel that it is something almost sacred. But for the encouragement of my young friends, I want to say that this plan has been very helpful to me. I have received a blessing from putting aside a portion of every dollar with the prayer, that he who blessed the loaves and fishes and made them sufficient for the multitude, may take even my small offerings and with them accomplish wondrous things. Try it, dear friends, and your interest in the Master's work will increase. May God help us to be faithful in all things, and at last perfect that which is lacking in us.

THE MAY OFFERING.

E. C. FORD.

Now that the churches have made their annual offering for Foreign Missions, our next duty is to prepare for the great offering to be made for the Home Missions to be taken the first Lord day in May. If the churches have done well for foreign missions, this should but encourage us to do as well, if not even better for the home work, since all our missionary interests depend upon the success of the work in our home fields, the base of all our missionary operations. World-wide missions will prosper just in proportion to the growth of the cause at home; hence build up the home churches and all our missions will be benefited. Just now there is an urgent demand for a greatly increased offering for our home missions, and especially that all our churches in the maritime provinces should take a deeper interest in the work of the American Christian Missionary Society than ever before. If we but study our own interest, we will do all we can to strengthen the hands of these brethren in their efforts to establish the cause we plead in every city and town on this continent.

It is encouraging to know that in the kingdom of God this society knows nothing of national boundaries, but is as ready to preach the gospel north as south, east as west. Of this we have had abundant proof, since for years the cause of Christ in these maritime provinces has been greatly helped by the American Christian Missionary Society. If but to express our gratitude for the timely aid so freely given, it would be well for us to make a strong effort to swell the May Offering; but there are stronger reasons even than this, why all our churches