

The Christian.

ST. JOHN, N. E., . . . JANUARY, 1899.

EDITORIAL.

We wish our readers A Happy New Year!

In the good providence of God we enter a new year, the last of the century, and desire to cherish grateful remembrance of his favors bestowed during the year that has closed. Surely he is good and his mercy endureth forever.

While the growth of our churches is retarded by the constant removal of members, it is cheerful to witness the determination to keep up the ordinances and the preaching of the gospel in our midst, as well as to know that many of those who leave our shores unite with churches in other lands to work for the Lord. Our plea is better understood among our religious neighbors than formerly, and the desire for Christian union and the preaching of Christ rather than creed increases as the years pass—all encouraging us to hope for God's blessing upon faithful labor.

In the United States the Disciples are increasing rapidly. Last year, many thousands have been converted to God. There are many more missionaries in foreign fields than ever before. Much more money, both for foreign and home missions is raised than ever before. New fields, both at home and abroad are opening for and inviting the gospel. In the last annual convention, unanimous resolutions passed, to "expect greater things from God," and also to "attempt greater things for God" this year than ever before, and from all quarters heard from, this resolve seems to meet a hearty response.

In our own provinces the knowledge of heathen missions and the desire to aid them grow year by year. The visit of Miss Rioch, and Miss Payson who, like Fuller with Carey, holds the rope while the missionary is in the mine gathering jewels for the King, has had a most salutary effect. It is safe to predict that after the visit of these sisters, it will be easier to collect money for foreign missions.

The last year's history of Great Britain and of the United States, has been among the most marvellous of the ages. These nations, although among the most peaceable of the earth, have been drawn into war; and how these wars have been conducted and their termination, will be the admiration of future generations. Both in the Eastern and Western world, the way has been opened for the Bible and civilization, and flags have been raised which shall protect every man in reading the Bible and in worshipping God according to his conscience. And what is very remarkable, these people are drawing together in a friendship unknown since they were nations. Does it not appear as if God were uniting these two great nations in the work of breaking the chains of oppression and clearing the way for the spread of the gospel among all the nations—a work too

grand to be interrupted by any ill-feeling begotten and fostered by the mutterings of selfish men. What optimist at the beginning of the year would venture to imagine, much less to predict, what has actually occurred at its close. And who has a mind so gross as to refuse to see a divine hand in the happenings of '98.

We are glad that the Lord works so plainly and so effectually to save men and to glorify his Son Jesus our Lord, and that he calls on us in all our weakness, in all our unworthiness, to work with him, assuring us that our labor will not be in vain in the Lord; but that in due season we shall reap if we faint not.

The close of the year brings fresh to our mind the story of the angel on Bethlehem's plains, which turned the terror of the shepherds into the sweetest joy, and the song sung by a multitude of the heavenly host—a song for all time and for all people.

The shepherds seized with sore surprise,
O'erwhelmed with light and glory,
Were cheered by tidings from the skies,
An angel brought the story.

Good news to you and all the earth,
To every tribe and nation,
I bring you of a Saviour's birth,
A joy to all creation.

Seek not the child 'mongst rich and great,
Such treat him as a stranger,
You'll find the babe of low estate
Clothed meanly in a manger.

And suddenly a heavenly band
Was with the angel singing,
And strains which thrill that lonely land
Left earth and heaven ringing.

All glory be to God above,
Good will to men be given,
Who brings to earth his Father's love
Holds highest rank in heaven.
New Glasgow, P. E. I., Dec 25, 1898.

Correspondence.

IN THE SOUTH LAND.

On the afternoon of December 6th, I left St. John for a six months' rest in the south. The presence of many members of the Coburg street church and others at the station, added perhaps, a little to the pain of leaving, but it brightened the journey and is now a pleasing memory. With a through ticket to my destination and a through check for my baggage, I congratulated myself that I would have nothing in that connection to worry me as I made the journey southward. And I did not. The morning found me in Boston, refreshed by a good night's sleep. Here I changed cars and did not change again till ten o'clock that night, when Washington was reached. Leaving there about an hour later, I found myself in the morning in Greensboro, N. C., having enjoyed by the way the blissful hours of sweet repose. Here another change was made and after a run of about twenty-eight miles on a branch line, Winston-Salem, my destination, was reached.

This is known as the Twin-City, and has a population of about 18,000. It is in fact two

towns, Winston and Salem, each with its mayor, aldermen, post-office, etc., etc. but a stranger cannot tell where one ends and the other begins. The dividing line is an ordinary street. Salem is the older. It was founded about one hundred years ago by the Moravians, and is one of their few important centres. They have a college here for girls, but not one of high grade; though I understand it is well-equipped. Winston's history covers about half a century. It is a thriving enterprising place. The country round about gives itself largely to tobacco growing. Winston does the manufacturing. The consuming is done in many States by many people who enjoy that sort of thing; for Winston's tobacco is said to be about as good as—well, as a bad thing can be. When the Anti-Tobacco League triumphs, Winston's leading industry will be killed. Just now, however, the manufacturers are not spending sleepless nights thinking about the League. Next to the tobacco factories, the cotton mills probably give employment to the largest number of people.

You cannot tell the moral tone of a place by counting the church spires. You can judge better by walking the streets and keeping your eyes and ears open. I have been here over two weeks and have tramped the streets for exercise and to see the town, and I have not yet noticed a rum-shop. I have seen only one drunken man, and I am not sure about him, and I have heard only an oath or two outside of a hotel. No doubt this town has its dives and its dens, its drunkards and its blasphemers; but they are not so conspicuous as in many smaller places.

Perhaps one explanation of the moral tone of the place is the Moravian atmosphere in which the people live and move. These are a very devout people. They are noted for this and their foreign mission zeal, the world over. Salem is overwhelmingly Moravian, and there is no impassable gulf preventing the good influence reaching and leavening Winston. In the latter place all the leading denominations are represented. The Methodists probably lead, followed closely by the Baptists and Presbyterians. The Lutherans have a new and commodious house, a big preacher (physically at least) and a small membership. The Episcopalians have a small house, which is as unattractive as it is small, and a weak congregation. The Roman Catholics have the smallest and meanest place of worship in the city. The congregation is probably as mean as the house.

But where do the Disciples of Christ come in? About twenty years ago when we had no church in the town, M. C. Kurfees, now of Louisville, Ky., then but lately out of college, came here, held a meeting in the court house and had about thirty conversions. He went to Kentucky soon after; nothing more was done, and gradually these converts, or many of them, found their way into denominational churches, principally however into the Baptist. Years later an attempt was made to organize a church, but this bit