

# THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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## The Christian.

### MISSION.

The work of mission, both home and foreign, has so rapidly increased within the last few years, that it has become the question of greatest interest in the religious world. The facilities afforded in travel and transit, in the wonderful increase of international commerce, and the increase of mails and newspapers, make the present time ripe for a grand movement in mission work, and the evangelization of the nations the imperative duty. The church that is not interested in this work of modern missions is not only behind the spirit of the times but behind the spirit of the gospel, for the spirit of mission is the spirit of Christ. A sure way to ascertain the power and spiritual life of a church is by the work it is doing outside of its own personal interest. Charity begins at home, it is true, but false charity like its neighbor, selfishness, not only begins at home but stays there. The true spirit of charity is like the river that flows towards the sea, that grows broader and deeper as it gets further from its fountain head.

The history of the Church of Christ in its primitive days is the history of missions. When the church of the present time is restored to primitive practice we shall have mission work all along the line. The restoration of the primitive mission spirit is the great need of the times. Churches must be impressed with the imperative need of this work. The commission of Christ not only says, "He who believeth and is baptized shall be saved," but it says also, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." He who preaches the necessity of apostolic Christianity and is not helping to send the gospel into the world will have to take a little of his own medicine.

It has been said: "There is not a prophecy of the Old Testament that does not contain some missionary precept or promise." Any who will carefully read the prophecies will see that the statement is true. It was Dr. Alex. Duff who said, "The church that ceases to be evangelistic will soon cease to be evangelical. In this light we can see that the church itself needs mission as much as the world needs it."

Foreign missions differ in no way from home mission except in the character of the field.

Home mission is the strengthening and encouraging the things that are weak and ready to die, which is just as important as sowing the seed in new fields.

Looking over the missionary work in our own Provinces during the last decade we can see an improvement that warrants us to hope for still greater success. It may appear to the casual observer that nothing worthy the mission spirit had been accomplished. But when we take into consideration the poverty

of the churches and the difficulty of getting evangelists to labor in these Provinces, besides many other obstacles, it will be seen that what has been done is very encouraging and the olive branch to ultimate success.

Work has been done in eight or nine churches in Nova Scotia, besides in a number of places where we have no churches. Some of the churches that had well-nigh lost their identity have been revived and rebuilt and are still being sustained through the efforts of the mission. Bro. Nowlan is now working for the mission and is receiving encouragement. Bro. Hines writes me saying that Bro. Nowlan is having good meetings in Gulliver's Cove and the cause in that locality is putting on new life.

Much more might be said of the work in N. S. had we time to itemize. Enough has been said, however, to show that the work has been a success in the Province of N. S.

The work in N. B. is still more encouraging. Although she has not received as much mission labor as N. S. the success has been greater. The two churches on Deer Island were in a low condition when the Mission Board sent the evangelist down there. There were a few in each church who were struggling hard to keep the churches alive. Now they are able to support a preacher among them all the time and to help the mission work. Our new church house has already been completed and another one in Lords Cove will be finished soon, so we hope. The annual meeting last year was held with the very church that three years before was so feeble that there was hardly a hope of its recovery. All who attended that annual meeting can testify how credibly the brethren in Leonardville acquitted themselves in providing for one of our best annual meetings. Bro. Emery is now pushing the work successfully in both churches as well as other parts of the Island. The other churches in Charlotte County have received more or less mission labor. Last winter Bro. Nowlan's labor was quite successful in that county, a number being added to the churches, besides the building of a meeting house.

In Keswick, York County, a good work was accomplished, the influence of which is still being felt. Those who then obeyed the gospel are still active Christians. A letter from them not long since informs me "they are anxiously waiting for another meeting." I do sincerely hope they may not wait in vain, for true it is that no better or riper field can be found than in that section of country. We have brethren there who are worthy any effort the mission may see fit to offer. To make a careful note of what has been accomplished, with such a limited amount of labor, and to see the anxiety of the people to have the gospel in the various parts of the Provinces, would inspire every Christian heart with a strong desire to do more in this much needed work.

The essential idea of this work is to help the weak and struggling churches, to make

them self-sustaining, and able also to help others.

This can be successfully done providing the churches will co-operate, but unless all are interested of course the work must necessarily be slow. One thing is sure, however, if we can't do as much as we would like to, we mean to do what we can. We don't intend to act on the principle of the man who put fifty cents into the contribution box, and afterwards took it back again because none of the rest of the church would contribute.

The mission work is destined to be the first and grandest work of the church. If the present age don't take hold of this work as it should the future will. There are two important reasons why we all should work for mission. The first is in the "Go" of the commission, the second is in the "Come" of the Macedonian cry. We cannot be indifferent to these and stand approved before God. As to the necessity of co-operation there cannot be a doubt as the church itself is a co-operative body. As it takes the local churches or congregations to comprise the Church of Christ (see Acts iv: 31, N. V.) it is necessary there should be local co-operation. If a local church or congregation is so independent that it will not co-operate with other congregations, then it has gotten beyond Apostolic independence.

H. MURRAY.

### PAUL DID NOT MAKE A MISTAKE.

DEAR EDITOR:—In reading the May number of THE CHRISTIAN, I find our esteemed Bro. Stevenson has asked me several questions in connection with the short article I wrote in the April number, and with the greatest respect and kindness toward him, I will endeavor to answer, not in the spirit of criticism, but in the spirit of good-will, knowing that if we never prove our points it will not mar, or make void the word of God that informs the children of men what they must do to be saved, for I take it, what we are trying to prove is but a literary curiosity.

Bro. Stevenson asks: "Are you not aware that Christ 'hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us'" ("having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances, for") 'to' make in himself of twain, one new man ("so making peace.") The part quoted that I've put in parenthesis, which the brother left out, are the words required to make a reply. We find by reading the passage in full, that it was the abolishing of "the law of commandments contained in ordinances" that broke down the middle wall of partition, and so made peace between Jew and Gentile; and as the "law of commandments" were inflexible, so much so that a Jew had no power to make a choice. But a vow, be it the Nazarite, or any other, was so flexible, that he had the choice to take it or not, showing by its flexibility that it was