

account of obedience to law only by its effects. If we produce the fruits of righteousness or the life of Christ in one life, then, and only then, can we claim a sound and proper obedience to the law of God. Some unbelievers deny the gospel—the law of life from their observations of the life of Christians (!) Why not deny the laws of vegetable life from our observations of some careless farmers? Everything depends on how or in what spirit we attend to the law of God. If we study God's word relative to any duty, it should be with an eye to the effect; to reproduce the life of Him who has given the law, thus making the obedience of God's law a means to an end and not the end itself. We know persons who pride themselves on their strict adherence to the prescribed law of giving, who do nothing worthy the name of Christian benevolence. There are others who will destroy the peace and union of Christian society by their adherence to what they suppose is truth, i. e., they will obey the law of love, minus the love or the law of peace without peace—obeying the law of life without the life. This is the abuse of God's laws, and makes that which was ordained unto life the instrument of death. The grand design of God's law is to change, not our actions simply, but our natures. Lead is still lead whatever form it may take; you may cast lead into the shape of a shilling but that don't make silver of it. If conforming to God's laws don't transform us into His nature, our obedience is all in vain. A Christianity that is Christian, a love that is loving, is the demand of the age.

H. M.

THE CHRISTIAN'S HOPE.

The hope which the Christian has is, indeed, a glorious one; it knows no fear, it makes his burdens light, and smooths life's rugged pathway. It affords him a never ending source of joy as he realizes

"Tis not all of life to live,
Nor all of death to die,

but that there is in store for him an "inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away." Hope affords him comfort in the hours of trial and sorrow. Often when the clouds of adversity gather and cast their gloomy shadows over him, he realizes how dark all would be were it not for the glowing prospect of the future everything which he may call his own in this life may be snatched from him, but hope never forsakes its possessor; and amid every trying circumstance, it causes him to look up to where his thoughts are centered; and ere his vision has travelled far enough to peer into the future, he catches a glimpse of the silver lining of the cloud which brought his sorrows. Ah! it was the same silvery light that shone on his pathway in times past, and now the cloud has changed its position in order that others might enjoy its light and blessings; and the child of God, on whom the dark cloud has cast its shadows, may be taught the transientness of everything earthly, and be raised to a higher degree of Christian excellence, and brought into a closer relation with Him who rules the world and controls all destinies.

How happy we would be if in every affliction we could realize that the one bright star is put out in some earthly homes, that the stricken ones may go out and shake off their grief by kindling light in homes where the star of hope never shone. Oh! if we could bring all the vain uncertain hopes of earth under the control of the Christian's hope, and make it paramount to them all, it would shine forth among them like the brightest star in the galaxy, and so far surpass them that they would appear dim under its glory. Our thoughts, our aspirations, our conversation, would be of heavenly things; there would be less anxiety for this world's goods, and a greater consecration to Christ. Our lives

would be so devotedly given to Him, that our soul's desire would be the realization of this hope.

Brethren, this hope of the Christian will soon be realized. Earthly hopes are like the mirage in the desert—they may dazzle us with their splendor, but they will fade away into the dim recesses from which they come. But the Christian's hope knows no disappointment; it never makes ashamed. Our anchor is cast within the veil, and we are bound to it by the golden chain of life's opportunities; and as we improve them, one by one, they are added to our treasures in heaven. The voyage may be a severe one, the storms may rage about us, but Jesus our Captain knows the course, He has passed this way before us and will pilot us over life's tempestuous sea, and land us safely in the haven of rest, where the hopes to which we looked forward will be realized, and then we will be constrained to say as one of old, "the half has not been told."

E. B. B.

Lexington, Ky.

"SUNDAY SCHOOLS."

I think the majority of my readers will agree with me in saying, that as a general rule, too little attention is given to Sunday schools. They, being the nursery of the church, cannot be too carefully dealt with.

It is here that the young minds are instructed, and if the right knowledge is imparted, and impressed, there is no doubt, but that they will follow the right path.

One of our practices which seems to be a great benefit to the scholar, is,—to select a certain word, and have each member repeat a verse with the same, then some one who has volunteered, reads an essay. The following is one given by one of our young sisters, who has only been in the church a few months.

The subject was "Light." Jesus says, "I am the Light of the world." We could not live in a world where there was no light. So God gives the sun to shine upon us, and as the sun gives light and all its blessings to the body, so Jesus gives light to the soul. When we have the light of Jesus to brighten our way, how happy we are. Each face familiar to our sight, seems to have grown more fair and more bright, for love fills our soul with light.

It was said of our Saviour, that He was a light to lighten the Gentiles, and how truly he has been the light of the world. Without Him how dark the world would be, but when trouble and affliction come upon the Disciples of Christ, in the midst of darkness the light still shines and they can feel

There is a day of sunny rest,
For every dark and troubled night,
Though brief may be an evening guest,
Yet joy shall come with early light.

Christian workers never despond or think there is nothing for you to do. Even in the dark and cloudy days looking unto Jesus, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good work and glorify your Father which is in heaven." It is but a dark world through which we are passing. There are dangers all around us, and to get through safely we need a light to guide us. We may all have the same lamp that the Psalmist speaks of, as a guide for our feet and a light for our path.

Let us walk by its light,
When days are dark be thankful,
Light is not always best;
And useful are the shadows,
The silence and the rest.
God gives whate'er is good to come,
The day and then the night,
And those who find their joys in Him,
Live always in the light.

A MEMBER.

Leonardville, Jan. 19th, 1888.

CONCERNING HALIFAX.

I want to put before you our position at the present time. We are not able to go ahead with building a house, as we have not the funds to do so. But I can tell you what you can do, and it is this. Many of you kind hearted brethren who have complained of the ten cent arrangement, have now the opportunity of sending us before the first of May, your hundred, your fifty, your twenty-five, your ten dollars. We look for nothing less than ten dollars from those of our kind brethren who have found ten cents too small to have their names printed on paper. However, we give you the opportunity now of forwarding to us the amount asked for—nothing less than ten dollars. Only from those who have counted the ten cent plan a good one, and have neglected to send in their subscription, do we look for anything less than ten dollars.

Brethren, I think above all things else, we ought to have a house in Halifax, being the capital of Nova Scotia, and the oldest city in the Provinces. The time has come when we ought to turn our attention to this earnest plea, which has been set forth in the columns of this paper. Brethren, now is your time to do something before strangers come in and do it for us. We would request all our brethren to forward us their donations as soon as possible, as we want to be ready to purchase the best site we can find in the city. You all are aware that when a man commences business, he always looks out for the best stand, so we are looking out for the best building site in the city. Once we were inclined to take a back site. But now we are considering everything for the best, and will not do anything rashly, but will have some of the most experienced brethren's advice in this matter before we take final steps. Knowing the past, we have to be very careful at the present, for fear of making a false step. Brethren, I might say my trip to the States has been a success, so all the brethren say that I have conversed with, not that I have received money to build the house, but in the clearing away of the old prejudices that have always hovered over Halifax. We look for better things from this out. Halifax has a good future before it, and we want your prayers as well as your dollars, that we may give heed to the things that we have heard, lest at any time we might let them slip. Brethren, your money when sent to us, is always put in the Saving's Bank, and will draw interest from the first of every month, so be sure to send it before the first of the month.

Hoping this will meet with the views of all.

I remain yours in Christian love,

W. J. MESSERVEY.

Halifax, Jan. 30, '88.

News of the Churches.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

SAINT JOHN.

Bro. Capp is visiting Lubeo, assisting Bro. Minnick in a meeting. We expect Bro. Minnick to preach for us next Lord's day.

Our S. S. Anniversary takes place next week. The scholars are getting their parts ready and promise to give a good entertainment.

Bro. Messervy gave us a call in the interest of the Halifax church. We were much pleased with his visit. He is very hopeful as to the success of the cause in Halifax. These brethren should be encouraged. Throw in your mite and help these earnest Disciples.

Statement of the Sec.-Treasurer of Coburg St. Christian Sunday-School, for the year ending: December 31st, 1887: