

Correspondence.

FROM HALIFAX, N. S., TO JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

The writer held his closing services with the North Street Christian Church, Halifax, N. S., on Lord's day, May 29th. In many ways this was one of the saddest days of our ministry. For two years and nine months we had labored with the Halifax church, and during those years and months had formed many pleasant and, we trust, lasting associations. We did not fully realize how dearly we loved the members of this church till the parting hours came. Our last service Sunday night brought together a large audience. A number of representatives from other churches took part, and in tender words expressed their good will and wishes. To our surprise one gentleman present, in a touching address, remarked that during the time of our labor in Halifax we had done more to break down the lines of sectarianism than any other minister had there in the last thirty years. He was comparatively a stranger to us, but intimated that he had been carefully scrutinizing our work. But the saddest moments came at the depot next morning when we bade adieu to quite a large number assembled to see us off. About sixty had met at the train, and with many tears we took the parting hand. One dear old brother, God bless him, who had been, in part, led by us to know the Lord, and who had been buried by us in Christian baptism, tearfully pressed our hand to his trembling lips as we bade him farewell. May the dear Lord abundantly bless the brethren at Halifax. We love them and shall ever remember them at the throne of grace.

After about a week of travel, via Boston, New York and Savannah, we arrived in Jacksonville June 6th, where we were anxiously awaited by the new Christian church organized there last March by our beloved brother, W. A. Foster, and to which we had been most earnestly called. We found an earnest band of Christian men and women awaiting a leader to conduct them into every good word and work. Our first Lord's day services were well attended, and although we are in the midst of the hot season, and many counter attractions are around as the results of the war, and the large number of troops encamped here, the prospects are encouraging. As rapidly as possible we shall organize in this new church every branch of church work. This, of course, will take some weeks, but will be accomplished. The church officary now stands: T. H. Blenus and C. B. Smith, Elders; J. H. Stephens, W. W. Smith, E. Randolph and V. J. Pacetti, Deacons; E. Randolph, Treasurer, and Mrs. C. B. Smith, Secretary. This church starts in full sympathy with every phase of our work, and when fully under way will be heard from. Although we have been here less than two weeks, the writer has already received letters from Missouri, Illinois, Ohio,

Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Virginia, and other states from those who are interested in this state, expressing much good will, and praying for an abundant success in this important state strategic point, while the brethren from a number of churches of this state have sent us a cordial welcome back to an old field of labor.

T. H. BLENUS.

Jacksonville, Florida.

JOTTINGS.

KEMPT.

The writer, with his wife, left home the 9th of June for the Kempt quarterly meeting in company with Bro. John Ford and wife. We called at Bro. James Freeman's, who has charge of the County poor house, and at Bro. Sophorus Freeman's, with whom we had pleasant visits. We arrived at Kempt at nine o'clock in the morning, after a drive of thirty-four miles over the worst road on the continent—excuse us for calling it a road. Queens County is not only without a railroad, but is without any kind of a respectable road.

Friday evening Bro. Devos preached to a fair congregation. Saturday evening it rained. We had a meeting, however, and the writer talked to the people. Lord's day was damp and drizzly, but to our surprise we had good congregations. Bro. Devos spoke in the morning, the writer in the afternoon, and Bro. Devos again in the evening. There were fifty-two at the Lord's table, forty-two of whom belonged to the Kempt church,—besides a number of the Kempt church brethren were not able to be present. This was a fine showing for the church in Kempt. We have known this church for twenty years. We have seen her dark and her bright days. If we are able to judge, we would say the present outlook was encouraging. The work that is being accomplished there now by Bro. F. C. Ford in regular preaching in the different localities, and his labors from house to house, is what was very much needed, and without which the cause cannot prosper in any community. Additions to a church that is not alive and working for the development of her members, and the advancement of the cause, are no benefit to the church, and but little benefit to those who are added. We too often count the success of a church by the number of additions, when the adding of numbers to an inactive church adds to her failure rather than to her success. An earnest, praying, working church will as surely have additions as that the promises of God are true. If the church in Kempt will continue to keep the interest up, they will see a natural, healthy growth. Bro. Ford is doing the very work that is required, and that must be done in order to success. We, with Bro. and Sister Jabez Freeman, were royally entertained at the hospitable home of Bro. and Sister David Freeman. This quarterly meeting was in many respects a pleasant, interesting, profitable meeting,—a fitting preparation for a larger and better one next year.

NEWPORT.

We are now at the very pleasant home of Bro. Martin Stevens. We preached three times yesterday and travelled by carriage twenty-two miles. We are much pleased with the people here, they are kind and appreciative. The congregations yesterday were much larger than we expected. We were very agreeably surprised to meet so many at church. The brethren are anxious to sustain the cause here, and are ready to do their part in advancing the work. The laborers are few; the fields are ripe. All things are ready for a grand advance all along the line. We hope that some way may be provided at our coming meeting in West Gore for the continuance of the work here in Newport.

H. MURRAY.

Original Contributions.

OUR OPPORTUNITIES AND OUR OBLIGATIONS.

GEO. MANIFOLD.

As missionary workers our opportunities for winning souls are almost innumerable. First of all we must begin with ourselves. We must see that the light that is within us be not darkness. Among the first lessons which Christ impressed on the twelve immediately following their selection from the rest of the disciples, was this: "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven." It is here that the utmost vigilance must be exercised. The power of a godly life, who can estimate it? We are apt to slight our individual efforts, to belittle our personal influence. When we read of Barnabas being a good man, full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, we learn the secret of his turning many to the Lord. We must be examples to all "in word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity." Heaven's confidence in the power of the truth, in the outcome of truth incarnate in a godly, spirit-filled life is sublime.

Home missions is missions in the homes. It is here where Andrew began. Of Peter, who in later years was to be entrusted with the keys of the kingdom, who in his testimony for the truth was to become worthy of his name, and amidst persecution and death was to stand like Gibraltar in a storm,—of this great apostle we doubtless would not have heard but for humble Andrew, who "findeth first his own brother Simon, saith unto him, 'We have found the Christ,' and he brought him to Jesus." To most of us the speaking to strangers about the things pertaining to the kingdom of God is a comparatively easy task, but to talk to those who share our firesides about the welfare of their souls is an ordeal from which many of us shrink.

Charity, or love, begins at home, but does not end there. Infinite in number are the opportunities that as missionary workers, as heralds of the cross, as preachers of righteousness are entrusted to us, to speak a word for Jesus, to bear testimony in his name to those with whom we mingle socially from day