

News of the Churches.

ST. JOHN, N. B.

COBURG STREET

Sister Henrietta C. Wade passed to the better land, on November 27th, after a short illness.

Bro. Frank C. Ford, who was on his way to Lubec, Me., spent a few days in our city, presided at our prayer and social meeting Thursday evening, November 2nd.

Bro. W. H. Allen, of Pictou, N. S., was at the Young People's meeting Monday evening, Nov. 6. He speaks very favorably and hopefully of the work there.

Dr. R. Bentley Ray preached at Silver Falls church Lord's day afternoon, 19th November.

Bro. J. C. B. Appel, pastor of the Main Street Christian church, gave a very interesting lecture of his trip to the Jubilee Convention in Cincinnati, of what he saw and heard, before the Woman's Auxiliary Society on Tuesday evening, Nov. 14th.

At the conclusion of the lecture, the clerk of the church, Bro. L. R. Morton, called the retiring pastor, Bro. H. W. Stewart, to the platform and presented him with the following address, beautifully engrossed on parchment and bound in a handsome morocco cover:

DEAR BRO. STEWART,—We know we cannot put our regard for you as our pastor and friend, or our appreciation of your work among us as a servant of God, in words, because there are experiences in life and feelings of the heart that cannot be written; yet, as a material evidence of our regard, we desire to place in your hands this address, though the words contained so feebly express the feelings with which our hearts are full.

We do not think this is necessary, in order that you may remember us. We are sure that, as a congregation, we need nothing more than we now possess to remind us of your service of love. Do we seek for a monument to your labors? We only need to look around us, to pass, in retrospect, through the years of thy ministrations among us, and thou art there. At those times when life, for a season, has been hallowed by grief, you have stood beside us, ministering to our comfort, by word and deed, and life. In our days of rejoicing, thou hast been our companion, thy life has been to us a blessing. We pray that others for years to come may be blessed as we have been. You have been to us a servant of the Lord, pastor and friend. And now, as we separate, to be absent one from the other for a time,

May the Lord bless thee!
How shall he bless thee?

With a sure faith in him, the King of kings,
With a great love that close to Jesus clings,
With a long life filled with noble things,
Thus may he bless and keep thee;

May the Lord keep thee!
How shall he keep thee?

With the overshadowing power of his wings,
With a deep peace, that through thy whole life sings,
In a sure path that safe to glory brings,
Thus shall he keep thee.

Signed on behalf of the congregation,

W. A. BARNES, *Elder.*
L. R. MORTON, *Clerk.*

St. John, Nov. 13, '99.

After the reading of the address Bro. Appel, on behalf of the Main Street Christian church and congregation, said:

BRO. STEWART,—The members of the Main street church were not expecting that you would leave St. John until after to-morrow, nor that there would be any presentation to you to-night, or they would have taken some part as a congregation in expressing to you their love and esteem. But I can assure you that although we come with no engrossed testimonial, you are written and engraved on our hearts; and although no congregational vote has been taken, yet I am but feebly expressing the sentiments of the members. We feel that the work in the North End is a result of your labors and a witness to your devotion to the Master's work. Many of the members were under your care before the organization of the second congregation, and you are loved by them and also

by others as deeply and as sincerely as by those of Coburg street. We know that you will continue to watch and pray for the progress of this work, and we will ever bear you in mind, praying that you may be given health and strength to continue in the work of our Master.

Bro. Stewart made a very feeling reply expressing his best wishes for the church and for her prosperity. The hymn, "Blest be the tie that binds," was sung. Dr. Ray pronounced the benediction, and then the congregation said "Good-bye." Bro. Stewart left the next afternoon by train for California, where he hopes to regain his health.

Dr. R. Bentley Ray, of Ohio, has been preaching for us since Nov. 5th. He will go to Milton, N. S., for two or three weeks, after which he will return to St. John.

MAIN STREET.

A number of the members of the C. E. Society of the Coburg Street Christian church united with us in our prayer-meeting on Wednesday evening, Nov. 1st. We were encouraged by their presence and by their prayers and exhortations.

Bro. Frank Ford was at our prayer-meeting on Nov. 1st, and spoke words of help and encouragement.

Bro. Appel returned home on the 3rd of November. After the Jubilee Convention he went to Lexington, Ky., where he spent a few days visiting old friends. On Lord's day evening, Nov. 5th, Bro. Appel gave us a very interesting account of his trip to Cincinnati and of the Jubilee Convention.

Dr. R. Bentley Ray, the present pastor of the Coburg Street church, has attended our prayer-meetings this month, and has helped to make them interesting and profitable. He also preached for us on Lord's day evening, Nov. 26th, Bro. Appel preaching for the Coburg Street Church.

The Ladies' Aid Society held their sale on the 23rd and 24th of November. The proceeds go towards the furnishing fund of the church. This society is much indebted to the many friends who so kindly and generously assisted, by contributions of fancy work, etc. Two of the city bands rendered valuable help by giving their services.

Sisters Maggie Roberts and Louise Whelpley have returned home after several weeks' absence.

The church building is progressing nicely. The roof and part of the sides are boarded in, so that after a little work can be continued no matter whether the weather be wet or fine. There is need of each reader of this sending a liberal contribution to the building fund. Help is necessary now. Don't postpone this.

Owing to press of matter contributions to the building fund will be acknowledged next month.

LETETE, N. B.

I have nothing of special interest to write, but we are keeping up our regular meetings, with a very good attendance and a good interest, considering that some of the active members in the fishing industry are absent the most of the time. But we are still working and praying and hoping that God will bless the prayers and labor of the faithful few in waking up the sleeping members to active life; and their influence make an impression on those that are still out of Christ into the family of God where there is life and peace forevermore.

We have visited Back Bay a few times, where a few brethren are trying to keep up a week evening prayer and social meeting, and a Lord's day school. But there is but a very few that appear to have any interest in the meetings. The brethren there are expecting to have Bro. Harding with them part of December to hold them a meeting. May the Lord give success. W. MURRAY.

WESTPORT AND TIVERTON, N. S.

We are having rough weather on these islands. The loss of vessels and lives by a severe storm of the 12th ult. have already been published in the local papers. Our Bro. More, of Westport, who is a hard working man, with a large family, has

lost his vessel and fish and all his belongings. He was fortunate in leaving his vessel before she went ashore, and thus saved his life. Other brethren who were also at Grand Manan with their vessels expected to be driven ashore by the storm, and were dressed in their oil clothes ready to breast the waves and save their lives if possible. But kind Providence, who controls the winds and the sea, held the fury of the storm in time to prevent a sad calamity. Enough, however, has been seen and felt to impress upon our hearts the uncertainty of life, that we are, while in life, in the midst of danger and death, and the wisdom of being prepared for living or dying, that though we may die we shall live where there is no death.

We think it is more than a wish that our meetings are increasing in interest. Our prayer-meeting here in Westport on Wednesday evening was interesting and profitable—five prayers and eight exhortations, with quite a large number who didn't pray or talk till after the meeting closed. Our meetings in Tiverton are becoming more interesting—our last prayer-meeting there we had fourteen who took an active part. We dare not predict what the future of our cause may be on these islands, but we hope to see a forward movement that will be worthy the cause we have espoused. One thing is sure, we will either go up or down. We have noticed that those churches that are "holding on," and moving along in the "even tenor of their way," are always losing ground. The injunction is, not to hold ourselves up, but to "build ourselves up." A growing, going, sowing church is our supreme want to-day. H. M.

HALIFAX, N. S.

How soon the months seem to go, especially when we are busy. The last month has been one of considerable anxiety on account of the serious sickness of Mrs. Ford. But I can say with the Apostle Paul that though she was sick, "nigh unto death, but God had mercy on her, and not on her only, but on me also, that I might not have sorrow upon sorrow." The friends here in Halifax have manifested the deepest interest, and nothing has been left undone that was in their power to do to render all possible help in these days of deep anxiety. From many friends, too, we have received expression of deep concern and sympathy. For all these expressions of kindness and sympathy we feel truly grateful, and thank God that Mrs. Ford is now on the way to her usual health, and pray that our lives may be yet more than ever consecrated to the service of God. I am also thankful to say that a number of others of our members who have been confined to their homes by sickness are now improving, and we hope soon to see them all in their accustomed places in the house of God.

Our work goes smoothly along here, though we greatly miss the many who have left the city, and those who have been confined to their homes. We have started a very interesting Bible class, which is held on Friday evenings. Our order is a little different from any Bible class I ever conducted before, and I think an improvement. First, we make the memorizing of the scriptures a specialty. I feel sure that this important feature of Bible study has been too much neglected these later years. Then for a short time we take up the study of the books of the Old Testament, aiming to familiarize the students of the Bible with the names of these books, and why they bear these names, and that they may be able to turn directly to any one of these books that may be called for. And while we are on this line of study we give an outline of the leading subjects given in each of those books, so that when any subject comes up