

WEST GORE LETTER.

I come before my readers for the first time this year and make my best bow and offer my best wishes for your prosperity during the year into which we have entered; and while we cannot expect all sunshine nor all joy, let us look upon whatever may come, of sadness or trial, as we look upon alloy in pure gold, making our lives more serviceable and giving us a sweeter idea of the life beyond; when we shall dwell in the light of heaven where no sadness can mar our joy, where no sin can enter. Soon the time will come, the years are slipping away; life's journey will soon be o'er. Let us be ready when the message comes, for if we are Christians we have bright prospects ahead. Does the way seem long to you, brothers, sisters? Are you weighed down with care and anxiety for the future? Is there sorrow in your heart? Then look to Jesus. Cast all your care upon him. Yes, afflicted one, tried and tempted one, hear his voice as he says, "In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

There is one drawback to our work in the provinces that has often been referred to, but for which we have not been able to find a remedy, that is, the exodus that annually takes place from our provinces to the United States of a great many of our young people. Perhaps we have not given this subject as much consideration as its importance demands. Of course there are some who go away from home that get into church work on the other side of the line, and in many cases there are churches now living and growing that have been established by some faithful Canadian. Then some find they cannot get along at home and they go to the States. Now this may be all right sometimes, but the question in my mind is this, Are we patriotic enough? Do we not need some of the old Spartan spirit? It seems to me that we need to teach our young people that we have a great country of our own, that the land and the children of the Loyalist are as good as the land and the children of the Revolutionist, that there is great need of workers in our churches, that they should be willing to make some sacrifice in order that this work may go on. Let parents do all they can to help their children settle at home. I have gone into homes where people, who were getting along in years, were living alone, getting along as best they could, while sons and daughters were in the "States." I wonder if these children ever think of the hours of anxious care they cause these parents. By and by they get sick. Where do they go? Home, and mother waits on them. Yes, that is the way it goes. Let us agitate for a new order of things. Let us sing "Our Canadian Home" oftener. Let us have more patriotism in our homes, and as a result this dominion of ours will grow and the Disciples of Christ become a prime factor in its religious and moral welfare.

On Friday, December 7th, a number of the friends met at Bro. Benj. Vaughan's, at Newport. The writer of this letter was presented with an address by Bro. John Anthony, on behalf of the church, and thirty dollars. I replied as best I could under the circumstances, and felt it was blessed to receive. A very pleasant evening was spent and everybody seemed happy. Much credit is due to Bro. and Sister Vaughan, who did so much to make this a success.

On Thursday, December 13th, we had a similar gathering in West Gore, at the house of Bro. John T. Wallace. The occasion was a most enjoyable one. Bro. Jacob Mason, on behalf of the company, presented the writer with the amount of thirty-five dollars. Speeches were made by several of the brethren and sisters. A vote of thanks was given to Bro. John T. Wallace and his wife, and several

other little circumstances went toward making a most enjoyable evening. These expressions of good-will and encouragement on the part of the brethren in the different places are very helpful to me in more ways than one, and then I know they all enjoy themselves at these gatherings; and while I feel it is blessed to receive, they feel it more blessed to give. I think I must close, having written a pretty long letter to start the year with.

W. H. HARDING.

West Gore, Hants Co., N. S.

WANTED!

"A PREACHER at X—, to preach for Y dollars a year. A young unmarried man is desired, or a young man without a family." Address "Z."

Such advertisements as the above furnish serious thought for the saints, yet how many similar calls are published from the clerical want column!

Imagine the cry coming from Macedonia, "Come over and help us—Paul proffered, because we shall not be bothered with his family, and moreover, he will take better with the young people." Such churches deserve to be arrested under the accusation of forbidding tribute to Caesar. Do they desire to preach the gospel, court popularity, watch their aging spinsters, or set up a Catholic priesthood?

I am not talking against young men, but against discrimination in age. The young man who weds his life to such a church, may expect to grow old fast enough; in this he may be preceded by the age and death of his popularity and consolation, especially should his condition change with his age.

A number of good preachers from fifty to sixty-five years of age find it hard to secure remunerative employment in their time of need, because of this hue and cry for young men only.

Watch the history of these churches advertising for the pleasure of some special class, and you need not be surprised that so many of them die without even a slab to their memory, unwept and unsung. When a church is ready to work and anxious to save souls, it will say, "Send us a man with a soul aflame with God's love, and full of energy." Youth and family connections are not supreme qualifications in the Christian ministry.

WILLIAM F. SHAW.

ECHO FROM THE WEST.

The writer and wife left home in Kempt, N. S., August 16th, arriving in St. John on the 20th. Brothers Flaglor and Edwards met us; through their kindness and other good brethren we enjoyed our short visit there. On the 22nd we started for Welland, Ont., and arrived on the last of September. We passed through many fine cities and places of note on the way. We met nothing but kindness from all, though many could not understand a word we spoke. We found in Welland many of the friends whom we left years ago in the prime of life, now waiting and watching for the keel of their boat to touch the other shore. Many others have gone on before whom we expect to meet in the "sweet by and bye." The church here is not as strong spiritually or financially as we would like to see it. The churches in this vicinity are gradually gaining ground. We attended the dedication of the new house in Winger, on the 28th. The neighboring churches were well represented and the house was packed full. Bro. Mundy, the pastor, opened the meeting. Bro. Burris, who succeeded Bro. Ellis Barnes at Bowmanville, offered the dedicatory prayer and Bro. Fowler of London, Ont., preached the sermon, which was very fine; after which an appeal was made and \$300 was collected. Then about 200 were invited to dinner in the basement of the church where we

enjoyed the good things provided by the sisters; at 2.30 p. m. Bro. Burris delivered a masterly address, at the conclusion of which we gathered round our blessed Lord's table. At 7.30 Elder Fowler preached another fine sermon to a full house. The singing was beautiful and lifted us heavenward, especially two quartettes and choruses by the choir and Mrs. R. Henderson, Miss M. S. Thompson, E. S. Thompson and Mr. Welch and Bertha and Ester Swayby, Mr. Welch and J. T. Rydall. Bro. Burris preached on Monday night to an over-flowing house. This is one of the best houses around here. It is veneered brick, has stained glass windows, sheathed with ash inside and oiled, will seat 250, but 400 can be crowded into it. It has vestry, Sunday-school room, baptistry and kitchen and is a credit to the people. May God's richest blessing rest on them. I would say in closing: our minds often go back to the old homestead and the church in Kempt and with the dear friends there. We are praying for its success, and to all our young people we would say don't be dissatisfied with being called simply "Christians." I. C. CUSHING, Welland, Ont.

News of the Churches.

ST. JOHN, N. B.

Brother O. B. Stockford, after passing a thorough examination successfully, was sworn in an attorney at law. Wesley Vanwart, a leading barrister of Fredericton, and one of the examiners, was so pleased with Bro. S. that he made him a tempting offer to enter his office which he has accepted. He is to be congratulated on his success, but the St. John church loses another good worker whose place will be hard to fill. Bro. Stockford is an unceasing worker, and he will put forth every effort to establish the cause in Fredericton. He had a talk with Bro. Blenus before he left in regard to holding a meeting there if he could arrange to have it held, so we will not be surprised if Bro. Blenus has a call there.

Our "Wide-Awake" Mission Band and Sewing Circle, held a supper and sale in Bro. Andrew Barnes' home on November 30th. The children gave a fine missionary concert during the evening. The proceeds amounted to about \$30.00, which will be devoted to home and foreign missions. Miss Martha Morton had a room for the sale of goods which she had worked on for months, in order that she might do something for missions. She was most happy, and all were pleased to know that she had made \$12.00 which she divided between the funds for home missions and the support of our adopted child in Japan. There are many of our young sisters who can do a good work like this if they would labor with the earnestness and the spirit that she did. We would be glad to hear of many following her good example.

This has been a good month with us for missions. Our regular meeting of the Mission Band had the largest attendance and the largest collection—\$13.32—in its history. Sister Allie Wilson came over with a number of our Portland Sunday-school scholars, and gave us a splendid programme which made the meeting so successful.

Our Sunday-school gave \$16.67 at the regular quarterly collection for Home Missions, and \$17.00 for Foreign, at the monthly missionary meeting. On the 30th, in response to the request made by the annual meeting, our Portland school took up its first quarterly collection for Home Missions, amounting to \$5.55. The Wide-Awake Mission Band and Miss Martha Morton send \$20.15 for Children's Fund. In addition to this, \$5.00 has been collected to help Sister Rioch build a