

THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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The direction label on the wrapper of your paper gives the date to which your subscription is paid. If it is not correct please advise us at once.

We understand that Bro. Hiram Wallace will preach for the Halifax brethren for a season. Bro. Wallace can do a good work in Halifax.

The new church building at New Glasgow, P. E. I., is nearly completed, it is said to be the best house owned by the Disciples in the provinces.

The regular quarterly meeting will be held with the Coburg Street Church, St. John, commencing Lord's day March 6th.

EVANGELISTS Hall and Hutto are to hold a series of meetings with the church at Toronto, in the near future.

The original contributions in this issue will be found specially interesting, some of them are a little lengthy, but all are worth a careful reading.

We ought to have at least five hundred new subscribers this year. Brethren, help us to get them. We can do it.

AMONG our exchanges we notice a bright little sheet from Aberdeen, South Dakota, called *The Doer*. It is full of good reading and bright hints on Christian work. We notice that Bro. J. B. Moore, formerly of St. John, is the elder of the church at Aberdeen, and is doing a good work for the cause of Christ in that city.

THREE of our churches in New Brunswick are without preachers. Here is an opportunity for some of our preaching brethren who want "something to do."

THE brethren at Gulliver's Cove need assistance to finish their house of worship. In another column will be found the amount received during the past month. More money is yet needed. Brethren, hurry up, so that they may get their house finished before the next annual meeting.

WANTED.—More church news. We would like to have a report from each church in the provinces in every issue. Will our preaching brethren and agents see that this is attended to?

OF late death has been busy among the most prominent of our church workers. We have read with sorrow of the death of Bro. Longan; but he went when his work was done. Death found Bro. Gilbert conducting a protracted meeting and snatched him away in the prime of life and the height of his power. But no event has come with such sudden and painful surprise as the death of Sister Williams. In 1886 she and her husband, Bro. E. T. Williams, gave up all the comforts of civilization and went as missionaries to China. Their labors were successful and their influence continually increasing. But Sister Williams' condition became such that she needed the attention of a skilful physician, and in January they returned to this country. On the 10th of February she wrote a letter to her two little boys, which was to be opened in the event of her death. The first sentence is this, "As I expect to-morrow to go through an operation, which might possibly terminate fatally, I feel that I must leave you a message of loving counsel." On the 11th the operation was performed, and on the 12th her spirit went to God. Thus God calls away His workmen, but He will carry on His work. Seeing that the people were indifferent to the needs of the foreign field, He has preached this stirring sermon; and if, as a consequence, the church is aroused to its responsibility, and the collection to be taken up in March is commensurate with its ability, then her death will prove even a greater blessing than her life could have been.

THERE are always men looking for something to do, and work waiting for someone to do it; and nevertheless men remain idle and work undone. Here is a two-fold evil, and there is a cause somewhere. The evil will be removed only when the work and worker find each other. There are churches without preachers, and preachers without churches; and whatever be the cause the result is that many who should be engaged in preaching the gospel have, after "having put their hands to the plow," turned back, and are now engaged in secular affairs; and churches which should be acquiring an increasing power in the community are in many cases losing what they now possess, are becoming smaller and smaller, and apparently will before long exist only in history. It is sad that it should be so. But there is no logic so irresistible as the logic of facts, and this proves that in numerous instances churches that once were strong and active have become inert and inane, and so far as we can see for no other reason than that there was no one connected with them who gave all his time to "preaching" the Gospel and "teaching" the disciples to observe all the commandments of Jesus. Here and there you may find a church which has grown in numbers and usefulness without a regular minister; but they are as rare as snow in June and strawberries in December. You have yet to find the church which, so situated, has made great and permanent progress, and judging from the past it is not rash to say that you never will.

IN these provinces we have no preachers who cannot find churches, but we have churches that cannot find preachers. Where shall they look and find? The past has proved that it is useless to depend upon our brethren in the United States. At present they are so absorbed in their home work

that they hear not our cry, "Come over and help us." For the immediate future, at least, our only hope seems to be in our own young men. And the questions now confronting us are, How shall they be induced to become sowers of the good seed of the kingdom? and to make these provinces the fields in which they will sow? We have hosts of talented young men in our churches to-day. They aspire to become successful farmers, princely merchants, cultured professors, skilful artisans, brilliant lawyers, or trusted physicians. But there are farmers without a market, merchants without purchasers, teachers without pupils, artisans without contracts, lawyers without clients and physicians without patients. But where is the preacher who has not more than he can do? "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few." In view of these circumstances young men should ask themselves, In what way can I best serve my God? and having found the answer, let no consideration of ease, wealth or worldly renown cause them to follow any other course. But when they have so decided let our churches show not only that they are anxious to profit by their labours but willing also to support them while they work. Are the churches ready to do this? If so we think the young men will be forthcoming. But if the churches are not ready, they will continue to look in vain; "for the laborer is worthy of his hire," and "they that preach the gospel shall live of the gospel."

John the Baptist—what element in his varied character do you most admire? He was unceasing in his activity, unchanging in his earnestness, unbending in the presence of wickedness, undeterred in the midst of danger, and unwavering in his loyalty to God. He had a great work to do and he did it with all his might. Thousands flocked around him and he became the most popular man of the time. Jesus came to divide the honors. The people began to leave John and follow Him. But no spirit of jealousy is seen in the Harbinger. He does not become cool toward Jesus. But rather he points away from himself to the Messiah, and says "Behold the Lamb of God." "He must increase, but I must decrease." He was glad to see another doing a work which he could not do, and he aided Him all he could. Jealousy among Christian workers is a most pernicious thing. It drives religion from the soul and lets men perish in their sins. There are those who want all the glory and honor themselves. If they are not permitted to do a certain work, they do not want to see it done. Indeed you would sometimes think that they would rather see souls go to perdition than that other hands than their's should lead them to God. If they do not feel that way, then their actions make a false impression. That good be done, ought to be the prayer of all. The question how it is done, or by whom, is a very insignificant one. The plan which will best accomplish the work is the Lord's plan. The man who can do it is the Lord's man. And when any one is engaged in a good work he should have the encouragement and support of all who approve of the object in view. All should be zealous for God, but never jealous of one another. "He that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together." "Other men I bored and ye have entered into their labors." The spirit of Moses should be the spirit of all God's people. "Enviest thou for my sake? Would God that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put His spirit upon them."