

We have had the pleasure this winter of meeting with several Nova Scotians, as well as several from New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. This is an age of travel and unrest, and it is not unusual to meet with home friends in the most unexpected places and the most unexpected times. Several of our well-known northern preachers spend portions of their winters in Florida. We have had short calls within a few days from Bro. H. F. Davis of Munroe City, Mo.; Bro. Hardy of Kentucky; A. M. Atkinson, of Wabash, Ind., and others; while Bro. W. K. Pendleton was at our state meeting, and was our personal guest for several days. Bro. E. G. Sowell, editor of the *Gospel Advocate*, is now here spending the winter with his son, a leading merchant of Jacksonville and a deacon of this church. Bro. Sowell is an excellent preacher and a companionable Christian gentleman of fine culture. The winter is the great season for activity here. While our state and cities are crowded with tourists, invalids, sight-seers and speculators, enlarged fields of usefulness and fine opportunities for church work present themselves, and the live minister who would seize the main chance is a busy man. But I fear I have used more of your valuable space than you can afford to allow to "foreign correspondence," and I desist for the present.

T. H. BLENUM.

63 Pine Street, Jacksonville, Fla.,
March 7th, 1888.

MONTAGUE ITEMS.

In the March number of THE CHRISTIAN, I notice an article in the form of a criticism, on the article in the February number under the heading, "Two or Three—Who are They?"

If the writer had not told us he had "read the article twice," we would not have supposed he had read it at all, but was acquainted with it only "by the hearing of the ear," as he certainly has failed to see the point.

We may write on this matter again, hoping, thereby to open to clearer vision, the eyes of any who may have hitherto been deluded by the false idea that we, of the 19th century may agree, as touching anything concerning the kingdom of Christ, and that it will be done as we agree, because Christ is with us (two or three) in miraculous power, as He was with the "two or three" of the apostles, to confirm that which we have decreed.

We claim, that from this one false idea, originated most, if not all, of the erroneous teaching and anti-Christian practices of those who believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God to-day.

By taking license here, men "teach for doctrines the commandments of men," and leave untaught that which God has commanded to be preached "to every creature."

On the 8th inst., at their residence in New Porth, was celebrated the 50th anniversary of the marriage of Bro. Peter D. Campbell, an honored elder, of the Church of Christ in Montague, and his amiable wife, who has so faithfully stood by his side an "help-meet" in the truest sense, in sunshine and in shadow, during the fifty years, in which the forest around their dwelling yielded to human power and industry, and "the wilderness was made to blossom as the rose; while in their home, grew up in respectability and to great usefulness a numerous family, for which the parents now advanced in years, are truly thankful, and of whom they may be justly proud.

Some are now absent from the Island home. Some were present to gladden the hearts of father and mother; but, during the fifty years, the threshold was crossed by the "dark shadow" and—"one is not."

Memory as a guest at the banquet, caused tenderness of heart to mingle in the cups of joy. While good cheer and gladness reigned, there was an in-

definable influence, which seemed to carry the mind away beyond the present hour—beyond the Christian's faith and hope to his final destiny—to the home "beyond the river," where days, months and years do not mark the flight of time, where life is not a breath, nor is any pressure brought to bear on the shoulder by the weight of years.

I may have made the impression that the season was rather gloomy, but the reverse is just true—it was joyous and pleasant. Many guests were present, mostly of blood relationship. Pleasant, edifying conversation, thanksgiving and songs of praises to the Giver of all good, and congratulatory speeches filled the time during and after the sumptuous "marriage feast," and one of the most interesting speeches was from Brother Campbell, being some of the recollections of fifty years, picturing the country as it then was, a wilderness, destitute (almost) of roads, bridges, mills and churches, with schools, low in grade, and "few and far between." Then, the gradual development toward the present condition of beauty and fertility.

The presents, golden and otherwise, were rich and numerous, and expressed beautifully the goodwill of the guests to our brother and sister, who, by industry, temperance and godliness, are well supplied with the good things of this world already.

Now, may their peace flow as a river, their path be as the shining light, and if they do not reach the time for the "diamond wedding," may they reach the city of golden streets, jasper walls and gates of pearl—the city of God—the dwelling-place of righteousness.

Paul wrote, more than eighteen hundred years ago: " whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." This was and is always true. It may be that we all acknowledge it true in some things, while we do not in others where it is equally true.

I fear that there is no man who makes enough allowance for the influences of his own early education, consequently we fail to "see ourselves as others see us."

A short time ago I noticed in a Baptist paper a complaint, that while a certain preacher was successful and encouraged in his work, he found it difficult to persuade persons (Baptists) to return from other denominations where they had made a home of convenience during a certain time.

"We are losing more to-day," said the writer, "everywhere, by the training in indifferentism to truth, which is so prevalent, than by anything else. Pseudo-Baptists have about done arguing. The dependence now is in making Baptists believe the matter of baptism is of no account."

Why should Baptists be surprised at this? Have not they taught, and do not they teach, that a person before, and independent of baptism, is "born again," "made a new creature in Christ Jesus," "made an heir of God and a joint heir with Jesus Christ," etc., made pure as the angels of God and fit for "the mansions of the blast"—"the inheritance of the saints in light?" Do not they hold these views in common with nearly all pseudo-Baptists? Do not they hold baptism as a "non-essential" to eternal glory? Why then object if their "mistaken brethren" hold baptism "of no account?"

Of what value is baptism, as viewed from the Baptist standpoint? It is not necessary in making a man a child of God. It has no place there. What then is its use? Why, it makes a man a Baptist.

But from the Baptist's own standpoint (indeed they insist on it) many persons are Christians who are not baptized. If this is true what more is necessary? Surely to be a child of God—a Christian, is just as good, to say the least, as to be a Baptist. Why then make a "fuss?" If those wanderers are Christians, why not let them alone? If baptism is of value only in bringing persons into the narrow

limits of the Baptist church, it is not worth quarreling about. If Baptists had allowed baptism to retain the position in the Christian economy in which Christ and the apostles, by His authority, left it, there would not be so much cause of complaining over wanderers from the communion; pseudo-Baptists would not be so numerous; baptism, as given in the plan of salvation would not be held of "no account," nor would so many to-day be despising God's authority and "teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

O. B. EMBRY.

March 20th, 1888.

THOU GOD SEEST ME.

GENESIS XVI. 13.

God's searching eye sees at all times and in all places. He beholds the evil and the good. As we all crave His smile, let us be very careful to study His word that we may do the things that are pleasing in His sight; for that which very often is highly esteemed among men is exceedingly offensive to Him.

In a special manner the eyes of the Lord behold the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers; and His spirit maketh intercessions with groanings which cannot be uttered. And the prophet Hanani has declared (2 Chron. xvi. 9),—"The eyes of the Lord go to and fro throughout the whole earth to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect towards Him." Let us most faithfully examine our motives and purposes of life, and if after the test we are sure that our highest aim and object of living is to love and obey the Lord, then may we be most certain that He will guide us with His eye and show himself strong in our interest. And oh! how cheering is the thought to the dying saint as he is about to clean up this earthly pilgrimage, to realize the sweet promise, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."

The sovereign eye of God beholds
The universe complete;
And with a father's tender love
These at the mercy-seat.

M. E. GATES.

HALIFAX CHURCH FUND.

David Fullerton,	\$1 00	Miss Cassie Chubb,	\$0 20
Mrs C D Bell,	50	Mrs Joseph Murphy,	10
Mrs J Clarke,	25	Mrs A McVicar,	10
Mrs R E Bignall,	45	Mr & Mrs W McMahon,	45
Mrs M Konkle,	1 00	Mrs Dennis McMahon,	10
A McKillop & Sons,	25	Mrs John Matthews,	10
H H Harlow,	50	Mrs Alice B Matthews,	10
Mrs H H Harlow,	50	Mrs Thos Wentworth,	10
Everett G Winey,	10	Mrs John Holmes,	10
Charles Drake,	10	Miss Laura Holmes,	10
B F Abbott,	10	Chas F Cogswell,	1 00
T K Etherington,	3 00	Mrs Ira Freeman,	30
Mrs T K Etherington,	2 00	Mrs Lytle Freeman,	30
Mrs A McVey,	2 00	Miss Alice Freeman,	10
Mrs Thos Harker,	12	Sarah Freeman,	10
Mrs Enoch Matthews,	20	Maggie Freeman,	10
Mr Enoch Matthews,	20	Mrs M Collie,	10
Randall Matthews,	10	Cassie Dedrick,	25
Arthur Matthews,	10	Mrs E Ryan,	30
Miss Ada Matthews,	10	A Friend,	10
Mr & Mrs J Chambers	25	A Friend,	10
Mrs David Kelly,	25	A Friend,	10
Mrs Frank Matthews,	25	Lillis Ford,	10
A Friend,	10	Mrs L S Ford,	10
Mrs Geo Helms,	20	Alice Freeman,	15
Lillie Helms,	10	Hilda Murray,	10
John W Randall,	30	Mrs S Morton,	1 00
Henry Hinds,	10	Mrs J Morton,	25
Charles Matthews,	25	Mrs S Kempton,	10
Minnie Matthews,	10	Mrs C Kempton,	10
Mrs E McNichol,	10	Mrs R Kempton,	10
Jennie Douglas,	10	Mrs G Hemoon,	15
Addison Matthews,	10	Mrs T Kempton,	15
Mrs Joseph Matthews,	10	Mr T Kempton,	15
Mrs John McNichol,	10	Kate Kempton,	10
Mrs Irvin Holmes,	10	Inhaler,	50
Simeon Tucker,	15	Inhaler,	50
James Matthews,	10	Miss Bessie Moore,	1 00
Edward Matthews,	50	S Nelson,	1 00
Mr & Mrs Samuel Dick,	50	Henry Hill,	1 00
Mrs George Chubb,	10		
Total,		\$27 77

W. J. MESSERBY,
Treasurer.