

and the Day of Pentecost? Why not add some new days of our own choosing? We have as good a right to designate a day as others have; and there are events in the life of our Saviour which stand out conspicuously but are not specially honored: his baptism and his transfiguration for instance. True, we do not know the days on which these events took place, but we could make a guess, as was done in the case of Christmas

### News of the Churches.

#### ST. JOHN, N. B. COBURG STREET

On New Year's morning the members of the Main Street church met with us in our prayer and social meeting, which was led by Bro. H. Murray, assisted by Bro. Appel. A collection amounting to twelve dollars was taken in aid of the Bible Society.

The anniversary of the Sunday-school was held on Friday evening, Jan. 20th. After an interesting programme, carried out by the children assisted by the older members, all the scholars adjourned to the schoolroom, where refreshments were provided for them by the teachers and members of the church.

The Evangelical Alliance requested that all the ministers of the city take "Christian Union" as their subject for Sunday evening, Jan. 8th. As this is the plea of our people a synopsis of Bro. H. Murray's sermon was published in the *Daily Sun*, so that people might understand the position we take in regard to this question. His subject was "Christian union made possible on the basis of truth that is universally believed and without the sacrifice of any essential principle." Text John xvii, 20, 21.

Bro. H. Murray conducted a meeting for men only in the Y. M. C. A. rooms on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 22nd. His topic was "The Soldier of Christ, his Enlistment." This meeting opened a series of talks on "The Soldiers of Christ," by leading clergymen of the city.

Much sympathy is felt for Sisters Linkletter, Holder and Flaglor. Into each of these homes the death messenger has entered and taken away one of the little ones. Since writing the above, Bro. and Sister Flaglor are called upon to mourn the death of the other twin child, which occurred on Lord's day morning, Jan. 29th.

#### MAIN STREET.

The first month of 1899 finds this church more hopeful and enthusiastic than for a long time. The determination to "go forward" in the name and strength of the Lord is always stimulating. Two business meetings of the congregation were held, and it was decided to begin the erection of a house of worship this summer. Since this the building fund has been wonderfully increased, between \$600 and \$700 being pledged in less than a week. How was this possible? "The people have a mind to work," and are united in their determination to do "whatsoever their hands find to do." Their hearts being in the effort, they are manifesting great self-sacrifice.

"Faith without works is dead." Have you faith in the plea of the Disciples of Christ? If so show that faith by assisting to firmly plant another centre for the teaching of apostolic faith and practice. Contributions to the building fund may be sent to J. W. Barnes, St. John; Robert Roberts, 30 Cedar street, St. John, or to the undersigned (address St. John).

At the request of the members the writer has withdrawn his resignation, and will continue his ministry with this congregation for another year.

The week of prayer services were well attended at the North End. The ministers of the Baptist, Free Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and Christian churches uniting.

Bro. George Manifold spent a day with us on his way to Lexington, Ky. We rejoice that the Foreign Christian Missionary Society has accepted him for work in Japan. In a few months, therefore the churches of the Maritime Provinces will have one of their own workers in the foreign field; this should encourage larger offerings. Is it not possible for these churches to undertake the support of this missionary? The C. W. B. M. of the Maritime Provinces are doing definite work in this

direction; is this not a golden opportunity for the churches to take a deeper interest in sending the gospel to the uttermost parts of the world? Could a time be found to advocate this at the next annual?

J. CHAS. B. APPEL.

#### NAUWIGEWAWK, N. B.

Bro. William Murray has been in Nauwigewawk a few weeks and has encouraged the brethren and put new life into the work there. They have decided to build a church house, and will begin the work in a few weeks. Their prospects are bright for a "forward movement" in that section of the country. We spent two evenings with them and were much pleased with their spirit of interest and activity. We had a meeting at Sister Hill's Wednesday evening. The house was well filled with interesting listeners. H M

#### WEST GORE, N. S.

The brethren of West Gore have just placed in their church building a new furnace, which is an excellent heater, and promises to give entire satisfaction. The cost was partly met by former members of the church, who are now living in or near Boston. Their kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated by the old home church.

The writer takes pleasure in reporting a donation visit from his many friends of West Gore, Dec. 20. The house was well filled, the evening pleasantly spent, and a very helpful offering raised for the preacher and family. The donation was first introduced into these churches in 1862, when the writer was preaching in West Gore and Newport, and was held that year and the following at the home of Bro. James Stevens, Newport; and with the exception of two years during which no preacher was engaged, has been kept up yearly ever since for the support of whoever was employed. It will be no news to the reader that the greater part of our Sundays this winter are stormy and unfavorable for meeting together in these country places, yet we are not often entirely stormed out. Last Lord's day was about perfect, and the attendance at all points was excellent.

One week in December was very pleasantly spent with the Disciples in Shubenacadie, twenty miles distant. Their kindness reminded me of former years. That church was organized by Bro. D. Crawford nearly fifty years ago. Their surroundings have not been always favorable, nor their number large. They have a neat, comfortable meeting house, and though without regular preaching during the winter, they meet on the Lord's day when weather and roads permit. If they are true to the Lord, and live in peace with each other, the God of love and peace will be with them. I hope to be able to visit them again during the winter.

Enough of Lord's day, the 15th inst., was spent in Newport to fill an afternoon appointment at the meeting house, and another in the evening at the Union schoolhouse. The day was stormy and attendance small. What a task it is for even good people to meet together in winter who are as widely scattered as the members of that church. What is there, unavoidable, to prevent brethren in country places selling or exchanging property so as to make homes near together. I have known brethren travel five and seven miles to church for a lifetime. Think of what they and their families have lost in so doing. If such families do not lose, in less than a lifetime, their zeal and courage, they are much above the average church member in these graces. What I have here referred to is, probably, the worst hindrance to success which our churches have to contend with in many places in these provinces, and it is well worth enquiring, Is there no remedy?

I hope to be in Newport again in two weeks.

HIRAM WALLACE.

West Gore, January 22, 1899.

#### WESTPORT AND TIVERTON, N. S.

Since writing my last letter the special meetings closed in Tiverton—an epidemic of measles made it inadvisable to continue. Much good was done and God's name was glorified.

Bro. Stevenson preached one sermon at Freeport in the Baptist church. We have a few there who are willing to be called Christians only.

At Westport the meetings were good. The brother was with us twelve nights. His sermons were very much appreciated. One soul accepted Christ—Bessie, daughter of Elder and Sister Gates.

We would like to have had the brother stay longer, but his engagements called him elsewhere. We hope he will come again to the island churches. The writer has commenced a series of Sunday morning sermons on the twenty-third psalm.

J. W. B.

#### WESTPORT.

Bro. Stevenson labored with us eleven days, preaching every evening in his earnest, forcible way. While there were obstacles in the way of his doing effectual work—stormy weather and dark nights, with other things to interfere—yet we had a good, interesting meeting. We did not have the desire of our hearts realized by seeing as many obeying the Saviour as we would wish, yet we are impressed that there was good seed sown, which will bring forth fruit in later days. While we had only one to come out publicly and confess the Saviour, and follow him in the ordinance of baptism and arise to walk in a new life, still we believe that others were impressed with their need of a Saviour. Bro. Stevenson's preaching was much appreciated by all who listened to him, and there was a growing interest as the meetings were drawing to a close. We were sorry that he could not remain longer, but we hope he may soon be in the field again, and that the three months' labor he has so faithfully performed may be only the beginning of a much greater harvest of souls for the Master. E. A. P.

#### HALIFAX, N. S.

Since my last report we had a short visit from my son, F. C. Ford, who preached for us six times, and judging from the many expressions of appreciation, his preaching was very much enjoyed. The first Lord's day he was here I went up to Elmsdale and spent the day with the brethren there, preaching three times. Our morning service was at the hall, where we met with the brethren around the Lord's table, and spoke to them of the word of life. In the afternoon our Presbyterian brethren kindly opened their meeting house for me, and gave me a good congregation and an attentive hearing. In the evening I spoke in the union house at Enfield to a fair congregation. After spending two Lord's days with us in Halifax my son went up to Elmsdale and Shubenacadie to visit the brethren in those places, after which he returns to his work in Summerville, Queens Co., N. S.

We only have about fourteen or fifteen members of the church at Elmsdale, and they are separated by miles, but they are true to the cause, and deserve all the encouragement we can give them. This may be truly said of many of our brethren in those isolated districts.

Bro. R. W. Stevenson called on us on his way home from his meetings in Digby County. We all enjoyed this call, and wish it could have been days instead of hours. Bro. Stevenson is looking well, showing that hard work agrees with him. While Bro. Stevenson has not been able to report as many additions as we had hoped he would from all the places where he has labored, we are assured that great good has been done.

While we have had to report the many losses we have sustained by removals, it is encouraging to have to report at least one addition to our number in the person of our good Sister Olive Wallace, who is now Mrs. Ozzie Wallace. We are all glad to welcome our sister among us, knowing how helpful she can be in the cause we plead.

We are also cheered by the presence of our Sister Edna Murray, of Milton, Queens Co., who is spending the winter in Halifax, attending the Conservatory of Music. She, too, is very helpful to us, especially in the singing, and her general interest in the work of the Lord.

I have but little to say as to the progress of the work here. We have had so many stormy Lord's days, and so much sickness, that it has been very much against our work. Still we can see improvement in nearly every department of our work. Last Lord's day our Sunday-school was the largest we have had since I came here. Our congregations, too, were better than for some time, especially in the evening. There must have been fully thirty people in our evening congregation not identified with us. I can see, also, an improvement in our social meetings. These signs of progress are encouraging, and, by the blessing of God, we expect to see brighter days for the little band of brethren in the city of Halifax.

E. C. FORD.

Willow Park, Halifax, Jan. 24, '99.