

THE CHRISTIAN.

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

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A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

We expect to give our readers a picture of the Halifax church building in our next issue.

Bro. FORD is still engaged with the church at Lord's Cove. He reports good congregations and a fine interest.

Be sure and read Bro. Crawford's editorial in this month's issue, it is timely and thoughtful and will do you good.

Our brethren have responded nobly to the circular sent out by the Halifax brethren in our last issue, but much more is required to be raised before the meeting house is completed. These brethren need our help *just now*.

No better time than the present to renew your subscriptions for the new year, and while you are about it just mention it to some of your friends. Perhaps they will subscribe also.

The new church building at Lubec was opened last Lord's day for public worship. Bro. Philputt of Philadelphia was the speaker, an account of which will be found on page 3.

WANTED.—A good preacher is wanted by the Home Mission Board of the Maritime Provinces, one who can come well recommended and has had experience in holding protracted meetings. Write J. S. Flaglor, Post Office, St. John, N. B.

With this issue THE CHRISTIAN carries to each of its readers its best wishes for the new year.

The transition from December 31st,

A Happy 1892, to January 1st, 1893, will New Year.

not be different from the going out of any other day and the coming in of its successor, and in fact every month and day and hour begins a new year. But still we do not feel the same when we close our eyes on one of these days to open them on the other. We feel that we have reached another mile stone and are hastening to the end. But the all-wise God has permitted us to remain, although He has called so many away. Some whose days were many, having proved themselves to be faithful servants of their Divine Master, have been asked to cease their toil and leave this world of sorrow that they might enter into rest. Many in the prime of manhood and of womanhood have seen their sun go down while it was yet noon; and, as they saw the light fading away, they may have thought, and those

who survive may still think, that their work was but begun; but their Father in heaven thought otherwise. Many too, who, it would seem, had come only to be snatched away almost before the earth could soil them by her touch, or tarnish by her breath, now no longer cheer the homes on earth, but dwell in the mansions above. But we remain. And why? There is work for us to do. If by God's guidance we try to find it, and in His strength we seek to perform it, then we shall have a happy new year; for true happiness can come only when we are in the place He would have us fill; and if, before the year shall close, God should call us to Himself, our happiness shall never end.

January sees firms and corporations examining their records to see wherein they have succeeded and wherein failed, with the purpose of avoiding the causes which tended to produce bankruptcy, and of observing more closely those from which good results accrued.

A Searching Time. Why should not churches do the same? Have they failed during the past year? If so, why? For the reason they need look neither to God nor to the world. He would have used them if they had been willing to be used; and all the opposition of the world could not have prevented their success if they had been co-laborers with him. Failure, if failure there be, rests with the church. Look! Is there internal strife or jealousy? Is a factious spirit on the part of a few paralyzing those who desire to work? Has worldliness crept into the church and driven prayerfulness out? Have many of the members deluded themselves into the belief that they can be God's children and still not contribute to the support of the gospel? Has the church concluded that the home expenses are so great that they cannot help those who are less fortunate than themselves? You need look no farther. An affirmative answer to any one of these questions shows a state of affairs which is sufficient to account for failure, and which, if not removed, will produce the blackest ruin.

The ideal church cannot be found, but surely a successful church is possible. In it we would expect to see every one at work. The fathers and mothers in Israel—not so active as they once were, but rich in experience—have the cause

of Christ so much at heart that they are among the first to welcome an advance movement in His name. The younger brethren and sisters enter promptly, gladly and earnestly into the labors that have come to their hands. The boys and the girls are being trained up for loyal and loving service, and even now they are willing workers. There are no luke-warm ones; no indifferent ones. The services of the Lord's day are well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. The mid-week meetings are valued as a source of spiritual refreshing and encouragement. The Sunday-school becomes a spring where heavenly wisdom may be found bubbling up and where many young hearts shall drink the water of life and be made glad. Let a church become filled with an unselfish, consecrated, loyal, soul-loving, Christ-like spirit and the King of kings will use them not only to cheer hearts and homes, not only to encourage the faint-hearted and support the weak, but to lead immortal beings to

Jesus—who alone can save them from a life of sin here and a life of woe hereafter. God is looking for churches upon which to pour out His blessings, and sad it is that so few are as ready to receive as He is willing to bestow.

If a person moves into a community where there are several churches representing different denominations, but no church that stands firmly and completely on what we regard as the true foundation, what shall he do? Should he unite with any one of them? Without any sectarian bigotry and fully and gladly admitting the good work that these churches are doing in elevating morality and working against sin, the writer gives his own candid opinion when he says it is preferable that the person should not do so. Let his letter remain in the keeping of the church of which he is a member. This does not mean that he is not to attend some one of the churches near his new home. It does not mean that he is to be idle. It does not mean that he is to refrain from assisting the good people among whom he has come, in all praiseworthy enterprises. It may be well for him to be the most active one among them. But he can do this without stultifying his conscience, or turning his back upon principles which should be dear to his heart. To deposit his letter with a church of any denomination means that he accepts its teaching, and wherein it differs from his previous belief, he practically denies what he regarded as the truth, and accepts what he looked upon as error. How shall a person, so situated, be kept from lukewarmness and apostasy? Partly by engaging in Christian work in his new home, and partly by the vigilance of his home church. They should not forget him. He is one of them, under their care, and they should watch for his soul. In some way they should be in touch with him; and perhaps a monthly letter from the preacher, the elders, or some other brother or sister will accomplish the purpose. Tell him about the church and encourage him to continue faithful.

ABOUT two years ago one of the Churches of Christ in Des Moines, Iowa, was wonderfully cheered by seeing a great multitude accept Christ as their King. In less than two months over five hundred were added to the saved. The membership of the church was more than doubled. Owing in part, it may be, to a vigilant pastoral oversight, nearly, if not quite, all of these have proved themselves to be sincere in their profession. And among other proofs, here is a good one. The brethren and sisters had pledged four hundred dollars to carry on the work of preaching the gospel to the heathen, and not satisfied with this they have since decided to increase the pledge to six hundred dollars per year for five years, and use the sum in support of a missionary in China. "For their missionary they have selected Bro. Guy, a student of Drake, who will graduate next June, and who is most highly commended by those who know him." This speaks volumes for the church, as a whole, and for its individual members. Thirty years ago that church had no existence, or at least was all but unknown. Now it will be known to thousands for its good works.