

## The Christian.

ST JOHN, N. B., - - - JANUARY, 1898

## EDITORIAL.

## AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL FACTS.

Although requested to furnish an autobiography for this number of THE CHRISTIAN, I think it more expedient to give a few facts only which may benefit some of the readers, as the paper has already so much personal matter.

If I was from my youth, at times, very anxious to be a Christian, but always failed to receive the "blessing" which others professed to receive at "Revival meetings."

When about the age of 20 I felt deeply on the matter and prayed long and earnestly for the power to come to Christ. That power I could not define. It might be a sudden flash of light or a terrible conviction of sin, or something else. But I thought Christ was keeping back that power and that I could no more come to him without it than I could create a world. The gloomy struggle between hope and despair of those days I cannot describe or forget. It appeared as if I had committed the unpardonable sin. But I resolved that before I gave up all as lost I would carefully read all I could about Christ in his history. In doing this I was greatly astonished to find him always ready to save every one who wanted to be saved just as he was. In no case could I find him refusing a sinner for lack of that conviction I thought so positively essential. He was always pleading for the lost to come unto him and declared that he came to seek and save that which was lost, and in his last commission clearly said, he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.

About that time many of God's promises, both in the Old Testament and in the New, seemed unusually precious. The Saviour seemed nearer to me than he ever did, and I saw nothing to prevent me from coming to him just as I was for nothing could make me better but Jesus and his salvation. I believed in him and was baptized and never since doubted that I was saved. It was to me a joyful discovery that Jesus was waiting to save me from all my sins without any fitness on my part, only to accept it all entirely free.

I felt very anxious to tell others of Jesus' pardoning love, especially those who were keeping back from him because they felt unworthy to come. Surely many could be glad when they read his plain plan of saving sinners, even the chief, and would come to him. So I began to talk privately to others, then in small prayer meetings. Sometimes at the request of preachers I spoke after they had preached. Then I began to go to destitute settlements on Lord's days and speak in school houses and sometimes in private dwellings. I worked on the farm through the week and on Lord's days drove from ten to thirty miles to preach. Everywhere the people seemed pleased to meet and hear me

with few exceptions, where their minds had been poisoned against me by false reports.

I was much encouraged by the people and by a few, very few preachers. The late Alex. McDonald, who died near St. John in 1851, was my true friend while he lived. About the time I began public speaking I saw the late Dr. John Knox and received much encouragement from him. His earnest, elegant and clear preaching of the gospel I found most helpful. He was a kind and cheerful companion, and during the long years of our acquaintance and co-operation, he always seemed happy when the people were satisfied with my labors and contributed of their means for my support. In the autumn of 1849 I left all and preached that fall and winter on this Island. In June 1850 I went to St. John and that summer to Cornwallis. The next four years were spent in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Much of this time was spent in the county of Digby. As none of our preachers had ever preached in this county there was a good deal of clerical opposition. But wherever I went fields seemed to open, friends rose up and kind treatment awaited me. I only organized one church in Digby county. A few were baptized in different places and a number of warm friends gathered around the cause.

I came to New Glasgow, where we had a church, in the fall of 1854, remained on this Island till the spring of 1855 then crossed to Nova Scotia, and on the 11th of September was married to Harriet Melvenia Wallace. Soon after this we crossed to the Island, had a house built at New Glasgow, which has been our home ever since. During our stay here I have preached here and at different parts of the island, and at every one of these places have baptized some.

We have had cheerful visits at our home from nearly all our preaching brethren in the provinces and not a few from preachers in the United States. We always feel better for their visits and thankfully bid them God's speed. I always find that much depends in the success of a meeting on the sympathy and assistance of church members. When members are united and earnest the preacher will be heard and be believed.

When a series of meetings were held with the little church at Summerside in 1866, in which H. T. Morrison, A. McLean, Neil McLeod and others who are now successfully preaching the gospel in different lands, were brought in, the members had as much to do, under God, with the success of the meeting as the preacher. Such at least were always my impressions. The gospel is God's power unto salvation to believers, but much depends upon the members in getting people to hear and believe the gospel.

Many more of our subscribers paid up during December. Now if all who are in arrears will do likewise in the next thirty days, we will not write another note on this subject for a year. But if they do not,—well, we will probably write another next month.

## HONORED BY THE BROTHERHOOD.

At the Annual Meeting of the Church of Christ, held in Leonardville last August, the suggestion that some public and general notice should be taken of Bro. D. Crawford's long and faithful service in the ministry was promptly acted upon. A committee was appointed to attend to the arrangements, and for several months the matter was kept before the brotherhood. On December 16th the celebration was held in the meeting house at New Glasgow. Notwithstanding the disagreeable weather and bad state of the roads a large congregation, made up of persons from different parts of the island, gathered to enjoy the occasion, and to do honor to the man whose faithful service so well deserved a hearty recognition.

While it was not possible for many (if any) to attend from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, we are glad to report that the churches in these provinces did not fail to make contributions to the purse of gold that was presented to Bro. Crawford.

All the island preachers were present. O. B. Emery, Charlottetown, presided most acceptably, and in his address said many things about the aged servant of God that were as true as they were pleasing. The singing was an attractive part of the programme. Miss Ella Bagnall, New Glasgow, was organist. H. E. Cooke, Summerside, gave thanks to God for his goodness in sparing the man who had done so much as a minister of Christ, and prayed that God's favor might be continued toward him. The following appropriate selections of scripture were read by Geo. Manifold, Charlottetown.

## SCRIPTURE READING.

Praise ye the Lord; praise ye the name of the Lord; praise Him, O ye servants of the Lord, ye that stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God. Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good. Sing praises unto His name, for it is pleasant. O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good, for His mercy endureth forever. I will extol Thee, my God, O King; and I will bless Thy name for ever and ever. Every day will I bless Thee; and I will praise Thy name for ever and ever. Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise Thy works to another and shall declare Thy mighty acts.

I will speak of the glorious honor of Thy majesty, and of Thy wondrous works. The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great mercy. The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works. All Thy works shall praise Thee, and Thy saints shall bless Thee; they shall speak of the glory of Thy Kingdom, and talk of Thy power; to make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of His Kingdom.

Many, O Lord my God, are Thy wonderful works which Thou hast done, and Thy thoughts which are to us-ward; they cannot be reckoned up in order unto Thee if I would declare and speak of them; they are more than can be numbered. I have preached righteousness in the great congregation; lo, I have not refrained my lips, O Lord, thou knowest. I have not hid Thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared Thy