

Another Prize Offer of \$10.00

To anyone who will send us a paid up subscription (50 cents) for this year, we will give them a chance to win a prize by guessing the number of inhabitants in this province when the census is taken in April. The number at each of the last three decades stood as follows:

1871	1881	1891
285,594	321,233	321,263

When taken now there ought to be considerable increase over 1891. Anyone who owes anything to the paper needs to send that amount with the 50 for this year thus paying up to 1902.

To the one who gives the nearest guess we will give five dollars, and to the next nearest two dollars, and to the next three one dollar each. Those who order the pictures will have the right to guess

Holding Fast the Faithful Word

EDGAR L. VINCENT.

It is sometimes painful to note the difference in men under various circumstances. In one place, where the atmosphere is pure and uplifting some persons seem to be borne along by a wave which one would think might carry them straight to the haven of the blessed; but if you were to see these same persons in a company where the drift of thought and conversation flows lightly, rippling past the dangerous shore lined by the rocks of liberal thinking, if not of infidelity itself, you are shocked to note that if these people do not really take sides with those who form the majority, their voices at least are never raised against the sweeping flood which bears all who go with it towards the shoals of destruction.

Now why is this? I know we cannot always be disputing with those we meet about the right or wrong of things. It is not required of Christians that they should be continually arguing questions of the kingdom; but when the time comes, as it surely does come over and over again, for us to show on which side of the line we stand, why do we, at least tacitly, place ourselves on the side of those who slight God's word? This certainly is not "holding fast the faithful word."

Nothing in the world hurts the cause we profess to love more than this letting down of the standard in the presence of those who are not believers. In time of battle the enemy watches most closely the banners of the opposing forces. As long as they are bravely held aloft and steadily advancing the sight of them acts not only as an inspiration to those who follow but as a source of discouragement to the foe. Just as true is it that by "holding fast the faithful word," under any and all circumstances we prove to those who are yet enemies of our Lord and Saviour that we are true soldiers, determined to die if need be at our post.

In the letter to Titus Paul says, "There are many unruly and vain talkers." What a world of truth there is in this! The Lord pity us who are worthy to be numbered among these careless talkers! We do in truth need to be rebuked sharply. We profess to know God but in works we deny him. When found in the company of men who have lax notions of right and wrong how careful should we be not to betray the Lord and Master whom we love, even by so much as a look or a gesture. Sometimes not even a nod is needed to prove our disloyalty to Christ. Just a smile of approval at some wicked allusion; just a nod of the head when some one refers in a slighting way to the beloved one and the work is done.

How Christ must be grieved when he sees his standard thus wavering, for he knows that straight toward that point the enemy will rush to take advantage of the weakness thus revealed. From those who do not profess to be his followers, Christ expects no favoring word, although his heart turns ever toward them in pity, and his hands reach out always beckoning them to come to him; but from each one who has named

his name he does expect faithful service, faithful holding up of the cross everywhere and at all times, and loyal devotion, not only when the sun is shining but when the shadows are lowering. Are you thus "holding fast the faithful word?"

Is Our Preaching Too Practical?

RETURNING home after hearing a sermon on the duty of self-surrender a lady said to her companion "that was a splendid sermon pastor gave us this morning, was it not?" The person addressed, a true spirited disciple, replied, "Yes—but I do wish that pastor would stop preaching on forgiveness, sacrifice, gossip, truth, and so forth, and preach a little about God."

Did she not give utterance to a deeply felt need among all Christians? Is there not a sad neglect in modern preaching of the more spiritual needs of the congregation? Glancing over the Monday papers to see what the pulpit utterances were on the previous day, one cannot help being struck with the similarity of subjects from Sunday to Sunday. Sermon after sermon on social problems, liberalism, morality, current events, but scarcely a word on the great spiritual realities so necessary to increase the Christian's communion with God.

The intensely practical nature and the liberal intellectualism of pulpit ministrations are certainly both praiseworthy and productive of great good. But religion is twofold in its nature; it is the harmonious unity of the ministry of John the Baptist and Jesus, the work of repentance and love, of morality and emotion, of ethical duties and spiritual communion. It is true that feeling, emotion, enthusiasm, without morality, are but a vapid mysticism, but it is just as true that morality without the blessedness of communion with God is no better than dry ethical rationalism. Obedience to moral law and blessedness are assynthesis, Religion is "the reciprocal interpretation" of righteousness and blessedness. These two elements of the true religious life have been separated. Catholicism has sought blessedness without righteousness and lost its hold on the world; and now Protestantism is in danger of losing its power in men's hearts by an over emphasis of righteousness at the expense of blessedness.

Time was when Protestantism was all orthodox, coldly intellectual and unemotional, but the human heart revolted and found relief in the pietism and mysticism of Böhme, Francke, Bernard and Swedenborg. The need of the heart is the same to-day as it was 100 years ago, and modern preaching, while vastly superior in many respects to that of any age since the apostolic, by its continual insistence on freedom of thought, and social and political duties, and sad neglect of the heartier things of the other spiritual world, is preparing the time and occasion of another movement toward mysticism. It is possible that some of the phases of faith cure and exaggerated piety are the first expressions of protest? Be this as it may; the need, aye, necessity of satisfying the emotional and spiritual impulses and yearnings remains the same; and the continuous emphasis on practical problems, however worthy, must be supplemented by uplifting words concerning immortality, hope, God as a joy, or the inspiration and hallelujah will die out of the most exuberant Free Methodist.

In a certain very dry section of the West heavy mists come sweeping in from the sea every night and hover over the ground with their needed store of water; but morning sun dissipates the shadowy visitor with its blessing, and the ground remains as dry as ever. Up on the mountain-sides where the mists condense, foliage is fresh and luxuriant. The problem of wise men is how to precipitate this mighty cloud so the moisture will fall in showers in the valleys, converting the desert into a garden; The phenomenon has a parallel in Christian experience. Most people toil and think in the arid soil of material things; few there are who reach the altitudes where the spirit keeps fresh and strong. But over all men broods the Spirit of God full of the life men need but lack. Is it not the preacher's business to convert spiritual truths into refreshing showers that will freshen and strengthen human hearts?

Religious News.

JACKSONTOWN. On Feb. 4th a good representation of the Jacksonville congregation met at the parsonage and left us richer in pantry and purse. Thank the Lord for these, his kind people.

JOSEPH A. CAHILL.

SUSSEX.

Bro. Hugh McLean is expected to come to us on the 3rd of March when special services will be held for two weeks. The church has chosen five deacons. These brethren we hope to ordain on March 5th. This is the day that the Home Mission Board meets in Sussex and it is hoped the brethren can remain over night and assist in the ordination services.

W. CAMP.

FLORENCEVILLE, N. B.

Our work at Simonds and Peel is still going on. Sunday, 10th inst., we baptized 5 candidates. We baptize again D. V. on the 17th. Those baptized are Wilbur Colwell, Mrs. Amelia Corey, Clarence Rideout, Phebe Golding, Hattie Clarks, Maggie Archibald, Mrs. Martha Eobett. Bro D. F. Miller is now assisting us in our work.

A. H. HAYWARD.

PENOBSCUIS, N. B.

The Penobscuis branch of the Cardwell Baptist church held its annual business meeting on the evening of the 7th inst. The officers of the church are as follows: Trustees, Albert Stone, Byron Freeze, Marshall Stewart, Bertram Whelpley, James Teakles, and James Watters; Clerk and Treasurer, Joseph Moore; Superintendent of Sunday School, Samuel I. Morton; Committee in care of the house, Marshall Stewart; Missionary Committee, Mrs. Albert Stone and Miss Jessie McLeod; Deacons chosen, Marshall Stewart and Joseph Moore. The pastor is now to begin some special work. We hope to report spiritual success before long.

W. CAMP.

OAK BAY, CHARLOTTE CO.

The Baptist church of this place has been quickened and strengthened and revived and sinners converted and souls eternally saved, nine have been received for baptism, some five will not be baptized until spring. Some Methodists came out in our meetings too, but will remain in their own church. We had Rev. J. A. Marple the evangelist to assist us here as well as at Rolling Dam. God used him, he was with me here two weeks giving me a good start. He is the right man in the right place, he makes a splendid missionary, his work is good, his preaching searching and his word with power. We trust that the H. M. B. will help us on our poor field by sending their missionary to Rolling Dam this spring to give us more aid in our meetings as our field is large and much work to be accomplished. It has been so stormy that we have had to struggle to keep faith and courage up in special efforts but thank God he will not forsake us, he is with us always.

H. D. WORDEN.

As it is some time since I GREENWICH HILL, have sent any word from here permit me to say that

at Xmas times a number of friends gathered into our home and spent a very pleasant evening. Coffee and cake were served, readings and recitations given and some short addresses made. It was an hour of enjoyment and all went home happy after presenting Mrs. Stearns with the sum of \$7. It also affords me pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of a box of very useful articles from the Rev. T. M. Munro, and a parcel of clothing and clothing material for my family from St. John ladies. We highly esteem those friends and keenly appreciate their kindness. Previous to the severe weather our meetings were deeply interesting. During the week of prayer we united with our Free Baptist brethren. Our meetings were good and we trust some deep impressions were made. Since then the severity of the weather has hindered the work. We must remember, however, that our Lord sometimes helps us forward by putting us backward. When we can get