

At the time of the separation, the Disciples tried to induce the Advents to take the name of Christian and drop their name. One sister said she would never give up her name. "She wanted the name Advent written on her back and all over her," and the others agreed with her. They say, I believe, to this day, that we stole their church; so if you ever hear so you can contradict it.

Another one of the charter members which I must mention, was a crippled sister, "Aunt Dolia," as she was called by both old and young. Both feet were crippled, so she was obliged to hitch about in a chair and one hand, the right one was useless. But she was very industrious—sewing and making pin-cushions, etc. She was an inspiration to us all. Never did she forget the treasury; her mita was always ready. Two brothers, Bro. Blaisdell and Bro. Wood, carried her to and from the church on every Lord's day, and her accustomed place was always filled.

Now I expect you will all be interested in our first convert. He was a young man, James Goodwin, who worked for Bro. Wood. He went to Bro. Blaisdell and told him he wanted to be baptized. Here was a difficulty at this time. We had no preacher, and it being mid-winter, the ice was so thick at Salisbury's Pond, that that wasn't available; but he was persistent, and said that he wanted Bro. Blaisdell to baptize him, and said there was water in Ethan Allen's Pond on Main street. So one night Bro. Blaisdell immersed him. Bro. Wood witnessing it.

In the morning the papers had a full account of the proceedings. A policeman was passing Ethan Allen's place at 9 o'clock at night and saw a bright light. Upon investigation, he found two young men at the pond, one baptizing the other. This brought the Disciples before the people. Many comments were made upon them, most of them hard and severe. Nothing was too bad to say against them; they were for a time very unpopular. The Baptists were particularly bitter in their judgments. But one paper, I think Congregationalist, said, "I think if you read the book of Acts you will find a precedent for this."

But it was very hard to bear and took a great deal of courage to face public opinion. For a long while we had no regular preacher, but the elders and deacons preached many good sermons. It was their custom to meet in the morning for the sermon. In the afternoon we remembered the Lord and a chapter was read from the epistles and studied carefully and explained to the younger ones. In the evening we would have a praise service. Those were very enthusiastic times.

We used to call a minister for two or three weeks, when we could afford it, to help us. At one time Bro. Belding preached for a few weeks and we had a large gathering, about 30 were added.

After a while the chapel was raised and a vestry put under it, and other repairs made—the people in the meantime worshipping in a hall at the Lincoln House.

The early Disciples were very devoted and self-sacrificing, so they wished to spread the gospel. The church bought a lot in Swampscott, and Bros. Wood and Wm. Smythe erected the church building in Swampscott, and helped the brethren there to start the thriving church which they now have.

Bro. Smythe has since gone to his rest. He was a man after God's own heart, like King David of old. His religion was carried in his face. You would know to meet him that he was a follower of the Master.

They also started missions in Buinfield and East Boston.

The first settled pastor was Bro. Wilcox, who came in 1871. He stayed two or three years, and was followed by Bros. J. M. Atwater, Wm. Rowzee, F. W. Cottingham, F. N. Calvin, J. A. Thayer, and A. B. Chamberlain.

When Bro. Calvin was with the church in 1831, we made a great effort and a big sacrifice, and raised the church debt of about \$7,000, thus opening a way to dispose of the property.

Soon after, when Bro. Cottingham was with us, the church was sold to the M. E. Swedish denomination, and our present lot purchased and church built thereon—we in the meantime worshipping in the old Central church, which is now a hotel.

We feel that it is again time to make another strenuous effort if need be, that we may have the desired and necessary changes in our church property which will give us more commodious facilities to spread the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. ROBINSON.

## News of the Churches.

### ST. JOHN, N. B.

Three additions this month; two by baptism, one by letter. Collections for missions very good. Attendance at Sunday-schools large—especially in Portland.

On Lord's day, December 17th, Bro. Stewart preached the opening sermon in the new house at Silver Falls. The house was well filled, and Bro. Stewart's sermon was one of his best. It was on "Precious faith." He showed why it was precious, and then exhorted all to contend for it earnestly. He said the Disciples of Christ take the Bible only for their rule of faith and practice. They own only the names written therein, and are working for the fulfillment of our Lord's prayer, that all His people should be one. The Disciples at Silver Falls had erected this house for the purpose of teaching these truths, and they hope to see many unite with them, and thus honor Him who is the author of this precious faith. This sermon did great good, and many who had never heard Bro. Stewart, expressed great pleasure in listening to him. About twenty drove out from the city. To say they were surprised and pleased does not express their feelings fully. They found the house finished and painted outside. Inside it is ceiled with wood, which is oiled and varnished. Neat blinds are on the windows. Two beautiful chandeliers holding six lamps which lights the room well. A low platform runs across one end, the centre of which is raised two steps for the chairs and stand. A fine new organ is on one side and a table with a nice cover on the other. The whole platform is carpeted. The house is warm and cheerful, and is one of the best country houses the writer has ever been in. Chairs are now used, but in a short time pews will be put in. They also intend to have doors so placed as to make a small room for prayer meetings, etc. We hoped to see it opened free of debt, but it could not be done. Something over \$100 is needed. The brethren at Silver Falls are very thankful to those who have helped them to build this house, and they will in time pay off the debt. While on this subject I may remark, that so far but one dollar has been received in response to the appeal in the CHRISTIAN. The St. John church has scattered some bread upon the waters of these Provinces, and some day she will reap a greater harvest than this.

Bro. Stewart is now conducting a meeting in the new house, assisted by Bro. Stevens, who has given up a part of his home visit in order to work in this meeting. They do not expect many additions, but want to give these brethren a good start in their new house of worship. This is the first new point in New Brunswick in many years that has erected a house for the Disciples of Christ to worship in. We hope and pray that a new era has dawned on us; and that we shall see every year a new place opened up where the Word of God will be taken as the only creed for the congregation to follow.

### HANTS CO., N. S.

I commence by wishing all my readers a "Happy New Year." And I shall hope to give you something fresh every month during the coming year, under the above heading in the CHRISTIAN.

Since coming to Hants County I have received many letters from preaching brethren and others, giving me a welcome back to Nova Scotia. Of course, some may think it only a small matter of common courtesy to do this, but it manifests a fraternal feeling and shows what the inclination is. It has taken quite a little time to get settled up, and I am only now getting to work in earnest. At my present writing, I am in Newport. Our services here are being well attended; and while the brethren are very much scattered, and the roads not very good, yet the number in attendance on Sunday afternoon and evening is larger than it has been for a long time. We are in hopes to get a young people's meeting started in a short time, so as to have regular work carried on.

In West Gore we have had a great deal of sickness during the last two months. Bro. F. McPhee had a serious time from an eruption of the skin. We are glad to say he is better. Bro. John McDougall and his wife and family have been having a hard time of it. Scarlet fever found its way into their home and took one of their little ones away. Dear little Winna she is better off. It seemed hard to think she had gone; only a few days before she was playing around the house. She was only about two years old. A few days after we laid this little one to rest, we were called upon to pay the last sad respects to another—Mrs. Shoppard. She was ninety-four years of age. The day was very cold and stormy on which we laid her to rest in the quiet cemetery at West Gore. The resurrection will be something wonderful.

We have a young peoples' meeting every Sunday evening, and the young people are very much interested in it. We want our young men and women to grow strong, and become earnest workers in the Master's vineyard.

In Rawdon we have a splendid hearing, and also a young peoples' meeting. We hope to have a good active work go on here.

The gold mines which have been shut down for a long time are beginning operations again, and this will be a benefit to the place.

At Nine Mile River, the new meeting house is nearly completed; the inside being plastered, and we are getting the furniture ready as fast as our means will allow. We do not think much of having it ready until spring, as we could not use it much this winter.

At Shubenacadie we have very encouraging meetings. At one of my appointments there, we were made sad by an accident to Bro. Burton Wallace. He was driving home from the meeting house with his wife and three children, when the horse stumbled, throwing them all out. Bro. Wallace had his leg broken badly, but fortunately none of the others were hurt. The young people here are having very good meetings. Some of our sisters here are very active in this work.

At Elmsdale we get a good hearing. I baptized two here since coming to these parts. Taken altogether, the work in this county is of an encouraging nature, and while I do not expect to see many confess Christ this winter, I hope to sow the seed and not sow sparingly; hoping to have a bountiful harvest, always realizing as best I can, that Paul may plant, Apollos water, but it is God who gives the increase. I find myself in all these places backed up by brethren good and true, who are anxious to see the advance and progress of the truth. We have no societies in any of these churches, and yet we have all the societies; for we have pledged ourselves to endeavor to do all we can for mission work. I do not want you to think that the churches here are anti-missionary, oh, no! If you follow us along you will see what mission work we do.

W. H. HARDING.