

Back Bay, N. B., for two or three weeks into one of the most needy fields to be found in our Provinces. To LeTote for one week. To Mascarene for a day or two, then hurried away to Westport and Tiverton, N. S., for a few weeks, and his three months' engagement is at an end; and the good brethren begin to count losses and to sum up the results of his meetings and his work wholly by this standard.

Bro. Stevenson was somewhat discouraged over the results. So were the brethren; and some of our leading brethren and preachers were saying, "Why, what's the matter with Bro. Stevenson? Why didn't he have better success?"

I was with Bro. Stevenson during a part of that time. Being anxious to see his work a success, I donated my time and whatever service I could render, and bore my own expenses that I might assist him in his work; and though I have listened to and assisted some of the ablest evangelists in our brotherhood, I have seldom seen any devote themselves more energetically to their work, or preach the Gospel more clearly and forcibly than did Bro. Stevenson during the weeks I was with him. Why, then, did he only have a dozen or so of converts?

Let us change our *point of view* for a few moments and stand at this end of the line. Nearly two years have passed away, or say one and a half years. Has any good come of that effort? It is permanent work and permanent results we are after, brethren.

What is the present condition of *every field* visited by our evangelist as compared with its former condition?

Charlottetown has passed through a struggle since then, but losing their leader did not discourage them, and in a few months they will be meeting in their cosy little church home instead of in a public hall that may be used for a dance on the following evening.

Main St. St. John still lives, notwithstanding that soon after the evangelists visit them that section of the city was swept by fire and their meetings, and more especially the Sunday-school almost completely demoralized for a time, and they too are looking forward toward soon keeping house in their own home.

At Buck Bay, a splendid work was done, good seed sown, and a preacher secured for them during the winter months, and when after a time Bro. Harding came to reap, a splendid harvest of souls was the result, so that now, where they had no organization, I am told that they have a live, active church. In Mascarene they almost doubled their membership in less than six months after the evangelist's visit and now these two points are efficiently ministered to by Bro. Harding.

At Westport and Tiverton, our evangelist found two discouraged bands with their leader making preparations to leave them. Now they are being ministered to by one of our ablest and most experienced workers, who, after cultivating the seed sown for a little while, reaped a harvest of thirty precious souls, and reports the condition of the church as the best in its history. Every one of these points, then, is away in advance of what Bro. Stevenson found it, and who can say how much of this success is due, in a large measure, to his meetings.

If we will succeed in permanent evangelistic work in our provinces, it will not be by contributing a dollar and trotting around after it all the year to see what it is going to accomplish. We must "cast our bread upon the waters." "Launch out into the deep." "Walk by faith," ever remembering that "Paul may plant, Apollos water, but God must give the increase," and that in "*due time we shall reap if we faint not.*"

HOME MISSIONS.

F. C. FORD, Minister Church of Christ,
Halifax, N. S.

My article on home missions this month, must necessarily be short, and will consist principally in a report of a meeting now being held in this city by Bro. A. Martin of Indiana, under the auspices of the Home Mission Board. The meeting is just eight days old, and the visible results are a greatly increased congregation, the brethren deeply interested and two confessions. It looks now as if we were on the edge of a grand meeting. Indeed, already we feel that our efforts have been greatly blessed and we hope and pray for much larger results. Bro. Martin is all he has been recommended, and pleases the people by his earnest, plain and very practical preaching of the Gospel. He resorts to none of the clap-trap of modern evangelists, but preaches the truth in love and thus gets right into the hearts of his hearers. As this is Bro. Martin's first meeting in these provinces I want to say that our board has made no mistake in calling him to this work for which he is so well qualified, and his work will prove a great blessing to any of our churches that may be favored with his labors.

PICTOU'S HOME MISSION LETTER.

W. H. ALLEN, Minister Christian Church,
Pictou, N. S.

Since the last issue of THE CHRISTIAN, it was my good fortune to visit Charlottetown where I met our venerable Bro. Donald Crawford, whose good advice and prayers encouraged me very much. Bro. Whiston, with characteristic energy, is pushing the work of the building the new church. It was also my pleasure to meet Bro. A. N. Simpson, whom I had known in college at Lexington, Ky. On Sunday, June 3rd, we exchanged pulpits. We still retain our respective positions, although the congregation at Pictou enjoyed the change immensely.

Some time ago I received a letter asking me to write an article on home missions and I do not want to comply with that request. There are hundreds of articles written yearly on that subject by zealous advocates. I might show partizanship, and would prefer to hear from those who are not in favor of this work, and we must have many among us who are opposed to missionary work, judging by the collections reported in THE CHRISTIAN. Instead of writing a thesis on the subject, home missions, let me give a few facts in connection with our work here in Pictou; a work largely sustained by the Provincial Home Mission Board and the American Board. Without their aid the work would not have been accomplished.

Sunday, June 25, 1899, I began preaching in Pictou in a hall owned by Bro. David Fullerton. Our first audience consisted of twelve patient listeners. I have since addressed less, but little by little we pulled ahead, the Lord sending us new families occasionally, until last Sunday night, June 17th, when the house was more than half filled. During the month of March we held a meeting with J. A. L. Romig, which resulted in twenty-eight confessions. Nineteen of this number took membership with us,

and seven have not yet obeyed their Lord in baptism. Our church was organized April 1st, with forty-three members; seven baptized believers from other communions taking membership with us. Since the meetings were held I have baptized five on confession of their faith, and received one by statement. Of the five recently baptized only one has thus far united with us. This makes our net gain for the year twenty-eight. In addition to all this, Bro. Fullerton has given us the property in which we worship, on condition that we continue work as a Christian Church. This property is worth at least three thousand dollars, and we are yet dependent upon the Mission Boards to help us hold this property, by retaining our advance guard in Pictou.

It seems to us that a few facts like these ought to convince the most violent and wicked opponents of home missions among us. We ought this very day to have a missionary at Sydney, C. B. Already three of our congregation have moved there and also a number of brethren from the States. But I must stop, for I feel the missionary spirit stirring within me and I don't want to leave Pictou yet.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S MISSION BAND, COBURG ST. CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

L. A. MILES, President.

INTODUCTORY.

The Young People's Mission Band was organized on May 14th 1886 for the purpose: 1st. Of aiding home missions in a pecuniary way and, 2nd. Of interesting as many as possible in that particular branch of the work of the church.

Though their numbers are few, their years fewer, and their "shekels" fewest, they have paid to the home mission board over five hundred dollars, during the fourteen years of their existence, and now paying yearly about sixty dollars to the same fund.

They certainly deserve congratulation for the measure of success, that has attended their efforts to carry out the first part of their undertaking. Though the sum total is small yet, as all such things are, to a great extent, matters of comparison, it looms up largely when considered from that point of view.

This society has contributed more during the current church year than any other church or other society in the provinces, and an amount equal to one seventh of all the receipts of the board at date of writing. This is not written boastfully, but that others may be stirred up to emulate them.

In the second part of their undertaking their success has not been so satisfactory, not from and lack of earnest active effort, for that has been abundant, but, either from incomplete equipment or a misconception of the character of the material to be operated upon. The general opinion of the society has been, that the proper equipment was wanting. In this connection some have even thought of hypnotism as the only earthly means sufficiently powerful to produce the desired result. The writer is not allowed to divulge any of the secrets of the society, and therefore may only remark, "*en passu*" that an earnest and much interested member of the society is at present in Europe and the celebrated schools of that wonderful science are situated in Paris.

Some months ago, during the course of home mission work, finding that very few of the members were at all familiar with the statistics of our churches in the provinces, it