

The Christian.

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SAINT JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER, 1883.

PROSPECTUS.

At the Annual Meeting of the Disciples of Christ, held in Digby County, Nova Scotia, in September last, it was decided that a monthly paper, like the present, be published for the Maritime Provinces. It may not be out of place to offer some reasons for this movement.

1. As the Disciples plead for the spread and maintenance of Christianity, unmixed by sectarianism of any kind, and for the union of God's people, according to the prayer of Jesus, just before his death; they are persuaded that a paper devoted to these purposes should be published in the Provinces. Confident of the justice of our plea, and relying upon Divine power, we hope to make it apparent to the candid and intelligent reader that men can be Christians, and love and serve God acceptably, without being sectarians; and that the whole tendency of Christ's religion is to save men from sin and its consequences, and unite them in one body, in Christ. As the scriptures plainly show that men can hold different opinions on things not clearly commanded, and yet be united in the belief and practice of the Gospel, it will be the aim of THE CHRISTIAN to show the difference between *faith* and *opinion*.

Holding the Religion of Christ to be altogether superior to every other system, we shall endeavor to show that His laws, both *moral* and *positive*, are plain, grand, and in every respect adapted to man's advantage, and to the glory of God; and contend for the laws being understood and accepted, as the channels through which the Holy Spirit pours His blessed influence into the hearts of the obedient, and causes the Christian graces to shine in their lives. To encourage and promote the study of the Scriptures by old and young, especially the latter, we trust, will at no time be forgotten by the conductors of THE CHRISTIAN, hence we expect questions of practical value to be discussed in its pages. We expect it to convey to its readers encouraging news from the field evangelical, as well as from the churches. Nor shall it overlook the efforts of temperance workers to disarm a defiant and deadly foe. Led by the same inspired voice that tells us to prove all things, and hold fast that which is good; and declares that if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God; while we shall strive to give an opponent a fair and full hearing on every useful subject, we will endeavor to shun ques-

tions that gender strife, rather than godly edifying.

We ask the friends of Jesus to aid us—1st, in prayer to God to guide and prosper our feeble efforts to advance His cause; 2nd, in helping to fill our pages with useful matter; 3rd, in circulating the paper and sending the aid necessary to its continued existence.

TO OUR READERS.

In addition to what has already been said by the editor in the Prospectus, I wish to add a few words.

The brethren assembled at the Yearly Meeting, expressed a warm desire, bordering on a determination, to have a paper. This expression coupled with the oft-repeated question put to the preaching brethren as they travelled through the Provinces.

"What has become of *The Disciple*? Can't you give us a paper? We must have a paper! I feel lost without one! influence the Board to meet, if possible, the deep-felt want of the brotherhood." After careful deliberation it was decided to publish a paper, and thus put to the test the apparent earnestness of the brethren in reference to this matter. Now, in a few words we wish to state:

(1.) The success of the paper will depend largely upon the good will and the active co-operation of the brotherhood.

(2.) This effort is an answer to what we understand to be the wish of the brethren, and if not heartily endorsed we shall come to the conclusion we have misunderstood them, and, of course, the paper will cease.

(3.) We have no pecuniary capital to rely on, but few advertisements to help meet current expenses.

(4.) The editors, nor any one else outside of the publishers, get *one cent* for the time and labor expended in carrying on this work.

(5.) If at the end of the year a surplus of money be on hand it will be used either for the improvement of the paper, or placed in the Mission Fund.

(6.) Effort will be made to get articles from our absent boys who are preaching across the border the *Word of Life*.

(7.) We do not expect this to be our best issue, for we hope to improve by experience and the additional aid that will come from home and abroad.

Brethren, will you welcome this paper to your homes? Circulate it among your friends. Subscribe yourself. Get your friends to subscribe. Do everything in your power to help on this work, and if you do, success is sure. T. H. C.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Disciples of Christ was held, pursuant to appointment, in Tiverton, a pleasant little town on Long Island, Digby Co., Nova Scotia. It is well known that our Annual Meetings are growing in interest; it will not, therefore, appear like reflecting on our former annuals to say that this meeting was the best of all.

We will note some of the features which conspired to make it so pleasant and successful. We will begin with the manager, Bro. E. C. Ford, whose tact and good judgment insures success. He had every arrangement made, and so completely shaped, that none of the Tiverton brethren were burdened or over-crowded. All the visiting brethren had their homes assigned them at once, without any difficulty, thus preventing any fuss or dust in providing homes for all, with room for many more. The

HOSPITALITY

of the Tiverton brethren was ample and cheerful. Their free and hearty reception made us all feel at home. We shall always remember with gratitude their kindness, and will do our best to make them happy at our next Annual, taking for granted of course, the Lord willing, they will all be there. The

NUMBER

of visiting brethren was the largest we ever had. I have the names of one hundred and twenty. Besides these there were a number came in on Sunday, from the adjoining towns. One brother told me there were, at least, one hundred and eighty visitors present. The places represented in Nova Scotia were: Halifax, Cornwallis, Milton, Kempt, Westport, Freeport, Centerville, Rosway, Southville, South Range and Sandy Cove. In New Brunswick: St. John, LeFete, Leonardville, Lord's Cove and Grand Manan. The

PREACHERS

present were eight; four of whom did the preaching, Bros. Keathcart, Emory, Knowles and Capp. It will be safe to say they never did better preaching. Its practical element was a fine and attractive feature. Each one of them seemed to possess an earnest desire to make a success of the principles of the Gospel, rather than to simply declare the principles of success; not so much to develop a doctrine or theology as to develop and enlarge the hearts of God's people. The most of our brethren who attend these meetings are well posted in the doctrine of Christ; what they need is to know how to be successful, to better understand the great importance of the work, and the measure of our responsibilities. We know by what we heard from many of the brethren that the preaching was well adapted to this end, and calculated to inspire in our hearts a greater determination to improve the opportunities. The

BUSINESS MEETING

commenced at nine o'clock on Monday, continuing all day, minus two hours for dinner. There were a larger number present than usually attend such meetings. Bro. Ford was retained as Chairman. Our efficient and faithful Treasurer, Bro. Bowers, was necessarily absent, on account of sickness. He requested to be released from his position in the Mission Board, this we could not make up our minds to do. We appointed Bro. Capp as Treasurer until Bro. Bowers was able to resume his labor. Another was appointed, making five now in the Mission Board, namely: Barnes, Ford, Bowers, Capp and Murray.

Bro. Emory read a resolution respecting our dear Bro. Bowers in his affliction, also making some remarks in reference to Bro. Gates, who is now unable to preach. The resolution was unanimously accepted. The Chairman then called on Bro. Emory to offer prayer in behalf of Bro. Bowers, the congregation kneeling. Our hearts were touched with deep feelings of sympathy for our absent brother, and his devoted consort, and we all united in the tender, earnest prayer of Brother Emory, for the recovery of our brother, and that the richest blessings of our Heavenly Father might crown their lives.

The letters from the churches were read, showing an increase of about one hundred during the year. Arrangements were made for sustaining Bro. Keathcart in Halifax another year. In addition to this the Board will undertake to put one if not two others in the general field. Monday evening we had a

MISSIONARY MEETING,

the preachers making short speeches, relative to the ways and means of successful Mission work. Bro. Knowles gave us an encouraging talk in regard to the success of the cause in the United States. A vote of thanks was tendered to the brethren of Tiverton for their kind, pleasant and never-to-be-forgotten entertainment. We will mention another grand feature of the meeting, i. e., the complete

UNITY

through all our deliberations, although there were difficulties and differences that seemed quite formidable, nevertheless the work went on and all the business finished satisfactorily, without a single discordant note. There was a determination mani-