

upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you; and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasures together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is by you kept back by fraud, crieth; and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. Certainly this don't apply to the Disciples of Christ. But many will say, that was spoken to the world! Brethren, if you do what the world is doing, you will be condemned with the world. There will be no excuse at the judgment day. If you have kept back anything that belonged to the Lord, you can never expect to hear the voice of Jesus saying to you, Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord. It is well for us to give heed to our givings, and see that they are established on a sure basis.

Many thanks to kind brethren for donations received.

Yours in Christian love.

W. J. MESSERVEY.

CORNWALLIS.

This season's heartiest greetings to all our readers. May peace and good-will abound. In looking back over the year that is just passing, we see much for which we should be very grateful. Our kind Father in heaven has watched tenderly over us, and bestowed on us many rich blessings. His work in this locality has been fairly successful, and the brethren are united and hopeful. Death, it is true, has visited some of the families of our brethren, but we believe the sanctifying influences of affliction will yield "the peaceable fruit of righteousness." We know that all things shall "work together for good to them that love God." Let us be sure and love God, then all will be well.

Many have been the expressions of kindness to us, and interest in our work since coming to this field. The brethren seem to anticipate our every want, and seem happy to do what they can to hold up our hands. They made us a very pleasant donation visit last week, and left us the better off by about \$45.00, near the half of which was in cash, the balance in just such things as were most needed. We spent a very pleasant evening. We were entertained with music, both vocal and instrumental. The presentation was made by Bro. Holz, who, with Sister Holz, had kindly thrown open their part of the house to entertain the company, and did all in their power to make the affair a success. Speeches were made by a number present, but the speech of the evening was by our good Bro. Thomas O. Blenus. Such gatherings we believe to be profitable, not only to the preacher, but also to all concerned. The good feeling and sympathy thus awakened by coming together socially goes far to make the work lighter, and pleasanter for all. After a prayer by the writer, the company broke up, all feeling that a very enjoyable evening had been spent.

We have nothing new to report as to the success of our work. Indeed, now that the cold winter is here, we shall not be able to do much more than keep the interest alive. But our prospects for an advanced movement the coming season are good. Let us enter on the year 1888 with earnestness, and strong faith in God.

E. C. FORD.

Port Williams, Dec. 27, 1887.

MILTON.

For the last few weeks I have been laboring with the church in Milton. The congregation here is quite large and influential. In fact, this is one of our oldest churches in the Province of Nova Scotia. It was organized by Elder Benjamin Howard in 1841. It was my privilege to hear Mr. Howard preach and form his acquaintance when a boy while a student of Abington College in Illinois in

1862. He was then quite old and was living in McHenry County in that State.

This church has been highly favored in many respects. It has always had a great deal of home talent. It has also enjoyed the teaching from time to time of some of the ablest preachers in the reformation. About forty-five different ones have labored with and for this congregation. Some, it is true, have labored only a few weeks, while others have remained for years. But it is not my purpose, at present, to write a historical sketch of this church. Still, I may in the future, as I have been requested to write an account of all the congregations of Disciples in Nova Scotia, and am at present gathering material to this end.

We have been having services in the vestry of the church a part of the time, including eighteen evenings. Our social meetings have been very pleasant and profitable. It has seldom been my privilege to meet with a more talented congregation.

We were particularly anxious to develop the speaking ability of the individual members of the church. Consequently, as the meeting progressed, more and more took part in the services, thus helping to make them interesting and profitable.

The Elders, brethren Allen, Minard and Jabez Freeman, are men of unblemished reputation, loved by all, hated by none. The deacons, brethren A. G. Ford, McKeown and Homeon, are an honor to any congregation. There are also a number of young men, including brethren Alfred Kempton and Atherton Ritchie, who ought to be educated, and thus be enabled to devote their lives to the ministry. However, this church has done well in being the mother of so many preachers, including the Murrays, E. C. Ford, Joseph Gates, T. S. K. Freeman, etc. Its members too, have been widely scattered, and gone to other parts of America, and helped to enrich and build up other congregations.

The old time prejudice here is gradually dying away. Thanksgiving day was kept by holding union services in the Congregational church in the morning, and in the Christian church in the evening. The Congregational minister, the Rev. M. Godard, is one of the most kind and lovable of men, and the best of feeling prevails between the two congregations.

"How sweet, how heavenly is the sight,
When those that love the Lord,
In one another's peace delight,
And so fulfill the word."

Our largest congregations on Lord's day morning have numbered about one hundred and seventy, in the evening, about four hundred and fifty. Three have united with the church since I came, and we have been earnestly praying and laboring to gather others into the fold of Christ.

It seems like a dream that I am here. I look around and see the rocks, the groves, the lumber woods, and then the waters of the Atlantic. I see, too, the Liverpool river, meandering through Milton, going on to join the waters of the great sea. The late rains are swelling the river, and tend to gladden the hearts of the lumbermen, and also the people generally. The logs in vast numbers are floating down, and the mills have begun operation, and times will gradually grow better. Nearly everybody of late have been crying *hard times*. How soon, too, the cry becomes chronic. When times are good people should prepare for reverse; in beautiful weather, prepare for the storms; in health, prepare for the days of adversity; and in youth prepare for old age, and the never ending spring-tide beyond the dark sea. How dark and dreary would life be without the hope of enjoying a home in heaven.

That home, O how sweet,
It thrills upon the heart;
Home where the loved ones meet
And never, never part.

W. K. BURN.

December 12th, 1887.

THE BLESSED TASK.

I said "sweet Master hear me pray,
For love of Thee the boon I ask;
Give me to do for Thee each day
Some simple, lowly, blessed task."
And listening long, with hope olate,
I only hear Him whisper, "Wait."

The days went by, but nothing brought
Beyond the wonted round of care,
And I was vexed with anxious thought,
And found the waiting hard to bear;
But when I said "In vain I pray,"
I hear Him answer gently "Nay."

In praying still and waiting on,
And pondering what the waiting meant,
This knowledge sweet at last I won—
And Oh, the depth of my content!
My blessed task for every day
Is humbly, gladly to obey.

And though I daily, hourly fail
To bring my task to Him complete,
And must with constant tears bewail,
My failures at my Master's feet,
No other service would I ask,
Than this my blessed, blessed task.

HARRIET McEWEN KIMBALL.

THE STARVING POOR.

Few who observed the eager throngs in the streets and avenues last week purchasing Christmas gifts would think of the other and dark side of the picture, the many thousands of idle and starving men and women at present in this city. The two sides of the picture are so incongruous that the mind can scarcely be forced to dwell upon both. One will run up against two or three hungry-looking men standing with wistful gaze at a corner, eagerly anxious to work at anything if it could be got; but would any one for a moment think that there are just now no less than one hundred thousand idle men and women in this city in a destitute and starving condition? Nevertheless it is true, and notwithstanding the facts that this year has been unusually good for business—that factories have been running full time—that the building trades have been busy—that the clothing and shoe trades have rarely been brisker—and that the iron trade has been booming. But all have their slack or idle season, and unfortunately in the most of them it occurs just at this holiday time. Many thousands thus instead of rejoicing and welcoming the approach of the holidays dread their arrival. The great bulk of them while at work can only earn enough to make ends meet, and cannot possibly lay aside any portion of their earnings to keep them when laid off.

Of course it is only a percentage of that wage-earning class that is presently in a destitute condition, but if the vast number employed in the various industries be considered, it will not then surprise any one to be told that there are 100,000 idle men and women in this city at present. In the building trades the dull time commenced a week ago and will last till the beginning of April. There are 7,000 bricklayers, 2,500 brown-stone cutters and rubbers, 2,000 laborers, and 700 roofers. Then there are 8,000 painters, and of these alone over 1,500 are presently going idle and looking for work. Of the 8,000 Union-carpenters 350 are already idle, and the rest are mostly on short time. Altogether in connection with the building industry at least 15,000 are already idle, and 10,000 more will be added before the winter is far advanced. About 500 cabinet makers are now idle, as well as 100 upholsterers and 100 carvers. The clothing industry gives employment to about 60,000 men, and of these at least one-half are idle, owing to the slack season. It is estimated that there are always about 5,000 longshoremen and dock laborers idle, and at best their wages only average \$9 a week. At least 3,000 cigarmakers are