

## HANTS COUNTY NOTES.

Nehemiah was certainly a brave energetic man, and intensely interested in any thing he undertook to do. In the book that bears his name, we have an account of him re-building the walls of Jerusalem. In the 6th chapter, we find Sanballat and his associates inviting Nehemiah down to one of the villages to hold a discussion. But he replied, that he was doing a great work and could not come down. Here is a lesson for every Christian worker, and more especially for preachers. It will not do to waste time in useless discussion with those who seem to have no work to do; nothing but talk. We have a great work to do; we cannot come down.

At our annual in Milton, we could see from the reports, that a good work had been done during the past year. Now, we ought to do better this year. We have an evangelist engaged, and there ought to be a good work done. So let us to work, brethren—do not let anything tempt us to leave our work and come down. Our churches in this county are going to rally to the support of our evangelist. Already collections have been taken up, and with the blessing of God we hope to see the grandest year's work done in the history of our work in the provinces.

Do not let us think that the evangelist is going to do it all. Let every church and every preacher work and pray, and gather into the fold all they can. Brethren, don't come down for anything—stay up and work—work.

There have been four additions to the church in Newport since I wrote last. This makes twelve since our annual at Milton. Our work looks encouraging.

On the first Thursday in December, I begin my winter's course of lectures on the books of the Bible. Last winter we got through as far as the establishment of the kingdom under Saul (1st Samuel). We commence there and go on with the history of Judah and Israel, this winter.

On Thursday, November 13th, a number of friends gathered at the house of Bro. George Wallace in Rawdon. A very pleasant evening was spent, and not the least part of the entertainment was the presenting of a purse of twenty-five dollars to the writer; this was done on behalf of the company by the Rev. Scott Whitties, D. D., who made a very nice speech in doing it. I replied as well as I could under the circumstances. Bro. George Wallace made some remarks, and the whole tenor of the evening seemed to be good-will toward the preacher. Bro. and Sister Wallace deserve credit for opening their house and making the affair such a pleasant one.

Before you again read a letter from me, Christmas will have come and gone. The old year will have died, and the new year will have been born. Some who began the present year with us are gone. There are some who will commence the new year who will not see its close. Let us work while it is day; for the night will soon come. As we enjoy the Merry Christmas time, and sit around the festive board, delighted with the gifts of friends, let us think of God's great Gift—Jesus Christ our Saviour. What a precious gift to a dying world. I close for this month and this year, by wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

W. H. HARDING.

West Gore, Hants Co., N. S.

The true Christian is like the sun, which pursues his noiseless track, and everywhere leaves the effect of his beams in a blessing around him.

When death, the great reconciler, has come, it is never our tenderness we repent of, but our severity. —George Eliot.

## "YOUNG PEOPLE IN THEIR RELATION TO CHURCH WORK."

An Address read at the Hants County meeting, held in West Gore last June, by Miss Tillie Stephens of Newport.

We are living in an age in which the best methods of work are demanded in all kinds of labor. The business world requires progress. The men of to-day cannot adopt the same old methods that were employed fifty years ago, and compete with others in the same occupation. There is a constant demand for improvement. In nothing is this demand more imperative than in the work of the church. God designed the church to be a living institution, and not a lifeless set of forms. A few years ago, all church work was left for the ministers. Now we see the need of every one joining in the work. The church cannot live if its members are asleep. Every member should be awake and ready for duty, for "the harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few." There is abundance of work for all, even for the youngest.

Some years ago, the young people of the church were looked upon as hearers of the word only—not doers. It was then thought that they were to be simply good, now we expect them to be good for something. At that time they were not aware of the great loss they were sustaining for the want of exercise. By observation, we learn that doing gives the power to do. Look for instance at the blacksmith. What a muscle he has developed! Why is it that he has so much more strength in his arm than other men? Others take the same quantity and quality of food, yet their muscle is not increased. The only way we can account for this, is that they have not taken the same exercise. Thus with all the members of our body; in order that they may be useful to us, we must give them something to do. It is not good merely to exercise one part of the body; but if we would have a well rounded being, all parts must be brought into play. We find that the healthy state of one part depends very largely upon that of another. Then to have a healthy body we must see that its individual members are active. So with that great body, the church; in order that it may be in a healthy state of growth, its members must take exercise, and that continually—not only one member, but each and every one, young as well as old.

Some one may ask, what can young people do in the church? Is it right for them to take a leading part? Why, they will leave nothing for the older ones! Now this is a mistaken idea. There is more than enough for all to do. One generation soon passes away, and another as speedily takes its place. Those who are now young, will not have long to wait before they are the men and women. Are they fitted for the position? If they have not been developing the talents which God has given them, and been growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are as babes just beginning to walk, and they will scarcely have learned to walk when they will be called to rest, and some one else will take their place. How much more they would have been able to have accomplished, had they begun their Christian work when young. Let the young now profit by the experience of their elders, and improve the present hour.

There are many ways in which the young people may be a help in winning souls for Christ. We do not realize the worth of an immortal soul. It doth not yet appear what we shall be. When we think of a soul inhabiting a poor afflicted body on earth, it is hard to imagine that soul arrayed in the glories of eternity and the charms of heaven—that soul which Satan is now ruling to be the soul over which angels will rejoice. But we must remember that Jesus died for every soul; even the

most sinful, and it is the duty of Christians to lead these souls to the Saviour and to heaven. If you should be thus successful in one instance, this one would be a rich reward even for the labours of the longest life. "He who converteth the sinner from the error of his way, shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."

God has given us all talents—some more and some less. We should use these to the best of our ability. He asks no more of any one. "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required." Yet there is no one too small, too feeble, too poor, to be of service. We should not be discouraged because we do not see some great deed that we can perform, but we must be faithful in small things. Christ said, "Whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward. Every Christian worker can give a message to his neighbor with a directness that it could not have while being spoken from the pulpit to a great congregation. This individual influence is even greater than is generally supposed. Every young man or woman is speaking by his daily example to every acquaintance of his, and he is either winning his comrade to a higher plane of living, or encouraging them to be satisfied with life on a lower plane. Not merely when he rouses himself to active effort in behalf of a companion, but in his ordinary conduct and in the spirit which he illustrates in all course, he is influencing individuals, and he must one day give an account of this influence. The eloquence of a holy life has awakened the thoughtless to attention to their best interests, and taught even scoffers wisdom.

Let us embrace every opportunity of doing good. A present opportunity is always worth the best efforts of the one to whom it is presented. It may not be as great as he thinks himself capable of improving, and therefore it may not seem to summon him to his utmost endeavours. But unless a man does his very best in improving the opportunity he has, be it small or great, he is not likely to have a better one open to him. He who would be invited to a higher position must first be willing to occupy a lower seat.

Another mode of usefulness open to all the disciples of the Saviour, is that of kindly noticing and encouraging persons who become hearers of the gospel. It frequently happens that persons who have lived without God in the world, begin to frequent the house of prayer. They need instruction. Perhaps they are impressed and need encouragement, but they are not acquainted with Christian friends. My young brother or sister, is this not an opportunity for you to help? Often a kind word or a look of sympathy may prove a blessing to some one. He who watches for opportunities will find many. Jesus said, "Ye call me Master and Lord, and ye say well; for so I am. If I then your Lord and Master have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Paul exhorted the brethren not to be weary in well doing, but to be ready to every good work.

I think we have plenty of scriptural evidence that we cannot begin too early to serve God. From a child, Timothy knew the Holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. Then let us look at the life of Christ which is our best guide through life, and we find that when a youth he was about his Father's business. Oh that we were more Christ-like! God has promised to render to every man according to his deeds. To those who by patient continuance in well doing, he will give eternal life.