

or two men or women who hold the purse strings.

On the other hand, temporary popularity may come, and often does come, through causes over which a minister has no control, or if he has control over them, they are discreditable to him. A minister may be popular just because he is new. There is no particular merit in being new. The minister also gets to the bottom of his sermon barrel the soonest and changes his pastorate often is new more frequently than the minister who can make sermons and has staying power. Besides the admiration of people who admire a man simply because he is new is not worth a brass farthing.

The most treacherous kind of popularity is the variety based on youth. Much of it springs from the imagination and, as George Paxton Young used to say, the imagination is the most lively of all the faculties. The imagination says the young man will grow into a Guthrie or a Spurgeon. If he does not grow rapidly he, of course, becomes unpopular. But whether he grows into a Guthrie or not he grows in years, and as his youth was perhaps the sole basis of his popularity as youth vanishes the popularity vanishes with it. The minister who is called mainly, perhaps solely, because he is young, stands on the most slippery of all ecclesiastical spots. The spot is all the more dangerous if some of the people want him because he is unmarried.

A transient and rotten kind of popularity may be gotten by advertising—in plain English by puffing. By means known to themselves and too well known to newspaper men some ministers manage to keep themselves and their doings continually in print. Puffs that no decent doctor would tolerate, much less write about himself; puffs that would be offensive to almost any lawyer, are seen every day keeping certain kinds of ministers in the public eye.

Some ministers try to make themselves popular by directly pandering to the public taste. They are always on the lookout for the currents of public opinion and then they go along with the current and shout and splash to attract attention. "Do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." Who wrote that?

There is just one kind of popularity worth anything to a gospel minister—the kind that comes from a faithful, reasonably efficient and conscientious discharge of duty. If public favor comes from fidelity, from efficiency, from self-denial and earnest effort, good and well; if it does not come in that way, be a man and do without it. Self-respect is worth more than the plaudits of people who may shout "Hosanna" to-day and "Crucify him" to-morrow. Good taste that refuses to write or inspire a puff is worth much more than the puff. A good conscience is worth more than the applause that may be obtained by pandering to the seamy side of human nature. The scales of final adjustment are not in the hands of the public. The aged preacher who was stoned out of Lystra, imprisoned in Philippi, mobbed in Jerusalem, and put to death at Rome may get a higher reward in the final reckoning than that which goes to all the popularity hunters the world ever saw.

Grief for things past that cannot be remedied and care for things to come that cannot be prevented, may easily hurt, can never benefit me. I will therefore commit myself to God in both and enjoy the present.—Joseph Hall.

News of the Churches.

HOME MISSION.—My attention has been called to the report of the treasurer of the Seventh District Meeting, as printed in the Year Book, page 117, which shows but one item, whereas it should have also shown Vic. St. Church, St. John, . . . \$20.00 St. John West, 20.00 To those whom it may concern, the above statement is due.

WM. PETERS,
Treas. H. M. Ex.

P.S.—It is hoped that the churches make remittances soon, as the Board will need money to meet engagements.
W. P.

FROM REV. J. A. ROBERTSON.—Mrs. Robertson and I have been visiting family in Boston and vicinity for two months. Having returned we will settle in St. John for the summer. I have engaged with the following churches to preach until Conference: Oak Point, Hamilton Mountain, Brown's Flat and Westfield. I am hoping to be a blessing to the churches, and shall pray to this end. I hope all the brethren may have a good year in their work.

JOHN A. ROBERTSON.

FROM REV. C. B. LEWIS.—I held special meetings at the Narrows one week. There was a good attendance, and a number of brethren and sisters were encouraged and helped, and we believe some good was accomplished. Owing to the busy season it was quite generally thought advisable to discontinue special effort for the present.

The interest at Shannon continues good. The Sabbath congregations are large, and the prayer meetings well attended. On Friday evening, May 1st, the Baptist churches of McDonald's Point and Belyea's Cove, and the Free Baptist church of Shannon held a united prayer and praise service. Rev. E. K. Ganong, pastor of the Baptist churches and myself were invited to be present. A very enjoyable hour was spent in praise and testimony for Christ. At the close of the social service, Deacon John A. Jones was appointed chairman, Deacon Alfred MacDonald, secretary, and A. M. Day, treasurer. The chairman stated the object of the meeting, and all who had it in their hearts to contribute to a donation to the pastor of the above named churches were invited to do so. At the close of this part of the programme it was found that the sum of \$60.10 had been given, which was equally divided between Bro. Ganong and myself. Thus ended an exceedingly enjoyable evening. God bless the donors.

C. B. LEWIS.

McDonald's Point, May 20th.

MINISTERS.—Rev. J. K. West spent May with the churches at Kemptonville and Carleton, N. S.

Rev. A. M. McNitch has accepted a call to the Grand Manan churches.

Rev. J. E. Wilson will take charge of the Tusket, N. S., pastorate in August.

MONCTON, N. B.—I baptized a young woman at the close of the morning service in Moncton on the 17th inst.; in the evening she was received into the church.

My friends at Lutz Mountain presented me with \$47.00 on the 16th, the proceeds of a social. I appreciated their kindness very much.

I expect (D. V.) to go to Cape Island, N. S., June 1st, to see my aged mother, who is in failing health. I will supply the church in Kemptonville, Yarmouth Co., Sunday, June 7th. I expect to be away ten days.

GIDEON SWIM.

OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS

—Rev. Dr. Carman, General Superintendent of the Methodist Church in Canada, is to visit the Maritime Conferences of this body next month.

—Rev. Wm. Ross, Presbyterian, who has been pastor of the churches in Prince William, N. B., and vicinity for twenty-seven years, has been voted a vacation of three months. It is his first vacation. The churches gave him a sum of money to enable him to enjoy his holiday. He and Mrs. Ross are now in Nova Scotia, their old home.

—The Douglas Avenue Presbyterian church, St. John, which has since its organization been a missionary church, has become independent.

—The Methodist church in the North End, St. John, is to have an addition of 22x90, two stories, of brick and stone. It is to provide class rooms, gymnasium, etc., for the Young Men's Association of the church.

—The Presbyterian General Assembly of Canada meets in Vancouver, B. C., next month. A party of delegates, ministers and laymen, from the Maritime Provinces will start from St. John June 2nd. They are to go in a special car.

—At the third quarterly meeting for the year on the Point de Bute Methodist circuit Rev. Mr. Marshall was given a unanimous invitation to remain a third year.

—Rev. Dr. Fotheringham, pastor of St. John's Presbyterian church, has obtained a seven weeks' leave of absence, and will leave early next week. Dr. Fotheringham will first go to Vancouver, B. C., where he will attend the General Assembly of Presbyterian ministers, after which he will go to California for the remainder of his vacation. During his absence the pulpit will be occupied by Rev. W. W. Rainnie.

General Religious News.

—In New Zealand, a government subsidy is given the Salvation Army to prevent suffering among the needy.

—The American Bible Society last year issued almost 2,000,000 Bibles and Testaments. This is an increase of more than 269,000 over the number issued in 1891.

—The Sunday-schools of the free churches of England have increased in membership during the past year to the extent of 45,000. They have 388,000 teachers, and a total of 3,321,000 scholars.

—In the year 1800 there were 147,000 monks and nuns in Spain, i. e., one out of eighty-three inhabitants was an ecclesiastical person; but in 1900, although the population had increased fifty per cent, the number of ecclesiastics had decreased to 72,000, or one in every 253 persons was in the service of the church of Rome.

—During the year ending March 31, 1903, the Sabbath school missionaries of the Presbyterian church in the United States gathered into Sabbath schools 44,623 children, and placed them under the Christian instruction of 4,876 teachers in 1,047 schools, over our vast frontier regions, from the State of Washington to our extreme southern borders. At the beginning of this year these missionaries had under their personal care 2,540 mission Sabbath schools, with a membership of 85,193 scholars, and 8,852 teachers. During the year, fifty-five Presbyterian churches and at least sixteen churches of other denominations were organized in connection with Sunday-schools planted by these missionaries. Into these Presbyterian churches 889 members were garnered.

—Three hundred years ago three and a half hundred square miles were under Christian government, one square mile out of every thirteen. To-day, forty million square miles are governed by Christians; that is, between four and five square miles for every square mile governed by the professors of all other religions. In 1700, ninety millions of people were governed by Roman Catholics, thirty-two millions by Protestants. In 1900, Roman Catholics governed 240 millions, Protestants 520 millions. Two hundred years ago, the population governed by Protestants was only one-third as large as that governed by Roman Catholics. Now the population governed by Protestants is more than double that governed by Roman Catholics.

—The Bible publications of the Oxford University press have been issued for 300 years, and are published in 150 languages and dialects. Every year fully 600 tons of paper are used for this purpose alone. Orders for 100,000 Bibles are quite common, and the supply of printed sheets is so great that an order for half a million copies can be readily filled. On an average, from thirty to forty Bibles are furnished every minute. This from one concern alone will give somewhat of an idea of the vast number of Bibles published and sold. It does not look as if the "Old Book" is being relegated to the "has been" class as an infidel recently said.

Deaths.

THURLOW.—Died at her home, Lower Argyle, April 26th, 1903, Eliza, widow of the late Jeremiah Harding, aged 91 years 12 days. She was the daughter of the late Jonathan and Deborah Crowell of Argyle Head, and the last of a family of ten children. Her family consisted of seven children, three surviving her—Jeremiah, of Lower Argyle; Crowell, of Gloucester, Mass., and Mrs. Isaac L. Vaninburg, of Penticton, B. C. She was a member of the Free Baptist Church, and lived a quiet, Christian life. Her husband died twenty-four years ago. He was a faithful worker in the Free Baptist Church during his life, allowing nothing to hinder his Christian work. They loved the public gatherings of the denomination. About five years ago her mind began to fail; since then the world has been a blank to her. She leaves sixteen grand-children and two great-grand-children.

NASON.—At Tracy Station, S. Co., on the 8th inst., Abigail Nason, aged 87 years, widow of the late John Nason. She was twenty-six years a widow. A large family circle survive her and cherish the memory of her Christian virtues. She was a member of the Free Baptist Church, and was faithful; before the burden of old age came to her she was an earnest worker in all that concerned the cause of Christ. The funeral, on the 10th inst., was largely attended. The pastor, Rev. J. B. Duggell, conducted the services.