

THE NAME ABOVE EVERY NAME.

Gladness fills the hearts of all true Christians at the remembrance of the birth of Jesus. If we think of him as a man, how immeasurably he differs from all others whose memory is cherished. Every nation has had its heroes. Whether they lived in the dim past, or under the clearer light of later days, their character and their deeds have, at best, a mingling of weakness and evil in some form. The life of Jesus of Nazareth presents a striking contrast to the record of the finest of the world's heroes. His parentage and native place were so obscure that it would seem impossible for him to secure any attention from the people of his age, and quite beyond the bounds of possibility that he should ever write his name indelibly on the page of history. In a little corner of the world apart from the ancient empires of Egypt, Assyria and Babylon, among a misunderstood and despised race, in a village so small and secluded that its very name was hardly known at all, and where known bore an evil reputation—there as a carpenter he plied his trade till in full manhood he went forth to teach. He taught for three years, in the face of great prejudice and confronted by difficulties and persecutions till put to shameful death. What was there in such a career to commend him to the memory of mankind? Nothing of external splendor nor outward success; only the power of a perfect purity, a goodness such as never had been seen nor even imagined; a nature altogether holy, a life without a stain, a character without a fault or failing, a ministry of love and compassion, the personification of a moral ideal which men had been feebly groping after, and which they recognized when it stood revealed.

All other names fade away in comparison with the name of Jesus. Remembrance of him is the chief item in the memory of the race. Love for him is the master passion of mankind, as shown in the multitudes who have lived and died for him. The influence of Christ is the inner life and force of every true movement that makes for the world's advancement. Every triumph over great evils has been secured through his mighty power. Truth, justice and humanity, purity and freedom, all that redeems mankind from intolerable ills and makes life sweet and noble—all come from the inspiration drawn from the life and death of Jesus. The best of all that is enjoyed to-day in this land and throughout the world is due to him who was born in Bethlehem, brought up in Nazareth and put to death in Jerusalem.

Looking at all the work accomplished in the name of Jesus, and studying the record of what he was and did, the conviction is irresistible that he was more than man. Can we fail to recognize in his life the stamp of divinity, the seal of heaven witnessing that, though he tabernacled among men, he was but a visitant from the eternal throne—one who condescended to be born a man that he might bring mankind to enjoy the favor and bear the likeness of God. The story of the church of Christ, marred though it is by the blunderings of men, is a testimony to the divinity of

him whose name it bears, and whom we gladly acknowledge our Saviour. Because he is our Prince and Redeemer we have deep joy at the return of his birthday anniversary. He is to us not merely a dear memory of the past, but a living friend, a present benefactor, with whom and in whom we live, and whom we confidently hope to see when he shall come again with power and great glory. M.

The ten days remaining of this year should bring us hundreds of renewals. Kindly make yours one of them.

News of the Churches.

SUSSEX, N. B.—Every Friday evening the teachers and officers of our Bible school meet at the parsonage to pray and plan for the work, as well as to study the lesson together. Last Friday evening the usual meeting was held, and when we had about finished our work others came, and still kept coming. In a few minutes my attention was solicited by John E. Slipp, who immediately commenced reading an address, and before he had finished Bros. Nelson W. Eveleigh and H. E. Sinnott, who were standing behind me, succeeded easily in placing around me a costly and handsome fur-lined coat. It was a complete surprise. No intimation of the remotest kind had preceded the presentation. The beautiful coat appealed to me, and then the thoughtful, kind feeling of the people which it expressed quite overcome me, so that suitable reply was impossible. The people, however, knew that the gift and kind words and friendly feeling evoked our heartiest and fullest gratitude and thanks. May the blessing of the Highest rest upon them all. B. H. NOBLES.

Sussex, December 17th.

[The address accompanying the gift expressed personal esteem and high appreciation of the pastor's faithful services, and the hope that he might long continue their pastor. It also expressed good wishes for Mrs. Nobles and the boys.]

HOME MISSIONS.—Bro. Parker intends going to Deer Island December 25th. The people were unanimous in their invitation to the Board to direct him there, and I have no doubt that great good will be done, both from a material and a spiritual view point. The work in Victoria County among the isolated and neglected churches has been very satisfactorily done. It is satisfactory because of the degree of permanency associated with it. Forces have been rallied and churches better equipped as places of worship. Any missionary, home or foreign, or in fact any preacher in regular work, has done a good deal for the people with whom he labors when he has given them, though it be at their own expense, a comfortable and attractive place of worship that they can call their own. Though paying church debts and building parsonages seems to many to be but incidental to the work of a home missionary, they are, like the last course on a bill of fare, very important incidentals if permanent patronage is expected. Worship is, and always has been, con-

tingent upon lambs and bullocks, etc., altars, tabernacles, sanctuaries, temples and churches. They cannot be divorced. The erection and equipment of them are not trifling considerations, since without them worship would cease, in a sense, to be a part of religion.

Bro. Parker concluded his labor with the church at Beaconsfield November 20th, having spent six weeks there in special work. During that time, he conducted forty-five meetings and made about fifty religious visits; seven were converted, four were baptized, six were received into the church. Forty-five dollars was collected, \$15.00 of which went for home missions and \$30.00 for church building. The people were much encouraged. Bro. Parker writes "I do not know where in New Brunswick I would have spent six weeks with so conscious a feeling that my services were needed." The work at River de Chute, etc., will be reported later. The Home Mission Board is indebted to the Woman's Missionary Society for a grant of \$100.00, which has been paid, and the Board here expresses their thanks for it. A. J. PROSSER,

Cor. Sec. H. M. Ex.

FROM REV. J. NOBLE.—I have been feeling very well for some time. I was at Campbell Settlement and Temple last Sunday; preached twice and administered the Lord's Supper; had a good day. If I continue as well as I am now, I think I will go down river as far as Prince William, and be there the fourth Sunday in the new year, at such hour in the day as will best suit the people. I hope you, Bro. Editor, and many others the world over, may have a pleasant Christmas and a happy New Year.

J. NOBLE.

Woodstock, December 14th.

FROM REV. J. J. BARNES.—It is a long time since I wrote a line for the INTELLIGENCER. I don't feel now that I have anything of special interest in connection with the work here to report, which is our reason why I have not reported anything this winter. But I have thought some of the brethren might feel that, as I had purchased a home, and as I did not attend the Third District Meeting, nor the League, nor the General Conference, I had hidden myself from the ministry, and was, therefore, lost to the church. The following story will explain the situation. During the latter part of the past year I was feeling in such poor physical health that I had not much mind for anything but self-interests; indeed, I felt strongly that God was appealing to me in connection with the interests respecting our home. It was not a case of wicked selfishness, but of righteous self-protection. We felt the time had come when we must make the change effected by the purchase of a home. I am some stronger now. I have never been unable to do the ordinary preaching of a country pastorate. My difficulty consisted in getting to the appointments. I could not, nor can I yet, endure a long, rough drive. I am able to do a fair amount of work, exclusive of the driving. I am now laboring with the Hainesville, Millville and Staples' Settlement churches. On the invitation of many

of the friends in different places, I go off occasionally on Sabbaths to such places as Hawkins' Corner, Lower Hainesville, Central Hainesville, and Mapleton. At the last named place we own a meeting house; it is a fairly good building, needing some repairs. My time is fully occupied. My income is derived from Hainesville, Millville and Staples Settlement. As it is out of the question for these three churches to fully support a minister, I am free to go out and do a little mission work where I might be needed.

We shall hold special meetings with these churches in the spring, when the men are out of the woods. We are looking forward to and praying for the spring work, and hoping for a revival. But there are many things existing among us that we must get rid of, or we can see no revival. We are only men and women, and very human. We are greatly in need of a social revival before the time of special work. It would seem, however, that some of us are looking that way already. Some time ago the people of Hainesville had a surprise party at our home. They and we enjoyed the evening very much. Refreshments, furnished by the young ladies, were served. Still later, the married people came on a like mission, and the occasion was highly enjoyable. The mothers were not to be outdone by their daughters in the matter of refreshments, anyhow. Such events are always timely and make things pleasant for the minister and his family.

Millville church has voted in favor of union. There was not one voice against union in all three of these churches.

J. J. BARNES.

Pastors can help the INTELLIGENCER by speaking of it to their people next Sunday and soliciting Renewals and New Subscribers.

FROM REV. B. H. THOMAS.—Permit a line or two from the Baptist pastor in the prison town of Westmorland Co. I believe it is the first time in my life that I have asked admission to its valuable columns. More than forty years the INTELLIGENCER made regular visits to the home of my parents and grand-parents. This line may be regarded as an expression of homage on the part of the writer to the first religious paper that ever engaged my thoughts and serious attention.

For all that God has done for the Baptist bodies, I desire to add a word of profound thanksgiving. I am enjoying the distinguished privilege of living to see the day of answered prayer and realized hopes. To the God of Zion be all the praise.

In addition to my many duties I have signified my intention (yielding, of course, to the wishes of the people) of giving the Free Baptist church in Taylor Village some pastoral attention. On December 4th, at three o'clock, it was my privilege to tell the matchless story of the cross to a large audience. I shall give them a monthly preaching service during the winter, and an occasional conference meeting. I have discovered that God has a number of jewels in this historic church.

The greatest joy experienced in more
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