

News of the Churches.

tious in his business as he is in his worship. It is absolutely nothing if it does not make him a better man in all respects. Men need to be taught and to be taught emphatically along this line. They need to have it declared to them that they cannot save their souls if they are devoid of Christian character. They need to have it asserted and asserted masterfully, that Godliness to be profitable for the life that is to come must also be profitable for the life that now is. When this shall be done then the ethics of Confucius will not place before us a higher standard of business life than that which is reached by those who have been developed under the religion of Jesus Christ. That this should in any wise be so now is a stain that ought speedily to be removed.

DECREASED CHURCH ATTENDANCE.

The fact that while the population of London has increased about half a million in seventeen years, the church attendance has decreased 150,000—the loss falling almost entirely on the Church of England—is regarded by the *Christian Intelligencer* as evidence that the latter is losing its hold on the masses. In the meantime, the Free Churches are attracting large numbers to their services, until now they about equal in attendants those of the State Church. Commenting upon the statistics furnished by the recently taken census of attendance in the London churches to which the *Christian Intelligencer's* note refers, the *Lutheran Observer* remarks: "This state of affairs shows clearly that the State Church is losing ground, and that disestablishment at no very distant day will be the result."

THE FRIARS OF SPAIN.

The arrival of 6,000 ecclesiastics from the Philippine Islands has awakened lively discontent in the minds of the clergy of Spain. They assert that this invasion, coming upon the heels of that of the French monastic orders, is intolerable. Protests have been brought before the Chamber, on the ground of the poverty of the Spanish people. There were already in Spain 40,476 priests, or one for every 400 souls, besides 2,476 prelates for 57 cathedrals, 70,000 monks, and nuns and 80,000 almoners and chaplains. For the support of this clerical army the state allows 50,000,000 *pestas* annually. For the support of schools it allots 16 centimes per pupil per school hour. Ten millions of the inhabitants of Spain are illiterate; and from the agricultural, industrial and commercial point of view Spain is behind all other nations of western Europe. The clergy, in addition to the government allowance, enjoy an annual revenue of 773,000,000 *pestas*, besides gifts and legacies. The people are beginning to say, "The church is devouring our substance, while the people are plunged in ignorance and poverty." That this state of mind must find some more or less volcanic outlet seems inevitable.

A SEEDLESS APPLE.—The apple is having its day now. Word comes from Colorado that John F. Spencer, an old fruitgrower of Grand Junction, Col., has succeeded in perfecting a seedless apple. The apple looks like a naval orange. Its inside is entirely solid and and there is a depression in the naval end very similar to that of the seedless orange. Mr. Spencer asserts that he will be able to develop seedless apples of every variety. He will not reveal the secret of his budding and grafting. The tree on which the seedless fruit grows is unusual in that it has no blossoms.

YARMOUTH, N. S.—The special meetings in Yarmouth are encouraging. Rev. F. G. Francis has helped the pastor in two or three meetings.

HOME MISSION REPORT.—Another month has gone by, and I would submit my monthly report. The first Sunday it was purposed to send Bro. Paul over the Stanley pastorate, but bad roads prevented. The second Sabbath he again visited the Prince William field. Then he was sent to Millville for a series of special services, co-operating with Rev. J. J. Barnes. He reports a good interest, many driving for miles over very bad roads to attend the meetings; a large number have been helped, several wanderers have been reclaimed and a number professed conversion. At this stage it is impossible to tell how much has been done. We shall await next month's report with much interest. Now that the terrific winter is over, we are hoping for a good summer, not only in weather but in work. Bro. Paul will remain where he is until the work is completed. During the month twenty-six services were held, twenty calls made, and \$16.10 collected.

J. B. DAGGETT,
Cor. Sec. H. M.

GRAND MANAN.—Special meetings are being held at North Head, and a good revival is being experienced. The work that has been done this winter in the several parts of the pastorate has been principally with the church members. The churches were really very low, largely because they were without pastoral care. But now a good spirit prevails, and the cause generally is much improved.

A. M. MCINTCH.

FAIR HAVEN, DEER ISLAND.—As a result of four weeks' special effort with the Fair Haven church many wanderers have been brought back to the fold, 18 have been baptized, the church work strengthened, the cause helped in many ways, and much encouragement brought into the lives of the Christian workers here. Pray for us.

J. J. BONNELL.

NORTON - MIDLAND.—I desire to acknowledge a donation of twenty-one dollars from the Midland church and congregation. The evening was very stormy, yet a goodly number gathered at the home of Bro. Whitfield Sharp, where the presentation was made. The ladies provided a tea. The evening was very pleasantly spent.

On Saturday evening, 2nd inst., the choir of the Norton church had a very successful concert and supper in the Forester's Hall. The proceeds will be appropriated for a new organ.

The work of the pastorate has gone on very well. The prayer meetings have been kept up, and the Sabbath appointments have been met, with but three exceptions. There are some who are desirous of beginning the Christian life, for which we are very glad. We purpose holding special meetings at Nor-

ton as soon as the roads became passable.

G. F. BAULSTER.

MINISTERS.—Rev. A. J. Prosser is holding special meetings at Pembroke, C. Co., and is hopeful of good results.

Rev. D. Patterson passed through Fredericton Friday on his way home. He has been in Carleton county since the first of the year, laboring principally with churches in the Waterville and Victoria pastorates. He enjoyed the work. He does not know just where he will spend the summer.

OTHER DENOMINATIONS.

—At the Grand Ligne Mission and Feller Institute (Baptist), Province of Quebec, a remarkable work of grace is going on. The work is amongst French Roman Catholics. During the last two months over seventy have been converted, thirty-four of whom were baptized Sunday, March 20th.

—The Stone Church (Episcopal) St. John, has decided to make all the pews free at the evening services.

—Rev. Dr. Fraser, of St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, St. John, was presented with \$350 by members of his congregation a few days ago. He is going to Europe for a three months' holiday.

—Among the Chinese in Montreal is a number of Roman Catholics. A few days ago a delegation of them waited on Archbishop Bruchesi, requesting him to provide them with a priest who could speak their own language and attend to their spiritual wants. The archbishop promised to endeavor to secure a Jesuit pastor for them.

—The St. John Presbytery met in quarterly session last week. The statistical reports showed that there were in the Presbytery seventy church buildings, twenty-four manses (two more than last year), 3,704 families (an increase of 183) 745 single persons connected with congregations (an increase of 80), 6,008 communicants (an increase of 223). Permission was given for the erection of a church at Bristol, Car. Co. Arrangements were made for the ordination of L. B. Gibson, at Glassville, May 5th, and of John Bradley, at Grand Falls, May 12th.

—St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Truro, N. S., has called Rev. A. B. McLeod, of Prince Edward Island, who has just returned from a year or two in special studies in England and Scotland.

—Rev. Wm. Dobson, now located at Windsor, N. S., will represent the Methodist Conference of Canada at the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to convene soon in Los Angeles, Cal.

—Rev. Wm. Forbes, pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Noel, N. S., has resigned, and will go as a missionary to Demarara.

—Dr. Trotter, President of Acadia University, says it is now morally certain that \$50,000 will be raised for the Forward Movement in sums of \$500 to \$5,000. Sixty persons have subscribed this amount.

General Religious News.

—The largest Sunday school in Boston is that of the Ruggles Street Baptist Church. It is a graded school with paid workers.

—The statistics for 1903 show that the Presbyterian churches of Canada and the United States comprise a membership of 2,256,000 and have 2,091,443 scholars enrolled in their Sabbath schools.

—The movement from the Roman Catholic to the Protestant church in Austria has won 45,000 converts, and the Catholics themselves acknowledge a loss of 37,000. May the cause of truth continue to prosper in that land of superstition.

—The churches at work in the far Northwest are quite up-to-date in their methods. We notice that the Presbyterian church in Dawson City has a debt of \$20,000, with a membership of less than one hundred. This one church, however, contributed last year a total of \$18,000.

—The first donation received from the Transvaal for the Centenary Fund of the British and Foreign Bible Society was the sum of about \$3, given by a prisoner who had been in gaol at Johannesburg for his first offence. The man on being liberated, made his way to the Bible depot. The Society's agent managed to find work for him, and at the end of the first week he returned with that balance of \$3, saved from his wages, as a gift to the Society—a good omen for the future.

—We read a few days ago in a religious journal a wonderful story of a Chinese version of the Bible. It was prepared by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Scherschewsky. It was completed and published in 1874. A few years later the Bishop was paralyzed and sent home an almost helpless invalid. However, he revised his version in Mandarin, and made a new version in simple, chaste Wenli, a popular edition. He wrote out the whole version on a typewriter in Roman letters with two fingers. He calls it a "two-finger Bible."

—Out of about 130 American colleges to which Hartford Theological Seminary sent a circular requesting information concerning their religious condition, 72 responded. Out of 27,398 young men among their students 33 per cent. were members of the Young Men's Christian Association. Of 3,382 young men in the senior classes 202 expected to enter the ministry and 94 proposed to go to the foreign field as ministers or in other professions. Out of 1,437 colleges in the United States and Canada, students in 294 contribute steadily to home and foreign missions, their gifts last year aggregating \$40,561. The contributions usually go toward the support as a missionary of some alumnus of the school.

Marriages.

CANROBERTSON.—At the residence of the bride's father, Marysville, N. B., on Thursday evening, April 7th, by Rev. H. H. Ferguson, M. William Cain and Miss Alice B. Robertson, both of Marysville, N. B.

Deaths.

WENTWORTH.—At Fair Haven, March 27th. Florence I., aged 24 years, beloved daughter of John W. and Helen Wentworth, leaving five brothers and a large number of relatives and friends to mourn the loss, which to her was gain. Services conducted by the writer, assisted by Revs. Messrs. O. N. Mott and Lawson.

FOWLER.—At St. John, April 2nd, 1904, Mr. Geo. W. Fowler, in the 70th year of his age, leaving one son, five daughters and a large circle of friends to mourn their loss. Our brother professed religion about forty years ago in connection with the Free Baptists. His remains were interred in the cemetery at Brown's Flat; sermon by the writer. JOHN A. ROBERTSON.

CROUSE.—At the home of his son, Charleston, N. B., March 16th, Uiel Crouse, in the 96th year of his age. Bro. Crouse was the first deacon of the Free Baptist church of Charleston, and lived an exemplary life. He was very highly esteemed. His wife and a family of five survive him. E. S. P.