

disclosed in the discussions, and everything was most harmonious.

Rev. Dr. McLaren, Presbyterian, says the effect upon those present at the joint meeting was very marked. Those who were strongly desirous of union before had their desire strengthened and found in the discussions that took place an enlarged basis for their hopes; while those who were of a different view, if not converted to the union idea, were at least powerfully impressed by the considerations urged and by the spirit displayed. As to the effect on the ministry and membership generally of the negotiating churches, he said they will feel the profound significance of the fact that 150 men representing the various shades of thought in Congregationalism, Methodism and Presbyterianism, spent three days in discussing the possibility of union, and separated with the deep conviction that while there were difficulties in the way, and time would be required for their removal, there was good ground for hoping that eventually all the obstacles would be surmounted and a real, vital union consummated.

Rev. Hugh Podley, Congregationalist, expresses like views of the character of the meeting and the hopeful prospect.

The sub-committees appointed to consider questions of doctrine, polity, etc., will require some time for their work. There will be no undue haste; everything will be carefully and thoroughly done.

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A SPIRITUAL UPLIFT NEEDED.

Writing of the spiritual conditions of the churches generally, the *Christian Observer*, gratefully recognizing much religious activity, deploras the prevalent indifference among many of the professed followers of Christ, and their unwillingness to devote time and energy to the work of the Lord. It says:

"What the churches need most of all is a profound spiritual uplift. Other things may also be needed, and should be sought for, but that which is most urgently needed is a thorough awakening to the reality of spiritual and eternal things, for ourselves and for others as well. The most pressing need of the churches is not finer paces of worship; nor is it more money that is most urgently required. These are important things in their place, but they are not what at present expresses the crying need of the churches of our day. What is needed is a more vivid consciousness of the divine, and a deeper sense of God in the churches themselves; also a pungent sense of sin, and of the lost condition of men who are out of Christ, and of the final doom of the wicked who die in their sins. The gift of the Holy Spirit in pentecostal power, giving a spiritual outlook and uplift is the desideratum of our churches just now.

"How to secure this spiritual impulse should deeply concern every church, and should possess every Christian. None should be content 'to live at this poor, dying rate,' but should long to be in a better spiritual condition, alike for their own sake, and for the sake of others. Hence there should be prayer to this end. This prayer should be earnest, humble, importunate and believing. There should be much meditation upon the word of God, which is the bread of life for the

soul. It is a good sign of our times that not a few Christians in various places are not content with the spiritual condition of things in the churches, and are deeply concerned and praying about it. This is right, and should continue till the answer does come. Then will many a problem in the things of religion be solved at the cross by the Spirit as nowhere else.

Such an awakening and spiritual uplift involves much humbling of ourselves before God because of our sins and failures. Till this is wrought into our experience we can scarcely expect any spiritual activity or uplift. There should be much searching of the heart, and honest self-examination, leading us to penitence, repentance and confession. Here is where the churches of our day are really weak and wanting. If Christians do not show downright earnestness in religion, others are not likely to be much concerned. Indeed, our indifference may lead outsiders not only to doubt our testimony, but to suspect that there is little or nothing in the religion we profess. Earnestness and sincerity must appear in Christians, if they are to have comfort in their religion, or to be really useful in the Master's service. Let prayer unceasing be offered to this end in all our churches.

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News of the Churches.

FROM REV. J. J. BARNES. — Christmas and New Year's services at Hainesville were largely attended and encouraging. We are looking and praying for a revival in these churches. We hope the brethren will pray for the work here.

J. J. BARNES.

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CLARK'S HARBOR, N. S.—We have begun our third year's work here. From a financial standpoint the year just gone was a good one. The church raised for all purposes nearly \$2,000.00. The foreign mission contribution was more than \$100.00. A church debt of \$835.00 has been paid. A furnace costing \$211.00 was put in and paid for.

No supper, tea meetings, etc., were necessary to do this. The contributions were voluntary by members of the congregation entirely. To God be all the glory. This New Year already entered brings us upon our knees praying for the Holy Ghost to make use of us in the conversion of men, which we most ardently desire in this growing town by the sea.

A. H. McLEOD.

Jan. 2nd, 1905.

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FROM F. G. FRANCIS.—More than a year ago I left New Brunswick with my family to assume charge of this pastorate, and now as we approach the New Year I am reminded that in all that time I have not said anything about myself through the columns of the INTELLIGENCER. Somehow this is one of the many duties I shrink from. The months have passed very rapidly, owing largely to the fact that our stay here has so far been associated with all that is pleasant and we have been comparatively free from the carking cares of life. This is a good, compact and workable field of labor, with a comfortable home in the midst

of a thoughtful and kind-hearted people. The congregations are not large, as we have them in the other province, but they are devout and spiritually responsive. The Baptist principles largely rule in this section of the county—there being no less than four branches of the Baptist family represented within ten miles. A pity they could not be brought into close organic relations so as to avoid the present un-Christian like system of overlapping. As Free Baptists we are deeply interested in the union movement in your province and are glad to learn that the mists are rolling away, revealing the beautiful landscape of Christian fellowship. Here the same spirit is moving the people, and while the N. S. Conference has not formally committed itself to the "Basis," yet the trend of the thought and prayer among our people is for union. The time is certainly ripe, and I know of pastorates now where the two interests are identified which are ready to merge into one as soon as action is taken by the corporate bodies. I believe that union is the God-appointed destiny of the Baptist forces in Canada, and history is making very fast to that end.

The churches composing this group have finished making their annual donation, which came in three instalments, each church acting independently and visiting the parsonage at different times, leaving us expressions of their good will to the gross amount of \$60.00. We desire to utter our thanks for this as well as for the many acts of kindness received during the year.

F. G. FRANCIS.

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S. S. CONCERT.—The Sabbath school at Upper Hainesville, York Co., held a Christmas concert on the evening of the 16th ult. It was a splendid entertainment, successfully conducted in the presence of a crowded house. Much credit is due Mr. G. M. Sleep, superintendent, and other officers of the school for their painstaking labor in getting up a most interesting programme which was so finely carried out by the scholars. The following was the programme:

Opening Hymn— Choir.
Scripture reading and prayer—
 Rev. J. J. Barnes.
Music— Choir.
Recitation— Addie Ricker.
Recitation— Joseph Hatheway.
Recitation— Lila Wiggins.
Music— Choir.
Dialogue (lecture on Temperance)
 A. G. Barnes and Roy Jones.
Recitation— Percy Knox.
Recitation— Vera Sleep.
Singing— Gladys and Hazel Kelly.
Recitation— Evellyn Knox.
Music— Choir.
Dialogue (Chime of Bells)—
 Nine little girls.
Recitation— Miss Dunn.
Recitation— Estella Wiggins.
Music— Choir.
Recitation— Ethel Clennitt.
Solo— Miss Dunn.
Recitation— Roy Jones.
Recitation— Bessie Wiggins.
Music— Choir.
Dialogue (Following the Example of a Husband)—
 Herb Jones.
Recitation— Norman Sharp.
Address— Rev. J. J. Barnes.
Music— Choir.

ONE PRESENT.

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CALEDONIA, N. S. — Bro. Phillips' statement is verified in this case. A do-

nation will bring a letter from a minister supposed for a long time to be dead. Our hearts were gladdened by Westfield friends coming to our home, without any notice; they took charge, extended our big table to its utmost and spread it to overflowing with dainties of many kinds. Mrs. Cosman and I were invited to take a seat at the head of the table and then they filled in until 17 surrounded the table and yet there were many who had to come in as second. God's blessing was asked and we partook of the bountiful repast. After tea a beautiful selection of hymns was sung by the choir, which made the parsonage echo to the garret, and our hearts leap with joy. I was presented with a purse of cash; our cellar was stocked with a good supply of vegetables; the oat bin was filled, and the big table was stored with loaves of cake, pies in abundance, butter, sugar and tea. Mrs. C. and I expressed thanks to our many friends for their kindness and liberality. They returned home rejoicing, leaving us much better in many ways than they found us. And may God abundantly bless those who, while happy themselves, do not forget to make glad the hearts of others.

L. A. COSMAN.

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NORTON STATION.—On Tuesday evening, 3rd inst., the Sabbath school gave its annual concert and notwithstanding the fierce snow storm, a good audience gathered in the hall to listen to an excellent programme. At the close of the entertainment a treat was furnished to both young and old.

I am enjoying my work very much. At present I have 27 church services a month, and these with my school work, keep me very busy. I wish to again thank the people of Norton for a beautiful fur cap and gauntlets, presented at Christmas. On Monday evening last I was greatly surprised and pleased on receiving a fine red-lettered Bible from Mr. O. C. Allen, of Ottawa. The people have been very kind to me. The Lord richly bless them for their many kindnesses.

G. F. BOULSTER.

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As I take up the INTELLIGENCER weekly and read reports from one brother and another, it does me so much good that I think at least I can do is to say keep on writing, brethren, you are helping many of us. I am very glad to know Bro. Swim is gaining, and hope and pray he will be able to get to his loved work again.

I kept at work until the middle of December, visiting different places and feeling very well I thought I would go to Prince William, and left home with that purpose; got as far as the Barony and spent a day there as I intended to do; but the drive, or talking so much with old friends, overcame me, and I found if I wished to get home alive I needed to turn about. So starting back by making short stages and stopping where I would be relieved from taking care of my horse, I got home quite comfortably, and have remained home since. I drive out when it is fine, and exercise myself in other ways, so as not to be useless; but my work is done, and what is undone will have to be left undone. My heart is still panting for victory for
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