

QUARTERLY MEETING

The Quarterly Meeting of District No. 1 convened with the church at Fredericton, N. B., November 26-29. The opening service was in charge of Lic. N. J. Sanders, who spoke from 1 Cor. 15:56, "The sting of death is sin".

On Friday morning a time of praise and prayer was enjoyed. In the afternoon, Rev. L. T. Sabine brought the message from John 17:9, "I pray for them." A practical message by Lic. E. R. Watson on "Some of the greatest needs of the Church today" was brought to us on Friday evening. At the close of this stirring message four seekers found their way to the altar, and prayed through to definite victory.

Saturday morning God's blessing was poured out on a social service led by Rev. P. J. Trafton.

The business meeting on Saturday afternoon was opened with prayer. President Lic. N. J. Sanders occupied the chair. Due to the absence of the secretary, W. H. Mullen was elected secretary pro tem.

The following ministers were present: Revs. P. J. Trafton, H. C. Mullen, F. A. Dunlap, Lics. E. R. Watson, N. J. Sanders. Delegates were present from Fredericton, Hartland, Victoria Corner, Marysville, and Upper Hainesville. Officers elected: President, Rev. P. J. Trafton; Vice-President, Lic. E. R. Watson; Secretary, W. H. Mullen; Treasurer, Mrs. Horncastle; Highway Agent, Rev. H. C. Mullen.

Encouraging reports were read from the churches. Bro. Frank Clarke gave an oral report on the all-day Armistice service held at Hartland. He reported a good service, in which four souls were saved.

A verbal report was given by Lic. N. J. Sanders on the recent special meetings held at Bristol, N. B. It was felt that much good was done as a result of these services.

Mrs. Nason reported on the work at Upper Hainesville. Good meetings were also reported from Nortondale.

At the close of the business, a testimony service was enjoyed. Meeting adjourned.

The Sunday School Convention opened immediately after the close of the business session. The Convention was a source of blessing and help to all.

Saturday evening, Rev. H. C. Mullen brought a forceful message from Acts 11:24.

The Lord's Day began with a Love Feast led by Rev. P. J. Trafton who spoke from 1 Kings 19. Following the Love Feast Rev. F. A. Dunlap brought a stirring message from Heb. 1:3, "Himself purged our sins."

In the afternoon Rev. H. C. Mullen delivered a message from 1 Thes. 5:23. Lic. Donald and Gertrude Cochrane brought a fine message in song during this service.

Rev. F. A. Dunlap was the preacher at the closing service Sunday evening. He used as a text John 4:35. This was indeed a stirring message, and was brought to a fitting climax, when about twenty seekers came forward to the altar, and all claimed victory.

Thus ended a very profitable Quarterly. We feel that great good was done other than that which was visible. Our faith was more deeply established, new ones along the way were given fresh courage, and we feel that the followers of Christ in this district will go forward with renewed vigor, from this another outpouring of God's blessing.

Let us all continue to pray for God's blessing, and may we look forward to the next Quarterly Meeting with a sincere faith for a greater manifestation of God's grace.

WILBUR H. MULLEN, Secretary.

CONFIDENCE IN GOD

The Christian must at all cost maintain his confidence in God. One of Satan's most successful schemes is to break down the believer's contentment in the fundamentals of the faith, and to start him on the road marked out by some of the isms that are anti-Christ at heart.

This kind of temptation was the center of the temptation that Jesus suffered in the wilderness. Satan tried in various ways to break down the confidence that Jesus had in God as His Father and in His work of salvation by the way of the cross. The bread to be made of stone; the proposed leap from the citadel of the temple; the proposal to receive the rulership of Satan's world by one brief act of worship; these propositions were all intended to break the confidence of Jesus in the success to be won by faith in His original commission from the Father and to cut across on a cheaper, easier way to victory.

The way of the cross is now reasonably well known and understood by devout people. We know God meets us there; we know the necessity of humility; of genuine goodness and piety; and of persevering in this longer but better road of Christlikeness. But Satan still works on us as he did on the Master, and he would have us throw away the blessings that come with true holiness for the deceits of some popularism that offers health, and holiness, and success by some cunningly devised compromise of the truth. If we have been inclined to lose our testimony of the power of the blood of Jesus to cleanse from sin, let us read once more the determined words of Joseph Parker on this matter:

"What is the cure for all this social chaos, domestic trouble, secret pain—this wrong-doing as between kings and subjects, fathers and children, man and man? The one cure is the cross of Christ. Have I not preached that with some consistency ever since you knew me? Have I ever given a second prescription for this malady of the world? If I ever have, allow me to tear it up—publicly tear it up—so that nobody can ever patch it together so as to make one word of it through all time. The prescription I will give is given to me. The prescription by which I would abide according to the exhortation of Scripture—the prescription which I would preach to all mankind—is this: 'The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin'."—Wesleyan Methodist.

THE SOUL'S YEARNING FOR HOLINESS

One of the most important conditions by which we advance in the grace of God is the soul's urgent desire for holiness. This state of mind is important both in obtaining and retaining the blessing, with this exception that in the second instance it is the jealous guarding of a treasure now in possession.

Yes, it is important that we should have depth of feeling in this matter. Holiness is a love affair with God, revealed by the Holy Spirit. The heart must be in it. The Psalmist says, "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God!" No one advances in the real experience of heart purity who goes about his quest in a formal way, without a personal concern that makes self help an essential feature of success. "Where there's a will, there's a way" in this as in other interests of life. An outstanding reason why people who are converted should press on in this quest is that they may be prepared to stand approved before God. "Follow after peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."

—Wesleyan Methodist.

GOD'S HAND IN AFFLICTION

In one of the Psalms, a Psalm in that sections called "Songs of Ascent", which means they were the songs of pilgrims, a voice is heard: "Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth", may Israel now say, "Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth; yet they have not prevailed against me."

The record of history is un failing in its testimony that great lives have come out of some kind of difficulty. This does not always mean that the men and women who have struggled up through difficulty are always good. We wish it were so. Our country would be better off if men who reach eminence had also good moral quality. But life being what it is, affliction, hard circumstances, difficult tasks go into the making of the finer and stronger characters. The poet has it, "Into each life some rain must fall, some days must be dark and dreary." The process by which the iron ore is changed into some valuable tool or machine is long and hard, but necessary in the economy of industry. God also has a process by which He receives into His providences the untried soul and through the years turns out the finished product of a saint.

—Wesleyan Methodist.

THE GRAVE

I saw a mourner standing at eventide over the grave of one dearest to him on earth. The memory of joys that were past came crowding on his soul. "And in this", said he "all that remains of one so loved and so lovely? I call, but no voice answers. My loved one will not hear! O death! inexorable death! what hast thou done? Let me lie down and forget my sorrows in the slumbers of the grave."

While he thought thus in agony, the gentle form of Christianity came by and bade him look upward, and to the eye of faith the heavens were disclosed. He heard the song and transport of the great multitude which no man can number around the throne. There was the spirit of her he mourned! There happiness was pure, permanent, perfect. The mourner then wiped the tears from his eyes, took courage, and thanked God. "All the days of my appointed time", said he, "will I wait till my change come", and he returned to the duties of life, no longer sorrowing as those who have no hope.—From First Issue of the "Religious Telescope".

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

The father had never missed church or Sunday School in twenty-three years. The mother had a perfect record for eleven years. A daughter had been at the evening service every Sunday for eight years. What's the matter with this family, anyway? Didn't they ever have company on Sunday to keep them away from church? Don't they belong to any lodges where they get this religion instead of at their Father's house, or to any clubs or to anything? Don't they ever have headaches or colds, or nervous spells, or tired feelings, or sudden calls out of the city, or week-end parties, or business trips, or picnics, or any trouble? Don't they have a radio so that they can get some good sermons from out-of-town preachers? Don't they ever get a lot more good from reading a book? Don't they ever get disgusted with the social gospel or whatever it is that their minister preaches? What's the matter with this family anyway? And why are they so happy and cheerful? We leave it to you to answer. I wonder where this family lives?—Sel.