

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

Rev. JOSEPH McLEOD D. D., EDITOR. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13TH, 1900.

There has, in the past few years been a remarkable decline in the number of adult baptisms in the Methodist Church of the United States.

A great Christian Endeavor Society convention is to be held in London next month, beginning on the 10th. Representatives from all parts of the world are expected, the anticipated attendance being 60,000.

Rev. Dr. Buckley was re-elected editor of the Christian Advocate by an almost unanimous vote. This is the fourth time he has been the choice of the General Conference for the editorship of the chief Methodist paper on the continent.

Rev. Dr. Storrs, for more than fifty years pastor of the Church of the Pilgrims (Congregational) Brooklyn, N. Y., died on Tuesday of last week. He was a great preacher, and a notable man in many respects.

Four bishops were elected by the Methodist Episcopal General Conference recently in session—two of them missionary bishops with jurisdiction in Southern Asia.

The strong ground taken in behalf of free sittings in his church by Rev. G. Osborne Troop, rector of St. Martins church, Montreal, has resulted in his resignation.

A Texas town, founded some years ago by an infidel, was named Ingersoll. The town, like its founder and the man whose name it bore, was thoroughly irreligious.

On a week or two ago the house of a Protestant minister in Granada, Spain, was attacked by a number of youths from a government educational institution.

The pastor of the First Baptist church, Everett, Mass., Rev. Geo. B. Titus, has aroused the anger of members of his congregation by warmly espousing the British side of the South African question.

The Baptist Argus says, and we fear it is too generally true, that when a man in a preacher's congregation steals anything, he requires of that preacher that he closes his lips on one of the commands, or he will abuse the preacher for dealing in personalities.

THE ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE.

The question that aroused the most enthusiasm, and was discussed the most thoroughly at the Conference was that of Christian Comity.

Perhaps one of the best papers, if not the best, on the subject was read by Dr. Sutherland, of the Methodist church in Canada. All the papers read at the Conference were limited to twenty minutes.

Something, a great deal, in the direction of Comity has already been accomplished in Canada in the union of those bodies having a common family name.

Dr. Sutherland's paper required nearly thirty minutes to read—and he took it. That inexorable bell was no respecter of persons.

A thin, wiry German (I had thought that all Germans were stout) captured the audience in a five minutes address. Speakers were limited to five minutes, after the papers were read.

I think many a sectarian and proselyter (sometimes the words are not synonymous) must have felt his conscience upbraided him as he thought, with shame, how he had striven to bring the sheep of another shepherd into his own fold.

The churches need the practical application of that principle embodied in Christ's prayer "That they all may be one."

The work before Christ's followers is tremendous in scope and responsibility. What wonder if some hearts ache when they see the vast regions as yet unreached, and at the same time those places where six or seven stations are established when two or three could do the work as well.

How lack of Comity works, Dr. Douthwaite, of the China Inland Mission, tells: "A pioneer goes to a far inland city, lives down opposition, bears patiently the insults heaped upon him by the people; eventually he succeeds in establishing a small church, which he endeavors to organize on a self-supporting basis, and tries to train every member for some sort of work.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church has had considerable of just this kind of experience in its India field. In some fifty-seven villages, of a few hundred inhabitants each, where the Lutherans had churches, Christians of another denomination came in and located churches to the great confusion and hurt of the work.

This is the darker side, but a brighter side exists. Not all Christian workers give evidence of such a lack of sanctified common sense.

Just one incident of the Rev. N. C. Brackett, who for thirty-five years has been a Free Baptist Home Missionary in the South. Thirty years ago he became convinced of the value of the principle of Comity by his own act.

Such unions as this and division of territory and other administrative devices will accomplish much. But back of it all there must be on the part of every Christian the true Christ spirit of love and brotherhood.

No plan of union has been or can be suggested which will not involve the surrender on the part of some of truth which is held vital.

Comity implies a lack of uniformity, but insists upon living and thriving and triumphing in the midst of it and in spite of it. It holds fast to the great underlying unities and derives its strength and its sweetness from these.

There is time only to suggest a few practical applications and proper limitations to the spirit of missionary comity: All branches of the same general Church division, and all denominations in which a union could be effected without the surrender of any faith or practice that is held to be vital ought to unite their work when prosecuted on the same field.

Where a field has already been taken possession of by one missionary body, that body should have the exclusive right to cultivate it, no matter how accessible and attractive the field or how rich the promise of the harvest.

If any society, by reason of limited resources or the pressing demands of its other fields finds itself, or is found, unable, to cultivate the field, the responsibility for which it has assumed, it may ask for aid or surrender its claim.

We are all the inheritors of the past, its leaders, its achievements, its inspirations. All are ours, and we are Christ's, and Christ is God's. And in God's good time when the work of Christian missions shall be accomplished, when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, that beautiful exotic which we call Christian comity, will ripen and flower, in its native atmosphere, into the perfect oneness of faith and life and service of all God's redeemed children.

THADDEUS.

"REJOICE IN THE LORD."

Sorrows are as thorns in the flesh. We can endure them, yet wish for their removal. The pain frets the spirit. But as the mind recovers from wounds and arises in health, pleasurable sensations pervade it.

The Christian should be full of joy. He has every reason for gladness. His joy should roll on in full volume like the broad river. Clouds may throw shadows over the river, but cannot stop the current.

D. D.—Rev. J. W. Manning, the Mission Secretary of the Maritime Baptists, was given the honorary degree of D. D. by Acadia University last week; and Mount Allison University conferred the degree of D. D. on Rev. S. F. Heustis, the Publishing Agent of the Maritime Methodists.

To VISIT HALIFAX.—Mgr. Falconi, the papal delegate to Canada, is to visit Halifax next week, and will remain several days. Watch and see how much the city authorities and others dance attendance on the Pope's man.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS

I. C. R. PASSES.

The Montreal Methodist Conference in session last week at Gananoque, gave some attention to the matter of annual passes issued by the I. C. R. authorities to certain ecclesiastics, like favours having been refused to the official heads of some denominations.

HONORARY COLONELS.

The amendment of the Militia Act permitting the appointment as Colonels of those who never saw Military service of any kind, and know nothing of military matters, is not a very wise act.

BELGIUM.

No nation in Europe has shown a more bitter feeling against Great Britain during the South African war than Belgium, which is mainly French.

THAT KIDNAPPING.

The case of Roman Catholic kidnapping, of which we gave some account a few weeks ago, is still exciting great interest in Austria.

SUNDAY WORK.

Complaints are made that Sunday traffic is greatly increasing on the Intercolonial Railway.

P. E. I. PROHIBITION.

Mr. Farquharson, leader of the P. E. Island government, has given notice of a resolution declaring in favor of the policy of provincial prohibition.

WAR TAXES.

The gold-mines of South Africa will, in the end, have to pay the bills of the war, as they are about the only property which can be heavily taxed.

are understood to believe that proper financing and the government the British will give, the abolition of the dynamite monopoly of the mines can be made to yield a profit, which will assist in paying enormous taxes, which they must be imposing. The net profit after paying will, of course, be creased.

CUBA'S POPULATION.

The recent census of Cuba showed many persons by showing a proportion of the colored population mulattoes to be smaller than had been thought.

A FLAG INCIDENT.

At St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, an attempt by some loyal citizens to celebrate the occupancy of Pretoria by British, met with the strong disapproval of that class of citizens whose sentiments are of the Tarte-Bourassa & Co. kind.

SENATOR HALE.

Senator Hale, one of Maine's representatives in the United States Senate, flew into a rage the other day when a petition was presented asking Congress to make an appropriation for the relief of the sufferers by the India famine.

THE SHAH.

The Shah of Persia is not a very desirable visitor, and yet must be received with due ceremony and treated with royal hospitality.

THE U. S. CENSUS.

The Census of New York State is now being taken, and it is expected that it will show a considerable increase in population.

THE NEW FRENCH.

The new French government has introduced a bill for the purpose of increasing the number of members of the Chamber of Deputies.