

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

Rev. JOSEPH McLEOD D. D., EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16TH, 1900.

A considerable number of subscribers have not yet sent renewals for this year. They will do us a great favour if they will send them at once. We would like to have remittances from them all before the end of this month. This week is a good time to do it.

Both the Universalists and the Unitarians of the United States suffered a decrease last year.

The devotional spirit of the great Missionary Conference is said to have been very marked. There was the manifest presence of the divine Spirit.

It would be interesting to know why the official heads of some religious bodies in Canada are furnished with annual free passes over the Intercolonial Railway, and those of other bodies do not receive them. Why the discrimination?

The success of christian missions in Japan has moved the leaders of the Buddhist faith to inquire into the causes of it. They sent two of their clever men to the United States to make a careful study of religious and social institutions, to ascertain if possible, the secret of the vigour of christianity which threatens to undermine their own religion.

Rome is persistently hostile to Great Britain. The hostility is sometimes, in some places, veiled, but it exists and makes itself felt continuously. Why it is may puzzle some people. The organ of the Vatican, the "Observatore Romano," told more truth than it meant, perhaps, when it said, not long ago, that the downfall of England would be the removal of the greatest obstacle to the Roman church. Let Protestants in this country, as everywhere else, remember this.

The United Presbyterian Church and the Free Church of Scotland have at last resolved to become one. Negotiations have been going on for several years. The resolution in favour of it was adopted unanimously by the U. P. Synod, and a like resolution will be adopted by the Free Church Assembly which meets in a few days. The incorporating assembly is to meet in October at Edinburgh. So the union of bodies which are practically one in beliefs and practices goes on.

There is an organization in New York city known as "The Federation of Christian Workers." It has been in existence four years, and its fourth annual report has just been made. Its object is by the co-operation of churches of various bodies to discover and care for the out-of-church families. It is sought to so apportion the work that every part of the city shall be looked after, the assignment of districts being so arranged that there shall not only be no interference of churches with each other, but that they shall be fellow helpers. Substantial progress has been made in the good work, and the co-operative unity of churches and christian forces is becoming more marked.

"Christ's Mission," in New York, of which Rev. James A. O'Connor is the leader, has just completed twenty-one years of work. The anniversary was suitably celebrated. The special feature of the work has been the help given to Roman Catholic priests. Of the priests who have been sheltered and helped at the mission sixty have fully accepted the

Protestant faith, and are now ministers, missionaries, teachers and useful men in other occupations. Several of them were present at the anniversary, and spoke of the help they had received. The mission is doing an excellent work, and deserves the practical encouragement of the christian public.

The "decline of religion" is a much used phrase. And yet there is really no such thing. The Morning Star very truly and pointedly says, "Religion does not decline. Men decline. Truth does not grow bad. Men grow bad. The truth is always good. Religion is always good. What is called the decline of religion is really the decline of men. Let us put the thing exactly as it is. The obligation to think, choose, and live as God wills we should—this never 'declines.' We may neglect that obligation; then we decline. 'Outgrow religion?' No, never. Deteriorate and slip away from God? Yes, many men and women do this. They cannot outgrow religion. But they may shrivel, grow lean of soul, and become very little and mean."

The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church now in session in Chicago, has its meetings in the great Auditorium, which has a seating capacity of six thousand. It is stated that the use of the Auditorium, heated and lighted and furnished with door keepers, ushers and other attendants, including ten nights and four Sundays besides all the days for the whole month during which the session will continue, is provided gratuitously by the city of Chicago. The cost at the regular rates would be over \$20,000. Chicago is called a wicked city, and probably deserves the name, but for some reason it is dealing generously with a great religious body. Perhaps it hopes for needed good from the presence of so many earnest christians. Let us trust it may receive more than even good people expect.

Preacher and Pastor.

There is more than an occasional complaint from the pews that pastoral visiting is too much neglected. It is possible that the demands upon pastors in respect of visitation are not always reasonable. The demands upon them in other respects are consuming much time and strength. They are much greater than in earlier days; and pastors find themselves hard pressed to do well and fully all that is required of them. Few, if any, pastors, shirk their duties. It is unfair to blame them as neglectful of some special part of their work, when they are simply making what is, in their judgment, the best division of their time and strength amongst manifold duties. In the present condition of religious thought, to be a competent and successful teacher and guide, the minister is expected to be acquainted with a great many things—not only with theological developments, but with moral and social questions and scores of other things affecting the beliefs and lives of men, and which must have the careful consideration of those who are set to be the teachers and pastors of the people. Pulpit preparation nowadays makes serious demands on the preacher. To speak on the same theme two or three or more times every week to practically the same congregations, and to continue to do this with unabated freshness month after month, and year after year, is no small undertaking. John Bright, who knew something about public speaking and the preparation necessary for it, referring to the work demanded of the average preacher, said he would be very sorry to have to comply with the constant demands made upon the preacher. And yet no conscientious preacher shrinks from the work; he is ambitious to faithfully and effectively declare the message of life.

But whatever may be said in explanation of the preacher's duties, the fact remains that nothing is more important than judicious pastoral visitation. It is really one of the indispensable conditions of a true christian ministry. Political managers know the difference in point of effectiveness between public meetings, however crowded and enthusiastic, and thorough personal canvass of the district. While applause is gained by the one method, votes are chiefly secured by the other. The parallel holds in religion. Baxter, who was a prince both of preachers and visitors, puts the matter forcibly thus: "If physicians should only read a public lecture on physic, their patients would not be much the better for them; nor would a lawyer secure your estate by reading a lecture of law." And he gives the result of his own experience when he says, "In public, by speaking alone, we may lose their attention, but privately we can easily cause them to attend, and engage them by promises before we leave them, which in public we cannot do."

The preacher, indeed, cannot afford to do without visiting, regarded even as a preparation for the pulpit. There is, for one thing, no other way so effective for gaining the sympathy of his hearers. When the voice from the pulpit is that of a preacher only, whom the hearer knows only in that capacity, he may think of him, and judge him, as a professional speaker only. But when the voice from the pulpit is that of a friend, who has been in the hearer's home circle, whom his children know and love, and who has entered into his sorrows and joys, the reception given his message will be very different. When a man loves and is loved he has a right of way to his hearer's hearts which no other can command.

THE ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE.

No. I.

"They that go down to the sea in ships," if likely to suffer from seasickness, need to select their ships with care. If you want to be well shaken take the "St. Croix." If you want a comparatively pleasant trip, take the "Cumberland." I don't know anything about the other boats. As boats are always of the feminine gender I think of the "St. Croix" as a hoydenish flirt of sixteen, with "St. Vitus dauc" tendencies. I think of the "Cumberland" as a sensible bachelor-girl, or a sedate matron, who does her work quietly, without any fuss.

We were late in leaving Eastport, and when we reached Portland we were told that the boat would not reach Boston in time for the train for Fall River. We, therefore, left the boat, and went by train to Boston, and so reached Fall River in time to take the night boat for New York. The Priscilla, the Puritan, and the Pilgrim are floating palaces. All that money and skill and taste can do has been done to beautify and adorn these boats. No wonder they are so well patronized. When you are weary with walking about your palace, and of studying the various types of men and women about you, you go to your state room, and are lulled to sleep by the subdued music of the band, which is as perfect as all the other arrangements and equipments of the palace. In the early morning you are going up the Sound and into East River. You pass a hundred places of interest. There is Blackwell's Island, with its Asylums for the insane, and its prisons for the depraved, and its Potter's field, the last home of the homeless outcast. Then, up through "Hell gate" and into the great city, which is a world of itself, but is said, by the New Yorkers, to be not half as wicked as London—as it is not half as big.

To your unfamiliar ear, the multitudinous sounds, the rattle and roar of the city seem like the roar of wild beasts. In church and in home the sound reaches you, you can never get away from it. And a wild beast many have found it. The lion, the tiger, the cougar have never elin as many, as this beautiful, loathsome, rich, poor, wicked, righteous city has. It is all that. A city of contrasts—awful contrasts. The very rich are here, and the very poor; the very bad, and the very good.

For ten days I am to mingle with the very good, and see all I can, and bear all I can, that will help me, and others through me, in our battle with the beast.

Carnegie Hall is the Mecca of many pilgrims these days, and I ask a policeman for directions to, pronouncing it Carnaygie Hall. My policeman has, evidently, not read his Ian Maclaren, for he knows of no Carnaygie Hall—"perhaps it is Carneegee Hall I want." I tell him that will do, and five miles away, I find it.

The Hall was built by Andrew Carnegie, the great iron and steel trust king. (Don't spell steel with an and only one e; some people do, and the king does not like it.) Well, he gave the hall to the city, and the city is proud of it. Only a multi-millionaire could make such a present, for it is one of the finest halls in America, though not the largest. There are five balconies, and the seating capacity is three thousand. Many an orator has spoken from its platform, and many times has it been filled to overflowing with audiences that would inspire speaker or singer. But never before was it filled, and very likely never again will it be filled by men and women representing so much brain power and moral worth. Statesmen were there who have attained eminence; thinkers who have written books widely read; educationists, representing Colleges and Universities in the old and new worlds; theologians who differ radically among themselves in matters of creed, but who believe that in spite of their differences they may "all be one"; and here are to discuss dispassionately and plan the best measures for carrying out of their

Lord's commission. On the platform are missionaries from every land, some of them in the prime of their manhood and womanhood, some of them bronzed by years beneath tropical suns, and bent by the toils and trials of their great service, yet their love for the work and ardor in it have strengthened, while their physical strength has diminished. The Nestor of them all is Dr. John G. Paton, who has spent so many years in the New Hebrides. I heard him some years ago, and he seems as young and vigorous as then. A man to be noticed in a crowd of noticeable men, his hair and beard are as white as the driven snow, his eye is bright and piercing, his voice clear and distinct, his manner so easy and natural and so free from self-consciousness, that you feel here is a man who thinks so much of his Master and His work, that he has no time to think of himself. What he said I will tell you in a future letter.

I wished many times that the readers of this paper might have seen and heard what I saw and heard during those eventful days. I never read a book I enjoyed, or saw a beautiful picture or landscape or sunset, but I wished others might enjoy them too. I don't think I ever very earnestly longed for "a thousand tongues." The one I have said enough things I wish it never had said. But I did covet a thousand eyes and a thousand ears, that I might have seen and heard more. I have, however, brought many pictures to hang on "memory's walls," that will always be mine.

In subsequent letters you shall see with my eyes, and hear with my ears. This letter is merely introductory.

THADDEUS.

HOME RELIGIOUS NEWS.

A new Baptist church at Water-side, A. Co., was dedicated last Sabbath.

Rev. Mr. Hatton is the new pastor of the Presbyterian church at Port Elgin, A. Co.

Zion Baptist church, Yarmouth, N. S., is to have a new bell, the gift of a generous friend.

Rev. M. C. Higgins has resigned the pastorate of Carleton Baptist church and gone to Nova Scotia.

The Roman Catholic Cathedral, St. John, is to be renovated and painted. The work will occupy several months.

The Reformed Baptist talk of running a steamer under their own control between St. John and Brown's Flat camp ground, during the summer.

The annual meeting of the S. J. Y. M. C. A. showed deficit in the finances. Lack of facilities restricts the work. A new building, or an enlargement of the present one, is needed.

POLITICAL NEWS.—A. F. Stone-man is the candidate of the Liberal party, of Yarmouth for the seat in N. S. Legislature made vacant by the appointment of Mr. Law to the Legislative Council.

The P. E. I. Legislature is in session and there are lively times there. As explained before the parties are about equally divided. Mr. Wise, who had placed his resignation in the hands of the Premier on the understanding that an election to fill the vacancy would be held before the session, took his seat claiming that no election had not been accepted. On a motion for some papers the opposition had fourteen and the government thirteen. But Mr. Wise was one of the fourteen and the speaker refused to count his vote. The sitting broke up in confusion. The second day of the session (Wednesday) the Speaker directed Mr. Wise to leave the House, and when he declined, the Sergeant at Arms was ordered to eject him; Mr. Wise resisted, the Sergeant, with assistance, forcibly put him out. There was much excitement. Then Mr. Pinesau, who since the last session had been elected as an opposition member, and who for the past month or two had been in Lynn, Mass as an agent of the Dominion government, took his seat and voted with the government. As matters now stand the government has fourteen votes, and the opposition thirteen. There are three vacant seats in the House, and the Attorney General of the Government is not a member of Legislature. It is an unusual state of things.

The Manitoba Legislature is again in session. The report of the Commission to examine into the finances of the Province has been presented to the House. It is a voluminous document, over one thousand typewritten pages, and contains exhaustive evidence of the financial dealings of the late government during its eleven years of office. At present the province has a deficit as follows: Over-draft due Imperial Bank, \$76,036; trust funds appropriated, \$15,485; unpaid liabilities \$166,613.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS

A STRANGE CASE.

English papers tell that in a little town, Konitz, in East Prussia, a boy named Winter was murdered a few days before Easter under circumstances which have given rise to a widespread belief in Germany that the deed is connected with the ritual of a secret Jewish sect. Winter's body was found in several pieces, dismembered, and the head severed from the body. Medical men who have examined the body and the spot on which the remains were found state that the body was bled to death before it was cut up, and that the blood was certainly not permitted to fall on the ground. These facts have given rise to the belief that the blood was collected for some purpose, and as there is a prevalent belief in Eastern Europe that the Jews at Easter use Christian blood in a secret part of their ritual, the inhabitants of Konitz, and the populace generally in Germany, maintain that the boy Winter has been a victim of the sacrificial knife. The police are completely mystified. No clue has been found which leads to any result. It is stated in Berlin that the Kaiser and the Minister of Justice have sent for Winter's father in order that he may be examined regarding his son's mode of life. All over East Prussia the Jews are being boycotted, and serious riots are occurring not only in Konitz, but throughout the entire province, in which the Jews are being seriously maltreated. Extra forces of military and police are being drafted into the neighbourhood. It is remarkable that in no recent case of murder in which the Jews have been charged with this crime have the real murderers been brought to justice.

RUM TRAFFIC WINS.

The prayer of Hawaii, to have prohibition of the liquor traffic inserted in bill passed by the United States Congress, was not granted. Instead a clause was substituted providing that the sale of liquor shall be according to such regulations as the Legislature of the island shall adopt. The rum traffic in the United States was unwilling to let so inviting a field as Hawaii be closed, and its influence with Congress prevailed. Poor Hawaii.

THEIR "BEST FRIEND."

In a speech made at a luncheon in his honour in St. Louis, Mo., a few days ago, Admiral Dewey made the following remark: "We can whip any nation in the world except England, and England is our best friend." For a moment there was an impressive silence, which was followed by a loud cheer, and the president of the club, rising to his feet, proposed a toast to America's best friend, England, which was received with enthusiasm.

It is intimated that in diplomatic circles in Washington the Admiral's remark is regarded as indiscreet, and nearly, if not quite, a violation of naval regulations. The European powers are not likely to feel well to have the head of the United States navy declare that his country "can whip them."

THE PAPER SUPPLY.

Since the burning of the Eddy Paper mills in the Hull-Ottawa fire, another large paper-making establishment has been destroyed—that at Grand Mere, P. Q. The remaining Canadian Mills cannot supply the demand for newspaper print. The newspaper men will have to import from the United States, and the cost to them will be considerably increased. For this reason the government has been asked to remove the postage, suspend the duty on paper, or in some way relieve the publishers from the extra expense caused by the fires.

CAPTOWN'S OFFERING.

The fund for the relief of the sufferers by the Hull-Ottawa fire now amounts to about \$750,000. One of the most gratifying contributions to this fund is \$10,000 from Captown, subscribed in three days. The letter accompanying it mentions that the citizens have enormous demands on their purses at the present time; and that this contribution is "due to strong feeling of gratitude for Canadian help in war, and appreciation of the gallantry of Canadian soldiers."

DR. BORDEN IN BOSTON.

The Canadian Club in Boston gave a reception to Hon. Dr. Borden, Minister of Militia of Canada, on Tuesday of last week. Nearly one hundred Canadians, residents in Boston and vicinity, attended, and a very pleasant evening was spent. Dr. Borden made an interesting speech.

MONTREAL'S OFFICIALS.

There has lately been a shaking up

amongst the city officials in Montreal. Several of them have been found to have been doing dishonest things, and have had to give place to other, presumably, better men. The conditions discovered have led to inquiries into the financial condition of clerks in the city offices, and it has been found that the salaries of a hundred of them were made on note shavers and lottery tickets. Gambling is the chief cause of condition of things.

SALISBURY'S LATEST.

At the annual meeting of the Rose League, in London, on Wednesday, Lord Salisbury made a speech which has received a good deal of attention. Referring to the great change which has taken place in the views of people regarding the Empire, especially since the Majuba Hill disaster and the death of General Buller, he said, "The death of General Buller had been avenged. 'Perhaps it is too soon to say the great humiliation of Majuba had been effaced or the great wrong had been righted, they were on the road to accomplishing that end. Under the brilliant guidance of Lord Roberts, they were engaged in reducing to obedience the Queen those territories which ought never to have been released and restoring to South Africa the chance it had of peace, development and tranquility."

He spoke, also, of the Irish question, admittedly a difficult and intricate problem. But there are not in Home Rule cause, he said, any elements of sanguine anticipation. There is no hope of the predominant party ever consenting to give Ireland complete independence. We have heard he went on to say, something from South African war—how a disinclined government, in spite of war, could accumulate armaments, and secure a terrible advantage. We know better than we did ten years ago what a risk it would be if we disloyal government in Ireland, power of accumulating forces against this country.

Turning to the question of Imperial defence, he uttered significant words. "If we look around we can see elements and causes of menace, peril slowly accumulating, and may accumulate to such a point as require our earnest and most strenuous efforts to repel them."

At this point he cautioned his hearers against thinking he meant to indict the government knows of danger. On the contrary, he said, the state affairs, as the government understands them, is peaceful. "It is impossible to speak too highly of the calm neutrality which has been served by all the governments of the world."

But, he added, "a certain section of their subjects, not very large, though noisy, has at the present moment a great prejudice against this country." And precautions necessary. "Governments may go and go and feelings may change year to year. That root of bitterness against England, which I am unable to explain, may be mere caprice, or it may indicate a deeper feeling with which, later, we may be called to reckon. There can be no mistake in the feelings of other nations except the efficiency of our own defence. Everywhere the power of defence is increasing, and who knows but these things may be united in a great wave to dash upon our shores."

He pointed out the importance of being ready for anything and everything, saying "it is the duty of able-bodied Englishmen to make themselves competent to meet an emergency thus we would have a defence force which would make the chance of an assailant so bad that no assault would appear."

A DEAD LANGUAGE.

It appears that in Montreal affairs many contracts and other legal documents are in French only of the English speaking aldermen to make a vigorous protest the day against the growing custom of ignoring the English language in preparation of city documents, also in the conduct of the business Council and committees. It is that nearly everything, whether written or spoken, is in French, and English is becoming practically a dead language at the City Hall. An alderman remarked, "It might be better to have deeds in both languages if we can afford it." He expressed thought he was suggesting a concession to the English officials. What they do with the language