

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

Rev. Joseph McLeod D. D., Editor.

WEDNESDAY MAR. 14TH, 1900.

A noon war prayer meeting has been established in Toronto. While all things connected with the war are the subjects of prayer, the Canadian soldiers are especially presented at the throne of grace. God be with them, let us all pray.

The Postmaster at Topinka, Kansas, has asked the P. O. department at Washington for an extra force of clerks to handle the 'Daily Capital' during the week that Mr. Sheldon is to have charge of it. Orders for the paper are pouring in from every part of the world.

The following is from a very excellent religious paper in the United States:

'The awful condition of British India, considered as unrelieved misery and horror, is one of the consequences of the South African war.'

What does it mean? We wish the good editor who wrote it would explain.

The man is wise who is his own executor. Dr. Parsons, of Chicago, is a good example of this kind of man. He has already distributed to religious and charitable institutions about two and a half million dollars. And he now proposes to give another million and a half—the balance of his possessions, to good causes, reserving for himself and wife only an income during their life.

In the olden time there were prophets and priests guilty of the sin of speaking "smooth things," when they should have spoken plainly and earnestly the unwelcome truth. In these times there are religious teachers guilty of like unfaithfulness. Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgressions," is God's command to His servants. To disobey Him is wicked.

A canvasser for a religious paper found several persons who gave as their reason for discontinuing the paper that it "made them feel bad." On being further questioned they admitted that the paper held up "a higher standard of life than they lived," and that whenever they read it they "were convicted." They were professing christians, and heads of families. No wonder the church of Christ is hampered, when it has such members.

The estimated expenses of the World's Conference on foreign missions, which is to meet in New York April 21, and continue ten days, is \$40,000. This will include the hiring of halls and providing entertainment for foreign delegates and foreign missionaries, besides other incidental expenses, together with the publishing of the proceedings of the conference, covering the whole expense from the beginning of the work of organizing, three years ago, till the history of the conference is issued. Half the amount is already guaranteed.

In a recent address, Judge Brown of the United States Supreme Court, ventured a prediction concerning the twentieth century religious life. The new century will, he believes, not only be marked by greater unity in religious life, but it will 'develop a clearer recognition of what religion is, and how its growth can be most surely promoted.' It is not a question of intellectual advancement so much as one of moral growth. Religion that spends itself in creeds, and does not ripen into character and the richness

of a pure and lovely life, is like the barren fig tree—covered with leaves, but fruitless.

The "Morning Star" is printing a series of articles by some of the younger Free Baptist preachers in the United States. The fifth of the series is by Rev. George A. Downey, the subject of which is "Filled with the Spirit." We reproduce it on the second page of this issue. Bro. Downey is the second son of the late Rev. Wm. Downey, who for nearly forty years was a well-known and successful preacher in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Rev. G. A. Downey is about forty years of age, and has been preaching since 1889, having begun his ministry in Nova Scotia, where he was pastor for some time. He is a graduate of Bates College and of Cobb Divinity School. He is now pastor at Lyndon Centre, Vermont, and is doing good work.

FASTING AND PRAYER.

In the article on "Declining membership" in last week's paper, special mention was made of the experience in this respect of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The fact has moved the leaders of the denomination. The bishops have evidently been giving serious consideration to the condition revealed, and have issued an address to the Church. It is an earnest appeal to awake from the spiritual inactivity which is shown by the drop in membership, and by the failure in other respects to vigorously and effectively carry on the spiritual work entrusted to the Church. Some of the symptoms, which would seem, also, to be causes, of the spiritual famine which is deplored are pointed out. As they are not peculiar to the Methodist church, we reproduce the substance of such as may apply to the Church at large.

The gulf between capital and labor threatens us on both sides. On one side, "not many mighty, not many noble, are called." On the other, strange forces are alienating the poor. The labor unions, organized most compactly, are much influenced by men hostile to the Church.

The submerged tenth has been allowed to pass out to other agencies. We seem in some places above our business.

The powerful camp meetings of our fathers have been superseded in many localities.

The literature found in our homes is too often too light to nourish strong religious characters. Books that furnish the companions for our youth are not selected with the same care with which we choose their friends.

Amusements are sought after as if they were a necessity.

The moral and spiritual forces of the Church, necessary for the building of great and Christlike characters, seem to be side tracked. In many places the spirit of the world is dominant, instead of "the Spirit which is of God." Inclination is toward society and its enticements. Self-denial is not always practised.

The searching of the heart, that must precede every great work of revival, is often avoided as the fanaticism of a past age. Thus some of our churches are contented to nurse their dignified uniformity and neutrality, and so fail in their saving work.

Criticism is extended to everything sacred. The preaching and the preacher are handled in the home circle with severity. The family is trained to regard the services of the sanctuary as common and routine. Our children are robbed of their respect for the Church, and the Church is robbed of their presence.

Higher criticism attacks the Bible itself, denying its supernatural character and divine authority. Its influence is filtered down through much of our literature, taking the authority out of the teaching and the power out of the preaching. The Bible loses its divine authority. Sin loses its fatal sting. God's law loses its sanction.

These things, regarded as symptoms, indicate spiritual famine—lack of the witness of the spirit, lack of personal experience, lack of spiritual power.

The greatest need, it is pointed out, is the sense of need. Quietness is not security. A man sleeping in his boat drifting in the rapids of Niagara may dream that he is a child again, rocked by his mother's hand. But that dream will not change the fact that he is shooting like an arrow toward death. It is possible to so embrace and hug a fatal error that we may carry it in our arms to the judgment bar as proof of the justness of our condemnation. We must take "heed how we hear" and "what we hear" and he ring, heed. God's word warns us concerning some who "received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie, that they all might be

damned who believe not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. Set us bereft God to show ourselves as we are, that we may properly realize our need.

The ministry of the church is entrusted to sound the bugle call to advance in the name of the Lord. We must emphasize the old and essential doctrines of the Bible. We must exhibit sin as the one thing which God hates, which overwhelms the unrepentant sinner. In irretrievable ruin, against which the ocean of God's wrath flows forever like a shoreless sea of fire, from which there is but one escape, and that through faith in Jesus Christ. Men must be made to feel that they are lost and need salvation. They must be made to confront the judgment bar of Almighty God. They must know that a pardoning Saviour is only for penitent sinners. The old Gospel that has made its way through all the brutality of heathenism and through all the conceit and pride of skeptical philosophy for nineteen centuries has not lost its power. Give it a chance.

The false prophets in the days of Jeremiah, who prophesied "peace, when there was no peace," though pleasing to the king and princes in Jerusalem, did not save Jerusalem from the armies of Babylon, nor the king and his princes from slaughter. The false gospel of our times, which denies the malignity of sin, abolishes the terror of hell, and neutralizes the work of the Saviour as unnecessary in settling human destiny, will prove helpless in the path of retribution, and leave its votaries and disciples without escape and without hope.

The responsibility of the laity is strongly set forth. True success, in the largest degree, depends on the spiritual life of the people as well as of the preacher. The priesthood of all believers must be recognized and employed.

The bishops conclude their address with an appeal to the whole church to devote a week—March 25th to April 1st—to abstinence and prayer, to assemble in their accustomed places of worship at least once each day, humbling themselves before God and earnestly supplicating His forgiveness, and the restoration of the joy and power of salvation. This movement on the part of the Methodist church is attracting attention widely. Let us hope that it will provoke serious thought and earnest heart-searching amongst christians in all branches of the Church of God. There is manifest weakness in the whole church. To deny it, or to shut one's eyes to the unpleasant fact, is unwise, and increases the sin which should be deplored and repented of, and the pardon and the taking away of which should be sought. Let all the people humble themselves before God, and He will surely forgive, and then use them for His purposes and His glory.

The case of the man recently released from St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary, because it had been discovered that he was not guilty of the crime of which he was convicted, and for which he had suffered three years imprisonment, was brought up in the Senate a few days ago. To the question, "What compensation does the government propose to offer to the victim of a judicial error?" the Minister of Justice replied that "there was no obligation on the government to give compensation even in case of wrongful conviction." There, surely, should be some provision in the laws of the country for something other than a "pardon" to one wrongfully convicted.

The government of Western Australia is opposed to the federation which the other Australian colonies favour, and has refused to submit the question to a plebiscite as was done by the others. A serious schism is developing. The Eastern gold fields, with a population of 80,000, which is nearly one-half of the total population of the colony, are, it is said, placed by the older parts of the colony in the west, somewhat in the position of the Uitlanders in the Transvaal. They have only three out of twenty-four members in the Legislature, and only six out of forty-four in the Legislative Assembly. During the last four years the goldfields contributed to the Consolidated Fund half-a-million more than they got back in Government expenditure. The goldfields desire to be separated from the rest of the Colony and unite in the Federation, and are protesting against the action of the Government in sending a council to London to advocate amendments to the Bill. Eighteen thousand voters signed a petition to the Parliament in favour of the Federal Bill, but the petition was ignored. An Australian correspondent writes that Western Australian friends of federation have organized themselves into a League. An appeal to the Queen has been drawn up, and 10,000 copies distributed for signature.

MISSION NEWS AND NOTES.

In India there is one Christian teacher to 275,000 of the population.

Do you have a monthly missionary program in your Sunday school? If not, why not?

It is calculated that half the inhabitants of the world have not even heard the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Permission is now given for Christian Missions in Khartoum. The Church Missionary Society is to occupy the ground.

In Bessar, India, alone there are 15,000,000 people without a preacher of the Gospel. "How can they hear without a preacher?" (Rom. 10. 14)

The king of Pondoland, a country joined to Cape Colony, has become a Christian, through the conversion of his chief officer, who was a noted drunkard.

One young man, an attendant in Cheung Mai hospital, receives wages of eight rupees a month equivalent to less than three dollars gold. From this amount he has during the past year supported himself and given ten rupees to mission work, besides contributing regularly each Sabbath.

It is said on the most excellent authority that the missionaries sent out by the Negroes of America to South America are very bitter in their denunciation of their treatment by the Boer officials, as contrasted with that at the hands of the British.

President Schurman says of the missionary opening in the Philippines: "We have forty or fifty tribes to civilize, and seven or eight of these tribes have some 300,000 members each. On the island of Luzon there is one tribe of a million and a half of people who speak one language as totally distinct from the other languages as Spanish is from English. Another tribe on the same island, numbering 600,000, is as distinct from the other in language and character as they are from the Spaniards themselves. Then on the great island of Mindanao, there are many tribes entirely different from each other. In the Sulu archipelago we come to another class of natives, about whose custom of slavery so much has been said recently. These are all Mohammedans, while in Luzon the natives are all Catholic Christians."

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

The Irish members of the British Parliament never let pass an opportunity of uttering their vicious feelings towards Great Britain. When the war appropriations were under consideration the other day, they were at it again, Redmond calling it an "iniquitous budget to support an iniquitous war." Haley had a fling at the colonies, saying, "Let the colonies share the burden—Canada and Australia, who are so keen for war." The Irish party, of which these men are the leading spirits, has just issued a manifesto, which says: "The present time is absolutely rife with possibilities. The greatest crisis in the memory of living man has arisen in the affairs of the Empire, and no one can tell the moment when 80 Irish members thinking only of the interests of their country, may be able to extract from the situation its legitimate fruit. The question is—Will the people of Ireland use their representatives to take advantage of these possibilities? And the answer to it admits of no delay."

It is the appeal of dyed-in-the-wool traitors, and would not be expected to meet with a response from any but their own kind. And yet, strange to say, the Hon. Edward Blake is one of the treasurers of the fund these people are trying to raise, and heads the list with a subscription of fifty pounds. What does it all mean? One thing is sure Mr. Blake is far from representing the feelings of patriotic Canadians. And he is making his best friends in this country blush for the ignoble part he is playing.

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The Queen's visit to London last week was made the occasion of a great demonstration. There was no preparation for it; it was a spontaneous outburst of affection for the good Queen and of loyalty to the Empire. The scenes of the Jubilee celebration were repeated as Her Majesty passed along, with even greater heartiness.

Mr. J. R. Ruel, Collector of Customs at St. John, died Thursday evening. He was stricken with paralysis a few days before. Mr. Ruel was eighty years of age, but had preserved his physical and mental vigour in a remarkable degree till the last. He was born in England, but came to St. John with his father when a lad, and was through his long life actively identified with all the city's best interests.

Recruiting for the Northwest Mounted Police is going on, to fill the places of the large number who have gone to South Africa. There are recruiting stations at various points in the Maritime Provinces, from which 125 men will be selected.

The Leval students were invited to participate in a patriotic demonstration last week, which was being made on the occasion of the Strachans Horse passing through Montreal en route to South Africa. They declined. The McGill students were prominent in the demonstration, and they, as well as the committee in charge of the matter, invited the Livals to join them, the idea being to show that there was no anti-British feeling amongst the French students. Their refusal is what might be expected of the gag that pulled down British flags and substituted French flags, and who crowned their infamy by trampling on and then burning a British flag. It is just as well for them to show who and what they are. By the way, is not it

in relation to the anti-British tone taken by the "Osservatore Romano" in commenting on the Boer war. The paper is supposed to be the Pope's official organ, receiving a financial subsidy from him. The Duke of Norfolk wrote: "To us it seems very grievous that an opportunity should be given to anyone to persuade the British people that the Holy See regards them with hostility or dislike. I cannot deny that an impression of this sort is creeping into the public mind. When it is remembered that Catholics are in the minority in Great Britain it will, we think, be admitted that in the freedom of our religion, in the great question of education and in matters of religious ministrations to soldiers and sailors we need not fear comparison with other countries in which Catholics form the great majority."

The reply of the Papal Secretary attempted to make it appear that "the Holy Father" is not responsible for the political opinions of the paper, which is simply a very poor and weak attempt to dodge responsibility. The London Times puts it in the mildest possible form when it says: "It is a pity Cardinal Rampolla (the Papal Secretary) did not speak out plainer, in view of the fact that the subsidized Osservatore Romano, all the world over, is supposed to represent the Pope's personal opinions."

The successes of the British in South Africa seem to have greatly intensified Anglophobia in France. The news of Cronje's surrender maddened the crowds in Paris, and they paraded the boulevards shouting "A bas les Anglais! Vivent les Boers!" The press excitedly demands that the European powers should now intervene, and other such nonsense. Poor things!

There is no change in the India famine conditions. There are over 4,000,000 of people on the relief lists. The government, by relief works and in every other way, is doing everything possible to mitigate the sufferings of the poor people. British contributions to the Relief Fund are large.

At a recent meeting in Toronto, Dr. Pott, the Educational Secretary of the Methodist Church in Canada said that from a patriotic standpoint he wished that every British subject would boycott the Paris Exposition, on account of the treatment the Queen has received in Paris and throughout France.

Lord Pauncefote, whose time had expired, has been continued as British Ambassador at Washington. This is the third extension of his term, and has, it is said, only one precedent in the diplomatic service. It is a high compliment to the Ambassador, and is eminently satisfactory to the United States government.

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strange that no attempt has been made to punish the creatures who desert the flag?

The Standard Oil Company is to be getting a controlling interest in the railways known as the coal and iron. When the Company has succeeded its scheme, the price of coal will stay up. The Standard Oil Company has the reputation of being one of the most selfish and grasping monopolies in existence. The price of an occasional million to some national or religious institution, by Rockefeller, the head of the company, does not lessen the iniquity of its greed.

In proposing some amendments to the bill, passed last year, providing for the conditional liberation of tertiary convicts, the Minister of Justice said the "ticket-of-leave" had worked well so far. Within the last four months a good many had been liberated, and had found employment. Only one had shown a disposition to return to criminal life, and he was again within prison walls and would have to serve out the balance of his old sentence, as was the new one. The amendments proposed to make the same plan of application to those held in gaols.

French feeling against Great Britain was exhibited in a demonstration at Bordeaux, France, one night last week. Returning from a pro-Boer meeting, a lot of students marched to the Consulate, battered down the windows, shattered the windows with stones, then proceeded to the consul's residence, where they indulged in a similar demonstration.

The Pope, in a recent interview, said he daily prayed that President McKinley would offer mediation in the South African matter. If the Pope would mind his own business as President McKinley has in mind, it would indicate good sense. The fact is the Pope and those who are anti-British. Suggesting to them from them are an impertinence.

The newspapers of the better class are making a crusade against the gambling resorts in New York City. The police have moved to action, and several raids upon gambling places have been made. Investigation by the New York Times, has shown that a Tammany committee over \$3,000,000 a year for police protection.

Father Lacombe, a Roman Catholic missionary in the Northwest, started for Europe to endeavour to secure the settlement in Canada of a religious order known as the Salesian monks, who have their headquarters in Italy. He had an interview with the Premier and Mr. Tarte in regard to concessions he desires of the government in behalf of the Northwest. The nature of the concessions is not stated.

Archbishop Bruchet, head of the Roman Catholic Church in Montreal, is reported as having telegraphed the Premier asking him to stop the discussion in Parliament about the religious scenes in Montreal—"provoked, he puts it, "by the McGill students." If the Archbishop, who is the head of the Laval University, would teach the students at that institution to respect the British flag in a British colony, he would not need to appeal for silence about their disloyal and disgraceful conduct.

Senator Lewin, of St. John, died Sunday. He was 87 years of age, and up to quite recently had been in good health. He became President of the Bank of New Brunswick in 1855, and continued in that position till his death. He was appointed to the Senate in 1876.

HOME RELIGIOUS NEWS.

Rev. H. H. Cosman has been appointed missionary and manager of the Seamen's Mission, St. John. He assumes charge this week.

An extensive revival is reported as in progress at Freeport, Digby and N. S. Many are professing conversion.

Rev. P. O. Reese, a Baptist minister who lived and laboured many years in this Province, principally in York Co., died at the home of his son in Milford, Mass. last week. He was 75 years of age, and had many friends. The burial took place at Upper Keewick.

There was baptism in the Episcopalian church, this city, last Sunday.

Mr. Hooper was ordained minister of the Episcopal church, Woodstock last Sunday, by bishop