

A Premium.

Asking the friends of the INTELLIGENCER to make special efforts in its behalf, we wish, besides the new features for 1902 outlined in a previous issue to mark the semi-centennial year in another way.

Conditions.

- 1. The premium picture will be given to every present subscriber who pays to the end of 1902—the INTELLIGENCER'S Jubilee year. This, of course, requires the payment of arrears when any are due.

TERMS AND NOTICES.

The RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER is issued on Wednesday, from the office of publication, 107 St. Fredericton, N. B. \$1.50 a year in advance.

Religious Intelligencer.

REV. JOSEPH McLEOD, D.D., ... EDITOR. WEDNESDAY, Dec. 4th, 1901.

The best sermons come more from men's hearts—from their deep spiritual experiences, than from their libraries.

The candidate for representative position with whom the rum men are satisfied is not the man with whom Christians ought to be satisfied.

The Christian revival in Japan goes on with increasing power. The doctrines and power of the gospel of Christ are getting a great hold of the people.

The first sentence of a recently published theological work contains five hundred and four words. The man who begins or ends a book with such a sentence, or puts one like it in any part of his work, is not likely to have made a book that will have many readers.

An infidel paper sneeringly says,—"Two-thirds of the church members of this country are women." As though that is something to be ashamed of! A Christian paper puts this fact over against the infidel sneer,—"Of 45,000 convicts in prison more than 43,000 are men." Suggestive.

The Conference on the Christian Principles of Civil Government which met in Pittsburg, Penn., on the 19-21 Nov., was attended by more than five hundred persons. A large number of these were delegates appointed by churches, local conventions, and young people's societies, and a large proportion were ministers.

An address by Dr. Stevenson, of Philadelphia, on "The March of the Nation toward the Kingdom of Christ," was a review of the events of modern history which show that public morals are improving, that the sway of the Christian nations is being extended over the whole earth, and that the governments nominally Christian, are becoming more and more Christian.

The consolidation of "The Morning Star" and "The Free Baptist"—the eastern and western papers of the Free Baptist denomination in the United States, is being considered. The matter was suggested at the General Conference in August last, and a resolution was adopted asking

the managers of the two publications to consider the desirability of such consolidation. The matter is now being discussed in the two papers. Where the field is so large it would seem that both papers are necessary. Yet they have, probably, what all religious papers—especially those that are denominational—have, the difficulties of a limited constituency and less hearty support than they deserve.

A writer in a Methodist paper thinks it might be a good plan for the pastor when receiving members into the church to classify them under such heads as useful, honorary, or ornamental. The useful teach in the Sunday school, take a part in the prayer meeting, are active in the Young People's or other society, visit the sick, and generally interest themselves in the affairs of the church.

Is Russia awakening to the necessity of religious freedom? Some recent events have had that appearance. At a conference in one of the Provinces in which the chief matter considered was how to deal with heretics, the chief man of the conference took strong ground against harsh measures, and said it was high time for Russia to think of granting to all the invaluable right of liberty of conscience.

In view of the decision in the Manitoba prohibition law case, which is understood to establish the right of Provinces to prohibit the liquor traffic, the question of proceeding at once to press for prohibitory enactments by the Local Legislatures should have the attention of prohibitionists in every Province. In Ontario our fellow workers in the prohibition cause are evidently intending to press for legislation.

PROVINCIAL PROHIBITION.

The Presbyterian Witness, in its issue of last Saturday, proposed the calling of a convention of representatives of churches and temperance societies in Nova Scotia, to consider the question of bringing prohibition

before the Legislature of that Province at the approaching session. The Witness believes the present is a great providential opportunity, and thinks it is not right to let it pass, nor to delay it for even a short time.

New Brunswick, too, should be moving. Why not have the question of a Prohibitory Law before the Provincial Legislature at its next session? The temperance men of the Province should meet and confer as to the course to be pursued now that the right of Provincial prohibition has been declared.

We suggest a meeting of New Brunswick prohibitionists at some central place—say St. John or Fredericton, at an early date, to consider the situation and determine upon a course of action.

The temperance cause has had some severe struggles in late years, and the patience and courage of many good friends of prohibition have been sorely tried. The decision in the Manitoba case makes an opportunity for a renewal, with fresh vigour, of the struggle for the delegatization of the traffic.

WHAT THE DEACON SAID.

No. XV. About "They Say."

When the deacon came in to see me one night last week, I greeted him with, "They say, deacon, that you refused to be vaccinated." The deacon looked at me a moment before answering, and then, slowly and quietly, asked, "Who (with emphasis on the who) told you I refused to be vaccinated?"

I hesitated, stammered, and said, "Oh, I don't remember, they said that—that—I don't know exactly what it was they said, or who said it." "I am surprised," said the deacon with a sigh, "that you quote from such an authority. You ought to know that there is no more respectable, untruthful family to be found anywhere than the 'They Say' family.

"The malicious have only to say, 'They Say' such a bank is shaky, and a run is made on that bank, and it has to suspend payment." "A bad man wants to injure a rival's business, and he has only to say 'They Say so-and-so's business is falling off, and he is having a hard time to meet his payments,' and the shutters go on that store."

"I know a church," said the deacon, with a mirthless laugh, "that dismissed its minister because a little four year old boy said to his father, 'I don't like our minister, pa; I wish you would get me another one.' And when his father, who was the senior deacon, asked him why he did not like the minister, the boy said, 'Why, he told me I had better not do that, when I was only pouring water into his silk hat to see how much it would hold.' I suppose that deacon felt that he ought to replace the hat his precocious boy had spoiled; but as he did not like to buy silk hats for other people, and the minister's shabby hat was a continual rebuke to him, and a re-

minder of his meanness, he wanted it out of the town. So he whispered to the junior deacon that the pastor is losing his hold of the young people, and they say they want a change!

"I have noticed," said the deacon, "that it is always the people who have been rebuked by his faithful preaching, and would not repent, who have used their influence to get the 'They says' to drive him away." "Oh yes, the 'They Say' formally dismisses ministers and calls them. I knew a child, who cannot talk plain, who called a minister, who was a useful man in his proper field, but utterly unfitted for the important field to which the baby called him. 'I wish,' said the child, 'that minister was our minister; he gives me taffy.' That call was loud enough for 'They Say.'"

"Make it the rule of your life," added the deacon, "when you tell anything to give your authority. When you cannot name the person who gave you your news, you may know that your news is false or mischievous, or both, and keep silent. The next time any one gives you news from 'They Say' ask him, as I did you, 'who told you? Who said?' and see how disconcerted they will be, and how they will stammer and hesitate as you did."

"Be careful," he said, "careful please, my arm is very painful." "And then my face got red and redder; but the deacon was a gentleman, and did not seem to notice it, but simply said, 'I told the doctor when he scraped my arm that it was a pity there was no vaccine for moral diseases. If you could vaccinate some people for laziness, and others for bad temper, and others for gossip, and vaccinate the vicious with hemp it might save them from hanging, and liars with lye.'"

POLITICAL NEWS.—There are now two vacancies in the New Brunswick Legislature—one in Kings Co. and one in St. John Co. The former vacancy occurred more than a year ago. It is now rumoured that the by-elections will be between Christmas and New Year.

HOME RELIGIOUS NEWS.

—The Germain St. Baptist church, St. John, is to have extensive repairs. —Special meetings are being held in the Reformed Baptist church at Marysville by Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds, from the United States.

—Rev. Mr. Gordon (Baptist), and Rev. Mr. Wason (Methodist) are holding special services at Lower Jemseg, Queens Co. Rev. Mr. Martin (Evangelist), has held meetings at the Narrows, and a number have been baptized.

—The loneliest missionary in all the world is said to be the Rev. J. O. Springer, whose station is on Herschel Island, near the mouth of the Mackenzie river, well within the Arctic circle. No ship has been at the Island for two winters, and the missionary's white neighbors are at Peel River, 250 miles away.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

IMMIGRATION.

The nationality of the immigrants now being received by the United States makes thoughtful men of that country wonder if some check should not be put to it. It is pointed out by the Journal and Messenger that whereas in 1882 they received a quarter of a million of people from Germany and only 32,000 from Italy, now Italy is sending 135,000 Aus-ro-Hungary 113,000, Russia 85,000, and Germany less than 20,000.

CANADIAN RANGERS.

The soldiers who are now being enlisted in Canada by the Imperial Government for service in South Africa may be called the Canadian Rangers or the Canadian yeomanry. There will be four companies of 141 each and 595 horses. The force will likely be mobilized at Ottawa. Recruits from different provinces will be raised indiscriminately.

FRANCE'S POPULATION.

France is really alarmed at the falling off in the population of the country. The matter was discussed in the Senate last week and the Premier adopted a proposal for the appointment of a Commission to seek means of increasing the birth-rate and diminishing mortality. One Senator, comparing the peopling of France with that of other countries in the nineteenth century showed that at the beginning of that century France had 26,000,000 inhabitants, Germany 15,000,000 inhabitants, and England 12,000,000 inhabitants.

BUSINESS MEN.

Lord Rosebery, in a recent speech, suggested that it would be well to try the experiment of a government made up of business men instead of professional politicians. Politicians look at questions from the point of view of party, and their action is too often governed by their idea of party advantage.

NOT TRUE.

Mr. Redmond and his associates, in his anti-British harangues, has repeated over and over again that Canada had rebelled in order to win the liberty she enjoys. The Presbyterian Witness points out that this statement is not true. Canada has never rebelled. A rebellion was started in Lower Canada, but by a minority of the French population, and that rebellion was speedily suppressed.

SMALLPOX.

St. John's smallpox condition is not very good, though not nearly so bad as that of some other cities. Montreal, Quebec and Ottawa have each many cases. It is in many other parts of Quebec and in many parts of Ontario. Boston has a

large number of cases—probably over 300, and new ones being reported every day.

The mild form of smallpox which has become so prevalent all over the continent, the Montreal Witness says, may easily develop into the most virulent form of the disease, and, according to some whose judgment deserves respect, probably will. There is one practical way to avoid smallpox, and that is vaccination.

IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

Colonel Dennison, President of the British Empire League, was in St. John last week, at the invitation of the New Brunswick branch of the League, and gave an address on Canada and the Empire. In his reference to the maintenance of the Empire, he spoke of Canada's spending nothing for defence, and "gave figures to show what our share would be in times of peace if we were under another flag. Last year in the United States the expenditure for army and navy was \$433,000,000 or \$5.50 per head. At this ratio Canada would have to pay \$30,000,000 for its five and a half millions of people.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Mr. Chamberlain's proposal to give the wives and children of soldiers in South Africa opportunities to go to them, is being carried out. Passages are to be given on military transports returning to South Africa.

FRANCE'S POPULATION.

It appears that an increasing number of Boers have expressed a desire to bear arms against their countrymen and are seeking admission to the British field forces. Several contingents of ex-burgers have already been enrolled and the latest corps is commanded by no less a personage than General Andries Cronje, brother of the famous Boer leader, now a prisoner in St. Helena.

NOT TRUE.

June 25 is the date fixed for the coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra. Queen Alexandra has ordered from Delhi a quantity of the finest embroidery for her robes at the coronation. This action has produced the greatest satisfaction in India.

NOT TRUE.

During the year ended 30th September, 1901, three sentences of death in Canada were commuted to imprisonment for life. Two of the sentenced were from Dawson City, Yukon Territory, and one from British Columbia. The prerogative of mercy was exercised during the year in 30 criminal cases.

NOT TRUE.

A despatch from Rome says that the doctors attending the pope say that his holiness is growing slowly but surely weaker, and that the end is possible at any moment. Lord Strathcona, Canada's High Commissioner in London, has been ill, but is now reported improving. Figures of the police census taken November 10, make the population of