

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

REV. JOSEPH McLeod, D.D., EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 2ND, 1901.

Welcome to the Twentieth Century.

How bold Mormonism has become is shown in the fact that in the city of Brooklyn they now openly hold conference and polygamist mass meetings, requesting the daily papers to print announcements of the meetings, and asking them to send reporters to them.

Dr. Parker's experience in the management of a London daily newspaper did not realize his hopes. In the course of his Christmas sermon, he admitted his disappointment. He thinks professing Christians are to blame for the irreligious character of the newspaper. He said, "Christians are becoming invalids, and the Church is an hospital. Nurses are wanted. Manliness is dead."

Whenever ministers speak out against public immoralities, they are sure to be told by certain classes of people that it would be much better if they would "mind their own business." A minister certainly has the anxiety of a good citizen for the public welfare, and has, also, responsibility to do what he can to promote it. Of course it suits the vicious classes when the ministers refrain from arousing and creating public conscience against them. But the minister whose course suits such classes is not so faithful as he might be.

To christians good Dr. Cuyler gives this New Year counsel, - Determine to make this the best year of your life—the richest, ripest, strongest, happiest. But you cannot grow in grace "by wholesale." Begin the year by putting the knife into some bad habit or besetting sin. Begin by laying stiff hold on some neglected duty. Consecration means letting Jesus Christ own the whole of you. Holiness means serving Christ in little things; and remember that in all the year you will see only one day, and that will be called "to-day." The ladder to heaven is climbed, not by a leap, but round by round.

A new monthly, called the "Illinois Free Baptist," has just been launched. "The Free Baptist," of Minneapolis, the western organ of the denomination, expresses its pleasure at this "evidence of life among the brethren, however wise or unwise the movement may be," and adds: "While other denominations with their large numbers are concentrating their interest and effort on fewer denominational organs, it seems that Free Baptists are big enough for more. The Methodist denomination is now taking active steps toward a consolidation of its papers. Within the year, one or more Presbyterian papers have been consolidated or absorbed by others and within a month, the "Northwestern Congregationalist" printed in Minneapolis has been absorbed by "The Advance" of Chicago. The brethren will have discouragements enough without anything in that line from us. We can only hope that the Master is leading, knowing that if he is, all is well."

Realizing the need of a great quickening of spiritual life, the leaders of the several christian denominations in England have organized what is called a "National Simultaneous Mission." The movement will begin in London, January 26th and continues there ten days. The greatest preachers in England will during those days concentrate their work in the great capital, preaching in churches, halls and theatres and on the street. From Feb. 16th to 26th they will go to the

interior towns, and do like work; and in March the movement will reach the villages and country districts. There is in the plan provision for house to house visitation, with a view to bringing the call to a better religious life home to the heart and conscience of every individual in England. The movement is in charge of a large committee representing the different denominations, including those which have hitherto been the most exclusive. The work will be watched with much interest, and for its success many prayers will be offered.

Two stories, which vividly illustrate the substantial identity of modern Romanism with that of bygone ages, come from France. One illustrates the unquenching greed of the Roman priesthood. The family of a poor peasant desired his interment by the priest. The latter declined alleging that he could not present himself at the cemetery because it belonged to the Protestants. He was willing, however, to attend at the house on condition of receiving fifteen francs, five francs for each kilometre of the distance from the city. Hereupon, the family applied to the Protestant minister. The other story, if true, and there seems no reason for doubting its accuracy, points at something darker than greed. "I have been repeatedly asked in the Confessional during the last few months," said a French Jesuit not long ago, "whether it is lawful to kill Loubet or not. I do not know what to answer, I do not say "Yes" and I do not say "No." In view of this extraordinary statement made to a fellow Jesuit, who can doubt the possibility in the twentieth century of political murder at the instigation of Roman ecclesiastics? It is satisfactory to be able to add that the young Jesuit to whom the statement was made was so horrified that he quitted the order.

A NEW VOLUME.

With this issue the INTELLIGENCER begins its forty-ninth volume. It is hoped to make it, at least, equal to any of its predecessors in interest and usefulness. We ask the sympathy and prayers and practical cooperation of all who love the kingdom of Christ—to extend which is the mission of the INTELLIGENCER.

THE PAST—THE FUTURE.

Retrospects and prospect are never far apart. They have many interests in common, especially when the things we contemplate, are eternal. What God has done is always a promise of what He can and will do. If the past has been good, the future, things being equal, will be even better. Has He given grace in the past, He promises both grace and glory in the days before us. He purposes that in the days to come we shall go from strength to strength. He has given life, it is with the plan and purposes that we shall also have life eternal. If he has used you in the closing year, as a fruitful laborer, it is assurance that he has not only fitted you for greater labors in the coming year, but will hold you accountable for the use of the opportunities which the New Year brings. Look to your equipment. When he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth. Do not turn away from the leading of the Spirit; for in the mercy of God, he has come to take the things of Christ and show them unto you. Make the coming year better than the last one for Christ's sake. - M.

A CONTRAST.

In the first of a series of articles on the closing century, Zion's Herald depicts a condition at the close of the eighteenth century which few fully realize. The long war of the American Revolution had produced the usual demoralizing effects of war:

Through the close alliance with France floods of most pernicious infidelity poured in. Paine's "Age of Reason," fully published in 1795, had immense influence, and was a startling sign of the times. The colleges had hardly any Christians in them. Churches were few. Bible and religious books were exceedingly rare. The standard of Christian conduct was very low. The drinking habits of all classes, ministers included, were most scandalous. The observance of the Sabbath in places not a few had nearly disappeared. Many public men in high station were open unbelievers and bitter opponents of the faith, as well as morally corrupt. The outlook was dismal in the extreme.

The moral condition of Europe was low, Napoleon was in the midst of his career, and England was straining every nerve for his overthrow. The social, civil, political, sanitary, moral and religious condition of England, though much improved over what it was when Wesley assailed it fifty years before, was still fearfully low as compared with the present. Manners were of the coarsest. Gross idleness of speech, and song, and print were rife. Profanity pervaded all classes from the king and queen down. Society clothed itself with cursing as with a garment, and found its chief adornment in immoderate drinking. There was no education to speak of, and no justice worth mentioning, available for the common people. There were 223 capital offences, and hanging went merrily on with little cessation or perceptible effect on public safety.

And this mixture of blood and grime, adds the Interior, trailed across the first quarter of the closing century. We are accustomed to dwell upon material progress, and do not remember the moral progress. The religious progress of the century may be seen by comparing the present with the condition correctly depicted in the quotation above. The century shows the church to have risen from lifeless dogmatism and formalism to self-sacrificing activity. Now, through the nerves of sympathy, mankind has become a living organism, suffering in one part of which sends pain to all parts. We are accustomed to speak of a present insensibility of the churches and of Christian society—if we were suddenly thrown back to the condition of the first of the century, good men now would despair, as good men did then, of the perpetuity of the Christian religion.

HOME RELIGIOUS NEWS.

—Rev. Mr. Calder has resigned the pastorate of the Centreville, C. Co. Baptist church.

—The Congregational church, St. John, has called Rev. R. P. Morson to the pastorate. He is expected to take charge about the middle of this month.

—Rev. E. B. McLatchy, now of Albany, N. Y., has been called to the Baptist church at Sackville. He is a native of New Brunswick.

THE PHILIPPINES.

The United States Volunteers in the Philippines are tired of the service, and anxious to get home as soon as their time expires, which will be in June. Gen. McArthur has recommended offering a bonus of \$250 to each man re-enlisting. The General has reported to the War Department that it will be necessary to maintain an army of at least 60,000 in the Philippines, and that any reduction of that number would be disastrous.

A NEW BILL.

The Canadian Department of Finance is about issuing a new four dollar note. The new note will have on its face the pictures of Lord and Lady Minto, and on the back a picture of the Parliament Buildings.

WOMEN EMPLOYES.

The number of women employed in the various branches of the British Postal service is very large. In London, Dublin and Edinburgh there are 4,336 women, including two medical officers employed. The duties of these women are varied. There are among them superintendents, clerks, telegraphers, and returners of letters. In addition to these, the small army of women in the country post offices and those employed in the smaller towns will bring the number up to about 30,000 in all. Salaries in this work are comparatively good, the work is not too exacting and there are chances to rise, hence its popularity.

A WISE GOVERNOR.

Lord Tennyson, son of the Poet Lord, who has won golden opinions as Governor of South Australia, is interesting himself particularly in the cause of the aborigines. The old blacks in the far-off, up-country parts of Australia have been subject to shocking treatment by heartless and conscienceless white men. Outrages have been committed with impunity, and in the vast northern territory of South Australia unhappily there has been no exception to this lawlessness. But through Lord Tennyson's influence there is hope that now the blacks will receive more adequate protection from the local authorities.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

The poor in New South Wales are to be given pensions. The Legislature has agreed upon an old-age-pension bill. The bill provides that every man who has resided continuously in the colony for twenty-five years and has reached the age of sixty-five years will be entitled to a pension of £65 a year. Should husband and wife be eligible each will receive £19 10s. extra. The working out of the scheme is entrusted to District Boards appointed by the government. It will be interesting to watch the working of the plan.

BICYCLES.

It is estimated that one hundred million dollars have been lost in the manufacture of bicycles in England. The figures are enormous, and it seems difficult to understand so great loss. The profits have been supposed to be large, and were large while the demand for wheels was at its highest. But the cost of manufacturing plants is so great that with the falling off in the sales of wheels, and the lower prices, the properties became almost valueless.

HELIGOLAND.

A few years ago Great Britain ceded the island of Heligoland to Germany, receiving in exchange some Zanzibar territory in East Africa. Lying near the German coast the German people strongly desired to own it; and, besides, there was an idea that it might be made an important naval station. The naval station idea has had to be abandoned, as it has been shown that the material of which the island is formed cannot withstand the heavy seas which beat upon it, and that it is gradually wearing away. Recently it was so much submerged that its present population is likely to leave it.

DR. GRANT'S LATEST.

Principal Grant, of Queen's College, Kingston, Ont., in a recent newspaper article, expresses the opinion that the Orange Free State should be given its independence. Most thoughtful people think the Orange Free State deserves even less consideration than it has received. Without any reason whatever, President Steyn and his government, representing the people, joined Kruger in his declaration of war against Great Britain. They proceeded to invade British territory, with the avowed purpose of driving the British out of Africa. They have failed in their undertaking, and they need

not expect to escape the consequences.

Dr. Grant frequently takes strange positions—so much so that some people think he is open to the suspicion of desiring notoriety.

CHAPLAIN O'LEARY.

It is reported from Ottawa that there is talk of appointing Father O'Leary chaplain of the Senate. Isn't there something else they can give him? The other chaplains who went to South Africa with the Canadian soldiers do not seem to have been offered anything. They are not Roman Catholics.

FOR MAYOR.

Alfred F. S. Spence is a candidate for Mayor of Toronto. Mr. Spence is widely known as the Secretary of the Dominion Alliance for the prohibition of the liquor traffic. His many friends in every part of the Dominion will wish him success. During his two or three years as an Alderman he has shown himself to be the ablest man in the City Council. There are three other Mayoralty candidates. The election is next Monday.

DREYFUS.

The Dreyfus case, which had the attention of the world so long, is not yet ended. Dreyfus is appealing to the Premier of France for a further inquiry. While he was pardoned, he is not satisfied, nor will he be till his innocence is legally recognized. This he will press for, he says, as long as he lives. He surely ought to have the inquiry he asks for, and the recognition he demands.

CHINA.

Slowly, but perhaps as rapidly as could be expected in dealing with such a nation, the powers are apparently bringing China to terms. The joint note upon which the powers agreed, which has been presented, requires,—

1. A special mission to Berlin headed by a Chinese Prince to apologize for the murder of the minister; and the erection of a monument at the spot where he fell, with an inscription in Latin, German and Chinese expressing the regrets of the Emperor for the murder; 2. The severest punishment of certain leaders; the suspension of all official examinations in all the cities where foreigners have been massacred or cruelly treated; and due reparation to Japan for the murder of her chancellor; 3. An expiatory monument in every desecrated cemetery; 4. No arms to be imported, and no material for the manufacture of arms; 5. Indemnities for all damages; 6. Adequate financial measures guaranteeing payment of indemnities; 7. Each power to maintain a permanent guard for its legation, and the Chinese to have no right to reside in the part of the city given over to the legations; 8. The destruction of forts between Peking and the sea, and the right to occupy certain points of vantage so as to ensure regular communication with Peking. The powers demand that the Chinese Government shall publish proclamations containing the substance of these demands and concurrences in the same; that Viceroy and Governors failing to preserve order and protect life shall be immediately removed and severely punished—that new commercial treaties be negotiated—that the court ceremonies be reformed. Until all these conditions are complied with the powers can hold out no expectation that the occupation of Peking and the province of Chih Li shall come to an end.

The latest despatches say that the Chinese plenipotentiaries have been unexpectedly ordered to sign the preliminary joint note and have notified the foreign envoys to that effect. . . . The Emperor's instructions are to agree fully to the note, but to endeavor to get the best terms possible.

SMALLPOX.

Besides the cases of smallpox in Gloucester co., parts of Westmorland county are badly effected. The number of cases reported in Westmorland is larger, and just how much more widely the disease may have been spread remains to be seen. The people of the infected districts seem to have been going to and fro with ordinary freedom—not knowing, of course, that small-pox was amongst them. The Provincial Board of Health has had a meeting, and every precaution is being taken to prevent the spread of the disease. Compulsory vaccination has been ordered in Westmorland Co; and the local board of health in other counties have been asked to urge the people generally to be vaccinated.

The law under which Chinamen entering Canada have to pay a poll tax of \$100 is now in force. The tax up to Jan. 1st was \$50. For the year ended June 30th last the revenue derived by the Dominion from the Chinese exclusion act was \$210,150, and 4,231 Chinese paid the poll tax on entering Canada.

The Duke of Norfolk heads a band of over two hundred English pilgrims who have just started for Rome, to pay homage to the Pope.

Queen Margherita, of Italy is greatly interested in opening and assisting schools, especially those that provide industrial training for girls. There are, also, several schools for the deaf and dumb, blind and crippled, to which she gives much attention.

The C. P. R. have arranged to make a complete record of its staff giving and fold. The official care of every man or woman employed by the system. All motions will be made as far as possible from the staff and by merit.

It is stated that the number of United States people settled in Great Britain is now twenty-five thousand. Ten years ago there were very few.

A theatrical company which reached Chicago lately seven of its actors secured divorces within thirty days, and a few days later more of them had made new matrimonial contracts—temporary ones, probably.

A temperance crusade is about to be begun in Honolulu, led by the W. T. U. and the Mini-tare Union.

The Queen of Holland has announced Feb. 7th., as the day of her marriage.

The congregation of Rev. Elwood Everett Hale in Boston, is a strong and wealthy one. He realizes the damage that is done by drink in Boston. He makes this proposition in "If anybody will take charge of Boston's poverty and crime which results from drunkenness, the church which I have the honor to be the pastor of will alone take charge of all the rascals of the poverty which needs reformation in the city of Boston."

It is now shown that the troubles in China originated in the South Shaantung Province where Bixers murdered two Roman Catholic missionaries, Nies and Heigl. This led to the occupation of Kiaochow by the German fleet. The R. Missionary Bishop Anzer who was killed in Europe at the time hastened to America, the German Emperor appealing for protection. The Emperor's answer was the seizure of Kiaochow, and Bishop had assured the Emperor that the was a question of life and death for his mission. The amount of \$169,000 was exacted from the Chinese as compensation for the murder. The independent says there can be no doubt the German occupation of Kiaochow was the principle cause of the outbreak.

Stockport Eng. boasts the largest Sunday School in the world, nearly 5,000 children being on the roll of the institution. The recent annual procession was a gigantic affair, old scholars travelling long distances to join in the walk.

RELIGIOUS PROGRESS IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

[PRESBYTERIAN WITNESS.] Christianity has made very notable advances during the nineteenth century. A hundred years ago the population of the world was estimated at 750,000,000. Probably the most moderate estimate was too low; for men had no idea of the immense population that time of the present population of the world is about 1,500,000,000. To-day Christians number about 500,000,000. Roughly speaking one every three of the human race is a Christian. At the beginning of the century one fourth of the human race had some knowledge of the Gospel. To-day one third have attained to that privilege. In the age of Constantine one man of every 150 was a Christian in our own age one in every 30 is a Christian.

At the beginning of the century had no Bible Society and we had few and feeble missionary societies. The world was largely closed against missionary effort. The Bible Society is nearly a century old; but principal work has been achieved in the past fifty years. Five million Bibles or portions of the Bible issued last year by this great Society and it is got likely that the number of its annual issues will be lessened. Private publishers continue to issue Bibles in very large and varied editions. We may say without hesitation that we have the Sacred Scriptures had so a circulation. What lends additional interest to the fact is that the circulation is to a very considerable extent into languages into which the Scriptures have been translated for the first time. These new translations are going continuously. No year passes without the addition of from five to ten versions of the Scriptures.

Missionaries and colporteurs carrying the written words in languages understood of the people, earth's remotest bounds. — A month ago it might be said with truth that the world was open to the Bible and to the missionary. The late break in China has for the time withdrawn that country from the field for Christian effort. Doubtless the set-back is but temporary. China will soon be freer than ever.

At the close of the first Christian century the Christians numbered about 200,000. That small body forward to the conquest of the world and now at the close of the Nineteenth Century we may well look forward with abounding confidence to ultimate complete and early victory. Doubtless the two hundred thousand Christians at the end of the first century purer metal than our five hundred millions of today. Yet let us close our eyes to the fact that our thousands of men and women are proving themselves faithful unto death and joyfully encountering situations less terrible than those which surrounded the victims of Jewish and Roman persecutions. The facilities for