

TERMS AND NOTICES.

The RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER is issued on Wednesday, from the office of publication, 107 St. Frederick St. N. B.

\$1.50 a year in advance. If not paid in advance the price is \$2.00 at the end of the year.

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Religious Intelligencer.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 29TH, 1901.

Some city churches, whose audience rooms are in the second story, are proposing to put in elevators for the accommodation of the old and feeble. There are, perhaps, a few churches which need this addition; but there are more churches that need elevators of another kind. They need something to elevate their moral standard, and their standard of religious life.

In a recent sermon the archbishop of Canterbury said he wished all the ministers of the Church of England to marry. He believed they would be much more useful. Ministers of other denominations may profitably take the archbishop's advice. He suggested that one reason why so many ministers remained unmarried was the inadequate support given by many churches. In this, too, there is a needed hint for churches of all denominations.

That school teacher has been widely heard of who, having failed to correctly answer a number of geographical questions, was at last asked whether the world is round or flat. He answered that he was not quite sure, but was prepared to teach "either round or flat," as the school Board desired. It is said that there are preachers who are careful to say only such things as certain members of their congregations desire. They cannot, perhaps, be classed with the teacher in ignorance, though that would be more to their credit than the reason that does influence their action.

Speaking of the growing disposition to neglect the Sunday morning service in the churches, Dr. Hillis of Plymouth church, suggests that a Saturday half-holiday would help to better Sunday observance. Nowadays the average man, he thinks, is on Sunday very tired after six days of high-pressure work, and finds it easy to lie in bed or lounge about the house. The Saturday half holiday idea is well enough because men are hard worked; but it is possible that it might not prove a great promoter of church attendance. In many cases it would be spent in a way quite as exhausting as hard work, and demoralizing besides.

A representative of the Anglo-Israel Association of England, Rev. J. Idrisyn Jones, is in St. John. He has been at several points in Canada, and prior to coming into our country he spent several months visiting the West Indies and the western and southern states. His mission is to unfold the Anglo-Israel theory—to explain why the British Empire is so great, and to set forth the reasons why it must become vastly greater and dominate the world, as the Anglo-Israelites believe is predicted in the Scriptures. He preached in the Centenary (Methodist) church Sunday evening, and lectured on Anglo-Israelism in the schoolroom of the Stone church (Episcopal) Monday evening. It is intimated that he will probably visit this city before leaving the Province.

It is sometimes mentioned as something not quite creditable to the church that the attendance of women, especially at prayer meetings, is much larger than the attendance of men. The disproportion is variously accounted for. The chief reason is that women are more religious than men. This, in the opinion of certain people, is not to the credit of religion, which, they argue, suits the weak better than the strong—for they assume that men are the strong. An ex-Governor

of Kansas gives a leaf from his experience, which points in the other direction. He says,—"I made a speech not long ago to an audience of one thousand people composed of 991 men and 9 women. It was inside a penitentiary. The next week I attended a prayer-meeting where there were fifty-one women and five men. I could not help thinking if we should put the two meetings together and compare them what the lesson would be."

The antagonism between the Protestant and Roman Catholic population of Germany threatens to become again acute. A new Evangelical society has been formed, with headquarters in various parts of the Empire, and led by influential clerics and laymen, which has its avowed object active propagandist and mission work among the Catholics. It is their desire to give greater attention than heretofore to the circulation of the Scriptures and Protestant literature among Romanists, and to support with religious instruction isolated Protestant families scattered in Roman Catholic districts. In addition the new society will keep its eyes on those households where father and mother belong to different religious denominations in order that the Romish Church may be checked in its exertions to gather in all the children of such marriages. Finally, the society will seek to awaken the feeling of responsibility among German Protestants for the spiritual well-being of their Catholic compatriots. The new society has held several largely-attended public meetings in Berlin and other large cities, and is promised valuable monetary support. It is not to be wondered at that the priests have raised loud protests. The Catholics and Ultramontane press have broken out into ill-suppressed rage at this forward movement, and threaten reprisals. They threaten to form a Catholic Society which will aim at converting Protestants to Romanism, and to employ colporteurs for the circulation of Catholic literature in Protestant districts.

DISTRICT MEETINGS.

The time of holding the annual meetings of the Districts is near at hand. The first one to be held is that of the Second District, which convenes at Lower Brighton, C. Co., on the third Friday in June. Four others will follow in quick succession, and two do not assemble till September. The places and dates of the meetings are announced on another page.

The District Meetings are important—more important than, perhaps, is understood by many. The churches report to them. Each church report is expected to be not only a statistical statement, showing the money raised, the increase or decrease of members, and the like, but to show, as far as possible, the actual condition of the church—the state of its spiritual life, its progress, its prospect and its needs. The District Meetings are expected to give careful and earnest consideration to all the facts brought before them, and to adapt help wherever needed.

Sometimes the Meetings are at a loss to know what to do for lack of information. This the churches should remedy by giving the fullest possible statement of facts bearing on every feature of church life.

Sometimes, when there are all the facts necessary to make the meetings fully acquainted with church conditions and needs, and to make clear that help is imperative, less attention is given than is required because of the great hurry of the members. There has been a noticeable improvement in this respect in late years, in some Districts; but there is room for still more improvement.

Matters touching church life and the condition and needs of the cause generally are of too great importance to be hurriedly dealt with. God entrusts them to us, and He expects us to give our best thought to them, and all the time that is required to properly deal with them.

It is hoped that this year there will be a report from every church, that every church will be represented by delegates, and that sufficient time will be given to the matters that come before the District meetings to insure the fullest help to the features of the work which need.

Amidst the business of an annual meeting there is danger that the devotional meetings may be few and hurried. This is a mistake. Ample time should be given for preaching and for prayer and praise meetings. Above everything there needs to be provision for the quickening and cultivation of the spiritual life. Business will not suffer where this is done; instead, business is likely to be more readily done, and with better effect. If the spiritual life is allowed to flag, every feature of the

work suffers. In the churches there should be prayer for the District meetings—that the Lord will manifest His presence in them, and make them seasons of spiritual quickening and power.

THE GOTHENBERG SYSTEM.

III. Drunkenness.

One condemnation of the Gothenberg system—and a very strong one, is the increase of drunkenness under it. Several years before the inauguration of the system arrests for drunkenness began to decrease, doubtless due, in part at least, to the earnest temperance agitation carried on at that time. In the ten years immediately preceding the adoption of the company system arrests for drunkenness in Gothenberg City had fallen from eighty per thousand to forty-five per thousand. Since then, under the company system, the general tendency has been upward. The first five years there was an encouraging decrease; but since 1870 the increase has been steady, till in 1899 the recorded arrests for drunkenness were slightly more than double what they were in 1870. Thirty years experience of a system which its advocates declare can and does more effectively control the liquor traffic than any other, ought to show something better than a doubling of the recorded drunkenness. Canadian and United States cities, under license, do not furnish such records of drunkenness as does Gothenberg, where, in 1899, fifty-four per thousand of the population were locked-up by the police for being drunk. That all who are drunk under this beneficent system are not arrested is very evident. So anxious are the authorities of Stockholm to have the victims of their system get home safely that special provision has been made for the out-of-town residents who imbibe freely. All the suburban trains are now required to provide special cars for drunken passengers. No license system, nor free rum sale system, could make more drunkards than the Gothenberg.

That the Sabbath sales are large—and quite effective too, is shown by the fact that in one year in Gothenberg six hundred and thirty-three Sunday drunks were arrested. This number is only slightly smaller than on some other days of the week, except Saturday. That the number is smaller at all is due to the fact that during part of Sunday the drink shops are closed. A gentleman who spent some time in Gothenberg about a year ago, says:

"I shall never forget my Sabbath in Gothenberg. Every shop was closed. I could not get a newspaper. A cigar store could have been entered only with a jimmy. The church bells rang out in the beautiful Swedish morning and the populace crowded the houses of worship. Had I gone to bed at sundown, I would have dreamed that I was in a New England village strewn knee deep with piety—but I didn't. At dusk, the city transformed itself into another character. Open flew the doors of the beer shops and the red lights were hung on the outer wall. The innocent beer shops became houses of assignation, thronged by every age from short dresses to grey hairs. One young girl crazed with drink ran screeching down the street. From a street corner, I saw, at the same time, four different groups sucking from bottles. Until the wee hours of the morning did this alcoholic hilarity continue. I have never seen an orgy in America that would equal it, save on the occasion of a political convention or of some unusual event.

The record of delirium tremens in Gothenberg is quite startling. Statistics for the past eleven years show that there has been almost alarming increase in the number of cases. In 1888 there were fifty-nine cases recorded, in 1898 there were two hundred and thirty-five cases—the number per thousand of the population increasing more than three fold. The much-lauded system has evidently not solved the "snakes" problem in the city of its birth. It is difficult to imagine any plan of dealing with the drink traffic which can produce more drunkenness and delirium tremens than are credited to the Gothenberg system even in records which are made by friends of the system.

PERSONAL.—Mrs. F. C. Hartley, was understood to be progressing towards recovery, took a turn for the worse Saturday, and her life has been despaired of. At this writing (Monday) her condition is encouraging.

ADVERTISING.—A firm in Philadelphia pays the Daily Record of that city \$112,500 for a one page advertisement daily a year.

Dr. Mackay, the Canadian missionary of the Presbyterian church, in charge of the mission work in Formosa, is said to be critically ill with affection of the throat.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

A MISTAKE.

That was a mistake about the King having chosen May 24th., to be observed as his birthday. What he suggested was that Queen Victoria's birthday should be observed as usual, or that the officials should not be deprived of their holiday.

DRIVING THEM OUT.

A convent of Carmelite nuns in the City of Mexico has been broken up by the authorities. It is believed to be the beginning of a movement all over Mexico to drive out the monks and nuns.

ROAD-MAKING.

In Eastern Ontario the farmers are to be given lessons in up-to-date road-making. A lot of road-making machinery will be taken to different points, and in the hands of experts be used to construct samples of proper highways. The Railways have agreed to assist the movement by giving transportation. Mr. Campbell, the deputy commissioner of public works in Ontario, is to deliver a series of addresses on how the work should be done. A similar campaign needs to be undertaken in this province.

A RUM CONVENTION.

The rumsellers of Ontario are to have a convention at Barrie, June 25-26. It is the eighth annual meeting of License Holders' Association of that Province. The convention to be held next month will be the most important meeting yet held. Every part of the Province will be represented, and the meeting will be chiefly occupied in making preparations for the approaching Provincial election. The men are wise in their generation. They do not allow party politics to make them forget what they call their "interest." They stand together in support of the men, of whatever party, who can be depended on to help them in keeping their traffic from uncomfortable and unprofitable restrictions. Temperance people will accomplish something worth while when they stand together with equal loyalty to the temperance cause.

TAKING STRONGER GROUND.

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Iowa is taking stronger ground against the liquor traffic. In a recent confirmation address he spoke in earnest warning against the evils of the drink habit. He said he intended to prevent Catholics engaging in the liquor traffic. Concerning the line of action he intended to take he said,—"Up to the present time the only argument I have advanced in support of my view on temperance has been moral suasion, by word and example. If, however, in the near future, this shall prove inadequate to the obtaining of the end in view, it is my intention to instruct my priests not to administer the sacraments of the church to those engaged in the liquor business, a business inconsistent with the name and practices of Catholicity. Therefore, no Catholic should engage in the liquor business."

It is very gratifying to find a Roman Catholic dignitary taking the position of this archbishop. If all bishops and priests would use their influence and authority against the liquor traffic there would be a marked change very soon. A large proportion of liquor dealers the country over are Roman Catholics. Perhaps one reason why they are tolerated by their religious teachers is that they are fairly liberal contributors to the Church.

THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

The Journal and Messenger points out that the estimate of the cost of the Nicaragua canal increases each time one is made. The original estimate was \$60,000,000; the latest one is \$210,000,000. This is, however, for a canal much larger than was proposed years ago, when the matter was first discussed. The size of ocean vessels has increased, and it would be foolish to make a ditch which will not float the largest ship on the ocean when the canal is done. We have probably nearly reached the limit of profitable increase in size of ocean-going vessels. The canal may cost twice the present estimate, perhaps \$400,000,000.

JAPAN'S NAVY.

Japan will soon be the strongest naval power in the far east. Four new war ships have lately been acquired. In mere tonnage alone the four new vessels surpass the total tonnage of the eleven Japanese or the twelve Chinese ships that were present at the great sea fight in the Yellow Sea. On that occasion the Japanese had a tonnage of 36,376 tons engaged, while the Chinese fleet footed up to 35,515 tons. In case of hostilities the Japanese could

now put eight vessels in the line of battle. In a short time five more ships will be added to the fleet.

THE ENUMERATORS' PAY.

There is some dissatisfaction amongst the census enumerators about their pay. They say they had the assurance of \$3.00 a day of eight hours. When the work was about done they received intimation that they would be paid at the rate of five cents a name. In many cases of sparsely settled districts and small families the enumerators would receive but small pay at the five cents rate. The arrangement is understood to have been made principally to suit the enumerators in Quebec, where the families are large, and the five cents per head would be better than \$3.00 a day. The dissatisfied enumerators have made vigorous protest, and the Minister in charge of the Census has issued a letter to the Commissioner which practically promises the \$3.00 a day to those who could not earn that much at the five cents rate, while those whose pay will be larger by the latter rate will get it.

RUSSIAN SUBSIDIES.

It is believed by leading newspaper men that a number of United States newspapers are regularly and quite heavily subsidized by the Russian government. The subsidized papers do all they can to give the impression of cordial relations between Russia and the United States, and to create good feeling towards Russia, and against Great Britain.

NARROW ESCAPE.

The King had a narrow escape from death last Wednesday. He was on board the Yacht Shamrock II, when a squall struck her and carried away masts and everything above deck. The wonder is that the falling spars and sweeping sails did not kill or carry somebody overboard.

GERMANS IN BRAZIL.

There are, according to a recent estimate, 240,000 Germans in southern Brazil. They are industrious and thrifty, and are acquiring much commercial importance and influence. This colonizing process is one way by which Germany may secure the influence in South America which she is credited with desiring.

A syndicate in Rome proposes to send 30,000 Italians to Brazil. They have usually been shipped to the United States, and if the current of undesirable Italians can be turned toward Brazil it will be greatly to the advantage of the United States.

Street cars in Oakland, California, are to be run by electric power generated at falls on the Yuba River, 140 miles away. This is said to be the furthest transmission of electric power in the world.

There is some comfort in the announcement that the notable fraud Alexander Dowie of Chicago is being found out by his dupes. He has proved himself a culpable and very cruel humbug, and he is unworthy of respect or confidence.

COBB DIVINITY SCHOOL.

REV. E. CROWELL'S SERMON.

The sixty-first anniversary of Cobb Divinity School (Free Baptist), Lewiston, Me., was observed on the 12th inst. The sermon before the graduating class was preached by Rev. Edwin Crowell M. A., of Yarmouth, N. S. The following is a sketch of the sermon:

"The Lord hath chosen thee to build a house for the sanctuary, therefore be strong." (I Chron. 28:10.) This is an Old Testament example showing the nature of the divinity students' work. It is experience which speaks through David, and even the great King has no better message for his Son than what came by divine revelation. The stages of preparation and work overlap in the preacher's life like the planks of the clinker built craft of the earlier times. The church hands down its experience, and the speaker was as one who came back from the field after a score of years to pronounce a benediction upon the institution.

The task of Solomon was of national importance for the ark of God was unworthily housed. The holy place of the tabernacle contained those things which were symbols of Christ's work of redemption; the holy of holies those things which invited indirect relations with God for grace, mercy, truth and holiness. But David might not build a house for he was a "man of blood" and an old house honestly maintained is better than that, an old prophet with Christ in his soul better than a young one without.

The great lesson is the reality and paramount importance of the spiritual

life. The world is to-day surging against the spiritual restraints set by God. The tendencies are pagan and materialistic as shown by art, science and business enterprise. The mission is to follow David and Elijah in shrining the spiritual. Heathen altars had their visible deities but the tabernacle had none. God is a spirit.

It is not necessary to be a scientist to know the spiritual. What the Lord hid from the wise and prudent he revealed unto babes. The sailor boy may see the moon, as far as the admiral can, and her tidal influence will lift the both in the ship over the dangers below.

The Old Testament doctrine as well as the New showed that the house for the sanctuary was the church; in the hearts God desired to dwell and the Christian soul may entertain the spirit of God as loyally as a noble entertains his king.

The objection of the unspiritual man is not sufficient as against the testimony of those who know God. The fact of our spiritual capacities, in which the spirit of God may have recognition; the claim and proofs that contact of the human and divine God's way restores the soul, the lustre of house and sanctuary nature all confirm the spiritual man's position. We should then be jealous of any interference with our relations with God, as men in trade government are jealous of all things severing them from the objects of their interest.

The speaker used the Auer burner show how the spiritual transcends the natural as the burning away of the cotton fabric left the metal mantle, with properties of incandescence and im destructibility and with the form given in its cruder stage. When the soul aglow with spiritual light it carried the purpose of God. But it is an anything to break off intercourse with God. This was to repeat the original and to shut out the God spirit from hearts.

The teachings of Jesus to the world of Samaria and to Nicodemus was quoted to show the spiritual life indispensable.

First of all to make a house the must be dedication and this is true the soul. God seeks a residence in you and His Son is the corner stone of which all must build. You will tempted to promote your cause by peals to lower and worldly interests but "as no other foundation can be than is laid" tell men the truth of Jesus. Mere reformation of habits not enough; to be His sanctuary as be our transcendent honor.

How then shall we build? According to the pattern shown in the vision on the Mount. Moses himself not allowed to modify the plan of vation, nor did Solomon's Temple a porch to honor Moses. This is of saving souls is too delicate to low of human patching or original. The world by its wisdom knew not of it. As well ignore level or square or plumb line as the pattern of Jesus' life worth. Therefore the first duty of a gospel minister is to study the Old and like the artist to hold to the term of the ancient house.

The church has not been granted cretionary powers but a pattern. Keep and lay your foundation solid. If the Free Baptist church was built at first, honor it and let work be in keeping with the original plan.

In fine, while it may seem a personal distinction to engrave an idea upon the old trunk of the church or it may win applause to make a new one that will depend upon minister. That will be no suitable abode for King of Glory, "the servant is above his master." The aim of church is to glorify God, to make house for his sanctuary.

Especially I would commend work which wins the young for Christ. The plastic mind is shaped more by this but this must be done not by dogmatism but by persuasion. Our Lord the unsophisticated Galileans but than the learned Judeans.

Let us cultivate by our example invite by our rising above the ways and ideals to those of the Kingdom of Heaven—this shy and fast but absolutely necessary guest spirit of God.

Add your personal weight, your vital force to the wisdom and power of God has arrayed to win the world. Him. Ye are holy. God's holy. The things of God are holy. human life is to be won for free self-dedication to the cause of Christ.

Which shall win? The earthly or the spiritual and eternal? The cause is of rightness and of grace and favor, shown in the of holies and inviting us to discipleship with God through Him. blood was sprinkled on the mercy. Shall we keep up the good work of our Father and His house and rewards not in so many penny but in the inheritance promised.