

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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

\$1.50 a year in advance.

If not paid in advance the price is \$2.00 at New subscriptions may begin at any time.

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Religious Intelligencer.

REV. JOSEPH McLEOD, D.D., ... EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24TH, 1901.

Character has in these days a commercial value. But that is the lowest view to take of its value.

During the last half-century about three millions Irish Catholics have settled in the United States. It is doubtful, though, whether the Catholic church in the United States has held the original number, not to say anything of the natural increase.

The Roman Catholic church in Cuba used to get over a quarter of a million of dollars a year from the public treasury when Spain ruled there. Not receiving it now, the bishop of Havana is in sore straits, and is selling church property to get needed money.

The decline of Roman Catholicism in Ireland as appears from the census returns, is greater than can be accounted for by the exodus of the people. The Methodist body is the only one in Ireland which shows an increase of numbers in the last ten years.

This is from a Jewish paper but it is a truth that Christians need to have in mind: No machinery of worship however vast, no service, however impressive, no custom however ancient, no pomp however gorgeous, no liturgy however beautiful, no feast or fast however historical, no prayer or confession however oft repeated, can ever take the place of faith, conscience, conduct, and character. They must never supplant the spiritual life of the individual.

Rev. G. Campbell Morgan, the English minister who has taken charge of a part of Mr. Moody's work at Northfield, had an experience in the beginning of his ministry that may be encouraging to some struggling and fearful young man. Applying to a Methodist Conference for admission as a preacher, he was, according to custom asked to preach a trial sermon. He did so poorly, in the judgment of the Conference, that he was not received. The incident teaches, also, that it is not well to judge hastily of the capabilities of a young man.

The Emperor of Germany likes short sermons better than long ones. Recently he dismissed from his position as chaplain of the garrison church one of the most popular preachers in Berlin, because he preached "too long." The Emperor had previously directed the preacher to shorten his sermons; but, evidently believing he ought himself to determine such a matter, he preached as usual—and got his dismissal. The Emperor, as any other man, has a right to prefer a short sermon, but neither he nor any other man has a right to order any preacher about the length of time he shall preach. It was not pleasant to be dismissed, but it was better than to submit to the dictation—even that of an emperor.

SUGGESTIONS.

We venture to ask that between now and Conference time each Free Baptist pastor do some special service for the INTELLIGENCER. Perhaps some one will ask what we do. Let us make three suggestions:

- 1. Send brief and interesting communications, say at least four. Anything good?
2. Speak personally to a few who do not take it and who should.
3. Send us a list of names of those who do not take the INTELLIGENCER and who should.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

Sunday may be said to be a British national, as well as a Christian institution. It cannot be disputed that in Great Britain, and also in other parts of the empire, the Sabbath is observed as in no other part of the world. Even in the United States the continental Sunday idea is fast gaining ground. A great part of, and in some places the entire day is made a time of recreation. England has aimed to keep the institution intact and has succeeded in a great degree. Sunday newspaper project have met with such small favors as to compel the promoters to abandon them.

What is Canada doing to keep the Sabbath sacred?

The people as a whole cherish a regard for the Sabbath, and far and wide they have been distinguished and commended for their observance of it. The nation is a Sabbath keeping nation.

Their reason for this may be changed. Some changes have already taken place, which indicate a changed feeling, and which may have a wide spread bad influence. Some of the most prominent citizens of Canada have set the bad example, of changing its Sabbath from a day of rest and devotion to a day for making extensive excursions. If this thing continues, and the public conscience becomes educated to the idea, we are on the road to Spain, and bull-fights—and more! When God's institutions are disregarded we are on the road to decay as a nation.

A nation cannot do without high moral standards any more safely than an individual can. The worth and strength of a nation consists in moral character more than in material possessions. The nations of the past are judged, not by their military prowess, or their wealth, but by the moral ideal they embodied in their civilization. Not only that, but their life is seen to have depended upon the latter.

Morality is embodied in the Christian life which the church fosters, and the church is dependent upon a well-observed Christian Sabbath. It can thus be seen that the Christian Sabbath, as an institution, is connected with all the other pillars that support the great superstructure of Christian civilization.

OBSTACLES.

Miss Keller recently said—and she is an illustration of her own wise words—that "obstacles are opportunities." To Joshua this word was given: "Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." And obstacles vanished.

Much is being said and being done to enhance the material prosperity of this Dominion. Obstacle after obstacle is being overcome. The forces of nature, as never before, are being harnessed in the service of man. It is spoken of as the time of expansion, and nation building. But, inside the house are two very marked obstacles, and the wonder is why they are permitted year in and year out to block the real progress of the nation! The base and destructive liquor traffic, by consent of thoughtful men, is an incubus on the good energies of the nation. It is a despoiler, a defamer, and a destroyer. Curbed or uncurbed, sanctioned in any form, its existence is a menace to the weal of the people, and an enemy of righteousness.

Then, within the house of the nation, fattening, growing year by year, is the deadly menace of political corruption. It is an obstacle to honest expression of opinion. Rights are made a question of barter, and positions are secured by cash. People are bought to be sold. All this flaunts itself in the face of decency, law and righteousness.

The evil thing is so common that men take account of the cost of those in the market for sale. In many cases ability and service count but little against cash or other sordid consideration.

These baneful obstacles exist really by consent of the Christian people of this land. They are blocks in the path of righteousness, which only can "exalt a nation." To say they cannot be moved out of the onward path of the nation's progress is to discredit the claims of the Kingdom, and the power of our King.

Surely, as a Christian people, more intently and insistently we should rise to the measure of our opportunities, and seek to end that which so darkens and hinders the best national life and development. The measure of our opportunity, is the measure of our responsibility.

Prof. Dixon of the University of New Brunswick has been asked to accept a professorship in Dalhousie College, Halifax.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

THE CENSUS.

It is announced from Ottawa that the Census figures relating to the population of the cities and towns are complete. They will not be made public, it is said, till Mr. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, returns from England.

ALLEGED CONSPIRACY.

A Paris correspondent of a London paper says there is a conspiracy to overthrow the French republic and restore the Empire with Prince Louis Napoleon as Emperor. That there is in many a strong desire for something of this kind there is no doubt, but that there is a conspiracy of serious proportions is doubtful.

CHARGED WITH LIBEL.

The editor of the Hartland Advertiser is charged with defamatory libel by George L. Freeman, of Bridgewater, Me. The Advertiser, a few weeks ago, published a report to the effect that Mrs. Freeman had made a confession charging her husband with having committed a serious crime some thirty years ago. The case will be tried in Woodstock at the October court.

ADDRESSES.

The addresses usually presented to distinguished persons must be a good deal of a nuisance to them. It is announced that it is intended to discourage the indiscriminate presentation of addresses to the Duke of Cornwall and York in order that the time of the royal party may be economized as much as possible. It is a strict rule, from which there will be no deviation, that no address can be presented to his royal highness unless a copy of it is first sent to the Government House, Ottawa, well in advance of the duke's arrival, in order that its terms may be scrutinized and approved. In very few instances, probably only in the leading cities, will civic addresses be read. Others will be "taken as read," and when a number are presented in any one city, the duke will make but one reply.

TEMPERANCE RESOLUTIONS.

The N. B. Southern Baptist Association passed the following resolutions at its recent session:

- 1. That the churches absolutely refuse to consider any application for church membership where the applicant is not known as a total abstainer from all that intoxicates.
2. That a temperance department such as that adopted by the Provincial Sunday-school Association be introduced into all our Sunday schools.
3. That pastors be requested to preach at least one sermon to their respective congregations during the year on the relation of the church to the prohibition of the liquor traffic, or a kindred subject.
4. That strenuous effort be made to secure every possible advantage through existing laws and political agencies for the further suppression of the traffic in strong drink and the ultimate triumph of the Temperance cause.

THE CORONATION OATH.

A committee of the House of Lords to whom was entrusted the question of the change in the coronation oath requested by Roman Catholics have made a report and recommendation as follows:

"That the declaration required of the sovereign on his accession by the Bill of Rights can be modified advantageously, and for the future should be as follows, viz.:

I, by the grace of God, King (or Queen) of Great Britain and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, do solemnly and sincerely, in the presence of God, profess, testify and declare that I do believe that in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper there is not any transubstantiation of the elements of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ at or after the consecration thereof by any person whatsoever. And I do believe that the invocation or adoration of the Virgin Mary or any saint, and the sacrifice of the mass as they are now used in the Church of Rome are contrary to the Protestant religion. And I do solemnly in the presence of God, profess, testify, and declare that I do make this declaration, and every part thereof unreservedly."

The report has not yet been adopted, and may never be.

A YOUNG VICTIM.

James Scully, 14 years old, is in Bellevue Hospital New York, where he may die from the effects of drinking a large quantity of whiskey. The boy said he was a son of James Sully, who lives at No. 545 Second avenue; that for three days he had very little to eat, and that he had gone out to beg food. In some place which was strange to him a man had given him a quart bottle of whiskey, he said, and he had swallowed it all.

Is the traffic in such stuff to be quietly tolerated, or energetically fought against? Christian people have the responsibility of answering this question.

OUR MONEY ABROAD.

The people of the United States do not take our money as a medium of

exchange. We know of cases in which Canadian money, as good as gold, was refused with an added insult. They are only illustrations of the ignorance of the U. S. people in matters Canadian. The American will learn some day that time is on our side, as it has been with all nations of the north, and that if they will not voluntarily inform themselves on things Canadian and be reasonable to-day, they will be compelled to to-morrow. It may be well for information's sake, as it will be gratifying to our people, to add the following authoritative statement:

Apart altogether from the question of the superiority of our banking regulations, and the most eminent financiers at home and abroad are a unit in the opinion that they are superior to any in the world, the note circulation of all Canadian banks is absolutely guaranteed. Under the Dominion banking law, each bank has to deposit at Ottawa an amount equal to 5 per cent. of its note circulation, and as the latter increases so does the deposit in like proportion. This fund, made up by all banks in the country, is held by the Dominion government as a guarantee fund to protect the note circulation of all. So that if a bank failed to-day in Canada, without a single dollar of assets, its notes would be cashed at par. It will be seen at a glance why this is so. The 5 per cent. paid in by each bank makes a fund probably equal to the largest note circulation of any Canadian bank. The only contingency where there could be any doubt would be the failure of a number of the largest banking institutions of the country. And to protect against such a contingency there is another wise provision of the Dominion Banking Act, that the note circulation is the first lien on the assets. So that it is practically impossible to conceive of a case in which the note circulation is not absolutely protected.

THE CENSUS.

While it is too soon to criticize the census, as the results are not yet officially announced, the Presbyterian Witness points out that it is very greatly to be regretted that the enumeration of our people has not been made on the British system, with the resolve to ascertain the actual number of people in the country. The census taken heretofore has been on every occasion on the so-called de jure plan. Everyone was counted that belonged to the house or family although he should be a dweller in Mesopotamia or Pennsylvania, or Africa. The true system is to enumerate those and only those who are actually resident in the country when the census is taken. Should any grave results depend on the census, it is surely most desirable that there should be no room for disputing the correctness of the numbering. We know that as a result of the census of 1891 the Maritime Provinces lost two representatives. It is said that they are to lose another as the result of the census of 1901; and Ontario, it is said will lose three. There may be no just ground for suspicion or complaint, but the system we have unwisely adopted, of counting absentees, makes errors almost inevitable and therefore leaves the way open to suspicion. The Romans arranged for taking a census of the empire every five years. France and other countries have a quinquennial census. It might be well for us to fall into line, and certainly we ought to adopt the de facto principle.

BRITAIN'S PRISONS.

The latest report of the Commissioners of Prisons in Great Britain shows a gratifying decrease of crime. The prisoners at the close of the last year were 16,593 fewer than at the close of the previous year. During the last twenty years there has been a gradual decrease. The report of the chaplain in charge of educational and religious work among prisoners shows that the number of children who find their way to prison is gradually diminishing, and that the moral condition of the young in the slums of the manufacturing cities has been greatly improved by benevolent societies. "But in all cases of children convicted of crime," the report says, "the root of the evil is found at home." "Drunkards are getting worse than ever," continues the report. "The majority of prisoners owe their degradation to drink, and imprisonment has no effect upon them. The chief cause of crime is excessive drinking and the common cause of assaults. The sin of drunkenness is not decreasing among women. One-third of the women in prison owe their imprisonment to drink."

MONTREAL LIGHT.

How they do things in Montreal is shown in this incident: Two lighting

companies tendered for street lighting. One asked \$54 per lamp, the other \$95. The aldermen wanted to give the contract to the higher tenderer; but as the people waxed warm on the subject, this project was dropped, and new tenders were called for. Says the Kingston Whig: "An incident in connection with the event demands attention. The French-Canadian members of the Council were called into caucus, and invited to support the higher tenders because certain of their compatriots were financially interested in it. And enough of them appear to have done pretty much as they were expected. Race should have no part in determining this matter, and the performance of these French-Canadians is very suspicious. It may not be just to say that they are more corrupt than the English members, but they will be judged by circumstances, and called strictly to account in the coming elections. Of course this threat has no terrors for some men. They have done strange things before, and the people seem to have condoned them."

The State of New York has at the present time, in round numbers 22,000 insane patients under care, which implies an original capital outlay of \$20,000,000 for hospitals and their equipments, and an annual expenditure of \$5,000,000 for the care and treatment of the inmates.

An engine on the Canada Atlantic, in a run from South Indian to Ottawa, traveled at the rate of 92 miles per hour.

The statue of the late Alexander Mackenzie was placed in position on Parliament hill, Ottawa, on Thursday. The pedestal is 14 feet high and the statue nine feet.

The Ecuadorian consul general in Valparaiso, A. Arias Sanchez, was assassinated in the centre of that city. He was shot and stabbed and his ears were cut off.

The New Zealand commission, which has been engaged for four months in taking evidence with regard to the advisability of that colony joining the Australian commonwealth, has reported adversely to the proposal.

THE GOSPEL IN ITALY.

The Baptist Argus reports that there are especially interesting and encouraging indications in Gospel work in Italy. Within the past five months there has been an almost spontaneous movement towards the Gospel in three widely separated communities, distant also from any evangelical church. From each of these communities has come calls for a preacher. Of course the most violent opposition has been awakened, but it has not been able to arrest the work.

An accidental proof that Christian labor has not been in vain and that it is full of promise, may be seen in the evident solicitude of the adversary. His fortress is immensely strong, but he cannot help seeing how many breaches are made in it. Various incidental and outside measures are being used by some, and we rejoice in every effort for pulling down the strongholds of Satan. We, however, are restricting our work to preaching the Gospel, Sunday-school and colportage, keeping thus as near as possible to apostolic example.

LIVINGSTONE.

BY REV. THEODORE L. CUYLER, D. D. In the centre of the nave of Westminster Abbey is a large dark slab that bears this beautiful inscription:

BROUGHT BY FAITHFUL HANDS OVER LAND AND SEA, HERE RESTS DAVID LIVINGSTONE, MISSIONARY, TRAVELLER, PHILANTHROPIST, BORN MARCH 10, 1813, AT BLANTYRE, LANARKSHIRE. DIED MAY 4, 1873, AT CHITAMBORA VILLAGE, ILALA.

For thirty years his life was spent in an unweary effort to evangelize the native races, to explore the undiscovered secrets, and abolish the desolating slave trade of Central Africa—where with his last words he wrote, "All I can say in my solitude is, May heaven's richest blessings come down on every one, American, English or Turk, who will help to heal this open sore of the world."

The condensed biography of one of the most sublimely heroic characters in Christian history is written on that slab, beside which more visitors gather than about any other tomb in the Abbey. Sir Isaac Newton's ashes slumber a few feet away. How appropriate that these two great discoverers, who brought their trophies and laid them at the feet of their Lord and Saviour, should repose together in that "temple of silence and reconciliation!" Livingstone came of the stuff heroes are made of. His God-fearing father, Neil Livingstone, could have sat for

the portrait of the pious peasant in Burns' poem of the Cottar's Saturday Night. His mother was of a sweet spirit—delicate and slender in person with a remarkable beauty in her eyes. She lived to rejoice in the fame of her illustrious son. At the age of ten David was put to work as a "piecer" in a cotton factory, and was soon promoted to be a spinner. The first halcyon he earned he brought home and laid in his mother's lap. There is much in the humble and godly parentage and early history of the most famous of living missionaries, John G. Paton, that resembles the boyhood of Livingstone. They were both cradled on the rocks, and both fed with the strong meat of God's Word.

David Livingstone was converted at the age of twenty, and at once the missionary spirit began to burn within him. The spark that kindled the flame was Gutzlaff's "Appeal to China." His first desire was to labor in China, but the Master had other work for him; and the way in which he was led to it was one of the beautiful illustrations of a special guidance. Providence. Robert Moffat, the celebrated South African missionary, was on a visit to England, and had occasion to call at a boarding house in London where some young missionaries were lodging. Livingstone sat and listened to Moffat's talk about Africa, asked several questions, and finally said, "Would I do for Africa?" The reply was, Yes, if he would go into some new and unexplored region. The decision was instantly made. On the 8th of December, 1840, Livingstone sailed for South Africa; and four years afterwards he was married to Mary Moffat, the daughter of the man who had first led his thoughts toward the Dark Continent.

In this brief article it is impossible to trace the marvellous career of the greatest of modern missionaries through the thirty-three years of his travels, his toils and his triumphs. No room from the pen of Walter Scott compares with it in startling events and thrilling interest. He travelled twenty-two thousand miles in Africa, and added about one million of square miles to the known part of our globe! He discovered Lakes Nyassa, Ngami and Bangweolo, the Upper Zambesi, and the wonderful Victoria Falls, and more to unlock the secrets of the Dark Continent than any previous explorer. He turned the lightnings of his wrath upon the abominations of slave trade. He performed his heroic marches when often suffering from fevers, or when his sturdy frame was tortured with pain.

Incidentally he has left some valuable testimonies in favor of his abstinance from alcoholic stimulants for his father was a zealous teetotalist and had trained David up in the orthodox faith. Livingstone was a medical student before he became a missionary, and with all his theoretical and practical knowledge of the human system, he declared "that he could stand any and every hardship best using water, and water only." His testimony from the torrid heat of Africa tallies with the experience of many an explorer of the frozen regions towards the Arctic pole.

I have often said that, to my mind, about the three most heroic figures in Christian history are—Paul on Malta, Martin Luther before the Diet of Worms, and Livingstone dying alone upon his knees, in the savage wilds of Africa! The negro boy, at four o'clock in the morning, looks in at the candle and by the candle light sees the kneeling at the bedside, with his hands buried in his hands upon the pillow. Alone with his blessed Master! What a sublime translation from that to the glories of the celestial world of the vision of the King in his beauty!

Well might the same London journal that contained the finest lines ever written on Lincoln, utter the following verses on the interment of Livingstone: "remains under the nave of Westminster"

"Open the Abbey doors, and bear in

To sleep with king and statesman, chief and sage, The missionary come of weaver kin, But great by work that brooks no lower wage.

"He needs no epitaph to guard his name, Which men shall prize while work is known. He lived and died for good—his name, Let marble crumble; this is Livingstone."

POLITICAL NEWS.—The Liberal Convention, in this city on the 19th inst., nominated Mr. Alexander Gibson jr.

Judgment was given Saturday in Lisgar, Manitoba election petition unseating Mr. Richardson, independent liberal.