

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

Rev. JOSEPH McLeod, D.D., ... EDITOR

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 1ST, 1902.

Your renewal now will be much appreciated.

Conversion is not an end, but a beginning—the beginning of the new life in Christ Jesus.

Righteousness does not always receive a present reward. Yet "righteousness is profitable."

How few are the years of even the longest life! We cannot too carefully use them. To be earnest, true, unselfish, should be the high purpose of every one.

Have we received benefits from the hand of the Lord during the year just ended? The best way to show our gratitude is to help some good cause, or some needy person.

Dr. Buckley, himself an effective preacher, suggests that if ministers would prepare themselves rather than their sermons, the sermons would, to a great extent, take care of themselves.

How true this is: "The greatest men are the humblest. Those who do the work for God, for home, and for country boast the least—feel most deeply their own weakness and unworthiness."

The Church is God's institution. It has a claim on the first place in our consideration and affection. Everything we can do that will help to make the Church strong and efficient we should gladly do.

To those who talk as though their utterances are inspired—for there are such—the suggestion of the Interior is wise: The inspiration the believer needs, and gets, is an inspiration to holy living, not infallible utterance. The sooner preachers and teachers understand this the better.

When Christians better understand their relationship to the Saviour and their obligation to serve Him with all they are and have, there will no longer be resort to bazaars and suppers and the more questionable schemes now sometimes employed to raise money for religious purposes.

Dealing with the pitiful attempts to "get up" revivals, and the various "schemes" recommended for creating religious enthusiasm,—all of which are sure to end in failure, a writer in the Christian Advocate suggests that what is needed just now is a return to the mighty preaching of former days, when each pulpit sounded out fearlessly the whole counsel of God. Preachers are the great want of the hour, men of tremendous conviction, of blood-earnestness, of firm faith in the awful verities which they proclaim, and whose courage and fidelity are equal to their faith. We have tried about everything, and, like the afflicted woman spoken of in the Gospel who had spent her all upon physicians, we are no better, but rather worse. Why not, then, return to the simple method of preaching God's word, and preaching it with every energy of our being? This was the plan of the fathers. Where there is no vision the people perish. Conventions and evangelistic unions are all well enough in their way, but pipe clay and shingle blacking are not of much account when real fighting is on. O, for great, mighty, soul-convicting preaching!

The death of Mr. A. C. Smith, announced in another column, will be heard with sorrow by many throughout the denomination. His interest in the life activities of the denomination was very deep, and had its expression in many ways. He was a generous supporter of various branches of the work. He will be much missed from the councils of the body, where his sound judgment and broad views were often of much value. The INTELLIGENCER has a feeling of bereavement too, in the death of a man so good and true as bro. Smith, and whose loyal friendship we prized. The sympathy of many - all who knew him—will be towards Mrs. Smith and family in their sore bereavement. May great grace be given them.

The Rev. J. G. Shearer, the Field Secretary of the Lord's Day Alliance of Canada, has just completed a five weeks campaign of Nova Scotia in the interests of the preservation of the Lord's Day. Some things reported by him will be of interest to our readers. Some fifteen months ago Mr. Shearer visited twelve Nova Scotia towns and cities. In ten of these, Alliances were organized and were united in the Lord's Day Alliance of Nova Scotia. His recent tour has included twenty-five centres, in everyone of which the people have organized in defense of the Christian Sabbath. In some few of these, owing largely to inclement weather, the attendance was not large. In all the interest was gratifying. In many places notably in Lunenburg and the Sydneys, the attendance was very large. As compared with his former visit Mr. Shearer found the interest in the work of the Alliance very largely widened and deepened. He believes the explanation of this is to be found in the fact that the work of the Alliance is now much better understood and hence prejudice or indifference, born of misconception or lack of information have given place to cordial approval and hearty co-operation; and in the fact that the people generally have had special reason to see that the inroads on the integrity of the Lord's Day in the forms of railroad construction and traffic, Sunday steamers, pleasure excursions, labor in connection with the development of the Province's mineral resources, etc., are becoming increasingly frequent, bold and serious. In one institution alone no less than seven hundred and fifty men are working twelve hours a day and seven days a week.

Some of the gratifying features of this growing interest in the protection of the Lord's Day against the inroads of greed, pleasure, irreligion and general selfishness are noted. The various branches of the Church are all uniting in the Alliance movement—the Protestant branches with practical unanimity, and to a considerable extent the Roman Catholics as well. The Archbishop of Nova Scotia nominated one of his clergy as a Vice President of the Provincial Alliance, and two others as members of the Executive Board, while in several organizations Roman Catholic clergy and laymen are heartily co-operating.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

The INTELLIGENCER greets its readers with gladness on this first day of a new year, and wishes for them all a happy year prosperous in the best sense, and filled, especially, with all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus.

A NEW VOLUME.

With this issue the INTELLIGENCER begins its fiftieth year. For forty-nine years it has gone throughout these Provinces, and beyond, on its mission of religious instruction and help. Whether it has accomplished little or much is not for us to say; others may better judge as to that. What we do know and we need not hesitate to say it is, that it has been the earnest endeavour of its management to keep the INTELLIGENCER true to its mission; and this has, we trust been successful.

Entering upon a new year there is the same purpose to make the paper a minister of help to everyone it reaches.

We are glad to be able to say that it is now entering a considerable number of homes for the first time. It is hoped that the number of new homes into which it will go this year will be greatly increased. In the work of enlarging the circulation we solicit the aid of the pastors in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The early days of the new year are good days in which to secure new subscribers.

While we want many new names, we are not less desirous of keeping all present subscribers. And we solicit prompt renewals from them all. This month should bring us many hundreds of renewals, as well as many new names.

THE DEATH OF 1901—THE BIRTH OF 1902.

How quiet and still it was, nothing could be heard but the ticking of the clock as it registered the last moments of the dying year. The book I had been reading, fell to the floor and I awoke me from my day (or night) dream, and then a cold chill swept through the room, as if an outer door had been opened; and I felt rather than saw that another presence was in the room. An indescribable sensation of fear, and awe swept over me; and then I saw in the outer circle of light a shadowy form, that gradually became more distinct until the thin attenuated form of a very aged and decrepit man was before me. I do not know how to describe, or make you understand the strange inconsistency of that wonderful face. It was joyous, and yet it was sad. There was a blending of triumph, and victory; of despair and defeat, in it that was strange to see. At times it seemed like a mirror and in it I could see the reflected face of myself and my friends. Again it changed, and it seemed like a panoramic picture, and the dying year with its dead months, and weeks, and hours, and minutes passed in silent procession before me. I saw the first month, with its bright bud of promise and its brilliant flower that seldom blossomed into fruit, I saw the courage and the cowardice, the strength, and the weakness, the faith and the unbelief, and I saw how the cowardice overcame the courage, and the weakness overcame the strength, and unbelief overcame the faith and evil overcame good, as the "seven empty ears blasé with the east wind devoured the good ears" and seeing this my heart was heavy within me. And the ever changing panorama brought to my vision a gladder sight I saw the weak made strong, and the fearful made courageous, and the faithless believed, and my heart was glad within me, for I saw that even though the night was long, the morning would come. Since right was right, and God was God. All this I saw in the contradictory face of the dying year, the evil and the good, the sad and the joyous ever intermingled. The bells rang with a gladsome peal, for the year had brought June roses and orange blossoms. The bells tolled, for the year had brought cypress and yew. The clock struck twelve, at the last stroke the figure vanished out of sight. 1901 was dead.

And then, just where 'he year had died, I saw a laughing, glad-faced boy. And yet the face, like that of the old year, was a contradictory one. There was hope, and yet anxiety in it, and courage and fear were strongly blended. The shadows of the coming months seemed to rest upon it the

shadows of broken pledges and friendships, and the deeper shadows cast by the mounds in the "city of the dead." And there were gleams of sunshine too on the face of the new born year, as if the days to come were not all to be dreary, as if victory as well as defeat were sure to come.

"The year did we but use it as we ought

This world would school each wandering thought

To its high state. Faith wings the soul beyond the sky. Up to that better world on high For which we wait."

A FORM OF SERVICE.

An item in the News of the Churches department of one of our exchanges tells of a church which "late y looked at its order of public worship to see if a more devotional service could not be used." A committee was entrusted with the matter, and recommended a new "outline of service." It is explained that the aim was "to secure more expression and participation in worship on the part of the congregation." This is the programme:

- (1) Organ prelude; (2) the minister approaching the pulpit says: "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord. (3) Come, let us worship and bow down. All bow their heads in silent prayer. At a token from the minister (3) the choir sings: (4) invocation (all standing). Choir sings "Amen"; (5) the Lord's Prayer by all (standing); (6) responsive reading; (7) gloria by all; (8) reading of Scripture by minister; (9) prayer; response of "Amen" by the choir; (10) notices and offertory; (11) anthem; (12) hymn by the congregation, closing with "Amen"; (13) sermon; (14) hymn by the congregation, closing with "Amen"; (15) benediction; (16) postlude.

This new arrangement has, it appears, met with favour in the congregation using it, and it is "recommended for the consideration of other churches."

And it is a Free Baptist church that has this sixteen divided form of worship. Shades of the Fathers! What with "prelude," and "interlude" and "postlude," and "gloria" and "Amen" by the choir and by the organ, and the minister marching to the pulpit murmuring, or shouting or chanting "I was glad" &c. with a sermon fitted in as No. 13 of the performance, what are we coming to? We could wish that one of the fathers might be here to unbosom himself as to all this. There would surely be an earnest plea, as of old, for simplicity in worship.

ABILITY—RESPONSIBILITY.

It was our regular Christian Endeavor meeting. The night was exceedingly disagreeable, and not as many were gathered as usual, but the meeting was a good one, so good that the pastor feels impressed to pass along a few of the thoughts expressed by those who took part, hoping thereby to extend the helpfulness of a very helpful service.

The subject of the service was "Ability." We read, responsively, the twelfth chapter of Romans, and the leader read the lesson—Matt. 5: 13-16.

In opening the service the leader called attention to the fact that it is a teaching of the Bible that God has given to each some ability and that the amount of that ability—great or small—always measured the responsibility resting upon us. What we can do God expects us to do, and until we have done it we cannot be freed from responsibility. He told of a most thrilling and pathetic testimony he had once seen given for God by a dumb man; God had seen fit to deny him the power of speech but he could use his hands, and so standing up in the presence of the people he pointed upward to God's abode and then laid his hand upon his heart; it was all he could do but he did it, and the happy and contented look upon his face gave evidence of a clear conscience. And now, asked the leader, are we willing to do our best to do it now and all the time?

One of the members in his testimony called attention to the necessity of our having some knowledge as to what ability we really do possess. If we are responsible for the right use of ability, ought we not to know what our ability is? We never know what we can do until we try. Too much modesty is almost as bad as too much conceit; both are to be avoided, which result can only be accomplished by a conscientious study of ourselves. In making this study of self we may be greatly aided by the Holy Spirit and a few intimate friends.

Another told of an incident that happened in his own life: A young man with whom he had been intimately associated in a business way for a number of years died. The young man was not a Christian; he had lived the

life of sin, and was cut off with his sin upon him. At the funeral of this young man the speaker was asked to act as pallbearer and, said he, as I stood beside that open coffin and looked upon that sad pale face it seemed to say—"You might have helped me, but you did not. You might have spoken to me about my soul and invited me to love the Christ whom you professed to love, but you did not. Why, oh, why did you not try to help me?" He then and there resolved, he said, that by the help of God he would make it impossible for such a thing to happen in his life again. And was he at down, many of us said in our hearts, "God grant it, Amen!"

A young lady in her testimony said she thought that many times we tried to make ourselves think that we had no ability when we were better in our own souls; the trouble with us is we have no desire to use our ability. When God summons us to some service we oft times say, "I can't when in reality we mean, I won't. We should make our prayer for a willing mind—for "if there be first a willing mind it is acceptable according to what we have and not according to what we have not."

A musical member sang two stanzas of that beautiful hymn, "There is a green hill far away" and sought to emphasize the last line of the chorus—"And try his works to do." The parable of the Talents was referred to, and also a reference made to the sermon of the previous Sunday on the text "Lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven." One of the older members of the church who frequently attends the services also spoke about this parable and gave expression to a willingness to use the one talent for God's glory.

Almost all present had something to say upon this most helpful and suggestive subject, and at the close we all bowed our head while the pastor prayed that we might one and all gather inspiration and courage from the service. And we were helped to realize more than ever before that "Human life is but a loan to be repaid with us. When he shall call his debtors to account, From whom are all our blessings."

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS.

PETITODIAC—CON HILL PASTORATE. As I look over my work and field since Conference, thinking what I have to report, feel two views pressing on me. The views held by the two boys, who came apprentices to an artist and whose heads look from the window and tell him what they saw. One, with my face saw "only trees and grass and sky and flowers. How little it was," he thought. The other, with shining eyes, said,—"Oh! I saw trees and grass and sky and flowers." "How much it was," he thought. So I see sometimes only the drudgery of long days, toilsome work and little good do, and I am sad again, I see a heart distressed, cheered, a wandering unclaimed, a soul born into the kingdom, and I am glad. It was my privilege to spend ten most happy days with my brother at Lower Millstream a special work. God did bless us abundantly, and for life I shall have most precious memories of the kindly Christian people whom there I met. I then engaged in special work at Anagance Ridge Hall, it being a branch of the C. M. Hill church. Our meetings were broken by bad weather, but a strong interest was developed, with five souls struggling towards the light, and others under conviction of sin, when the sickness and death of Petitodiac of Sister McFadden Bro. Lowrey compelled us to discontinue to a close. I hope to continue some future day, and I pray that those starting may go on unto the perfect stature of Christ Jesus our Lord. As to Bro. Lowrey, his with tears write. How we miss him. How we shall miss him. May God raise up men in this place, carry on the Master's work, as was so much his pleasure to do.

These are some of the joys, some of the encouragements, some of the sorrows that come in a pastor's life. We must thank God for them all. There are other things also. That is—a spirit of kindness pervading all the people towards Him, spirit of appreciation of his labor and I must bear testimony that I am meeting these on every hand—not only words but in deeds. Little kind gifts showered on me from willow hearts, with a warm "God bless you." How such things cheer. The other evening Bro. Jas. H. Bro and daughter Alice called at the house and from the people of Con Hill, presented me with \$34.00 for purpose of procuring a fur coat. Since then two brethren from Graves Settlement have added one dollar each. May God bless all these dear people for their

thoughtfulness shown in so many instances. It may be of interest to state that the little church at Graves Settlement are bravely grappling with the question of a church building. They have the foundation laid and are getting the frame now. They are encouraged and hopeful and trustful and workful, and with these four qualities who shall lay bounds to what they shall accomplish. Let us all "go forward!"

R. W. FERGUSON.

FROM REV. J. J. BARNES—The special meetings at Campbell Settlement were closed on Sabbath the 22nd inst. Twenty one persons were baptised, twenty of whom united with the church. Three others are received for baptism later, perhaps in the spring. It was a blessed work of grace and will greatly increase the strength and efficiency of the church. It was a very busy season of the year and not favorable to special work; the men, especially the young men, were either in the lumber woods for the winter or busy with preparation for going to the woods. Then the cold weather, including the heavy snow falls, were against the work. Notwithstanding these hindrances to the work blessed results were given.

I shall (D V) next conduct special meetings at Temple. We have reason to look for rich fruits there. For a long time the church has been praying and making preparation for revival work. The indication that God is ready to revive His people seems clear. The church which makes careful preparations in the hearts and minds of Christians may reasonably expect an out-pouring of the Holy Spirit in the time of revival. Therefore, we are looking for the conversion of many souls during the special meetings at Temple, which will be begun on the 8th of January.

After the Temple work I am planning to open special meetings (D V) at Upper Haynesville. We are hoping and praying for good results there. The men will at that time begin to return from the lumber woods. After some time has been spent in special work there, Staples' Settlement church will have attention. Whether anything can be done at Southampton in the way of successful special meetings I don't know at present. I am, however, looking forward to the spring season for special meetings here.

J. J. BARNES.

Mid. Southampton, Dec. 25.

FROM REV. S. J. PERRY.—I want to report myself again through our denominational paper. The work of the Lord is prospering on this field. I have attended all my Sunday services, have Conference meetings established in three of the four churches, and am intending to hold week night prayer meetings in each church when time permits. We hold monthly communion services in three of the churches. Dec. 2nd was Missionary Sunday at Westfield and Brown's Flats, and Dec. 29 is the same at Oak Point and H-milton Mountain. We will hold them quarterly. At Brown's Flats we organized a Woman's Missionary Society Dec. 17th, with a membership of thirteen. An account of this will be given by the secretary of the society. We will organize a W. M. S. at Westfield in the near future, and hope to have one at Oak Point. On Temperance Sunday we observed the day and preached a sermon at night on temperance work. We have been holding a few special meetings at Westfield Church, which have resulted in greatly strengthening that body, and we hope greater results have been attained than are apparent. Three have professed to have found "peace in believing" in the Lord Jesus Christ, and one of them has followed the Lord in the ordinance of Baptism. He, with a sister who was received from Brown's Flats church, were given the hand of fellowship. Christmas service at Brown's Flats church at night, and on Dec. 27 the Sunday School intend having a Christmas tree and concert. I am doing all that I can to get the denominational paper into the homes where it is absent. I keep the matter prominently before our people in public, and think it one of the minister's duties to do his utmost to get the INTELLIGENCER in every Free Baptist home. I have succeeded in getting a few subscribers and have the promise of several others. I wish all the readers a good Christmas season, and them, with the paper, a prosperous New Year.

S. J. PERRY.

Lily Lake, Greenwich, Kings Co., Dec. 24

FROM REV. J. NOBLE.—Home again after an absence of six weeks, the most of the time in Nova Scotia. The first week I spent with daughter (Mrs. Roscoe) in Wolfville. Just as I arrived she received a despatch from Boston that their eldest son, who was in a

railroad of to the h... Ten days... with a sim... through a... any other... who had... youngest... the North... enjoyment... cases of th... Day I spe... brother P... among th... who is la... early... who is la... able, to vi... Mrs. Clar... After my... Hall's Hat... Centerv... Brother W... for the nig... church I s... missed ver... went to th... full as it... speaking t... an old frie... the night... Spent the... tain" and... to visit so... much failu... in their af... and night... go to the b... Coffin bro... took me Ha... day in Ca... had; in th... the Lord's... fifty years... section of... revival, an... persons;... Monday I... spent anot... returned t... CHRIST... night of th... ber the... Bunkerville... with the d... Christmas... A very ple... The progr... by the chi... well. To... teresting... when San... gan to dis... the tree, ... seemed... concert... thirty-five... nectio to... that secti... their kind... Cochrane... sents, we... dishes. ... have been... have com... God may... CRECO... Nitch w... his new f... of his dep... where he... he was pr... pressive o... himself a... paning th... \$78.45 an... vidual gi... MINIST... writes th... strength... Rev. ... Grand M... He expect... Rev. G... last week... The you... ton cong... Hartley a... and a sur... companie... GENER... —The... have esta... children... mothers'... tending... children... An exam... —The... Mormon... New Yor... tion, no... headquar... for all th... Brooklyn... large eno... was a tin... mon Miss... crowd w...