

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23RD, 1902.

If your payment for the INTELLIGENCER this year has not yet been made, you will greatly oblige us if you will send it before the end of this month. Kindly try to do this.

Though the Protestants of France are but one sixtieth of the population, they furnish one-eighth of the members of the Chamber of Deputies and Senate, and have two principal offices in the government—the Ministries of Finance and Public Instruction. These facts mean that Protestantism has a large share of the intelligence and force of character of the country.

Returning from a visit to Cuba, during which he investigated conditions there, Dr. Laudrum, a foremost Baptist minister, scathingly arraigns many of the Americans who are there. He says, instead of helping the natives toward Christ, they are a hindrance, a by-word and an offense. American drunkenness, gambling, lewdness, greed, profanity and ungodliness are thriving there.

The statement is made that more than eighty per cent. of the additions to the Baptist churches in the United States last year came from the Sunday schools. What a lesson to the churches this fact suggests! Its significance should not fail to be understood by them. The most important field for fruitful christian work is with the young. Any church that forgets this shuts her eyes to her greatest religious opportunity.

A writer in a western religious paper tells of "a church which has members worth \$10,000 and \$20,000 that will not pay a pastor more than \$250 a year." There are, alas! many churches like that in this part of the world. There are men, members of churches worth the amounts stated above, and more, who do not pay \$25.00 a year to christian work. And they talk about loving the Lord, too, and really think they do love Him!

Dr. Lorimer, the well-known Baptist pastor, is not, in any sense, a pessimist. Full of life and hope and courage, he not only sees the best things but does his utmost to increase and establish them. Yet he felt constrained to say in a recent sermon that there is a very serious crisis in American religious life, and that there is reason to fear that, at the present rate, fifty years hence the United States would have no Sabbath. The people live for money by day and for pleasure by night, he said. There can be but one end to such living for self, and such persistent disregard of God.

Speaking of some bankruptcy cases in one of the Courts when in a few minutes eighty-five persons had their debts cancelled by order of the Court, the Christian Advocate makes some pertinent remarks about the moral obligation to pay every dollar as quickly as they are able, and adds: "We have seen a piteous sight—old men compelled to walk when men who owed them enough to make them comfortable, robe by in their carriages and were in repute for large philanthropies. These men had failed, paid twenty or thirty cents on the dollar, been discharged in bankruptcy, and had become rich, but did not pay a dollar on their old liabilities. In contrast with these we have seen men who paid up every dollar. The man who cannot, but would if he could, may, however, hold his head high. God as well,

his country will accept what a man hath "if there be first a willing mind." We are aware that some hold the opposite view; namely, that the legal discharge destroys the moral obligation. But sound reason can find but three ways by which a man can be freed from the moral obligation to pay an honest debt; one is to have it voluntarily remitted by the creditor; another to be absolutely unable to pay it or any part of it; and the third and last is to pay it.

Here is an amazing illustration of Roman Catholic methods in the darker parts of Europe, and of the dense ignorance and superstition which make them possible. A letter purporting to emanate from Jesus Christ, and said to have been found in Jerusalem in April, 1901, by a boy named Angel, is at present circulating (in copy) in the Spanish Peninsula. Its nature and purpose may be judged from the following extracts: "My beloved sons, redeemed by my own blood, know that you have offended me so grievously that but for the prayers of my blessed mother, your advocate, and the prayers of all the saints, I would have destroyed you. Do good to the souls in Purgatory. If you do not attend I tell you that the earth will open and bury you alive. Any person, no matter what his quality, who shall say that this letter is from the hand of man and not from the hand of God shall melt away like salt in water." This mendacious and blasphemous production bears the name of "The Catholic Press of Madrid," and devout Catholics are encouraged to procure it, and carry it about with them by the promise of 300 days of indulgence and plenary indulgence for every Saturday. These favours are said to be conceded by Pope Leo. One would have thought that so obvious an imposture would have been at once detected and generally laughed at, but this is not the case in Catholic Spain. The "letter" is eagerly read by numbers, and kept as a precious relic.

As an outcome of mission work society has been transformed, the home has been created, hospitals for the poor and suffering has been established, and the foundations of a true medical science have been laid. Races that were narrow and provincial now have a broader outlook, and are being fitted to do their share of the world's work.

A century of experience has resulted in a clear apprehension of the true principles of mission work, and has developed common-sense, practical methods.

Mission work cannot succeed completely until the whole church is more thoroughly informed. Indifference and prejudice and opposition have their root in ignorance. Information brings interest.

The work will succeed when the intelligent church enters into a true sympathy with Him who commanded the world's evangelization, when it is universally recognized that every human being has a right to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Only a small proportion of the church is now engaged in the work. Success will come when the church makes mission work its business, when the man or woman who cannot go sends or joins in sending a substitute, when the local church supports one pastor at home and one on the foreign or home-mission field. When it is everywhere acknowledged that the supreme work of the church is to carry the light and blessing of the Gospel wherever human beings are found, when missionaries abroad have the cordial sympathy, the earnest prayers, and the hearty cooperation of the church at home, the enterprise will be grandly successful. Missionaries will then be regarded not as the mere agents of the church, but as a part of the body of Christ.

Success will be hastened by the adoption of proportionate and systematic giving. The Christians of Macedonia abounded in the grace of liberality because they "first gave their own selves unto the Lord."

The successful missionary follows that true principle enunciated by Bishop John Selwyn, "Not so much to try to convert natives as to train and fill with his own spirit natives who will convert their own people." He seeks to plant self-supporting, self-governing, self-propagating churches. To each is the great missionary agencies,—the evangelistic, the educational, the literary, the medical; and the industrial, he gives its true place and value.

He to whom all power is given, who accompanied the first missionaries, working with them, is the Leader of mission work to-day. His presence and power are the assurance of ultimate success.—Rev. A. B. Robinson.

MENNONITES.—A Winnipeg despatch says: A colony of Mennonites from Nebraska will settle on a block of 81,000 acres of land on the shores of Lake Manitoba during the next couple of months.

compunction of an awakened conscience which will extort the cry, "God be merciful to me a sinner!" This difficulty does not exist in a distinctive and unique form in India. It may be found in every congregation and in all our communities. It is one of the facts which the minister of the

THE BUSINESS OF MISSIONS.

The enthronement of Jesus Christ in the heart of humanity is the aim of mission work.

A good measure of success has been achieved. Missions have been vindicated by the results, which show what are the possibilities of the future. Mission work has raised many people of non-Christian lands to a higher plane of intelligence and self-respect. It has produced stalwart, robust, heroic Christian characters—men and women like Joseph Neesima, Bishop Crowther, James Kekela, Pundita Rambai, and Miss Singh, who are conscientious, consistent, liberal, self-sacrificing, and who possess the missionary spirit.

Japan testifies to the success of missions in producing character when, proving for the administration of Formosa, the missionaries were asked to recommend Christian Japanese for government appointments. For positions of trust which furnish opportunity to shape the nation's political future, China turns from her corrupt officials to men engaged in mission work, whose moral character commands respect. The converted pariahs of Hyderabad, India, are men of character. A railway being in course of construction, advances of money were made to the men employed. But from the security demanded of the others Christian converts were exempted, the Mohammedan contractor explaining that their religion was sufficient guaranty.

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NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

VERY KIND OF THEM.

It is announced a recent meeting of Roman Catholic peers decided that during coronation year they would not take any action against the coronation declaration. They will take up the agitation again at the next session of Parliament.

JERUSALEM TO-DAY.

In a lecture delivered recently in Geneva, M. Hyacinthe Loysson gave some interesting information about the present condition of Jerusalem. It is to-day, he said, a Jewish city. Although humbled and subject to sundry disabilities, the Jews are more numerous than Moslems and Christians. In general they are small traders. Their special quarter, which is situated in the old city, is dirty and disagreeable. But they live quietly under the rule of the Sultan. Non-official religions enjoy more freedom, in M. Loysson's opinion, so far as outward expression is concerned, in Jerusalem than in Paris. Intellectually, the Jews of the Holy city are on a very low level. Their rabbis, who believe that ignorance is a safeguard against infidelity and Christianity, feed their flocks with the regulations of the Talmud. The agents of the Universal Israelitish Association have established school and workshops in which French is taught and modern ideas are inculcated but they have been many times excommunicated by the rabbis. Zionism is for M. Loysson a morbid dream. The Sultan will not give up Palestine to the Jews, and were he to consent Russia would interfere.

IMPERIAL RECONSTRUCTION.

The Montreal Witness thinks the war in South Africa must eventuate in some imperial reconstruction. "The burdens of empire—it says—have been steadily increasing on the weary titan, and this war for colonial protection has greatly increased them. The growth of Britain is now chiefly in Greater Britain. The growing burden must in time necessarily fall on the portion of the empire whose population and wealth is growing. The question for honorable patriotism in what are now, pitiful to say, the imperial dependencies, is how soon we are going to assume the manhood of self-support, to which, it is to be presumed, if there is any manhood in us, we aspire, or whether we are going to wait till it is forced upon us by shame or necessity; for a necessity it will certainly be some day, whatever future may lie before us. We give men to the war with enthusiasm, and it has been a great comfort to those who have made this sacrifice to learn that the men we have sent have not only done manfully, to the admiration of all, even their enemies, but that their readiness of resource and possibly the very absence of machine training, had specially fitted them to do the common cause very essential service in the time of need. Those of them who fell have given us a new blood relationship to the Mother Country; but by leaving our kinsfolk over the sea to pay nine-tenths of the money cost of their achievement we have put a sight upon them as well as upon ourselves."

BARBARITIES IN AFRICA.

Writing of the atrocities which the natives of Central Africa have suffered at the hands of white men, the Telescope directs attention to the facts that they have not yet wholly ceased. "Especially do they seem to be still perpetrated in the Congo Free State, a tract in south central Africa of 1,056,000 square miles, and having a population of 10,000,000 natives. This "Free (?) State" is at present under the sovereignty of the king of Belgium and of the brutal treatment of the natives, Captain Guy Barrows, who recently retired from six years' service under the Congo Free State, condemns the government officials in the following unsparing terms: "I have sworn testimony of the Belgians handing over natives to cannibal tribes for the express purpose of being eaten. Forced labor prevails everywhere, and shot-gun rule is the truest description of the present administration. The companies deriving wealth from the collection of rubber are all more or less state enterprises, as a third or half the share in them are invariably held by the government. Latterly King Leopold and the government have made some show of action against the agents of some of the Upper Congo companies, but only minor officials are ever touched, and the so-called reforms are merely intended to throw dust in the eyes of the public, whose indignation has been aroused by the stories of this reign of terror. While the present systems for the collection of rubber and the recruitment of natives continue the Congo Free State

will remain a disgrace to the white man's work in Africa."

AN APPEAL.

The Opium Traffic, carried on under the sanction of the British Government in India is a disgusting disgrace. An appeal has lately been forwarded to Lord Salisbury as Premier, subscribed by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the chief officials of the churches in Ireland, Scotland and England. The appeal is as follows:

We are convinced, by manifold and weighty evidence, of the correctness of the following position:—

1. That the traffic in Opium into China has had disastrous results—(a) in injury to other branches of British Commerce in China; (b) in generating profound feelings of hostility to British subjects and interests in the mind of the Chinese people.

2. That the use of Opium in China (to speak of China only) is a vast national curse, and that a serious step to the contrary can be met decisively by the public testimony of disinterested Chinese state-men of to-day.

3. That accordingly, it is unworthy of a great Christian power to be commercially interested, in any degree, in the supply of Opium to China.

As a fact, while the cultivation of Opium in India is on a larger scale than ever, with the exception of two years in the past the revenue accruing from its export has sunk to 2½ millions. This, however, is, in our opinion, only an incident of the position. Our affirmation is that it is the grave duty of the nation, as before the Supreme King and Governor, to purge itself anywise of connection with a great and public wrong.

RUSSIAN FAMINE.

Reports from the famine stricken districts of Russia tell of acute suffering. It is stated that scurvy and typhoid fever are devastating the peasantry throughout the whole of the Altai-region, formerly the chief granary of Siberia. The starving people there have consumed the last remnants of their seed grain and no spring crops have been sown. In some places the scarcity of fodder is so great that half the horses have been unthatched to save the lives of the cattle and horses. One hundred thousand pounds of foodstuffs recently despatched by the government have not yet reached Siberia and the lieutenant general in command of the district is endeavoring to locate the supplies and hurry them forward. The Czar contributed 200,000 roubles to the relief fund and has remitted the taxes of the sufferers. The gravity of the situation is evidenced by the latest disease statistics. At Menzinsk, government of Ouen, there have been upwards of 4,000 cases of typhus, hunger and scurvy; at Belbeisky 682 cases have been reported, and at Akmeinsk over 1,900 cases have occurred. The Red Cross society is furnishing all the aid at its command in the way of free kitchens and medicines.

SOUTH AFRICA.

The young ladies who sailed from St. John last Saturday for South Africa were given an enthusiastic send-off.

About half the 2000 required for the Fourth Canadian contingent have already enlisted.

Peace negotiations went on quite satisfactorily after the Boers understood that the British government would not modify its terms with regard to amnesty, banishment and a responsible government. The British decision, practically leaving them the alternative of accepting the British terms or breaking up the conference, made the Boer delegates much more reasonable.

Gen. Botha, Gen. DeWet, Gen. Delary and other leaders have arranged to consult the burghers at different points, and submit the terms of peace to them. It is believed the Transvaalers will everywhere accept the terms, as they are in no way anxious for a winter campaign. The only difficulty likely to occur will, it is thought be with the Orange Free States, many of whom are expected to prove recalcitrant.

In the meantime there will be no cessation of hostilities. The delegates are expected back in Pretoria the middle of May.

Wiring from Pretoria, Sunday, the correspondent of the Standard says there is good reason to believe that a tentative agreement has been arrived at, which will prove mutually cordial and lead to an early cessation of hostilities.

The Boer delegates at Pretoria have full powers to negotiate without reference to the Boer leaders in Europe who have no real influence on the peace negotiations.

The Jews in South Africa number 20,000.

Slavery exists in the Southern Philippines. They are estimated to number about a quarter of a million.

100,000 inhabitants of the province of Batangas, Luzon, have perished by war, disease and starvation since the American conquest of the Philippines.

Queen Wilhelmina's illness causes much anxiety in Holland.

The Roman Catholic archbishop of Halifax has forwarded to the British Colonial Secretary the resolutions adopted by the Catholics of twenty-four parishes in the diocese of Halifax, favoring a repeal of that portion of the British accession oath objectionable to Catholics.

There is agitation in Ottawa over the case of a woman who laid information before the Police Magistrate in English and who in the witness box wanted to speak in French. The magistrate ruled that she should testify in English. This has given much offence to fiery Frenchmen.

GENERAL RELIGIOUS NEWS.

Thirty years ago a Baptist church was organized in Vienna, the capital of Austria. Until about ten years ago it struggled hard to maintain itself. During the past six years it has enjoyed an area of real spiritual prospering under the able ministry of Pastor H. Kock. Within this pastorate 130 persons have been baptized and the church now numbers 225 members.

The Presbyterian of the States are much concerned by the dearth of conversions in their churches. A committee on Evangelistic Work was appointed at the last General Assembly. Statistics have been gathered which show that 2,141 of the 5,475 churches of their body reported no conversion last year. The Committee is doing its best to stimulate the churches to more earnest work.

The last report of the London Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews states that there are now 25 ordained missionaries on its staff, 19 workers are connected with its medical missions, the women number 34, and the laymen 20. There are 35 Scripture-reading, colporteurs, and other agents, 58 school-teachers, 8 dispensers, 82 "Christian Israelites," 23 honorary workers, and 32 wives of missionaries.

Groton, Conn., according to the Hartford Times, has the oldest Baptist parsonage in America. The building was erected in 1700, and is still well preserved, though of late somewhat neglected. The house and twenty acres of land were presented to the first pastor, Rev. Valentine Wightman, who was its pastor from 1705 to 1747, followed by his son, who served the same church forty-three years; and by the grandson, who served it forty-one years, dying in 1841.

The Eskimo Christians of Greenland have at length received the entire Bible in the native tongue. The Bible Society of Denmark has conferred upon them this long delayed boon. In 1721, Hans Egede, a Norwegian, one of the earliest missionaries to the frozen country, began the work of translation, and since then book after book has been added at intervals, until finally the entire Bible has been translated and completed. The Greenland Christian community consists of 10,000 native members of the Danish church.

POLITICAL NEWS.—The Ontario elections are to be held on May 29th. Both parties are now hard at work.

The P. E. Island Legislature is prorogued Friday. The premier moves a resolution that the House protest against the reduced representation from the Island in the federal parliament. The leader of the opposition supported the resolution, which urged that the sixth member be restored on the basis of the terms of Confederation. Both sides of the House were unanimous.

THE SMALLEST WATCH.—Switzerland stands high considered from standpoint of clocks and watches. A watchmaker at Zurich has lately displayed in his shop window a wonderful piece of Swiss workmanship in the shape of the smallest watch ever made. The watch is in the form of rose and is so small and minute that strong magnifying glass is needed to read the time indicated by its tiny hands. A specially prepared compound is resorted to in winding the little watch. The manufacturer has been offered large sums for this curious article, but he will not sell. The watch keeps accurate time.