

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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THE

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Editorial.

—Of the new students at Cobb Divinity School half are from New Brunswick.

—A rumseller is not admitted to membership in any evangelical church in this part of the world. Should the aiders and abettors of rumsellers be retained as members? How much worse is it to help a rumshop than to authorize another keep it?

—Two Presbyterian churches in Toronto have organized classes for the purpose of promoting congregational singing. The same thing might be done in many congregations with great advantage. The service of song should never be given over to a few. "Let all the people praise the Lord."

—The recent census of church attendance in London revealed the fact that prayer meetings are very poorly attended in that great city. This is a most regrettable state of things. Without the assembly of the people of God for prayer spiritual life will not be at its best, and the work of the Lord will make but poor progress.

—Young men with the ministry in view are sometimes tempted to enter upon this work without full preparation. When pastors are scarce, the pressure upon them is quite strong. They do well, however, to resist the temptation. The oft-told story of the cavalry officer applies. With a small group of comrades, he was being pursued by a large mounted force. Every moment might mean life or death. He felt his saddle girth loosening and, while his companions called to him to ride faster, he deliberately stopped to tighten the buckle of the girth. Young men, who are tempted to go into the work of the ministry unprepared, should remember this. They will, in the long run, save time and save souls by getting ready before they begin. The hosts of sin are pressing hard, but if the saddle girth is loose, stop and tighten it.

—The Governor of Bengal, Sir Andrew Fraser, speaking at a recent meeting in Simla, dwelt upon the beneficial influence of the religious, medical, educational and famine-relief work rendered by missions. He said:

I rejoice in these agencies for enabling us to live a Christian life in this land where there are so many temptations and difficulties. I have strong sympathy as a private individual with missions, because of the great value I attach to that which I have received from the Christian religion. I know a good deal of the tenets of Hinduism, which it has been my privilege to study; I know something of the strong points of Mohammedanism, which I have learned from reading and conversation; but I have never found in these anything to equal the religion of the Lord Jesus Christ. It seems to me to be instinctive of the Christian church to go in for foreign missions, and so carry throughout the world the light and glory of God. There is nothing that England can give to India, notwithstanding the many blessings she has given, to compare with the gospel of Christ.

After Conference Observations.

Ministers and churches are at the beginning of another year of Christian work. That it may be richer in spiritual life, fuller of self-sacrificing service, and more successful in soul-winning and the extension of Christ's kingdom than any preceding year, let us all pray.

The pastors who are beginning work in new fields have an opportunity—the opportunity they have probably desired, to introduce new methods, and to recast their plans of work generally. But whatever changes there may be in plans, they will preach only the old Gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The beginning of a new year is a good time for the pastor to have a meeting of his deacons and the burden-bearing members of his churches to talk over the situation, and to plan for the work of the year. Such meetings in all the pastorates would make stronger the bonds that bind pastors and their church officers together. In the interchange of views about the work and its needs and how to meet them, many helpful suggestions would be made; and their united prayers would bring not only to themselves new spiritual experiences and equipments for service, but would be answered in the spiritual quickening of the churches also. Confer with your officers, brethren.

A number of pastorates are not yet provided for. It looks now as though some of them will be without pastors during the year. This is very much to be regretted. Every available minister should be pressed into the work. Churches that have not been able to secure the men they have had in mind, should make a second choice at once, while there remain some unengaged ministers. In a few weeks there may be none unengaged. It has often happened that the pastor who was not the first choice of a church has been a greater blessing than the first one thought of could have been. Success does not so much depend on either churches or ministers having their own preferences gratified, as on hearty co-operation to forward the work of the Lord. When thought of the

kingdom of Christ has the first place in the mind, the desire for the prosperity of the kingdom is the dominating feeling, and personal preferences count for little. The best advice that can be given unengaged ministers and unprovided-for churches is to put aside thought of what they had desired, to put away their feelings of disappointment, and to join hands for the care of the cause they have at heart. They can thus not only be mutual helpers, but can preserve "the things that are ready to perish."

We have expressed the fear that after all is done that can be there will be some churches without pastors. These must have some attention, enough at least to keep them encouraged to do their best. Neighboring pastors should give the pastorless churches some care. To do this will require extra labor by the ministers, but they will gladly undertake the extra burden for the help of the needy. It will require, also, that the churches which have pastors be willing to forego some of the service to which they have a right and for which they pay. But this they will gladly do for the sake of their brethren less favorably situated.

By the action of the Young People's League a home missionary, Rev. A. D. Paul, is to be in the field the whole year. His movements are to be under the direction of the Home Mission Executive. We have not heard what the plan of the Executive is, nor whether a plan has yet been arranged. We assume, however, that the missionary's time will be spent principally with the pastorless churches. While missionary labor cannot take the place of regular pastoral work, the places that are without pastors may be much helped by the labors of the missionary. We trust much blessing may attend the missionary work of the year.

FAMINE—AN APPEAL.

Revs. A. L. Kerman, J. H. Oxrieder and H. R. Murphy, of the F. B. India Mission have issued through the *Morning Star* and *Free Baptist*, a statement concerning famine conditions in India, in the district where the mission is located, and make the following appeal for help:

Once more the people of a large part of Midnapore district are threatened with famine conditions. We who are here on the field think it therefore best to inform those who have placed us here of the still further demands that are likely to be made upon their Christian bounty.

The Conditions. Normally the rice crop here is sufficient to leave a small surplus in the hands of the rice buyers who carry it over from year to year. For three years the crops have been short, however, and many of the old stocks have been wholly used up. There is very little in the hands of the cultivators themselves, and the mahajans are closing their granaries and not giving out to the people because they hope for much higher prices, though rice is now higher than at any time before since we younger ones have been in the country. This year's grain in about two-thirds of the Midnapore district is looking very poorly indeed. The present rainfall is utterly inadequate to carry it, and worst of all the coming month is one usually of very short rainfall. We who sign this have direct reports from, or have personally investigated the conditions in, a section of country nearly one hundred miles long

and from twenty to thirty miles wide, and are deeply convinced of great impending needs right here. Yesterday we made a trip on our bicycles twenty-two miles south and saw on every side evidences of distress present and to come. The story was in each case the same—no rain, no dhan being given out, no work. People are getting rice only once a day, or twice in two days. Grass seed and Indian corn are helping the people out for the present, but the supplies of these will be quickly exhausted.

The Possibilities. The best,—if there is an abundant rainfall from this on there will be half a crop, and much suffering will be averted; if not, a very small crop from the lowest lands. Rice will be brought in from other districts and sold here. But the great mass of the people have no means of paying for rice if it is brought. Money can be given them outright with which to buy rice. But this plan is not deemed the best except in case of those absolutely unable to work. The best plan, it is generally agreed, is to give the people work in some form, and let them earn money and buy rice. The Indian government in this way by so-called "relief works" in every famine time adds to its roads and great irrigation systems. If we dispense money here it should be in this manner. Our suggestion is that so soon as it becomes necessary such work be opened here at Midnapore, and the Bible school building finished, and perhaps some homes built for Bible school students. If the funds admit, other relief work might also be opened as the committee here think advisable; it being understood that so far as possible all such moneys shall be used in permanent improvements to mission properties or to the conditions of our Christian people.

The Appeal. We therefore request that our home people prayerfully place this matter before their own consciences, and without sacrificing any of our other numerous denominational needs, very largely increase their offerings to the foreign mission funds.

Later word says the conditions have grown steadily worse since the above statement was prepared. Fortunately the crops in many parts of India are good. If the people in the districts where the crops are short are given work they can manage to get along. What the missionaries ask for is, not money to bestow in charity, but money to employ the people in making permanent improvements to the mission property.

MINISTERS TRANSFERRED.

At the Conference just held, two ministers were, at their own request, dismissed to other Conferences—Rev. F. G. Francis to join the Nova Scotia Conference, and Rev. M. L. Gregg to join the Maine Association. One minister, Rev. A. M. McNitch, was received from the Nova Scotia Conference. Bro. Gregg had been gone a year from the province and from our work, so that his dismissal was more a formal than a real transfer. The transfers of brethren Francis and McNitch kept the balance even between New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The balance is always against us in transactions with the United States, which takes more than it returns.

A "PAY UP" NOTE.—A minister's wife sends us the following clipping, the plaint of a western editor: "The wind bloweth, the water floweth, the farmer soweth, the subscriber oweth and the Lord knoweth that we are in need of our dues. So come a runnin' ere we go gunnin'! This thing of dunnin' gives us the blues!"