

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Editorial.

—A united church is a prevailing church.

—The supreme Christian purpose is the evangelization of the world. To the promotion of this divine purpose every activity of the Church should contribute.

—A Family Altar Band has been organized in Virginia. Its object, as its name suggests, is to promote family worship. Meetings are held from house to house to organize and assist in the service. Home altars are being restored and new ones are being established. There is need of like work in many countries.

—The Church of England bishop, of Liverpool, Eng., has given his support to the evangelistic mission in that city which Dr. Torrey, of Chicago, is to conduct. The *Church Times* is greatly shocked that the bishop has done such a thing, and does not understand how he can imagine that any Church people can be benefitted by the ministrations of one who is not of "the Church." It is good that the bishop is broader and more Christian than the Church paper.

—A newspaper organ of the rum traffic in the United States, discussing the church and the ministry, speaks of them in quite commendatory terms—provided they "mind their business." Very patronizingly it says: "No one has any fault to find with the church and the clergy so long as both keep their proper place." What is their proper place? is the question. The rum traffic people would have the church and ministry silent as to the character of the traffic and its deadly effects. But such silence is wicked. To be faithful to God, the church and the ministry must "cry aloud" against the monster iniquity, and by every means strive to overthrow it.

—The late Dr. Joseph Parker had a vigorous way of expressing his views

about everything to which he gave any attention. About sermons and sermon-making he said:

There is only one thing that I dread more than self-important learning, and that is self-important ignorance. I dread the minister to whom preaching is easy. I hate, with religious and even holy hatred, the sermons that are shaken out of the coat sleeve on a Saturday night. We do not want such men in the ministry of the gospel. Preaching should be a shedding of blood. Preaching is not a trick in plans, in cunning outlines, in shapely sculpture. There is a cant phrase now in vogue which I dislike. We say of such and such a man: "He is the greatest sermon-builder in the modern pulpit. Preaching is not sermon-building; it is sermon-growing; it is the eloquence of a redeemed and grateful soul; it is the glow and the radiance of a wise exposition confirmed by a holy and satisfying experience.

—This is a word of counsel to those young men who are persuaded to turn aside from their preparation for the work of the ministry on the plea that there is so much present need. An old minister, regretting that he did not take time for proper preparation, says:

I could not bear the thought that the world was perishing for me while I was practically wasting my time in giving it to studies which could not, as it seemed to me then, greatly aid me as a pastor. But I soon found when the pinch came that instead of the world perishing for me I was myself in danger of perishing (starving) for lack of something to do. There were a plenty of churches without pastors, but somehow they did not take to me. They were poor churches, but they did not wish a poor preacher. When too late to correct my blunder, I ascertained that the world was not perishing for me, and for two score years I have gone through the world with a limp as an object lesson of the folly of a young college student who fancies that the world is perishing for him.

THE CENSUS.

When we last dealt with the census in its relation to the Free Baptists of New Brunswick, in the *INTELLIGENCER* of July 1st, we hoped that our next reference to it would be to chronicle corrections made by the Census Bureau. In the House of Commons, on June 16th, after having been pressed for some hours with facts showing that glaring errors existed, the Minister of Agriculture promised to make corrections. He said he was "ready to investigate any place where a definite statement is made that there has been an inaccurate return."

We had previously had a like promise from Mr. Blue, which he failed to observe. We have reason to believe that he was even guilty of suppressing figures furnished him by enumerators in correction of their original returns. But when the Minister of Agriculture, in his place in Parliament, promised investigation we supposed something would be done. We scarcely dared expect corrections of all the errors, but we did cherish a belief that there would be, at least, enough corrections to show an attempt to do justice to a much-wronged religious body. But in this we have been disappointed. In a letter, dated Aug. 15th, the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Sydney Fisher, says:

I have pretty carefully gone into the statements of the errors about the Free Baptists in New Brunswick supposed to

have been made in the census enumeration. I believe, however, that the statements as published by the census are absolutely correct, and follow closely the information given by the people to the enumerators. If in any case the enumerators have been misinformed, that is neither their fault nor the fault of the Census Bureau. Where there seemed to be discrepancies, careful enquiry has been made of the enumerators, and the statements which they have then supplied have been used where necessary to modify the original statements.

Mr. Fisher cannot plead that places the returns from which are inaccurate have not been named to him. Such places have been specified in nine counties. And when we recorded his promise to investigate, we stated that to carry out his promise he would need to "cause the enumeration and compilation of Victoria, Carleton, York, Sunbury, Queens, Kings, Westmorland and Charlotte Counties, and the city of St. John, to be thoroughly revised." And we brought this fact to his attention.

Has Mr. Fisher done this? Evidently not. Had he done as we suggested, and as his promise gave us a right to expect him to do, he would not be able to say that he believes the census is "absolutely correct." Not only is there no evidence of careful investigation, but the department has refused to give consideration to most glaring errors brought to its attention.

The Minister of Agriculture has made the serious mistake of taking as facts the statements of the Census Commissioner—a man who has not only shown his utter incapacity for the position he occupies, but whose course has given cause for at least strong suspicion that he is quite equal to misrepresentation and concealment of facts. It is useless to hope for corrections through any effort of Mr. Blue. He does not intend to make corrections. His plan, when appealed to, is to affirm the accuracy of his compilation. What is demanded is not a verification of a compilation of errors, but a correction of the errors. And to secure this correction the Minister of Agriculture must investigate independently of Mr. Blue, and in the use of other methods than Mr. Blue's.

The Minister of Agriculture writes of "supposed" errors, declares his belief that "the statements as published by the census are absolutely correct," and says that if anything is wrong in the census it is the fault of the Free Baptist people, and not of anybody connected with the census staff. We are quite surprised that Mr. Fisher should take the responsibility of such statements, especially that he should intimate that about one-third of the Free Baptists of New Brunswick are so stupid that they do not know their name. It was bad enough to suffer from the blundering of census officials, it was worse to be denied the correction of the wrong, and now the whole has been crowned by an insulting reflection on the intelligence of the wronged people.

We having stated repeatedly our belief that the original wrong was a blunder. We believe so yet. But the refusal to make corrections after the er-

rors had been pointed out is more than a blunder—it is a deliberate and persistent wrong and injustice, and is essentially of the nature of a crime.

THE BAPTIST CONVENTION.

The Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces is in session in St. John at this writing. The Ministers' Institute met on Friday. Rev. J. H. McDonald, of Fredericton, was elected President. Several interesting papers were read and discussed.

The Convention proper opened Saturday morning. The attendance was good. Rev. Dr. Saunders presided. After devotions and roll call, the officers for the ensuing year were elected, Mr. R. G. Haley being made President, and Rev. E. T. Miller, Secretary.

The report of Home Missions was presented. The report said that while not so fruitful in accessions as in some years, excellent work was done. The H. M. Board recommended the appointment of an officer who shall devote his whole time to superintendence of the mission work.

THE DISCIPLES.

The Disciples of Christ of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia held their annual meeting last week in Pictou, N. S. Of the 26 churches in the two provinces, 21 reported to the annual meeting, with a total membership of 1,689. The work of the body in its several departments is apparently in a healthy condition, and a good degree of prosperity is being enjoyed.

FILL THE PEWS.—The *Belfast Witness* has heard of a man who describes his pew as "a certain portion of the house of God which he has engaged to see filled up." Our contemporary comments: "If this were the generally received idea of pew ownership, four things would follow: 1. We should not hear any more clamor about free sittings. 2. The pew owners would become missionaries; they would have to look about for careless people to fill the pews. 3. Those brought in thus would be looked after. Each pew owner would have his little flock to care for. 4. The problem of the lapsed masses would be solved." Here is a practical idea worth considering.

A POOR KIND.—The immigration into the United States last year was the largest on record—921,315. Thoughtful citizens are quite alarmed at the undesirable character of the great majority of them. They are described as ignorant, unskilled and degraded. Canada needs to be very careful. Quality is more important than quantity.

A BUSINESS WORD.

Many subscriptions are past due. Our friends have simply delayed sending them.

The money is needed—is needed now. Will everyone who owes the *INTELLIGENCER* anything kindly send it as soon as he reads this?

By doing so you will greatly oblige us. **DO NOT FORGET!**