

## TERMS AND NOTICES.

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**Religious Intelligencer.**

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Rev. Joseph McLeod, D. D., - - Editor.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1903.

**Editorial.**

—The church which caters to the spirit of the world is not strong in pure religion.

—The Protestants of Germany are a good deal aroused over the proposed re-admission of the Jesuits to that country.

—In Germany, too, the spirit of church union is moving. There is a movement to unite several Protestant organizations into a workable federation, which will eventually result in consolidation.

—Dean Farrar is dead. No man in the Church of England was more widely or more favorably known. He was one of the most attractive preachers in his church, and an author of note. His *Life of Christ* was, perhaps, his most popular work. He was in his seventy-second year at his death.

—Said the late Canon Farrar: Little self-denials, little honesties, little passing words of sympathy, little nameless acts of kindness, little silent victories over favorite temptations—these are the silent threads of gold which, when woven together, gleam out so brightly in the pattern of life that God approves.

—It will be remembered by some that the Conference at its last session requested churches that could do so to permit their pastors to visit pastorless churches during the year. We are glad to see that the Waterloo street church, St. John, has acted on this resolution. The Salisbury pastorate, also, has done the same good thing. Probably during the year other churches will permit their pastors to go to the help of the needy.

—A minister wrote the editor of the *Christian Guardian* that he

thought the editor was not prayed for by ministers and churches as much as should be. He said: "Most of us are ready enough to criticise when we don't like his work, but perhaps we do not all help him as much with our prayers as it is possible for us to do. . . I, for one, am going to do more to help in this way than I have done. May our God, and his Son, Jesus Christ, through the blessed ministry of the Holy Spirit, give you wisdom, courage, strength, and comfort, according to your daily need."

Commenting on the letter, the editor says: "It would greatly strengthen us to know that those who read the church paper had such an appreciation of the responsibilities of its editor, of the difficulties and anxieties that compass his pathway, and of his constant need of divine guidance and grace, that they were in the habit of regularly praying for him."

And this editor, as the editor of every religious paper, says, So be it concerning us all.

—Young ministers get a lot of advice about getting in debt, being warned strongly against it. All of which is good. There are other debts which concern some ministers, the old as well as the young,—the debt of churches and their pastors. The *Christian Observer* suggests that it is just as wrong for a church to leave its obligations unpaid as for a minister to do so. In the arrangement between church and pastor, there is an engagement by the church to pay at certain times, weekly, monthly or quarterly. And yet at the stipulated time the pastor often gets only a portion of what is due him. He is, therefore, unable to meet his obligations. Is it not a fact that when a pastor is in debt, it is generally because his congregation has not paid his salary? When the church is in debt to the pastor he, generally, says little about it. When the pastor is in debt to the merchant there is likely to be much comment, and sometimes by the people whose failure to pay has compelled the pastor to be in debt. Not in all cases—but certainly in most cases in which ministers are in debt—it is because their present or previous charges have failed to pay them.

**REVIVALS.**

It is greatly gratifying to hear of revivals in the churches—the quickening and deepening of existing spiritual life, and the conversion of the dead in trespasses and sins. Such news makes glad the hearts of all Christians, and stimulates their personal faith, and, also, their hope of the speedy coming in fulness of the kingdom of Christ. Knowledge of what God is doing in some places, in blessing the consecrated work of his people, encourages others to renewed consecration and greater activity.

We have been glad to record during the present Conference year a

good number of gracious revivals. Many of the pastors have been much blessed; they have had the joy of seeing many souls "born again," and of seeing their churches take on new spiritual strength. We hope all the churches will be blessed with revival this year. Because the winter is past is no reason that there may not be special prayer and work, and special blessing following.

The Free Baptist church was born in revivals. All along our history they have been its "vital breath, its native air." A large proportion, probably seven-eighths, perhaps even more, of the members of our churches were brought in through revivals. Our life depends on keeping alive within us and amongst our people the spirit of revival. Have we left the old paths? Perhaps not. But we do sometimes seem to be walking with slow and halting step. Let us be sure we are in the old ways, as to spirit and purpose, and then with quickened and vigorous step move on—praying, working, living, spending ourselves for the salvation of men. The arm of the Lord is not shortened that he cannot save. The power of the Holy Spirit is infinite. The blood of Jesus Christ has lost none of its efficacy. If the Lord's people are faithful, revival will sweep over the land.

**PRAYER FOR MISSIONS.**

The Christian people of Canada and the United States are asked to make next week (April 5-12) a week of special prayer for the non-Christian world, for the devoted men and women who are engaged in missionary work, and for the wider recognition by Christians everywhere of the duty and privilege of sharing more fully in the great work of world evangelization. This call to prayer was decided upon by a conference of representatives of the various mission boards of this continent, held in New York in January.

No programme of services is suggested, but it is expected that pastors will bring the subject of missions to the attention of their people, and that in the regular prayer-meetings, as in the Sunday services, the needs of mission work will be the burden of the supplications. It will be well, wherever feasible, to have a daily prayer-meeting during the week. In all Christian homes, too, the prayers will be specially for blessing on the great work of winning the world to Christ.

The great mission of the church of Christ is to spread the truth abroad—to make him known who is "the way, the truth and the life." And every opportunity to instruct their congregations concerning the needs of the non-Christian peoples of the earth, and to stimulate interest in world-wide evangelism should be eagerly taken advantage of by pastors and other religious leaders. The week of prayer for missions offers such opportunity.

**RELIGION IN MANILA.**

Rev. Dr. Pentecost, representing the Presbyterian church of the United States, has been looking into the religious condition of Manila. Writing of the American population there, he says: "Their religious condition is simply shocking. It is so bad that nothing short of a well-organized seige can have any hope of breaking the fatal spell of sin that is over the city. He recommends that a strong, courageous and resourceful man be placed in charge of the American mission work there, and that steps be taken to make a systematic and prolonged seige. The difficulties are many. Among them, and, doubtless, the most formidable, is the fact that the American authorities in the Philippines treat Protestant missionaries with active and aggressive inhospitality. "Not only," he says, "do none of the members of the government ever cross the threshold of an American church, but there is no doubt of the fact that all Christian men connected with the government, if not forbidden to do so, are discouraged from attending church. In a word, the insular government has drawn the bar sinister broadly and deeply across the American Protestant church in these islands."

The United States authorities are, evidently, playing to Rome, for the sake of the votes which Rome will cast in the next presidential election. Protestantism is insulted and suppressed to please Rome. And this, notwithstanding the majority of the Filipinos are eager to be free from the cruel tyrannies of the priest rule to which they have been subject so long. Not so much the real interests and liberties of the people of the Philippines as the securing of votes, determines the policy of those entrusted with government.

**CATHOLIC ROME AND ITALY.**

Here are some most instructive facts concerning Roman Catholicism at its headquarters. In Rome there are one pope, 30 cardinals, 35 bishops, 1,369 priests, 2,832 monks, 3,212 nuns, making in all 7,479 persons charged with spiritual calling among a population of 400,000. So that there is in Rome one spiritual to every 53 inhabitants, while in the large Protestant cities of Germany there is but one spiritual to 10,000 inhabitants. Although Rome is a city given to the sciences, rich in art, high-schools, academies, still 190,000 grown people exist there who can neither read nor write. Rome also has within her limits the largest number of law-breakers—83 to 1,000 citizens. Of 458,082 engaged couples in the whole of Italy in the year 1897 only 204,098 could sign the marriage contract, that is, only 450 out of each 1,000. And this is Catholic Rome! and Catholic Italy!

The new English license law is pinching the grog-sellers and they are squirming. They have made an appeal to Premier Balfour, with what result is not yet known.