

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1903.

Editorial.

—It is the duty of every man to do his very best to make the political affairs of his country clean.

—New York city is said to pay its policemen larger salaries than the churches of the city pay their pastors.

—If there had been no risen Redeemer there would have been no victorious religion. Christianity really dates from Christ's resurrection day.

—We have a communication from the Census Commissioner. It will receive some attention in the next issue of the INTELLIGENCER.

—Sermons have good effect, books on Christian apologetics meet a need, but the great thing in hastening and establishing the kingdom of our Lord is the everyday life of the man who is really "a new creature" in Christ Jesus.

—No church is so small or so poor that it may not have some share in the work of giving the gospel message to the whole world. No church can expect to have the best blessing in its own life, and the truest development, that does not show practical interest in the extension of Christ's kingdom.

—Dr. Campbell Morgan asks: If the church was united, do you think that we should have our nations blighted as they are today by the drink traffic? What is the church doing? She is guiltily silent and guiltily inactive. Individuals are at work, but the church has never yet risen in the majesty of her possibility and gripped the question. It is her duty to do it."

—The results of the census of the religions of the people of St. John, taken by the Sunday-school Association of the city, have not yet been an-

nounced. The tabulation of the facts ascertained will take some days. It is stated, however, that the work was very well done, and that much information was gathered that will be of advantage to pastors and Sunday-school workers.

—The union of the several Methodist bodies in New South Wales and Victoria, consummated a little more than a year ago, is succeeding admirably. Reports are to the effect that the different elements are blending well—better, even, than was expected. Those who were fearful are now convinced of the wisdom of the movement. The work of the united body is being much blessed.

—The life and memorials of Henry Ward Beecher are to be published in 1913, the centenary of his birth. Dr. Hillis, the present pastor of Plymouth church, has been appointed editor of the book. It is said that it will be "a complete vindication from the charges that for a time clouded the reputation of a great man. There has been no shadow of doubt in the minds of reasonable men for years and the reason assigned for holding back the complete evidence which is furnished in letters of confession is a feeling of compassion for some who are yet living.

—The Methodist Church Court of Appeal has decided against gown-wearing by Methodist ministers. The wearing of a gown by Dr. Rose, of the Dominion Methodist church, Ottawa, caused some division in the church, a considerable and influential minority being opposed to it. The matter went before the Montreal Conference, to which the church belongs, and the President of that Conference decided against the gown. Dr. Rose then put the matter before the court of appeals of the denomination. After giving much consideration to the matter, it has been decided that the wearing of a gown is "contrary to general usage in worship, as set forth in the model deed of the Methodist church, which provides that all public worship shall be in harmony with the discipline, rules and usages of the church." And yet there is one Methodist church in Canada, St. James' church of Montreal, the pastor of which always wears a gown in the pulpit. Dr. Rose, and those who favor gown wearing, may make some use of that fact.

ACADIA.—President Trotter of Acadia is appealing to the Baptist denomination for \$100,000 for the institutions at Wolfville, the College, the Ladies' Seminary, and Horton Academy—payable in five years. If this amount is raised then Mr. Rockefeller will give \$100,000. With this amount the Governors will be able to remove debts, improve the buildings, add to the facilities for teaching, and raise the salaries of professors to a reasonably liberal figure. We wish our brethren success in their worthy and arduous enterprise.

THE RESURRECTION.

The resurrection of Christ is being celebrated. It is well to recall what this resurrection meant to the first disciples. It would be hard to conceive of a more desolate company than the disciples were during the hours immediately following the crucifixion. "We trusted it had been he which should have redeemed Israel," they said. What a change followed when they knew of his resurrection. They then realized that their trust in him as the Redeemer was to be verified. Henceforth there was no sign of discouragement, and no wavering. Pharisees and Romans alike wondered at their boldness. They had the best reason for being bold. The Christ had risen. He had broken the bands of Roman and Jewish rule, and by that act had dealt both the death blow. From that time till now every kingdom that has sought to resist the onward progress of the gospel has been compelled to yield, has been overthrown, or is suffering the process of decay. Christ has risen, and that resurrection is the pledge that no system, however mighty, shall be able to stand against him.

But it is not merely systems that must yield. Mightier than any power of Emperor or King or form of government is that of evil in the human heart. For three years the living Christ had moved amongst men, teaching as never man taught, manifesting the greatness of a life of unselfish devotion and sacrifice; and he had succeeded in attracting only a few, and most of them unlearned and obscure people. But his triumph over death, this evidence of his divine character and mission changed everything. Barely fifty days passed, and the simple testimony of the apostles to the risen Christ broke down the barriers as they had never been broken before. A Pharisee of the Pharisees, who had resisted every influence until the risen Christ appeared, then went out to preach a gospel for the world. The old bands of selfishness that had limited Judaism were broken. The message to the woman at the tomb, "The Lord is risen; go tell," became the wider command, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." The bounds of space and time were destroyed, and the promise, "Lo, I am with you always," was made possible. The resurrection of Christ is thus seen to be more than a pledge of future blessedness; it is the assurance of present power and victory. The risen Christ is an existent force, an active influence in the world. On every hand we see strife. There are some who think the church is weakening, instead of advancing; the spirit of the world is stronger, evil more mighty. The despairing plaint of the disciples on the way to Emmaus is in some hearts, even upon the lips of some. To such this celebration of the resurrection comes with a message of comfort—an assurance of victory. M.

THE MID-WEEK MEETING.

The prayer-meeting is a fair index of the spiritual life of the church. Unhappily many churches have very poorly attended and uninteresting prayer-meetings. A large number, even a large majority, of church members either have never formed, or by neglect, have failed to keep up the habit of attending the mid-week meeting. How to increase the attendance is an important question. The *Methodist* is impressed that "pastors ought to make a canvass of their church members who are not in the habit of attending the prayer-meetings and get as many as possible to pledge themselves to do so, say for three months, and by so doing they will form the habit, and finding that they are greatly blessed, and are blessing others, and greatly encouraging the pastor, they will continue to come regularly. Something (if not this thing) ought to be done and done at once to arouse greater interest and increased attendance at the mid-week prayer-meeting. Most of the church members find time to call upon their friends, or go to some entertainment during the week. Why not put the prayer-meeting on their list, even if they have to set aside some other thing not so important? We need all the helps we can get for the up-building of the spiritual, soul-saving, Holy Ghost power. Why lose so much in the spiritual things for paltry pleasures?

JOINING THE CHURCH.

It would be interesting to know just what notions the majority of people attach to the act of uniting with the church. What, in their minds, are the qualifications for membership? What is the effect on the character and life produced by joining the church? What is the value of such membership? A lady, who is in great perplexity, writes to a prominent religious editor who has been a pastor: "I was told by a clergyman that if I would unite with the church, and believe that Christ had pardoned my sins, all would be well; and I dared to join the church on simply this assurance."

But she finds that she has no evidence of being a Christian, and asks her editorial friend if there is no way out of her trouble "besides leaving the church." He tells her not to pay any attention to her feelings, but to go on with her religious duties. "Forget yourself, and think only of your duty. Do what Christ bids you do, regardless of the question whether he gives you peace for doing it or not." "Our business," he says, "is simply to follow Christ's directions, and never to ask ourselves how we are getting on; never to test our symptoms or examine into our spiritual conditions, or ask ourselves whether we are getting better or worse." This does not sound exactly like the teaching of Christ and his apostles.

Another lady, some years ago, consulted the pastor of a city church respecting membership in it. She wished to unite with his people, but had sur-