

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24TH, 1903.

Editorial.

—"Courage to face men is born of fear of God," is the *Free Baptist's* terse way of saying a truth we all need to know, especially preachers of God's message.

—The several branches of the Presbyterian Church in China have entered into a compact to unite. Appreciating the greatness of the work before them they realize the importance of union of forces.

—Two more missionaries from the Free Baptist India mission, Rev. H. E. Wyman and wife, have arrived at home for a needed rest. They are now in New Hampshire. They hope soon to be able to visit amongst the churches.

—In the course of an address in Montreal a few days ago, Rev. J. Munro Gibson, a prominent Presbyterian divine of London, Eng., strongly advocated a federation of the churches. The time is ripe, he said, for the churches to act with one another in matters of common concern, in the hope of ultimately coming together in organic union.

—Next Sunday, June 28th, is the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of John Wesley. The Methodist Church throughout the world will fittingly celebrate the anniversary. Other branches of the church of God will heartily participate in the rejoicings that God raised up such a man for such a great work—a work that has blessed the world in a large and abiding way, and that will bless it to the end of time.

—"Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord." How truly do we witness—what tells of the power of divine grace? "The machine witnesses of the mechanic, the vase of the potter, the house of the builder, the book of the author, the fruits of the field of

the great Creator. Just as truly and naturally the Christian should witness to the Christ who made him what he is as a believer. The product reflects glory on the producer. The finest product of the divine handiwork is a redeemed life. Let the redeemed tell out the praises of his spiritual Creator, who has remade him in holiness.

—In the death of Rev. Dr. DeWart, who died suddenly in Toronto on the 17th inst., there passed away one of the ablest and most distinguished ministers of the Methodist Church in Canada. He was 75 years of age, but up to the very hour of his death seemed in quite vigorous health. For twenty-five years he was editor of the *Christian Guardian*. He was an accomplished and vigorous journalist and an able preacher. He gave a half century of faithful service to the Methodist Church and the Kingdom of Christ.

—Reports presented at the recent meeting of the Presbyterian General Assembly of the United States show that the movement for special evangelizing work, begun last year, has been attended with a good degree of blessing. During the year fifty-one evangelists were employed; besides these Presbyteries made grants to certain pastors to enable them to secure supplies for their pulpits while they went to the help of other pastors in special work. The plan has worked so beneficially that the Assembly resolved to continue it this year with even more energy. The Assembly also voted "that the theological seminaries be requested, as soon as possible, to make provision in their course of instruction for the training of evangelists," and that "emphasis be laid on personal work, the conduct of inquiry meetings and the preparation of distinctively evangelistic sermons."

—Discussing the question of the falling off in the supply of ministers, the *Chicago Chronicle* touches some points which have to do with the cause of the deficiency: "This is an eminently practical and material age. Young men, looking about them for a lite employment, are little influenced by sentimental considerations. They see that great material rewards are won by successful men in almost every walk of life save the ministry. The pulpit alone offers small promise of a competence; it offers none at all of affluence. The man who enters the ministry devotes himself to the service of God, as it is proper he should, but he abandons the hope of worldly comfort. There are few young men of this generation who enjoy religious convictions strong enough to impel such a sacrifice. Until there is a revival of such conviction there will be an insufficient supply of clergymen. In other words, the churches will have to experience an awakening unless they are to expire of spiritual inanition. The situation is unmistakable. Of course, the

man who enters the ministry for money, or popularity, or an easy time, is a foreordained failure as a true minister of Jesus Christ. The one thing needed to recruit the ranks of the ministry with efficient men is a great revival in genuine, soul-melting conversions—such conversions as will thrill the converts with an overmastering sympathy for lost souls and cause them to feel as did Paul; "Woe is me if I preach not the Gospel."

THE CENSUS IN PARLIAMENT.

Another chapter of the history of the attempt to have the census errors corrected has to be written.

On the 21st March the Census Commissioner sent us what he called a report of his third revision of the religions of the people of New Brunswick. In the *INTELLIGENCER* of April 15th, April 29th, May 6th, and May 13th, we dealt with that report, showing how wholly inadequate was Mr. Blue's alleged revision, and how utterly puerile his explanations of the disappearance of thousands of Free Baptists. Having been assured by Mr. Blue, in answer to an inquiry, that he had done all he thought he could do to correct the errors, we pursued the investigation in other directions, and have discovered facts in support not only of the contention that the census of religions is untrustworthy, but, also, of the suspicion that the professed revision was a sham.

The matter has been before Parliament. It came up first by a series of questions asked by Messrs. Hale, Fowler, Wilmot and Ganong, and later by a discussion when the census appropriations were under consideration. These gentlemen represent constituencies in which Free Baptists are quite numerous, and the interest they have taken in the matter is commendable. The Parliamentary records show the following:

Mr. Fowler (May 20th) moved for "copies of all papers and documents connected with the enumeration of the Parish of Kars, Kings Co., N. B., in the census of A. D. 1901; including copies of all correspondence between the Rev. Joseph McLeod, D.D., and census Commissioner Blue, in relation thereto."

We have not seen the answer to this except in so far as it came out in a discussion in the House of Commons on the 16th inst., to which reference will be made farther on.

Mr. Ganong (June 1st) asked:

Has the census commissioner, at any time since May 31, 1902, asked the enumerators for the city of St. John, N. B., to revise their returns, with a view to correcting errors brought to the attention of the commissioner, relative to the religious classification and enumeration of that city? If so, at what date was such revision made, and with what result?

The Minister of Agriculture (Hon. Sydney Fisher) replying, said:

On March 16 last a letter was sent to Mr. James Dillon, an enumerator of St. John city, concerning a Free Baptist church at 179½ Water street, which was entered on the schedule as having 545 communicants and a seating capacity of 494. Mr. Dillon was asked to explain

how more communicants were credited to this church than the edifice could accommodate, and replying on 19th March he said: "The pastor of the church named gave the number reported 594* as communicants, adhering to the custom prevailing that as long as members have not asked for letters of dismissal, while perhaps not adhering to the church, he considered them communicants. To place the matter more clearly before you, he has on his church roll about 600 members. Of that number, 300 are non-resident, and he looks upon these as members and communicants of his church until letters of dismissal are asked for." The compilation of the religions of the people in St. John city has been carefully revised, and no error has been discovered in the work.

Mr. Ganong asked a similar question concerning the enumeration of Grand Manan, and received the following answer:

No correspondence has taken place between the census commissioner and the enumerators of Grand Manan, N. B., relative to the religious classification and enumeration of the people of that parish. The compilation of the religions of the people in the Grand Manan parish has been carefully revised and no error has been discovered in the work.

Mr. Hale (June 4th) asked:

1. Has the attention of the census commissioner been called to alleged errors in the religious classification of the people of the counties of Carleton and Victoria, N. B., especially of the Free Baptists?

2. Has the commissioner asked the enumerators, or any of them, in the counties of Carleton and Victoria, N. B., to revise their returns, with the view of the correction of errors in the religious classification?

3. Was such revision made, and what report did the enumerators of the counties of Carleton and Victoria make to the commissioner?

4. Has the commissioner corrected his compilation of the religions of the people of the counties of Carleton and Victoria, according to the corrections made by the enumerators? If so, what changes have been made in the totals of the several denominations in those counties?

The Minister of Agriculture replied:

1. The attention of the census commissioner has been called to alleged errors in the religious classification of the people of New Brunswick, with special reference to Free Baptists, but not in particular to the counties of Carleton and Victoria.

2. The enumerators of Carleton county have been asked to revise their returns.

3. The enumerators of Carleton county have reported that the religions of the people were entered on the schedule exactly according to the information given to them by the people at the time of census taking; but that when the revision was made during the present year, they were informed of cases in which persons entered on the schedules as belonging to one particular sect of Baptists, or as Baptists simply, belonged or were attached to some other sect of the same denomination. The compilation was made according to the entries in the schedules, the correctness of which has been attested by the oaths of the enumerators.

4. The tables were published before the revision in Carleton county was begun, and no changes have been made in the totals of the several denominations.

Mr. Wilmot (June 4th) asked:

*The number reported on the schedule is 545.