

# RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

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"THAT GOD IN ALL THINGS MAY BE GLORIFIED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST." -Peter.

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## THE DUTIES OF CITIZENSHIP.

The following address has been issued to the members and adherents of the Methodist Church in Canada. It is signed by the Rev. Dr. Carman, General Superintendent of the Methodist Church, and Rev. Dr. Chawn, General Secretary of the Conference, on Temperance and Moral Reform. It is entirely without partisan leaning and is a call to the voting members of the great Methodist Church to so faithfully discharge their citizenship duties that they will do their part to overthrow the political corruption which on many forms lifts its head so defiantly, threatening the destruction of representative institutions. Every other Christian denomination in Canada might, by its authorized officials, make a like appeal to its people. And every pulpit of every denomination should speak with utmost clearness and fearlessness against rampant public evils:

It is an axiom of the Christian religion that this is God's world, and that he means it should be a good world. He made it, owns it, and should govern it. The powers that be are ordained of God. They derive their just authority from him, and are responsible to him for its proper use.

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ came into this world for the purpose of setting up the kingdom of heaven on earth. It is the duty of the Christian citizen to use the lawful institutions of men for the purpose of establishing this kingdom. The ballot should be regarded as a sacred trust for expressing and promoting the principles of righteousness in the government of the land. To use it in favor of men who do not show by their character and record that they feel responsible to the King of kings, and do not endeavor to conserve and extend his kingdom, is to act unworthy of the Christian profession. Our political institutions demand for their success and perpetuity an intelligent and conscientious electorate.

## THE EVIL OF BRIBERY.

Political life in Canada sadly suffers from the absence of impotence of these high convictions. It has become common for the practical politicians to be lieve that success in many of our ridings is certain for the party which can command the largest fund for the purpose of bribery. They assume as a working principle that the unpurchasable voters will stand by their respective parties with little regard to the policies that may be submitted to them for their approval, and consequently the task of the corruptionist is simply to buy a majority from the ranks of those who are open to accept bribes. The stiff partizanship of the moral and upright elector is an element in the success of the degenerate politician almost as decisive as the moral weakness of the corrupt elector, and when the policy of the party is not in harmony with public welfare as surely contributes to the undoing of the country.

Rigid partizanship is always unpatriotic, for it consents to leave in abeyance matters of national importance when they do not serve the exigencies of party success. So long as Christians consent to follow party lines with moral issues left out, we cannot expect

those who are most concerned about getting into power to take up questions that will antagonize the vicious or purchaseable voters.

## POLITICAL PARTIZANSHIP.

The revelations of this corruption and the bondage of party politics which makes men condone the crimes of their own party, and the reckless and violent denunciations of the political opponents, regardless of truth and candour, are very humiliating to Christian citizens. The cure for this condition cannot in the nature of the case come out of political parties as such. The remedy must be found in the protest of the Christian church, and the refusal of Christian men to tolerate moral wrong in their respective parties and to demand that the ethics of Christianity, righteousness, truth and purity shall characterize our public men.

has never dominated a civilization without destroying it.

It is a duty in its relation as important as prayer itself, that the members of the Christian churches or executive political associations do their utmost to compel the recognition of moral issues by the public men of our Dominion. Prominent amongst these issues to-day are the questions of Sabbath Observance, Electoral Purity, and the Prohibition of Gambling and the Liquor Traffic.

The solution of all social and civil wrong is to obtain the view-point of our Master and be loyal to his spirit and teachings. We make our appeal to you as men and women electors to be true to Christ in every relation of life, and especially now, as the day of opportunity draws near, we beseech you in affairs which pertain to the government of our country to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

## ANOTHER WORD!

Give it Attention, Please.

Two weeks ago, an "Open Letter" was addressed to certain subscribers, numbering 764.

Each one was respectfully, and very urgently, requested to send the amount due at once. Just twelve have responded. Surely these are not all, who on reading our request, felt that they ought to remit and intended to do so.

The statement in that "Open Letter," that the money was needed at once, was a simple statement of fact. We thought it would be generally re-

spected as such by those to whom it was addressed, and acted upon. We have been disappointed.

The statement is here repeated that payment is absolutely needed from all who owe the INTELLIGENCER. In the twelve days that remain of this month, every one can, and we trust will, make the proper response to this request.

Our friends cannot do us a greater favor just now than to pay quickly. Please do not disappoint us this time.

To do otherwise is to grieve the great Head of the church, and to imperil the future of our beloved country.

A WRETCHED SERVICE.—The new Canadian cable service from London is about as poor as it can be. The *Christian Guardian* is not too severe when it says "we protest that when we grew enthusiastic over the prospect of the establishment of a direct cable news service between London and Canada, we did not mean the kind of thing to which we have been treated during the past few weeks. What was wanted was general British and European news, without the peculiar spice added that suits New York taste; what we have got so far has been largely the smallest of small gossip about things Canadian from sources good, bad and indifferent. It is not flattering to the Canadian to work on the assumption that he is so fond of hearing himself talked about that he will accept such infinitesimally small tattle-tales with any degree of satisfaction. However, the thing is new, and may improve greatly with time, of which improvement there is certainly a noticeable need."

## THE BANE OF SPECULATION.

Says the *Christian Guardian*: We met the other day with the quotation from a newspaper which shows up vividly and pitifully the disasters caused by the financial wreck of the Soo business, and incidentally gives a terrible warning against the folly and danger of the speculating mania recently so rife among us: "Here we see the aged president of a national bank who lost \$200,000 through a lie by a director even after he had been informed that stock had been sold to him on false representations, and whose death was hastened by grief. In another instance a philanthropist willed thousands for various good causes; when his strong box was opened it held but a mass of Consolidated rubbish. A veteran journalist tells how he, in his days of quiet retirement, had a fortune taken from him; a young man about to settle his family comfortably was induced to exchange his all—invested in substantial railway shares—in Consolidated rubbish, still in another place we hear the crack of a suicide's pistol; a Pennsylvania railroad clerk tells how he placed his entire savings in the scheme, and they are gone; a bank has burst in an adjoining country, and farmers and trusting folk have had their lives' savings wrested from them; an aged and honored broker has had his comfortable store of money swept away. On every hand a tale of woe! Men and women in despair; some to-day because they cannot pay a paltry fifty cents a share to save themselves, because, alas, they've lost \$70 a share already.

## THE PARTY MAN.

He serves his party best who serves his country best.—*The Examiner*.

## "BY THEIR FRUITS," ETC.

The atrocious inhumanities committed in the heart of Africa by the officers of the Congo Free State, are only new attestations of the word of Christ, saying that a corrupt tree cannot bring forth good fruit. The present king of the Belgians has lived such a life in his own, and other capitals of Europe, as has secured him the most contemptible reputation in personal morals borne by any of the conspicuous characters of the world. Nevertheless, he somehow had beguiled statesmen of other nations into believing that he had generous and enlightened political principles, and when the question of providing for the civilization of the Congo country came up in European cabinets, there was general acquiescence to a plan which transferred the whole region to Leopold's care. The arrangement was based entirely on trust in him, for he was made absolute autocrat of the Free State, and he gave personal pledges that slavery should be suppressed in the territory and the peaceable and benevolent uplift of the natives secured. But it demanded a man of character to give effect to that high-minded programme, and Leopold was on that score an incompetent. Not a good man himself, he would not or could not command the help of good men as his agents. The officials whom he appointed to positions of trust in the Congo have exploited, terrorized and maltreated the negro tribes of the region more shamefully than did even the professional Arab slave-traders whom the Belgians were sent to punish and suppress.—*The Interior*.