

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1903.

Editorial.

—Some men strengthen a church by leaving it, just as some men leave their country for their country's good.

—Have you failed in your good undertaking? Do not waste time worrying about it. Try again. Keep on trying. You will succeed.

—Practising deception on others, do not be surprised if you are in turn deceived. "With what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again."

—Dr. Mary W. Bachelor, of the India Free Baptist Mission, who has been home on furlough, is now on the way back to India, having sailed from Boston a few days ago.

—To preach against sin in the abstract and to forget to rebuke outbreaks of covetousness, stealing, drunkenness, political corruption and other evils, is incongruous, to say the least.

—Referring to the manifest falling off in the attendance of children at church, the *Outlook* suggests that "the prime cause of the childless church is the prayerless home."

—Of a minister who had been her guest, a lady said: The only thing that detracted from the pleasure we derived from his visit was his sharp criticism of brother ministers." What an unfortunate and unchristian habit.

—Men should be careful, said Dr. Joseph Parker, how they create divisions in their families. By inconsiderate partiality Jacob put Joseph into a false position amongst his brethren. We do not know the full extent of any action we commit. What may be innocently intended upon our part may be fraught with unhappy issue when developed by time and unforeseen environments.

—Liquor advertising is discussed by *Christendom* in this sensible way: The persistent and widespread advertising of different brands of drink is something to be universally deplored. A generation that sees upon every bill board and in almost every magazine striking advertisements of whiskey, beer and champagne, is hardly likely to grow sensitive to the perils which lie in alcohol. It would be very desirable if legislation could be enacted which would enable a community to restrict or prohibit not only the sale but the advertising of spirituous liquors. Such legislation might seem at first too much in the nature of blue laws, but it seems that the community which determines upon prohibition should be permitted to keep out from its limits the public and obtrusive advertisement of the sale of that which it has forbidden.

THANKSGIVING.

There is always a duty of thanksgiving. In many churches throughout Canada the people will be told on Thursday of this week that they ought to give praise to God for His abundant mercies. Let us hope that the admonition will have effect, and that many will feel and express thankfulness who have been mindful of the Divine goodness. And yet to insist upon thanksgiving solely as a duty is to rob it of its charm. Hearty spontaneity and eager voluntariness mark the truest gratitude. Thanksgiving is not a thing to be worked up, but is an experience to be let out of a full heart. God loveth the cheerful giver of thanks. To catalogue the Divine mercies does not fulfil the obligation suggested in a thanksgiving observance. Multitudinous causes for thanksgiving do exist, and they require to be recognized, but the higher and richer experience is to dwell so sympathetically and spiritually in the very presence of the Father of mercies that praise will continually, almost unconsciously, be welling up from the heart. Thankfulness will thus become less an incident and more a habit of heart and life.

M.

CONFERENCE NOTES.

The annual sessions of the New Brunswick Conference of Free Baptists now number seventy-one. The last session continued five days. The weather, except on Monday, was as fine as could be desired, and contributed to the pleasantness of the sessions. The congregations at all the preaching services and at all the public meetings of the session were large. The people were evidently interested. The presence of the Lord was with His people.

The place of meeting, Millstream, is historic ground for Free Baptists. As stated by Bro. Phillips in his Saturday afternoon speech: "In a private house not far from the church in which we are assembled, the brethren of three-quarters of a century ago met for consultation about the organization of a denomination. God was with them then, and as they went forward. He has been with us, He is with us, and will be with us."

Several ministers were absent, some of them owing to the infirmities of years. The attendance of lay members is not so large as it should be. Brethren, who by virtue of offices held in the District Meetings, are members of Conference, as well as the appointed delegates, owe it to the cause to be present at the annual session if at all possible.

The ministers representing Free Baptist bodies were Revs. G. H. Hamlin, of the India Mission; J. J. Hull, of the Maine State Association; J. E. Gosline, of the Nova Scotia Conference; the visiting Free Baptist ministers were: Revs. D. Patterson and R. Heine, of the Nova Scotia Conference; Revs. Messrs. Camp, McIntyre, Field and Vining (Baptists); and Revs. Messrs. Clemens and Bailey (Methodists) were present at some of the meetings. All were cordially received, and we trust enjoyed what they heard and saw, and what they experienced of Christian fellowship, as much as their presence and words were enjoyed by the Conference.

The preaching during the session was good. Sunday morning and afternoon there were overflow meetings in the Presbyterian church, the preachers at these services being brethren E. H. Cochrane and R. Heine.

The Conference meeting and the other services of prayer and praise were seasons of spiritual comfort and stimulus.

The augmentation scheme was discussed at some length, and progress was made. A plan for improving the salaries of pastors commends itself to thoughtful church members, and is sure to be established. If progress towards its establishment is a little slower than its promoters would like, they must be patient. Good things often move slowly towards realization.

The question of Baptist union received consideration. It was discussed first in the Ministers' Meeting, and then in General Conference. There were, of course, differences of opinion on some points, but, in the main, there was more substantial agreement than many supposed there would be. The Basis of Union was adopted, with some verbal changes in two or three sections. A committee was appointed to confer with a committee of the Baptist Convention. We believe the action taken is a step towards the union which we think so important. Later we will have more to say on this subject.

The census injustice received the attention of Conference. The censure of the Census Commissioner is not too severe. The record of the matter made by the Conference is an official declaration to our people and to all people that investigation has shown the census figures concerning Free Baptists to be grossly false. And the responsibility for the wrong is placed where it belongs—on the Census Commissioner and the Minister of Agriculture, who have shown a strange unwillingness to have known errors corrected.

The address of Rev. A. J. Vining on

the religious conditions and needs of the Northwest was a feature of the session. For an hour and a half he held the close attention of the large audience as he described in eloquent words the magnificent heritage Canada has in the great west. And as he told of the Christian work being done, and of the greater Christian work needing to be done, many understood as never before the duty of the Church of God in that great land, and realized their personal responsibility to share in the work. Mr. Vining represented especially the Baptist missions in the west, and he made no plea for aid, because he was addressing the people of another denomination than his own. The voluntary offering made by the congregation was a sign of interest in the work which will, we trust, find larger expression later, and continuous expression. With no mission of our own in the great west there is no reason why we should not co-operate with our Baptist brethren there. There are many reasons why we should so co-operate.

Rev. Mr. Hamlin, of the India Free Baptist Mission, spoke in the public meeting of the W. M. Society, and in the Conference missionary meeting on Monday evening. He is a clear and earnest speaker. He presented the claims of the India field as only one can who has been there and knows conditions and needs from having lived and laboured in the midst of them. Mr. Hamlin will always be heard with pleasure on the subject of missions, with which he is so well acquainted, and to which work he has devoted his life.

The hospitality of the people was unbounded. A gentleman from the west said: "These New Brunswick people beat the world for large-hearted hospitality, and the Millstream people are fine representatives of the best that is done in open houses and at generous boards." And he did not state it too strongly. Pastor and committee did everything that could be done to provide for everybody, and all the people of the place seconded their efforts.

RECONVERTED CHRISTIANS.

BY REV. THEODORE L. CUYLER, D.D.

"When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." These words were not addressed by the Lord Jesus Christ to an impenitent sinner; they were addressed to Simon Peter before his disgraceful denial of his Master. "Simon," says the heart-searching Saviour, "Satan has asked to have you that he might sift you as wheat; but I have made supplication for thee that thy faith fail not. And when thou art converted strengthen thy brethren. Three important facts stand out in this declaration. The first one is that Peter was not at that time a stranger to true religion; for Christ recognizes that he has "faith." The second fact is that while Satan was about to sift poor Peter with a terrible temptation, Christ had interceded for him that he should not fall away into utter apostasy. The third fact is that Christ foresaw that after his disgraceful fall there should be a recovery, and the