

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1903.

Editorial.

—Our friends whose subscriptions are due will be doing us a great favor if they will remit at once. Many payments have been delayed. They are needed now. Kindly send them without further delay.

—A church cannot rise higher in spirituality than the life of its members.

—Sectarian bitterness is one of the most serious reproaches against Christianity.

—God works through men, and according to their character so is the character and influence of the church.

—The sure result of opposition to missionary work, whether at home or abroad, is spiritual degeneracy.

—A revival of a missionary spirit—a deep, strong longing to help carry out the requirements of our Lord's great commission, may be expected to result in a revival of spiritual power in the churches.

—Some one has said that the preservation of the ministry in the midst of so many trials, difficulties and discouragements, in the midst of grief, perplexity, hardship and sorrow, is one of the most convincing proofs of the divinity of the Christian religion.

—It is stated on the authority of recent investigation that there are whole school districts in the State of New York in which not a single family attends a church service, and once prosperous rural churches are falling into decay. This is a sad condition. We hope it may never be possible to say it of communities in Canada.

—It is several weeks since the Minister of Agriculture promised, in the

House of Commons, to investigate the errors in the census relating to the religions of the people of Kars, K. Co., and some other places. Nothing has yet been heard of the results of the investigation. The work of correction should be begun at once, and should be carried on diligently, for there is much of it to do.

—With each succeeding year the union of the several Methodist bodies in England approaches consummation. It is proceeding on the installment plan. The coalescing of the smaller bodies is now going on. The Methodist New Connexion, the United Methodist Free Churches, the Bible Christians and the Wesleyan Reformers are already in active negotiation. The New Connexion have unanimously passed a resolution to submit the question of union with the above mentioned bodies, and of the drafting of a Constitution, to the next January Quarterly meetings. The Primitive Methodist Conference passed a unanimous resolution expressing the pleasure with which it viewed any approach to union, and its willingness to give frank and friendly consideration to any basis agreed upon by the three churches now negotiating together. Soon they will all be one organizationally.

"TO EVERY CREATURE."

Our Lord has issued His orders. It is the duty of His disciples to obey. "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," was not limited to the eleven. Christians in all generations have understood it as addressed equally to them. It is a command to the Church of Christ in every age. Those who believe in Christ and love Him will keep His commandments. Obedience to Christ's commands is the proof of loyalty to Him. The church which is not doing all it can to carry or send the gospel into the whole world, is not faithful to Him whose name it bears. The Christian who is not interested in the salvation of those for whom Christ died is not in full sympathy with the Saviour of men.

The command of our Lord is definite and specific: Preach the gospel—preach it to every creature. There is something very significant in the words, "to every creature." It is as though Christ were saying, "You need not worry about the condition of the heathen, nor speculate about their prospects; I will look after that matter; I tasted death for every man, and I want every man to know it. Every creature on the earth needs the gospel; you are to take it to them in my name, and leave the results with me. I will be with you and will see that the preaching of the gospel is not in vain."

It is well for us to learn, all we can about the heathen—to realize how great is their need of salvation. Such knowledge enables the preacher to emphasize the message. But the Christian's duty does not rest wholly or even chiefly on the sad condition of the heathen, but on His com-

mands who is the Captain of our salvation. It is enough that He bids us go.

He knows what is best for the heathen, and what is best for us. He would not lay this great duty on His people if, as some people seem to think, the preaching of the gospel would only increase the condemnation of those who heard it. He would not send us on such a mission if our souls would not be blessed in obeying the command. As obedient disciples we should press the campaign for the conquest of the world. There is great need of more men, more money, more earnest work, more prayers that His Kingdom Come.

FIFTY DOLLARS OR FIFTY CENTS.

The following, told by the *Free Methodist*, has lessons for many people who think they are doing all they can to support the Lord's cause:

There is on the borders of the Connecticut a small town, which, though weak and feeble, still, with the help of a "home missionary society," support a minister and maintained regular divine worship. About the time when it became necessary to pay the minister's salary, there moved into the place a man who gained his living by carting coal, and by other similar labor. It was noticed that this man was very regular in his attendance at church, and was never absent from the prayer meeting, but from a pecuniary point of view was not considered important.

It was a custom, when the salary was due, for one of the deacons to collect all he could from the people, and then get the balance from the home missionary society. In accordance with this custom, one fine morning Deacon A., a man of considerable means and considerable penuriousness, started forth, subscription paper in hand, to see how much he could squeeze out of the parish for the support of the minister. The first person he met was the above-mentioned coal carter, moving along the road with a cartload of that material. The deacon considered within himself that it might be worth while to ask him to contribute, seeing that he was a good sort of a person, and every little helps, and so accosted him with, "Good morning, Mr. B., are you willing to give anything to the support of the pastor?" at the same time handing him the paper. The man stopped, stood thoughtfully for a moment or two, drew a pencil out of his pocket, and with his dirt-begrimed hand he headed the list with the sum of fifty dollars.

The deacon was so taken by surprise that he could scarcely believe the evidence of his eyes, and thinking the man had made a mistake, and not wishing to take advantage of him, he asked him, "Did you not mean that for fifty cents?" The coal-carter turned, drew himself up to his full height, and with great earnestness replied, "I do not value the gospel at fifty cents a year."

The answer placed the case in a new light. The deacon went immediately to the pastor, related the incident, and said, "If that man can give fifty dollars, I can give five hundred." The same spirit actuated the rest of the parish on hearing the story, and in a few days the salary was raised by the people themselves without the necessity of applying for outside aid.

Reader, it becomes you to consider the question suggested by this incident. At how much do you "value the gospel?" for, upon the answer, may depend your fate for eternity. If, by a whole-souled Christianity, you prove that you have consecrated time, influence, money—all that you have and are—to the service of the Master, at that dread hour all will be well.

FULFIL THE CONDITION.

Did you ever hear a man remind the Lord of his promise given in Malachi iii. 10? I have, many a time. I have heard men really yell to the Lord to "open those windows in heaven, and pour out the blessing." It would seem as though they would break the glass out of those windows, or have the Lord tear the frames to blessings; but the windows did not open nor the blessings didn't come, and they felt a little hard toward the Lord for the failure. But all the time they had the key in their pockets, and didn't use it.

How does that passage read? Look sharp: "Bring ye all the tithes (tenth of your income) into the storehouse, that there may be meat in my house and prove me now herewith (that is, with the tenth), saith the Lord, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." The "tenth" is the key to the windows. Apply the key. Bring that tenth into the storehouse. Take it out of your pocket, and give it to the Lord. Then what will happen? Why, he says he will open the windows and pour out the blessing. You can't keep the key in your pocket and get the blessing. How much noise is wasted over this text—and it is called prayer! Fulfill the condition, and God will fulfill the promise.

General Religious News.

—In England in 1700 Nonconformist numbered 1 to 22 Anglicans; in 1800 the figures were 1 to 8; in 1900 the figures stood 1 to 1.

—Fifty thousand Poles in the United States have withdrawn from the Catholic Church and formed themselves into the "Independent Polish Church of America."

—The British Railway Mission carried on a tent campaign last summer, erecting a tent for special services in large railway centers. The results were most satisfactory. There are 60 branches in Scotland, and several in South Africa, India, and Japan.

—A London contemporary shows how poverty and irreligion go together, by citing the returns of the religious census of London. This shows that wealth and irreligion also go together. On the whole, the middle state is best: that is what Agur prayed for. Agur was exceedingly wise in prayer. We hope his faith equalled his wisdom.

—Methodism is making good progress in Australia, judging from census returns recently published. Her membership is given as 587,943, the Presbyterians numbering 652,576, and the Church of England 1,811,644. The Roman Catholics number 965,622, being twenty-one per cent. of the population. The recent consolidation of Methodist forces will mean more aggressive and successful work as time goes on. Other denominations outside the four mentioned are small in the Commonwealth.