

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1904.

—Every church should be a centre of mission interest and activity. To make Christ known is the business of a church. The church which thinks only of itself is unworthy the name it bears.

—News of the churches is not so plentiful some weeks as it ought to be—this week, for instance. Is it because there is no news, or only because it is not sent? News of the Lord's work is always welcome. The people look for it.

—Those who have sent new subscribers recently have our hearty thanks. We are expecting to have to thank many more for like favors. Put us under heavy obligations in this respect, brethren. We will gladly bear such a burden.

—We hope the pastors and other friends of the INTELLIGENCER have begun the December canvass for it. With the cooperation of all its friends this may be a great month for the paper. We are hoping for a rush of renewals and new subscribers from every part of the field.

—By the death of Principal Cavan, of Knox College, Toronto, which occurred on Thursday, not only has the Presbyterian Church in Canada lost one of its wisest and most influential leaders, but the whole Christian Church sustains a serious loss.

—To the son or daughter away from home, to the aged widow who cannot pay for it, to the friend who does not take it because he does not know that it would be a helpful visitor to his home—to any of these the INTELLIGENCER for a year would be a fitting Christmas present.

—How much better than having a supper," said a brother the other day, referring to a recent congregational meeting in one of our churches, is

which the people's offerings amounted to over \$100.00. We heard of a supper in another church about the same time, the net proceeds of which were not half as much.

—The *Christian Guardian*, Toronto, celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary last week. It has witnessed great changes in Canada, and has done its full share in bringing about the good ones. The *Guardian* is a credit to Methodism, which it represents. It is ably edited. May it live long, and be increasingly useful.

—It is not assuming too much to say that in the judgment of the great majority of men, the liquor traffic is regarded as a public enemy. And yet the traffic is legalized and encouraged with the public consent. Why is this? It is because the heart of the people is not moved, their will is not asserted. Some day, perhaps when the country is in the throes of nation-wide commotion caused by the iniquities of the traffic, the people will be awakened to their duty and will smite the hideous thing to its death.

—In your Christmas giving it will be well to remember your pastor and his family. The veterans, who once served faithfully and self-sacrificingly, and now wait at the river's edge for the crossing, can be made glad by a kindly reminder of a love that does not forget. The old people near you—and perhaps some far away, too, who have much experience of loneliness because those whom they have known best have gone on before, may be taken into the warmth of your companionship by a Christmas gift. The very poor, who have few comforts, and much feeling of being uncared for, may by a timely gift, be given cheer that will long abide with them. Make your Christmas giving a ministry of good cheer and help.

—Since his return to England, the Archbishop of Canterbury has been telling the people at home how much he was impressed by his visit to America, and some of the things he learned on this side of the ocean. He learned that his own church is not the largest in either the United States or Canada; that there is national recognition of God and religion without the establishment and endowment of one branch of the church at the expense of the other; that the different denominations of Christians are on an equality on this continent, and are able to co-operate in a good degree. Perhaps what he learned may help him to suggest a better plan of education than that which is bearing so unjustly on the other denominations for the advantage of that of which the Archbishop is the head.

—Every Christian should be doing something to extend Christ's Kingdom. The *Christian Observer* wonders if many members of the churches really grasp the fact that if the world is to be brought to Christ, it must be done by the personal efforts of individual hearts and lives. Men and women are busy today, busier, perhaps, than they ever

were in the world's history, but in some way they seem to have time to do those things which most interest them. There were never so many lodges and societies, and as a rule the members are also church members, at least in name. Some of these societies are excellent in their purposes. They are musical, literary, or benevolent; but none of them have the supremely important place occupied by the Church of Christ. If they fill a place that the Church cannot fill, and that ought to be filled, that is all right. But they must not take precedence of the Church of Christ, and its supreme purpose of winning a lost world to righteousness. The work must be done by individual workers; and for this the ministry is manifestly inadequate as to numbers, even supposing that they were always the best adapted for the work, which is by no means certain.

—Commendation to be really helpful needs to be discriminating and faithful. These words of the *Canadian Baptist* are true and wise:

Not every man can progress spiritually under the generosity of his friend's commendations. Saying kind things about those whom we respect and admire is one of the pleasantest of life's privileges, both for him who gives and him who receives. If you have been blessed through a pastor's sermon, tell him so. If you admire a friend's business methods, let him know it. If you see a young man growing in the favor of his fellows by his energy and integrity, commend him for it. In our commendations, however, we should always be honest. Flattery is no kindness, and he who flatters neither helps himself nor the man whom he flatters. He is a strong man who, receiving many expressions of regard from admiring friends, continues to grow in grace or even in popularity amongst his fellows. Let the kind words said by those who wish us well be useful to us as a means to keep us humble and to induce a greater anxiety on our part to discharge with increasing faithfulness life's responsibilities.

PERSONAL READINESS.

Many pastors and churches are, doubtless, considering the need of special work. Perhaps some of them are dreading it, having in mind the apparent fruitlessness of previous special work. Some churches have the feeling that it is scarcely worth while undertaking special services without an evangelist as leader. Even when the pastor does not fully share this view the fact that his church has it effects him, weakening his faith and courage. Churches make a mistake when they think they cannot have a revival without an evangelist. The evangelist has his place and work, but he is no substitute for the pastor even in revival work. The majority of the best revivals, the results of which have been most abiding, have been the fruit of the pastor's faithful preaching and wise management. It will be a sad day when pastors are not the leaders in revival work. The evangelistic pastor is a great need of these days. Such a pastor, with a church that will faithfully co-operate with him, will win many to Christ.

The growth of the churches during the past year has not been what was desired—what it might have been. Why?

The word of truth is not less perfect. The Holy Spirit is not variable, fiful. The reason must be found in the churches themselves—in their lack of faith and zeal. Earnestness and zeal depend chiefly on piety. It is little use to work for conversions if there be not in the workers a high plane of Christian living. The church that lives near to God, that tries to develop the Christian growth of its own members, will be ready to engage in aggressive work. The Church has shown itself a mighty evangelizing power only when its members have realized that they were called to be saints—"a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

Let all the churches, then, seek first and most earnestly personal holiness. Then they may with confidence organize for an evangelistic campaign. M.

GIVING AN ACT OF WORSHIP.

In the Sunday school lesson of two or three weeks ago, one of the significant points was the one that was adopted by Joash to raise money for the temple repairs. The first plan proposed was that the priests act as collectors, but it was not as successful as was expected. Then a chest, with a hole in the lid, was placed in the Temple, and the people were invited to make their offerings. And the offerings were equal to the need. The *Baptist Commonwealth*, commenting on the lesson, says:

It is important to notice that the money was not only given, but given as an act of worship, as a part of their religious duty and privilege. The chest was set in the temple, right beside the altar, and the placing of the money there became a part of the worship. Not only did the people receive a blessing from the improvements their money secured, but they were also blessed in the giving of the money.

It is unquestionably true that to many people giving is an unpleasant task. Perhaps that is why we so often feel it necessary to adopt methods to secure it without an open contribution. We may secure it by these methods, but we do so at the expense of the spiritual blessing that would have been received had it been given. Giving can become the greatest joy that the human heart ever knows. Not many, perhaps, find it so, but it is possible. We believe that it was a joy supreme for our Saviour to give himself for us. We believe that never were the early Christians so radiant as when they were giving their lives for the faith. Giving our money as well as giving our time and thought is one of our greatest privileges. But to experience any spiritual blessing must be given, and given cheerfully.

THE WORD OF TRUTH.

As one bulwark against the skepticism which contends that the Bible contains quite a good many myths, or sayings that are founded on human imagination, we used to continually hold up the great fact that the whole Bible is the Word of Truth. It is a noteworthy fact that the Bible writers maintain, in varying expression, that the sacred writings form a volume of truth. As God himself is pre-eminently the Truth, it is most reasonable to believe that the Bible which he has given to us is emphatically the Word of Truth. And it is because of this very fact that Satan, the arch- liar, has all the while worked through skeptical men to make it appear