

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1904.

Editorial.

—The spiritual condition of a church may be fairly determined by its willingness to share in the work of evangelizing the world.

—Of genuine religion the world was never more in need than now. And never did a heartier welcome await the real Christianity of Christ.

—This good thing we pass on: Let us all seek this year to speak kindly of one another. Cruelties of speech are the most hurtful ones of all.

—More people will be reached and blessed when the church is true to Christ in faithfully preaching His gospel, than when making great efforts to be attractive and entertaining.

—The practical way to purify politics is for honest men to use their influence within their own parties. The man who does something towards causing his own party to use clean methods in political warfare is a real patriot.

—Rev. Dr. Cuyler has just celebrated his eighty-second birthday. He occupied the pulpit of his old Brooklyn church that day, the 10th inst. He is in good health, and rejoicing in the Lord whom he has served so long and so well. A host of friends, in every part of the world, are glad that he lives and labors.

—One who is fully cognizant of the religious tendencies in France, having made careful investigation during extensive journeying through the country, says that the movement towards Protestantism is very general amongst the French people—much more so than is generally understood.

—The *Wine and Spirit Gazette*, voicing the views of the rumselling fraternity, says: "Politics concerns us only so far as politics is calculated to benefit or threaten to injure the traffic in liquors."

They put other questions aside for the sake of their man-killing traffic. Good citizens should put other questions aside in a united and determined effort to overthrow and destroy the horrible traffic.

—Bishop Spaulding, speaking on the importance of consistency in religion, made an appeal to his own people, those of the Roman Catholic church, which applies equally to every thoughtful man. "There is," he said, "no arguments against religion. The one great argument is this saying one thing and doing another—proclaiming these high truths, coming close to the altar where Jesus lives and loves, and then going forth to engage in corrupt politics, a degraded and sensual life, in bitterness and hatred and fraud and deception."

—The head-lines in the daily papers are attractive, but very often quite misleading. Those who, in their hasty scanning of their morning or evening paper, do not go beyond the head-lines, sometimes get a very wrong impression. Rev. G. Campbell Morgan, Mr. Moody's successor at Northfield, tells an experience he had. He had been preaching on 'The Death of Christ.' In his introduction he spoke of Christ's death as a moral mystery, and said that in the presence of the death of the Christ he must become either an infidel or a believer. Then he went on to expound his reasons. Next morning, the first thing that caught his eye on the newspaper bills, in striking head-lines, was "Dr. Campbell Morgan Puzzled About the Death of Christ. Says there is a Moral Mystery in it. It Makes Him an Infidel." The reporter had picked out the opening sentences and used them without any reference to the context. "I have been receiving letters ever since," said Dr. Morgan, "explaining the death of Christ, from all denominations and religious sects."

—Rev. G. Hamlen, writing in the *Morning Star*, pays a tribute to the late Dr. Burkholder, with whom he was associated in the India mission work. He says:

The quality that impressed me most in him was persistence. This appeared in his devotion to his work. He seldom took a vacation, perhaps not often enough for his health. He seemed to see so much to be done that he must be constantly at work. . . . He was a loyal friend, and it is for this that some of us will remember him affectionately. Personally I almost feel as if he had given his life for mine. When he returned to India less than ten months before his death, and found that I had been suffering from malaria, the previous summer, he insisted that I must come home to rest and volunteered to take charge of my work in my absence. And now he has met what he feared would be my fate if I stayed another year, and I am here, well and strong, writing these poor words of him. I hope I can thank him aright when we clasp hands over yonder. If either his persistence or his loyalty had been less, he might have been alive now. Yet I doubt not that the world is richer thus than if he had been without them, and heaven, too.

—A Baptist church in Chicago is dealing in a very definite and courageous way with the question of financial support of

the church. The plan, as briefly stated by the *Canadian Baptist*, is this: "Every member who is financially able to do so is required to contribute regularly to the current expenses of the church not less than five cents a week, excepting minors, who shall contribute not less than two cents weekly. Persons wishing to unite with the church are made aware of this requirement, and must assent thereto before they are received into membership. Any member whose financial circumstances are such that he cannot or ought not contribute regularly, shall by a vote of the deacons to that effect be excused from contributing. Any member not so excused, who refuses or neglects to contribute, shall be reported to the church for discipline."

The adoption of such a rule in some churches would, doubtless, pinch a good many members—those who are so fond of "a free religion" that they rarely, and some of them never, contribute to support the church or any Christian work. But do not such people need the lesson, for their own sake as well as for the good of the cause? The effect, in the main, of the judicious application of some such rule would be good.

POWER IN LITTLE THINGS.

Some Christians become discouraged because they do not see some marked result of their efforts. They easily persuade themselves that their influence is insignificant, and excuse themselves from active participation in the work of the Lord. What a mistake they make! They fail to appreciate the worth and power of small services in God's way of doing them.

Progress is the law of Christian life. Grace develops little by little, as the physical powers do, by being kept in exercise. So in Christian work. If we wish to accomplish great things for Christ, we must begin at once and do something for him. It may be but little that we can do, but if done in faith and love it will be a testimony for Christ. To-morrow add to the little thing done to-day, and thus, day by day, continue to work patiently and hopefully for our Master, and there will be no failure of blessed result. And it will be greater than we can know till the great day of revealings.

The sower scatters the seed, a handful at a time, and step by step. The process is slow, but when the harvest time comes the whole field is rich with the ripened grain, and the reaping is with great joy. It may be but a few words spoken by a timid one for Christ, but often such a testimony has awakened a sleeping soul and brought a wandering sinner to Christ. It is told that an infidel, who had just left a church where he had listened to a learned argument in proof of the divine origin of the Christian religion, was spoken to in a few simple words by a Christian friend concerning his personal relation to God. Though the sermon had failed to make an impression, the few words of a faithful friend were used by the Holy Spirit to bring the proud unbeliever to Jesus Christ.

It is not because we are insignificant and our influence small that we are unsuccessful, but because we do not patiently continue in well-doing, and trustfully

await God's time for the results. God can work as efficiently by little things as by great things. One may only be able to bring the smallest stone to the walls of the temple God is building, but if that is his part of the work, let him rejoice that he is called to do it. It is essential to the completeness of the great work. Neglect to do it mars the whole.

When the church of Christ realizes the power God has given to each member for building up and extending his kingdom in the world, and utilizes that power, the borders of Zion will be enlarged, and the world will witness the fulfilment of the prophecy, "The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." That time is, we trust, drawing near. The Lord hasten it.

A TALK WITH THE MINISTERS.

We want to have a little heart to heart talk with the ministers. We would rather sit down with each one in his home and talk it out. Much could then be said that cannot be said in any other way. But it is not possible to make such personal visits. Our second choice would be to write a letter to each. But that, also, is too large an undertaking just now. We have, therefore, to address them in this way.

It is about the INTELLIGENCER we wish to talk with you, brethren. It is your paper as much as it is ours—the paper of the denomination with which we all are identified. In a much larger sense than many realize, it is a part of the denominational working force.

We assume that the ministers are interested in the paper of their denomination, just as they are interested in each other—each desiring the success of the others, because success means the strengthening of the cause, the extension of Christ's kingdom. The INTELLIGENCER is certainly concerned for the success of every minister, and seeks to be his helper in every part of his work.

In some congregations there are large lists of subscribers; in others, small lists; in none is the list so large that it may not be increased; and in most of them the list could be doubled without getting all the Free Baptist families.

To reach the non-subscribing people in our churches, we have no way, except by the pastors and such other interested members as are willing to help in this work.

Every Free Baptist family in Canada needs the INTELLIGENCER. A family without a religious paper is not making full provision for the religious instruction and training of its members. For Free Baptist homes, this is the paper. It is the only weekly of the denomination in Canada. It is the one paper in which our people can get full and accurate news of their ministers and churches, and in which the denominational interests and enterprises, local and general, are fully set forth. No other paper can fill its place in a Free Baptist family. And there never was a time when our people needed it more than now.

As truly as our people need the INTELLIGENCER, it needs them—needs them that its usefulness may be increased,