

TERMS AND NOTICES.

THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER, published in the interests of the Free Baptists of Canada, is issued every Wednesday. SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.50 a year, in advance. When not paid within three months, the price is \$2.00 a year. Subscriptions may begin at any time.

The date on the address label is the time to which the subscription is paid. The date is changed within two weeks after payment is received. If not changed in two weeks, we should be notified.

To discontinue the paper, it is necessary to notify us and pay arrears, if any are due. Papers are continued till such notice is given and payment made.

When asking change of address, be careful to give both the old and the new address. Notify us promptly of any irregularity or other mistakes.

Every Free Baptist minister in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia is an agent for the INTELLIGENCER, and is authorized to receive subscriptions.

ADVERTISING rates on application. ST. JOHN OFFICE: Barnes & Co., 84 Prince William Street.

All letters, whether on business or for publication, should be addressed to THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER, Box 384, Fredericton, N. B.

•• THE ••
Religious Intelligencer.

(ESTABLISHED 1853.)

Manager's and Editor's Office: Fredericton, N. B.

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1904.

—It is a noteworthy fact that both the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York are grandsons of Scotch Presbyterian ministers.

—The Free Baptist General Conference of the United States, at its recent session, appointed Rev. D. Solley to represent it at the World's Congress of Baptists to be held in London next summer.

—A portion of the India field occupied by the United States Free Baptist mission is likely to be assigned to the General Baptists. A vote favoring such action passed the United States Conference at the late session.

—A convention of the Episcopal Church is being held in Boston. Such a gathering is held triennially. The present is regarded as the most important yet held. It is largely attended, there being representatives from every parish of the United States. Not a few Canadians are there as visitors. The presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury adds greatly to the interest—it being the first time the head of the church has been in America.

—This is what the *Canadian Baptist* says about the need of reform in election methods, and the duty of Christian voters:

What we need at the present time is that Christian voters should go into the political field, take the work of organization and election campaigning out of the hands of the heeler and the hanger-on, and introduce new methods that shall be pure in their ideals and effective in squelching all those procedures of a shady character that are bringing success to the baser elements and disrepute to our beloved country. It is time for a change in this regard, and the change can be brought about by the exertion of those in the churches of the land who see the corruption and who are willing to engage more actively in political warfare in order to have it put down.

—Rev. A. J. Vining, the representative of the Baptist missions in the Great West of Canada, has gone to England to present the claims of the work to the Baptist churches there. Those who attended our Conference last year will remember the powerful address of Bro. Vining, which moved all hearts. If when he presents his case the English churches do not see clearly the vast importance of the work in the west, and its needs, and be moved to have a share in it, it will be because nothing can move them. We hope he may have large success.

—The offer of the Free Church of Scotland to permit the United Free Church to occupy until June 30th next the churches, manses and colleges which have been taken from them by the recent decision of the law lords, the *Christian World* says it is very absurd

For a quarter of a hundred ministers, mostly of village churches, to take possession of 1,100 churches, 700 manses, three colleges and the home and foreign mission machinery of the old Free Church, is as if the people of the Isle of Man should take possession of the entire governing machinery and the State properties of England, and attempt to run the United Kingdom and the Empire. So absurd is the situation that the humorous almost dominates the sense of injustice.

—Of the negotiations for union of the Disciples and Free Baptists of the United States, progress towards which was made in the recent Free Baptist Conference, at Hillsdale, Mich., the *Christian Standard*, a leading Disciples' paper, says: "From everything we saw and heard and took part in at the Free Baptist Conference, union seems to be a hopeful prospect. The speeches on the regular programme and the prayers breathed the spirit of unity. The address on education plainly recognized that changes were impending, and that union of the Free Baptists with some other group of churches holding to believers' baptism was inevitable. Another important fact that helps us to hope for union is that the vantages would not be all on one side. A free people would dislike to enter into an arrangement where they would receive everything and give nothing in return. The Free Baptists could give as well as receive. We need them as they need us. The union now considered would be a mighty fact working for the plea the churches of Christ have made from the beginning. Then, our purpose to go into New England and the East generally would be greatly promoted by union."

Another Disciples' paper, the *Christian Evangelist*, says:

There was not one dissenting note in the whole day's discussion. In Dr. Ball's clear statement of what Free Baptists held as fundamentals, was as clear a statement of what Disciples hold as could be made. There is practically no difference between the two bodies. They can, ought to, and, we believe, will unite. The geographical location of each will mean much for the united body. The movement seems of God.

THE YEAR BEFORE THE CHURCHES.

Now that the Conference is over, and the ministers who have taken pastorates are about settled, and all the things that always follow the annual session have been attended to, the pastors and churches are doubtless looking forward to the year upon which they have entered, and desiring that it be a good year. Let every one pray that it be a year of the largest blessing. But with the praying there must be some other things. Suffer a few words concerning some of them.

The thought which is first in many minds is that of Baptist union. Action is to be taken by the churches, ratifying the action of Conference. This, let us hope, will be practically unanimous. It is not a matter that need disturb the churches, nor in any way interfere with their work. Indeed, it should, rather, be a spur to more earnest service. In view of the larger opportunities to be afforded them, pastors and churches may well devote themselves with increase of zeal to the great work committed to them.

Planing for work is necessary. Christian work is not well done at haphazard. To accomplish the best results there needs to be careful planing. In this the pastor is properly the leader. He has the matter always in mind. He knows his field, his people, the conditions, the needs of the work. He has experience. He is, also, observant of what is being done elsewhere, and with what effect. He has, therefore, ideas of what should be done, and how to do it. His people look to him to mark out the way. But the wise pastor will take his officers and other thoughtful and interested members into his confidence. He will not only lay before them his own views of work needed, and methods to be employed, but he will ask for their views, and confer with them as to how the interests of Zion may best be advanced. When there is such conference of pastor and burden-bearers in the church, with prayer to God for wisdom and strength, there will not be lacking the forms of activity that will, under God, be successful.

Some churches have new pastors. The success of the new pastor depends much on the early weeks in his new field. The impression he makes on his people counts for something; the impression they make on him counts for quite as much. It is not well to expect too much of him. It is not good to be comparing him with his predecessor, either to his advantage or disadvantage. It is less wise to be comparing him with the man some had hoped to get. You may think him a better preacher, or not so good a one, as the man he succeeds, but it is not well to say anything about it, not even to think about it. Just regard him what he is, the Lord's servant, appointed for your instruction, and comfort and help in the divine life, and the leader of the Christian activities which centre in

your church. Give him sincere and constant sympathy, and the best co-operation in service of which you are capable. Pray for him; work with him.

Larger support of all local interests, and a more generous hand of help to mission and other wider enterprises are required of every church. One of the things all churches need to learn is the better support of Christian work. When this is done the churches may expect richer spiritual blessings. There are few churches, if any, that cannot pay better salaries to their pastors, a few that cannot contribute more for the work of the Lord in destitute home fields and in "the regions beyond." We commend this matter to the careful thought of all our people. It is more important than they have realized. And upon right action in this respect more depends than they now know, not only of the success of Christian work but, also, of the character and worth of their personal spiritual experiences.

More evangelism is a pressing need of the present time. The report on the state of the denomination presented to Conference, and adopted by that body, suggested that the churches give more attention to evangelism. It is hoped that this year will be marked by evangelistic activity. It ought not to be difficult for pastors to arrange to help each other in this work; and there are in every District, and probably in every church, devoted laymen who can give valuable service. To just "keep house" is not enough for a church. The unsaved are all about us; they are under the shadow of every church, many of them attending the Sunday services, and yet remain unconverted. To win these to the faith of Jesus Christ, to the usefulness and joy of the Christian life, is the business of the churches. The church which does not do its utmost to accomplish this is, surely, failing to be true to its great mission.

Let us never lose sight of the fact that great responsibility is upon us as Christ's representatives amongst men. Be always true to Him. Our loyalty will have its best expression in the self-denying service we give Him, in our earnest endeavors to further His work of salvation. The work our Lord gives His people is great, but the grace He gives to His faithful ones is equally great.

There is no time when consecration to God is not needed. Facing the work of a new year all pastors and churches may well resolve upon a new and fuller consecration, a complete dedication of all we are and have to the uses of Him who has redeemed us. With full consecration will come clearer view of needs, deeper sense of responsibility, readier Christian work, more joy in service, and larger success in all that is undertaken in His name. The Lord he us all to do our part towards making this a year of true Christian activities, successful beyond all previous years. Amen!