

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1904.

Editorial.

—There is an increasing scarcity of candidates for the ministry in the Church of England. The meagre stipends in the majority of parishes is held to be responsible for it.

—By the death of Archbishop Machray, Archbishop Bond, of Montreal, becomes the Primate of the Church of England in Canada. The distinction could not be more worthily bestowed.

—A most interesting fact in the brief summary of the India census report, just issued, is that Hinduism is declining, especially through conversions to Christianity, which has gained 600,000 converts in ten years. Even with the growth of the population, due to natural increase, there were a half million fewer Hindus in 1901 than ten years before.

—The Pope is said to have instituted inquiries concerning the salaries of priests in the United States, with a view to limiting the amount they should receive, which he thinks ought not to be more than \$1,200 a year. Do the fees for marriages, funerals, confessions, prayers for the dead, etc., go into the common fund? These are a source of large revenue.

—In an address on daily prayer, a minister earnestly urged every one to begin the day with prayer. Dealing with the excuse, so often given, of lack of time, the speaker took out his watch and slowly repeated the Lord's prayer. It took him just twenty-seven seconds. Then he asked, "Is there a man or woman who cannot give less than half a minute to prayer to God before starting on the day's work?" Does this touch you?

—In a note accompanying the article, "The Faith that Saves," which appears on another page, Dr. Cuyler says: "I send you this article, which I prefer to any that I have written for inquirers.

... If it guides some souls to Jesus, that's enough. God bless you in your work, and keep you straight and strong for the old gospel of redeeming love."

A word of counsel and cheer from the venerable man of God is a real benediction.

—The world moves. In Rome, recently, there was a Christian Students' Congress, under the leadership of Mr. John R. Mott, who has been touring in the old world in the interests of the Christian students' movement. There were present two hundred representatives, representing fourteen Italian universities. Corresponding delegates from France, Spain and Switzerland were there also. The convention throughout was one of great interest. One of the most significant and impressive meetings of the session was a Sunday morning prayer-meeting in the Catacomb Domitilla, where the early Christians were wont to meet to pray in secret.

—The weather in England, as in this country, has been hard this winter. And it has interfered with attendance at church services. Small attendance has interfered with the offerings. A minister in an English town has been moved to speak of the deficiency to his people, and urge them to make good the contributions they did not make because they remained at home. It is really a matter that needs to be brought to the attention of a good many people. Many, when from any cause they are absent from the place of worship, fail to remember that the expenses of the church are just the same as if they had been present. They ought to put aside their collection money, and take it to the church next time they go.

—Some of our older readers in Fredericton and vicinity will remember Rev. Alexander Stirling, who was minister of the Free Kirk in the sixties. His death occurred in Pictou County, Nova Scotia, two weeks ago. He was for some years in Prince Edward Island after leaving this province, but spent his latest years in Nova Scotia. For a little more than a year he had not been in charge of a church, owing to failing health, but up to the very last he continued to preach whenever opportunity offered. It was his delight to preach, and he was a good preacher in the truest sense. He was filled with zeal for Christ, and to make him known as the one great Saviour was his joy. All who came in contact with him felt the influence of his godly life. He rests from his loved labors, but his fruits abide.

—At the service in the Senate Chamber at Washington in memory of the late Senator Hanna, the chaplain of the House offered the following as an "invocation":

"With bowed heads and sorrowing hearts, O God, our Heavenly Father, we meet here in the solemn presence of the dead to pay a tribute of respect to a strong, brave, honest, noble, manly man; warm in his devotion to his friends and family; broad in his conceptions; strong in his convictions, a patriot and a statesman; a leader among

the leaders of our nation. He lived well, wrought well, and died mourned by a nation, more than which no greater tribute can be offered. The floral offerings, so abundant, from the high, the lowly, the rich, the poor, testify more eloquently than words of his worth, of his faithfulness to duty. We thank thee for his life. May his example be an inspiration to the young men of our nation and his deeds be cherished memory to us all."

It may have been very informing, for it told the Lord, and the people within hearing, a great deal, more or less in accord with facts, about the deceased Senator—but where was the prayer? There is too much of the same sort of thing, in the guise of prayer, at funerals of others than public men. The Lord is not deceived by it. It does not even deceive the people. It does discredit the ministry, and makes men think poorly of the religion of which they are the teachers.

SCHOOLS IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

The report of the Schools of New Brunswick for 1903, presented to the Legislature a few days ago, contains much statistical and other information. Besides the report of the chief superintendent of education, there are the reports of the principal of the normal school, the chancellor of the university, the director of manual training, the supervisor of school gardens and nature study, the inspectors, boards of trustees of cities and incorporated towns, county institutes, the summer school of science, and the school for the blind.

Both the number of schools in operation during the year and the number of pupils enrolled show a decrease. From 1890 to 1899 there was each year an increase in the number of pupils, since 1899 there has been an unusual decrease. The chief superintendent accounts for the decrease by the scarcity of teachers, the frequent closing of schools on account of contagious diseases, the neglect of parents to comply with the provisions of the vaccination act, and the change of the age of entrance into the schools—from five years to six. He thinks that in view of these facts an even larger decrease in the enrolment of pupils would not have been surprising. A compulsory attendance law would, he believes, have a good effect, especially in the towns and cities. The fact that the enrolment in cities and towns has varied very little in the last seven years, notwithstanding a steady increase in their population, points strongly to the need of such law.

The scarcity of teachers is, evidently, due principally to the poor salaries paid. To this matter the chief superintendent devotes special attention. He says:

It is universally admitted that the salaries of teachers are shamefully inadequate. The difficulty of finding a sufficient supply of teachers of any class, the unhappy alternative that constantly presents itself of allowing schools to remain closed or of placing them in charge of untrained and incompetent teachers, the fact that male teachers are being gradually but surely forced out of the profession, the constant exodus of our most progressive teachers of both sexes into other employments or pursuits, or to other countries where they hope to find better remuneration in their chosen

profession—all these indicate the gravity of the crisis through which we are passing.

The only way to remedy the evil is to make it worth while for the successful teacher to remain in the teaching profession. Among the suggestions made are these:

The salary should be progressive—that is, it should be graded, according to experience acquired in successful teaching, up to a maximum, say at the end of the seventh year of service. If, in addition to this, a retiring allowance could be provided for all teachers after twenty-five years of faithful service, there would be no occasion to complain of the difficulty of finding good teachers. How are increased salaries to be provided? By an increase from each of the three sources which now contribute towards the teachers' salary—the provincial revenues, the county fund and local assessment. Unless the ratepayers and trustees of districts can be influenced in some way to recognize the necessity of contributing much more liberally than heretofore, by local assessment, to the salaries of teachers, any possible increases from the provincial revenues and the county fund will fail to meet the exigencies of the case. In some localities the tendency has been apparent to diminish the local contribution in proportion to the amount of outside aid received. It might be well to require a minimum sum from districts equal to the amount of the provincial and county grants combined.

The question of free text-books receives some attention in the report. The chief superintendent thinks it would be well to grant permission to school boards to try the experiment, and he recommends the amendment of the School Act to enable it to be done.

HIS FATHER.

All the world sings the song of the mother. It is well. Than the mother-love nothing can be more tender, self-sacrificing, enduring.

"We thank thee for the ties that bind The mother—to the child she bears."

Less is said of the father. His life is cast in another mould. He does not so much appeal to the poet. His love is not often the subject of song. And yet the true father's love is deep, strong, daring. His life represents to his children the most of what is good and true and worthy in human life.

This writing is chiefly to record an interview had within a few days, in the hope that it may help somebody. The interview was with one whose father has been away from the earth more than thirty years. It was the anniversary of his death. The son, now older than was his father at his death, mentioned him with quivering lip and tear-dimmed eyes. He evidently had still a keen sense of the loss he had sustained in the going away of his father. He spoke of him with the greatest reverence. Dwelling on his characteristics, he told of his strong intellectuality, his firmness of purpose, his unceasing activity, his strength of conviction, his giant-like moral courage, his unwavering loyalty to truth, his purity of motive, his absolute unselfishness, his self-denials, his readiness to sacrifice personal advantages and comforts for the sake of a good cause, his great faith, his devotions to the kingdom of Christ. He spoke of the confidence, as a boy, he had in his father's judgment, and how, when in boyish waywardness, he dis-