

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1904.

-To live for humanity, as Jesus did, is the high calling of his disciples.

-The English Wesleyan Church is becoming increasingly interested in practical temperance work.

-The gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ lives and thrives in the midst of the most evil conditions. "It is the power of God."

-The professing Christian who is habitually inconsistent does more harm than the avowed opponent of Christianity.

-A union of two branches of Methodism in Ireland - the Methodist Church and the Methodist New Connection Church, was consummated recently. They had been apart many years.

-The character and influence of a church are determined by its members. They may be poor and not widely known, but if they are good and true the church will have worthy standing and helpful influence.

-Some people seem to think that being actively interested in public affairs interferes with, if it does not wholly destroy, the spirituality of Christians. The fact is that nothing more deteriorates true spirituality than indifference to the great questions which affect public morality and righteousness.

-The special Ministers' Conference, of which notice is given on page 13, is called for the day before the regular annual ministers' meeting. We are asked to say that its purpose is to give the Ministers' Conference this year two days instead of one, and so affording time for the proper consideration of questions likely to arrive.

-Bishop Thoburn, of the Methodist Episcopal Church in India, who was injured in Vancouver some months ago

on his way home, is still in poor health, and his doctors say he cannot return to India for a year or two. He has been in active work in India for forty-five years, and is one of the most successful leaders in the missionary work of his church.

-Dr. Henson has no sympathy with "higher criticism," but he does not hesitate to say that it is not nearly so destructive of the power of the church as the lower living of Christians. The fog of criticism, he says, is not to be dissipated by firing great guns at it. That only adds to the fog the smoke of the powder. You can dissipate the fog only by the sunbeams of Christian living. A minister may wear himself out preaching the evidences of Christianity, and some cross-grained representative of Christianity in the pews will spoil the whole inside of ten minutes after he gets through.

-It is a Roman Catholic writer, in the *Catholic Times*, who asks and answers questions as follows:

Which are the leading powers of the world? The non-Catholic states of Great Britain, the United States, Germany, Russia. What a fall has been the fall of Spain! How France collapsed before Germany! Does the condition of Catholicism in Italy please any Catholic? Look at the Catholic nations of South America. How many of them are a credit to civilization?

There are, probably, many members of the Roman Church who are thinking deeply of the facts which this one so bluntly expresses.

-The people of Edinburgh are just waking up to the fact that Jesuits are busy amongst them in the work of proselytising. Stories are told of their aggressive efforts and of their success as debaters. The fact that ministers of several denominations have of late years gone over to the Roman Catholic church can hardly be without some significance. Lately the rector of an Episcopal church in Edinburgh went over. His step is not so very astonishing to those who were aware that for a considerable time prayers for the dead had been used in his church, the intercession of the Virgin invoked, and other Roman practices practised.

CONFERENCE.

Notice of the seventy-second annual session of the Free Baptist Conference of New Brunswick appears on another page of this paper. The session comes earlier this year than usual. The rule governing the date of the annual meeting says:

The annual session of this Conference shall convene on the Saturday nearest the first day of October which precedes the full moon.

This rule, the secretary says, requires the meeting of Conference on Saturday, September 17th. The pastor and people of Tracey, where the annual meeting is to be held, have been advised of the early date of the session, and say they will be ready.

With only a month till the Conference assembles, brethren who have to present reports will be getting them ready. The secretaries and treasurers of the committees in charge of the different

branches of Conference work usually have their reports ready. Other committees are not always so well prepared. We suggest to the brethren of the several standing committees that this year be made a record year by every committee being ready with its report when called for. A list of the standing committees is on the last page of the cover of the Year Book.

The clerks of the District Meetings yet to be held will need to report very promptly to the corresponding secretary of Conference, that he may be able to prepare the report on "the state of the churches," which has to be presented to Conference on the first day of the session. The ministers, also, should send their reports to him at once. For the rule requiring these reports, see Year Book, 1896, Resolution 38.

It is hoped there will be a full attendance of both ministers and lay representatives at the approaching Conference. The business at any session is of great importance, requiring the best we have of mind and heart. Questions that require consideration at the approaching session are not less important than those of other years. To some of these reference will be made later. Meantime we would like to impress on all the members of Conference that they ought to be present to share the responsibilities of the time, and to help direct the work in ways that will most advance the kingdom of Christ. And let all the people pray that light and leading from above may be given to all.

PRESBYTERIANISM.

The Pan-Presbyterian Council recently held in London was a great meeting of representatives of Presbyterianism from all parts of the world. The English papers give much attention to it, and it evidently made a profound and altogether admirable impression upon all branches of the church. One of the subjects which received much consideration was confessions of faith. The overwhelming consensus of opinion of the Council was to the effect that confessions are not absolute, but conditional, that they must leave scope for individual opinion and development, and that they must be subordinated to the Word of God.

The statistics presented to the Council showed the remarkable virility and growth of the Presbyterian church. There are now more than 32,000 congregations, over 5,000,000 of communicants, about 4,000,000 of scholars in their Sunday-schools, and the church's contributions for religious purposes amount to more than \$40,000,000 annually. These statistics, though incomplete, as all statistics of religious work are, show that Christianity as represented by Presbyterianism is not a dying religion, but is strong and aggressive. And of all branches of the church, large and small, it may be said, with equal truth, that they are abounding in zeal and bringing forth much fruit.

The three important wheat states of Australia produce 35,000,000 bushels. The yield to each acre in New South Wales is 10.6 bushels, in South Australia 6.9 bushels, and in West Australia 4.6 bushels.

THE NOVA SCOTIA CONFERENCE.

Next week the Nova Scotia Free Baptist Conference will meet in annual session at Kemptville, Yarmouth Co. The ministers' meeting will be held on Wednesday, and the general Conference will open Thursday. The session will continue over Sunday. Probably all the ministers of the Conference will be present, as the rule of the body requires, and it is hoped that there will be full lay representation from all parts of the field. Our brethren will miss from their fellowship and councils Rev. W. C. Weston, who for many years was not absent from his place in Conference. Since the last session he has gone to his eternal reward. His faithful labors are not forgotten by his brethren, and will they be.

For many years some United States ministers have been present at each session. And some will be there this year. The New Brunswick Conference will be officially represented by Rev. A. W. Currie. He is not a stranger in Nova Scotia, having spent several years in successful pastoral work there. Rev. A. J. Prosser, also of the New Brunswick Conference, is intending to be present. Nor will he be a stranger, for Kemptville is the home of his boyhood and the place of his conversion. These brethren are sure of a cordial welcome.

We trust the Conference will be a good one in every respect, and that the divine presence and guidance may be given in large measure.

FAMILY RELIGION.

The neglect of religion in the home is a most serious thing, the evil effects of which are far-reaching. Family religion is, as the *Christian Observer* well says, the key to religion in the church and the nation. Perhaps there is no better test of the actual state of religion in any church or community than the degree to which family religion prevails in that church or community. If there be decay in family religion, there will surely be decline in the religious condition of the church and nation. Hence the church should lay great stress upon this in her teaching and influence, and parents should fully realize their immense responsibility in this regard. The family is the unit, under the providence of God, for both the church and the nation. To have the family thoroughly religious is indispensable to the preservation of religion everywhere.

To preserve family religion, three things at least are necessary. First, that parents themselves should be religious and train their children to reverence and attend the services of the sanctuary. Secondly, that they should instruct their children regularly in the knowledge of the scriptures, and bring them thereby to a knowledge of Christ. Thirdly, that they gather their households together once or twice a day for family worship, where, by singing a hymn together, reading the Bible and uniting in prayer, they may honor God, and receive abundant blessing for themselves and others. Attendance at church and Sabbath school services, definite religious instruction at home, and family worship round the fireside are of vital importance on family religion.