

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 1904.

Editorial.

—Miss Coombs and Miss Barnes, of the Free Baptist India Mission, are now at home on furlough. They arrived in Boston a few days ago.

—The Presbyterian General Assembly of the United States is to meet in Buffalo, N. Y., on the 19th inst. The annual assembly of the representatives of Presbyterianism is always a great meeting. It will, doubtless, be as important this year as ever.

—The question of the location of choirs is receiving some attention in church circles. There is some feeling that the present popular arrangement of putting the singers behind the pulpit has not been a success in every respect. Some are favoring a return to the old-time location, at the rear of the church.

—If all who know the joy of being followers of Christ would go forth and tell it to those whom they meet, says Rev. J. W. Baer, a wonderful change would quickly be wrought in the world. It would soon be realized by all that the Christian life is a vital matter and they would yield to its gracious influence.

—Referring to the great growth of population in the Canadian west, and the obligation to provide the institutions of religion, the *Wesleyan* says the churches cannot keep pace with this march of events, and meet the demands upon them, except by "greater liberality, the union of forces and heroism."

—Christian life is not determined by a profession of emotional experiences, however real such experiences may be in many cases, but by actual attachment to Christ shown in submission to His will and devotion to His cause. The answer to the question, "What do you think about Christ?" does not so well tell the attitude towards Him as does the answer to "What are you doing for Christ?"

—An occasional convert to the Roman Catholic Church is made a great deal of. The fact is heralded abroad, and the impression sought to be given that there is quite a rush of Protestants Romeward. But they say little or nothing about the drifting away from the Roman church. The case of Liverpool, Eng., may be cited in illustration of the losses of Rome. The Roman population of the city is less than it was forty years ago, notwithstanding the population is nearly four times what it was then.

—Rev. Dr. Patrick, Principal of Manitoba College, is a clear-cut Presbyterian. Here is what he says about the proposed union of the Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregationalists: "The is nothing in the tenets or government of the Methodist church which I cannot accept, and I believe that the church which springs from the union of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches will be more catholic, more evangelical and more powerful than the two churches when separate. The Congregational church I honor equally with the Methodist."

—This is a word of needed advice in churches, perhaps somewhat in all: The wise pastor will look after the old as well as the young of his charge. They have their peculiar needs and require cheer and encouragement. They have not lost all their force, and can be made serviceable. The young people may be the warm blood to prevent decline and decay, but experience counts in the church. Effort should not be wholly centered upon any one form of Christian life and activity; all aspects should be duly considered. The staying as well as the developing power of the minister comes into play along this line. He who cultivates only one class of his people or of his workers fails to grasp fully the situation, and sooner or later finds out his mistake.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

During the last session of Parliament the Minister of Agriculture, after hard pressing, promised to make further investigation into the census returns as they related to the Free Baptists of New Brunswick. The promise was given with evident reluctance, for, in the face of many facts clearly disproving the official figures, he persisted in maintaining that his Census Commissioner had done justice to the Free Baptist body. The promise of further investigation was given June 16th in Parliament. Later, we received a letter from Mr. Fisher, dated Aug. 15th, in which he said that he had carefully examined into the statements of the errors "supposed to have been made," and was satisfied that the census figures published were "absolutely correct." Commenting on that letter we said in the INTELLIGENCER of Aug. 26th:

Not only is there no evidence of careful investigation, but the department has refused to give consideration to most glaring errors brought to its attention.

Now something new has happened. Notwithstanding Mr. Fisher's declaration that careful investigation had satisfied him that the census statements were

"absolutely correct," something has moved him to undertake more inquiries. Within a few weeks an official from Ottawa has been making inquisition in Lincoln, Sunbury Co. He went through the parish with a set of questions and a New Testament, requiring the people to make oath to their answers to his questions. We have not heard that like inquiries have been made in other parts of the province. Again and again we have asked for thorough investigation, and will welcome any honest and decent attempt to have facts put in the place of the falsehoods about our people which the census sets forth.

We would like to know, though, why Free Baptists are required to swear to their census statements? Who devised this plan of adding insult to injury? And why should the Minister of Agriculture permit or authorize, such an indignity? It does not appear that any other religious body has had such contemptuous treatment. What does it mean?

TWO MINISTERS.

Two aged Free Baptist ministers have just passed on to their eternal reward. A message from Rev. Edwin Crowell, received just too late for the last issue of the INTELLIGENCER, told us of the death of Rev. Walter C. Weston, of the Nova Scotia Conference. He died in Yarmouth on the 25th ult. He was 80 years old. His health had been poor for several years, but he had kept at work as much as his strength would permit. During his more active years he was a successful pastor in various parts of the Conference territory. His deep interest in the welfare of Zion continued unabated through his years of semi-retirement. He was regularly in attendance at the Annual Conference of the denomination, watchful of everything that touched the welfare of the churches, and ready to serve in any way he could for the prosperity of the cause. To a stranger he might seem somewhat stern, but he was really a very warm-hearted, brotherly man, and had a large circle of friends who appreciated his Christian worth. He hated shams, and was not slow to express his opinion of them. He loved the good wherever found, and rejoiced in everything that made for the extension of Christ's kingdom. Many in all the churches of his Conference will mourn that they will see him no more on earth, while they will rejoice that, having "fought a good fight," he has entered into the eternal rest. This writer wishes to express his deep sense of personal loss in the death of Bro. Weston, whose loyal Christian friendship he has been happy to have for many years. To Mrs. Weston the loss is great, for they were much to each other. She will have the sympathy of many friends, and their prayers that she may be graciously comforted.

This is not intended to be an adequate sketch of Bro. Weston's life and labors. We shall expect from some member of the Nova Scotia Conference, who has the facts, a fitting memorial of our departed brother.

On the 21st of April, Rev. John S. Jones, of the New Brunswick Confer-

ence, died. He was in his 83rd year. The following notice of his death is from Rev. J. J. Barnes, his pastor:

Bro. Jones had been in poor health for a number of years. During the last winter he was confined to his home all the time. About twenty years ago, he retired from the active ministry, and settled down to spend his last days with his son William, who occupied the homestead. He had a comfortable home—the result of his industrious labor. He was very fond of his home, and enjoyed it and the kindly treatment shown him, especially during the last winter, by son and daughter-in-law. He needed much attention and care, all of which he recognized and appreciated. He missed his wife, and seemed very lonely after her death, which occurred a few years ago. As long as he was able to attend the services of his church, he was active and helpful. His survivors are James F. Jones and Mrs. McGuigan, his brother and sister, two sons and their families. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. J. J. Barnes, in the presence of many people, and his body was laid to rest in the Upper Hainsville cemetery.

To the foregoing we may add that Bro. Jones was licensed by Conference in July, 1866, and was ordained in Oct. 1872. Previous to receiving license to preach he was active in Christian work, and frequently held meetings in the communities adjacent to his home, and his work in those early days was much appreciated. He was past fifty when he was ordained, and for only a few years after that was he able to do much public work. We have no record of how long he was a pastor, or of what churches. His labor was chiefly in York Co., and for the most part not far from his home. For many years he has not been able to attend Conference. He did not, however, cease to have an interest in the work of the church of God, and had pleasure in conversing with his brethren of the things of the kingdom of Christ. Those who knew him best had a warm place for him in their hearts. And now he rests from weakness and pain.

A GREAT CONFERENCE.

The Quadrennial Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church is to meet in Los Angeles, California, on Wednesday of this week. Delegates representing six millions of Methodists in many parts of the world will assemble to hear reports of work done, to consider present conditions and needs, and to plan for more aggressive work for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Among the questions that will be dealt with is that concerning amusements. The Methodist discipline prohibits card playing, theatre-going and dancing by members of the church. Several attempts to abolish, or modify the rule have been made, but so far without success. Again the matter will be debated and voted on. The term of service for preachers will be considered; the five year limit may be returned to. The question of allowing the preachers to wear gowns will also have attention; some of the Methodist ministers have already adopted the gown. A common hymnal may be established, a common catechism and perhaps a common order of worship recommended. The appointment of twelve new bishops will occupy the attention of the Conference. Secretaries of ben-