

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1904.

—November 17th has been appointed Thanksgiving Day in Canada.

—When men are saved by divine grace they turn from all kinds of sins.

—There are fifty-three ordained woman preachers in the United States. We don't know of any in Canada—that is, who were ordained in this country.

—It is proposed to hold a convention of the Protestants of the American continent in New York in 1905. All churches will be asked to send representatives.

—By the death of Dr. George C. Lorimer, not only the Baptist Church in the United States, of which he was a leading minister, has suffered great loss, but the whole church of Christ is a loser. He was for many years pastor of Tremont Temple, Boston, where he wielded great influence. He was a preacher of marked ability, and was successful in winning many thousands to the faith of Jesus.

—Thirty years ago, when the Conference last met at Tracey, there was a small secession, which resulted in the organization of what is now known as the Primitive Baptist body. This year the movement is for unification, not separation. The hope is cherished that it may not be long till the Primitive Baptists, and the Reformed Baptists, a later organization, will be of the one great Baptist union which it is desired to establish in Canada.

—Every man is a missionary, says Chalmers, now and forever, for good or for evil, whether he intends or designs it or not. He may be a blot, radiating his dark influence out to the circumference of society; or he may be a blessing, spreading benediction the length and breadth of the world; but a blank he cannot be.

There are no moral blanks, there are no neutral characters. We are either the sower that sows and corrupts, or the light that splendidly illuminates.

—That "the young people did not take to him," the *Watchman* thinks a very poor reason why a church did not call a certain minister to be its pastor. The minister in question is one of the ablest men in his denomination, and his work has always been spiritually helpful to both old and young. All the people desired him as pastor, except some of the young. "It is desirable to avoid collision with the young people of the church, to maintain unbroken harmony and peace, and to secure so far as possible unanimity of purpose and hearty co-operation. With the launching of the Christian Endeavor movement, the young people of the church have come to the front, for which let God be thanked. Perhaps, before this, the young people were not accorded the consideration which they were entitled to receive. And it may be that now, in some churches at least, the condition has been reversed and the error is committed of deferring too much to the young people, to the detriment of the church's best welfare. Due consideration should be given to the tastes and wishes of the younger element of a congregation, but the mistake should not be made of committing to it the selection of a pastor. For real safety and the best results, this important duty requires maturer experience and wisdom. As the *Watchman* well says: "The young people will discover gradually, as they grow older, that their parents knew what manner of man was best suited to lead them into the Christian life. The middle-aged pastor, who knows how to feed the whole flock, will probably be the man to exercise a profounder influence over the moral life of young men and women than the man whose superficial qualities, rhetoric or style were so attractive."

BAPTIST UNION.

The question of absorbing interest at the Conference just closed was Baptist Union. The matters which usually engage the attention of Conference were duly considered, but the question which was most in the minds of the members and visitors, and to which everything else was secondary, was union. The members came together thinking of it, not all of one mind, but knowing that action would be taken, and desiring that it be wise and decisive action.

Much prayer was made for divine guidance. Not only those present at the session but the people at home, too, were praying that the will of God might be done by the Conference. The Lord answered the prayers of His people. The decision of the Conference must be regarded as recording His will as made known to those charged with the responsibility of action in the matter. Brethren who were previously uncertain, and who went to Conference in that

state of mind, have said since the vote that union evidently is God's will, and that they feel it their duty to help any of their people who may yet be in doubt to so understand it.

God's presence was very manifest throughout the whole session, but at no time was the gracious power so marked as when the union question was under consideration. And when, by a unanimous vote, the Conference declared in favour of accepting the Basis, and to take steps to consummate the union there was such a display of spiritual influence as is rarely witnessed. The members of Conference and the whole audience for the church was filled with deeply interested Christian people—were powerfully moved by what we cannot doubt was the blessed Holy Spirit putting the seal of divine approval on what had been done. When, impelled by one feeling, all rose and sang "Blest be the Tie that binds," etc., there were few dry eyes in the church. It was a scene of joy not often witnessed, and one not soon to be forgotten.

The crowning of the action was when, on the declaration of the vote, Rev. Joseph Noble rose and exultingly exclaimed, "Glory to God! Glory to God!" It was a benediction on the decision of the Conference by the reverend senior minister of the denomination.

Father Noble is in his ninetieth year. He was present at the organization of the Conference in 1832, and is probably the only person living who witnessed that organization. For more than sixty years he has been in the ministry of the denomination, has witnessed its growth from small beginning, and has shared fully in the labours which, under God, have brought about the increase in numbers and the development in strength and efficiency. Now he recognizes the will of God in the proposed union of the branches of the Baptist family and believes that in a new organization the denomination of his love, in the service of which he has spent his long and useful life, can yet more successfully carry forward the work to which God has called it. In the history of the movement for the unification of the Baptist forces the benediction of Father Noble is one of the most touching and impressive incidents. God spake by His venerable servant.

A point has now been reached where the way to organic union is clear. The Basis of Union has been voted satisfactory by the representative assemblies of both bodies. These assemblies include the ministers of both, many of the laymen who have always carefully guarded denominational interests, and are deeply concerned for the welfare of the cause. That the Conference, after much careful and prayerful deliberation, has declared for union will weigh with any of our people who may have entertained fears about the wisdom of it, and will help to assure them of its safeness and rightness.

As provided for in the resolution of Conference, its action will be presented to the churches for ratification. The committee having the matter in charge will, doubtless, attend to this part of their duty at as early a time as practicable. Meantime, our people may feel sure that all their interests are safe-guarded, and that the union which it is hoped may soon be consummated will greatly increase their strength and efficiency in the service of Christ. For the committee on union, entrusted with so great responsibilities, the prayers of all are asked that they may be divinely directed in all they do.

CONFERENCE NOTES.

"The best Conference, in many respects, I ever attended," said one who has been at forty-one annual sessions. And he voiced the feeling of many. It certainly was good. The divine presence was manifest in all the meetings. The spirit of prayer was upon the people. The preachers were helped to declare the Gospel with clearness and power. The meetings for testimony were seasons of spiritual joy and strength. The discussions were without unpleasantness. We wish all our people could have felt the gracious spirit that pervaded the session.

The calling a special meeting of the Ministers' Conference for Thursday was a wise thing. The extra day gave the ministers ample opportunity to carefully consider the union question. They did it with much prayer for divine guidance, and were thus able to reach a wise conclusion.

The ministers absent because of ill-health were not forgotten by their brethren. They were missed. They were prayed for.

The preaching during the session was good. Many commendations of the annual sermon by Rev. E. S. Parker, B. A., were heard. The other preachers, also, filled the places assigned them, and the truth preached will, doubtless, bear much fruit in the truer and stronger Christian service of those who were impressed by the messages of truth delivered.

The prayer meetings, the testimony meetings and all the devotional services were marked by much religious fervour, and were seasons of real spiritual refreshing and stimulus.

The delegate from the Nova Scotia Conference, Rev. J. B. Merrill, received a cordial welcome. Both his report of his Conference and his sermon were well received and much appreciated. It was regretted that he was not able to remain to the close of the session. Bro. Merrill may be assured of a brotherly welcome whenever he comes this way again.

The presence of Revs. Dr. Gates