

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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THE Religious Intelligencer.

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Rev. Joseph McLeod, D. D. - Editor

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1904.

—We thank those who have been prompt to make their renewals for 1905.

We thank those, too, who have sent new subscribers.

We are hoping to receive hundreds more of renewals before the end of the year, and lists of new subscribers from every part of the field.

In the ten days that are left of the closing month of the year, we trust all the friends of the INTELLIGENCER will make special effort in its behalf.

—“Behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.”

—The kindness of Christmas is the kindness of Christ.

—Since 1895 not less than a thousand priests in France have withdrawn from the priesthood. The Roman system is losing something of its grip.

—Do not, in the distribution of Christmas gifts, forget the Lord's poor. “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me.”

—How many church members faithfully observe the vows they made when they became members of “the body of Christ?” Because many fail is one reason—a chief reason, why the world is not more powerfully impressed by Christian teaching.

—A poor victim of the rum traffic dies, and the comments of the papers are to the effect that another nuisance is out of the way. A rumseller dies, and the same papers express great sorrow, tell what an admirable citizen he was, and what a public loss his death is.

—The Union Committee will be glad if churches that have voted on union, but have not yet reported, will report now. The committee hopes, too, that churches which have not yet voted, will

do so at the earliest date practicable. It is desired that reports of action by the churches be sent to the editor of the INTELLIGENCER, who is chairman of the committee.

—“May we not have religion without the church?” is asked by some. To which question this is a fair answer: “Well, perhaps we may, when we can have wheat without farms, and government without laws, and education without schools, and homes without houses. The great blessings of life are not lying around scattered and loose, but they are organized into definite forms and means. The water may be more important than the cup, but if we refuse the use of the cup, shall we get the water?”

—A rumseller dies possessed of many thousands of dollars. He is spoken of as a successful business man and an excellent citizen. There is no mention of the fact that his accumulation represents the physical and mental deterioration and the moral debauchery of his patrons. To secure his thousands many homes were wrecked, many lives ruined, many hopes blighted, many wives widowed, or worse, many children orphaned, or worse, and many hearts broken. Every dollar of the lot stands for evil done, for the cursing of the innocent and helpless. And yet men call this kind of getting success, and commend the man guilty of it.

—There is one kind of temperance address which all people really interested in the work should discountenance. We mean the kind that seems principally designed to provoke merriment. The liquor traffic is no laughing matter—it is a hideous thing. The effects of the traffic do not move thoughtful people to laughter. Darkened homes, debauched manhood, blighted hopes, broken hearts and the indescribable horrors in every form, which always and everywhere result from the drink traffic, are not things to make merry over. The man who, with these things before him, can turn a temperance meeting into a roaring farce is sadly lacking in moral earnestness. There ought to be no place for him in temperance work.

—At a recent sale of the effects of a “passive resister” in England, some speeches were made in justification of the resistance of the Education Act. One of the speakers quoted, as an example of the kind of teaching some of the parishes were getting, the following edifying passage from one of the church magazines:

There are only two smells in the next world—the smell of incense in heaven and the smell of sulphur in hell. Of course you all want to go to heaven, and therefore it is your bounden duty to get used to the smell of incense while you are here on earth.

All sensible and self-respecting Anglican clergymen would, we doubt not, repudiate this ordoriferous nonsense. And yet, although expressed with childish crudeness, it represents in substance the tenet that High Anglicanism is the one road to heaven. This being so, it is not unfair to cite it as a sample of the stuff that is being taught in many schools maintained at the expense of the people who abhor such rubbish.

—Of the duty of personal efforts to win people to Christ there is no doubt. And it is a good sign that this duty is much urged in these days. “He that winneth souls is wise” has a double meaning—it is a wise thing to do, and he that would be successful in it must use great wisdom. On the latter point Dean Vaughan says that “to ask a stranger, casually and suddenly, whether he is a converted man, whether he has the love of Christ in his heart, whether he is on the way to heaven, etc., is the language of impertinence rather than of duty.” This is certainly true; and yet the suggestion of spiritual things must be made. But to do this inoffensively requires a deal of tact. Mr. Spurgeon had, during the later years of his life, a layman employed about the tabernacle who was wonderfully gifted in this respect. He is known to have spoken to hundreds and thousands on the matter of personal religion; yet never in a single instance did he give offense and call down upon himself angry looks or words. Mr. Spurgeon said of him that he had more “sanctified cheek” than anybody he had ever known. Would that there were more of this “sanctified cheek.” What is needed is a gentle, humble, loving spirit, such a constraining sense of Christ's love, such a regard for perishing souls, as will render a man conciliatory, and even attractive, when he ventures to remind his fellow-men of the Saviour's claims.

One more issue will complete the INTELLIGENCER'S fifty-second year. Help give it a good start for another year by renewing now.

CHRISTMAS.

Again we are at the joyous Christmas time. To all our readers we wish the best things—the things that come of the possession and exercise of the Christmas spirit. We cannot do better than present to them the reminder that the “Christmas note is peace and good will.” Whatever of discords, wrongs, estrangements or resentments the year has held for any of us, the blessed Christmastide should end them all.

The mists of the earth blind us often; misunderstandings, hurts and heart-aches come, and lives that are dear to each other drift apart. But the very soul of the Christmas-time is love—the love of the Father, which overflowed all barriers of sin, ignorance and wandering and bent down to us with its “unspeakable gift;” the love of the Christ who came to us because we could not, would not, go to him; who bore our griefs and carried our sorrows, lived our life and died our death, that we might know the heart of a brother.

If there is any hand that we have pushed aside this past year, let us reach out and clasp it now. If any dear tie has been loosened, knit it up again on this gladdest, holiest of anniversaries. If there is wound or alienation anywhere, let it be healed and all bitterness and pride buried deep under the Christmas love.

The name of the new-born Christ was love,

And of love the angels sing;
No other gift in earth or heaven
May we offer to our King.

A GREAT REVIVAL.

The revival work in England and Wales, under the ministry of Dr. Torrey, continues with much power. Late reports tell of the work in Cardiff, one of the largest towns in Wales, the number of enrolled converts being 3,620. There will probably be some weeding out of this list by careful pastors, but even then the results are quite striking. Great spiritual quickening has come to all the churches, and the number of Christians enlisted for personal work for the salvation of their fellows is one of the most promising results of the revival.

The interest is spreading widely in South Wales. A collier preacher, Mr. Robert Evans, is being greatly blessed as a leader. His extraordinary influence over the great congregations that assemble is very marked. He is not at all eloquent, but is evidently deeply spiritual. As an indication of how deeply interested the people are, it is told that one morning at a tin-plate works the men stopped work for an hour to hold a prayer-meeting. Steel workers and other workmen in the same neighborhood held similar meetings. The work appears to gather force as it spreads, and many hundreds, even thousands, are avowing their faith in Jesus Christ and their purpose to live the Christian life.

Evangelists Torrey and Alexander have been in Liverpool since leaving Cardiff, and the work there is progressing with increasing influence. The large hall erected for the evangelists in Manchester was taken down and moved to Liverpool and re-erected at a cost of about \$25,000. It is the largest hall ever erected for religious meetings in England, and thousands crowd it at every service. The leaders, their doctrines and methods, are, of course, subject to more or less criticism, as is always the case when a good work is in progress. It is very evident, however, that the Spirit of God is making the ministry of the evangelists one of great power, awakening Christians to a sense of their responsibilities, and winning many to the faith of Jesus and the blessedness of the new life.

We present the facts of God's work across the sea that the Lord's people may be cheered by the knowledge of his gracious power displayed, and with the hope and prayer that what he is doing there may be the Spirit's means of awakening the churches here to a sense of need, and to a consecration and service that will cause the windows of heaven to open with showers of blessing on us all.

—Dr. Strong, president of Rochester Theological Seminary, presents the following concerning the relative increase of some of the religious bodies: The Congregational increase in the United States from 1870 to 1903 has been only 91.67 per cent, the Presbyterian increase 133.74 per cent, the Methodist increase 147.49 per cent, and the Disciple increase 248.81 per cent; our Baptist increase has been greater than any of these, namely, 254.38 per cent.