

TERMS AND NOTICES.

THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER, published in the interest of the Free Baptists of Canada, is issued every Wednesday.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.50 a year, in advance. When not paid within three months the price is \$2.00 a year. Subscriptions may begin at any time.

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ADVERTISING rates on application. ST. JOHN OFFICE: Barnes & Co's, 84 Prince William Street.

All letters, whether on business or for publication, should be addressed to THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER, Box 384, Fredericton, N. B.

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Religious Intelligencer.

(ESTABLISHED 1853.)

Manager's and Editor's Office: Fredericton, N. B.

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1903.

Editorial.

—See circulation notes on page thirteen, and "lend a hand."

—Whether it means to go up or down in the estimation of men, the true minister is purposed to cleave to God and to be faithful in the proclamation of his message.

—A new house of worship should be regarded as a new equipment for Christian work. It may be a new comfort to the congregation, but it is also a new responsibility.

—Next Sunday, Feb. 14th, is the day on which the whole Christian Church is asked to pray especially for students. Everywhere, in churches and Christian homes, it is hoped that earnest supplication will be made for them.

—The great business of the church is the extension of Christ's Kingdom in the world. Go ye and disciple all nations, is the Lord's command. Failing to obey this command the church puts away its right in the promise of His presence and blessing.

—To the question: Why are not more souls saved by preaching? Dr. Herrick Johnson answers, "Because of the defective Christian life of many professed followers of Christ." It is a serious thing—a grievous sin, to stand in the way of a soul's salvation.

—Bishop McCabe, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, says he believes that "if the Apostle Paul were on earth today he would be publishing the largest church paper in the world, and would turn out of the church every official member who did not take it."

—There would be fewer backsliding church members if churches had more of the habit of insisting on godly living by those who have made the profession

of faith. To bear with and care for the weak and to restore the erring are duties of the church of Christ; and it is equally a duty to administer discipline to those whose lives dishonor the Lord and bring reproach on His cause.

—Here is a truth, well stated by the *Baptist Commonwealth*, which we all need to have in mind: Next to perpetrating a wrong is quietly enduring it. Lack of indignation in the presence of evil makes the one failing to manifest it an accomplice by so much in its performance. That man who can witness any private or public evil and does not rebuke it is a party to it by so much. In proportion as those who see evil express indignation therefor in that proportion will that evil be lessened. Each one of us in any community, whether large or small, has a part and lot in this matter." There are good people enough in every community to overthrow evil if only they would let their indignation against wrong have expression in practical ways.

—The lack of impulse and nerve in the work of evangelism, which is characteristic of too many churches at the present time, is to be attributed, a writer in the *Observer* thinks, and we fear he is right, to a latent skepticism as to the points that the souls of men need to be saved. Deep views of sin and profound realizations of the moral destitution of mankind logically provokes to strenuous evangelistic campaigns, and in their absence the churches halt in philanthropic labors, and missionary work languishes. Study the Bible prayerfully and sympathetically and you will come to believe that the soul of man needs to be saved—believe that the soul needs to be saved, and then go to work to deliver it from sin, through the converting grace of Jesus Christ.

—Every pastor has met the man who says he does not join the church because "there are so many hypocrites in it." In the first place the hypocrites in the church are few. That there are too many whose lives don't fully accord with the requirements of church membership is true, but a very small percentage of them are really hypocrites. They are at most, weak people; and since such people abound in the world, it is not surprising that the church has its share of them. The aim of the church is to help them be stronger and better; and by faithful teaching and patient care is succeeding in a good degree. But, admitting that there are some hypocrites, the man who remains out of the church on that account is not acting with average good sense. The *United Presbyterian* suggests that to be consistent he should also "refuse to eat mutton because he had seen a hog in the cloverfield with the sheep. He should refuse to eat bread because some bread is sour. He should refrain from marriage because some homes were unhappy. He should refuse fish because there are frogs and snapping-turtles and muskrats in the water. Of all the idiotic types that preachers have to deal with there is none that will match the man who will not join the church because there are "so many hypocrites in it."

FAMILY WORSHIP.

Has family worship declined? There is reason to believe it has. Pastors who make note of what is going on in the homes of their people have to acknowledge that the proportion of homes in which there is daily family prayer is much smaller than formerly. Homes in which the parents are church members, sometimes official members, have no family altar. The voice of praise is not heard, nor the voice of supplication. Time was when a professed Christian home without regular family worship was a rare thing. Many of us can recall the home customs of earlier years, when every morning, before the family went about the day's duties, parents and children, assembled for worship. The Bible was read, often a hymn was sung, the father led in prayer, sometimes followed by the mother and other members of the household, or, after the father's prayer, they all joined in the Lord's prayer. In many homes the scripture lesson was read verse about, even the smallest children reading in their turn. In many homes evening prayers, also, were had. Many, now well along in years, recalling the family worship customs of their childhood, will have tender memories of the gracious influences that came about them in those days, and thank God for the abiding good they received.

There are still homes—many of them, let us hope, in which there is the same humble and glad acknowledgment of God in daily family praise and prayer. But, as stated above, there is reason for believing that there has been a marked falling off in the number of homes in which God is thus honored. The best things cannot be expected in the families that forget God. "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord," was the well-expressed, pious purpose of one of old. Like purpose should be in the heart of every head of Christian household now. A pious home is the nursery of religion. From it go forth gracious influences. It stands as a precious and powerful example of godliness in a wicked and godless world. Dr. Cuyler well says: "Family religion underlies both the church and the commonwealth. No Christian government, no healthy public conscience, no Bible philanthropics, no godly church life, can exist without God in the household. No prelude to the day is so powerful in its sacred influence as the union of loving hearts around the throne of grace. Family worship is a strong seam well stitched on to the border of the day to keep it from raveling out into contention, confusion and ungodliness. Wise is that Christian parent who hems every morning with the Word of God and fervent prayer. When the inroads of wealth and fashion crowd out family devotions in the morning and the weekly prayer-meeting in the evening, there is but small hope of rearing such households in the nurture of the Lord. The 'church in the house' is the best feeder of the church in the sanctuary; home religion is the sheet anchor of the nation's well-being."

NEEDS OF THE NORTHWEST.

The Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist Mission Boards are calling for more men for their work in the Northwest. Since last May seventy-one new men have entered the work of the Methodist church in the conference of Manitoba, British Columbia and the Territories, and yet there is demand for more. At least forty more are required to meet the present demands. Our Presbyterian brethren are calling for almost as many to fill places in sore need of care. And the vigorous Baptist mission work in the West is only limited by the lack of men. New stations are being established, and already there are many places that are suffering because there are not more earnest, self-sacrificing young men to occupy them.

The kind of men needed in the great West the *Christian Guardian* describes—"Men of pluck and courage and enterprise and zeal, prepared to rough it, if need be, for a few months, for Christ's sake and the sake of their fellowmen. Not men who are looking for 'a soft job,' or easy times, of the conditions of a settled community, but loyal-hearted, earnest pioneers, glad to work among pioneers in a glorious climate and a grand country, where the whole atmosphere is one of enterprise and hope. Let prompt answer come from our young men in the overcrowded fields at home, from our young men in our colleges and schools, from our young men generally who desire a life-work of utmost usefulness and success in the service of Christ and their fellowmen.

"Men need not go far afield to find a sphere for missionary work. The nations of the earth are pouring of their population into our immense western territories. To neglect the educational, moral and spiritual welfare of these at the present time would be to do them a grievous wrong, and to bring upon ourselves national disaster. A great and effectual door is open. Let love for our fellowmen; zeal in God's cause; consistency of profession with practice; consideration of national obligations; yes, consideration of self-protection from ignorance, vice, and all forms of unbelief and false belief, stimulate us to prompt and vigorous action to introduce and maintain gospel ministrations in all parts of our western domain."

SOOTHING PREACHERS.

For quite a number of years there seems to have been a largely increasing list of preachers who have busied themselves in putting great emphasis upon God's love, while keeping in the background the justice and judgments of God. They are careful to select texts which speak of God's mercy and forbearance and loving-kindness, and then expatiate upon these qualities, conveying the impression that God is altogether a very mild being, too tender to express any wrath towards any sinner. Bishop F. D. Huntington, in a recently published communication, addressed to the clergymen of his diocese, says: "How often do the soothing preachers of love, love, love, take pains