

## TERMS AND NOTICES.

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**Religious Intelligencer.**

(ESTABLISHED 1853.)

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 1904.

**Editorial.**

—Statements were sent recently to many subscribers. Some have responded. Many have not. Will those who have not remitted kindly do so now? We need to hear from them at once. Do it before the end of the month, please.

—Another step towards union has been taken in a mission field in Japan. The missionaries of the Congregational, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist and Disciple churches have compiled a union hymn book.

—The St. Louis exhibition has not yet been opened on Sunday, and it is announced that it will not be. This is a gratifying statement, and we hope the management will not yield to any clamoring for Sunday opening.

—In the French Chamber of Deputies during the discussion of the budget, one of the members made this statement: "I live on the frontier, where the villages are alternately Catholic and Protestant. If you were to be set down in the midst of it blindfolded, on removing the bandage you would make this observation: 'Clean village, Protestant village.' Dirty village, Catholic village.'"

—It is not often that a church sues anybody. We see it stated a church in a western state did so lately, and gained the suit. A prominent citizen had pledged \$665 to the church, and afterward refused to honor his pledge. The judge, deciding in favor of the church, said a man who promises any sum of money, whether to a church or an individual, can be required by law to keep his promise. There are, perhaps, some people, among them some old ministers, who may wonder whether a promise by a church ought not to be made good also.

—Rev. Dr. Banks, pastor of a New York Methodist Episcopal church, and widely known as preacher and writer

has given up the pastorate to become the evangelist of the Anti-saloon League. His work will be similar to that of Rev. Mr. Grant to which we refer in another column. The liquor traffic power is so strong, so well organized and so aggressive that the friends of temperance are realizing that they must oppose it with a campaign of education and the marshalling of the forces of righteousness for its overthrow.

—*Zion's Herald*, the New England organ of Methodism, is an old and good paper. It serves a large constituency with marked ability, and is well supported. This is what it says of religious journalism:

The sternest problem which the religious denominations of this country face to-day is the effort to maintain the circulation of their representative journals. Nothing is gained—rather the problem is made more difficult—by evasion or concealment of the facts of the case. Given to understand the real situation, we are then prepared properly to consider it and to plan a right solution. That the tide has generally and emphatically set against what is known as religious journalism is painfully apparent to any one who has knowledge of the facts in the case.

—The denomination which does not support the religious paper is weakening one of the most important instruments for carrying on its work.

—A writer in an English paper thinks those ministers guilty of a very serious offense who speak of the apostles Peter and John and the others without the prefix "Saint." It is really a matter of small importance, but it would be more in order to show, if possible, any authority for using the prefix. In the Bible the apostles, like the patriarchs and prophets, are spoken of without any such prefix, and the Bible way of using their names may safely be followed. Why should it be derogatory to speak of Peter or John or Paul, while Abraham, David and Isaiah are quite permissible? The fact is we instinctively speak of all the greatest men by their simple names without any titles whatever. Nobody would think of saying Mr. Cromwell or Mr. Shakespeare. Besides the title "Saint" has been so indiscriminately bestowed by certain sections of the church, that to many it savors of derogation to apply it to the great apostles.

—The great lack of the church today, the *Christian Intelligencer* thinks, is an absorbing and self-sacrificing enthusiasm. A devotion to the upbuilding of Christ's Kingdom such as animates a few of His followers, causing them to count nothing too dear or precious to be sacrificed in the service of the King, were it universal, would soon subdue the whole world to His rule. An instance of the effectiveness of a unifying enthusiasm is seen in the present war. Compared with the great Muscovite Empire Japan is weak in numbers and wealth. But it is winning victories and driving the greater nation back from its strongholds. The secret of its success lies in the union and devotion of its people. An enthusiastic patriotism pervades the nation. It unites them in

sacrifices and efforts. Life is freely surrendered at the country's call, and the world is afforded the spectacle of conspicuous heroism and wonderful self-devotion pervading an entire nation. A similar spirit animating the Christian host would soon carry the banner of the Cross on to final and complete victory.

**BAPTIST UNION.**

A meeting of the joint committee on Baptist union was held in St. John on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. The meeting was to continue and complete the work begun at the meeting of the committee held in March. At that first meeting good progress was made. At last week's meeting the work in hand was completed, and the committee will have a report to present to the bodies they represent—the Baptist Convention, which meets in August, and the Free Baptist Conference, which meets in October. The members of the committee fully realized that the question entrusted to them—the union of the denominations—is one of large importance, and that in arranging a plan of union difficulties were likely to be met. They addressed themselves to the work in a spirit of brotherly love and confidence, and with earnest prayers for divine guidance. They had the feeling, too, that many who knew of the meeting were, also, praying that their deliberations might be ordered of the Lord for the furtherance of His cause. Throughout their conferences the dominant desire of the committee was to be enabled to do what would most extend the Kingdom of Christ. A very significant and gratifying unanimity characterized all the proceedings—a unanimity significant, let us hope, of the speedy consummation of the denominational union which is now in contemplation. The plan of union which the committee will present to the bodies they represent will, they trust, commend itself to them. It is hoped, too, that it may open the way for the early consolidation of all branches of the Baptist family in these provinces, and make their work one work from ocean to ocean. For such unification of Christian forces we all do well to pray.

**RESTRICTIONS EVERYWHERE.**

One of the "arguments" urged against prohibition in Canada is that the immigrants coming into the country, especially those from Europe, would be much dissatisfied, and the tide of immigration would be checked. Various prohibitions are being adopted and enforced in the old world, so that bibulous fellows find themselves interfered with whether they stay at home or come to this better country. In Germany the laws now forbid the extension of credit by saloon-keepers to their customers; another law requires that non-intoxicating drinks, such as tea, coffee, lemonade and milk, and also cold foods, must be sold wherever alcoholic drinks are sold. France has been awakened to its great need by clear evidences of the ravages made by liqueurs, and especially by absinthe. Medical statistics recently compiled indicated that the great increase in pulmonary tuberculosis was due almost entirely to alcoholism, and also that two-thirds of the inmates of the insane asy-

lums were suffering from the same cause. There is now talk of prohibiting the sale of adulterated liquors and of creating a state monopoly of alcohol, which will supply only the pure article, and that at a very high price. In Belgium the tax on spirits has been increased, and at the same time the tax on tea has been removed, with the object of encouraging the use of tea as a beverage. In Holland a league has been formed to fight the use of spirits. It aims at legislation, but for the present it is doing personal work by posting agents at the doors of public houses to urge the patrons not to enter. Austria is considering a law which provides that drunkards shall, after ten convictions, be sent to a reformatory, there to be imprisoned till physicians certify that their craving is cured.

**DENOMINATIONAL COMITY.**

About twelve years ago several evangelical denominations in Maine organized an Interdenominational Commission to which cases of real or prospective conflict between any of the churches of the bodies represented might be referred for adjudication. It seeks to promote the best co-operation of the denominations, to prevent overlapping in the organization of churches, and, generally, to cultivate the largest Christian fraternity. The denominations represented in the Commission are the Congregational, Baptist, Free Baptist, Christian and Methodist. Since its formation it has had to deal with several cases of rivalry and friction. In every case its decisions have been unanimous; and in all but two cases the churches concerned have been governed by the decision of the Commission. Without definite action by it, its very existence has, doubtless, in some cases prevented the unwise organization of churches in communities already fully provided for. At its annual meeting, recently held, the Commission decided to call a conference of the denominations in the state to consider steps for the promotion of practical religion.

**A REVIVAL IN ITALY.**

A revival of much power, and steadily extending, is reported from a town in southern Italy. The story of the work is the more interesting as it shows the far-reaching effects of the missions amongst the foreigners who crowd the great cities of America. It appears that about three years ago a young Italian immigrant entered the Methodist Italian church in New York, heard the Gospel for the first time, and was soundly converted. Two years ago he returned to Italy, and on the scene of his old home commenced to sow the truths of the Gospel. He was despised by his neighbors because of his Protestant heresies, but he persisted in telling the story of salvation through Christ Jesus alone. Interest was gradually awakened, a Protestant pastor was sent for, and large numbers attended his preaching. The whole town was stirred and the better classes especially supported the movement. Naturally, the parish priest took alarm, invoked the aid of the higher authorities and a "contradictory" meeting was held between the young Protestant minister and a church dignitary. The people found the teachings of the Pro-