

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1904.

Editorial.

—The Montreal Methodist Conference, in session last week, adopted a resolution in favor of the Methodist-Presbyterian-Congregational union.

—At the Baptist Convention just held in Cleveland, Ohio, it was decided to raise a fund of half a million dollars to be used in the education of a native ministry in the foreign mission fields occupied by the denomination. It is a wise move.

—Though almost eighty years old, Dr. John G. Paton, the venerable and patriarchal missionary of the New Hebrides, has been making a tour of the churches in Australia in the interests of the work. He is still vigorous in health and his zeal for the great work knows no abatement. He expects to go again to the islands to resume his loved work.

—Japanese Christians are realizing that the war is giving them enlarged opportunities to make Christ known to their people. Amongst other plans, they are forming themselves into bands to visit and comfort the families of those who have gone to war. They hope through the ministry of Christian comfort to do much good, and extend the Kingdom of Christ.

—On a charge of un-Christian conduct, including non-submission to church rules, a member was expelled from a church of the United Brethren in Pennsylvania. He sued the pastor for damages, asking for \$5,000. In his evidence he declared that his expulsion had made it difficult for him to get employment or credit. He lost the case because he was not able to show that he had been wrongly treated by the church. The judge told him that if he had been able to prove that his expulsion had been without just cause he could have recovered damages. Church membership would seem to have a cash value.

—Individual cups for communion may soon cease to be the fashionable fad, for a new device is now making a

bid for the favor of the fastidious. The new cup originated in Copenhagen, and has been in use in some churches in Denmark and Norway during the last year. It is larger than cups in ordinary use in this country. It is described as having around the rim ten or more spoon-like projections. When the cup is tipped towards a communicant, a small portion of wine flows into one of these spoons from a tube projecting from the central reservoir of the cup. Any part of the wine not consumed flows through a small aperture in the spoon into a chamber beneath the reservoir containing the wine being used. If churches would be satisfied with the simplicity which has marked the observance of the sacred ordinance through so many centuries, its expressiveness would not be destroyed, nor would they be laughed at.

—By a vote so large as to be practically unanimous, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, adopted the report of the committee on union with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Another resolution adopted by the Assembly, with but one dissenting vote, was a long step towards the reunion of the Presbyterians north and the Presbyterians south, separated by the civil war. The resolution removed "all aspersions and charges of any kind made by previous assemblies, reflecting on the Christian character" of their brethren in the south, and declaring readiness to confer on the subject of union. The Southern Assembly being in session, received the resolution with much joy, and passed a resolution reciprocating the kind feelings of their brethren of the Northern Assembly. These two branches of a great church, one in doctrines and methods and aims, but so long separated by the questions and bitternesses of the war, are sure to be reunited before very long.

THE MISSIONARY SPIRIT.

It is essential to the life and growth of a church that it be missionary, that its sympathies and activities reach out to "the regions beyond." Concerned chiefly for itself, occupied wholly with thoughts of how to care for what are regarded as its own interests, there is sure to be stagnation. No denomination of Christians owes more to missionary work than our own. Many of the churches, in a large sense all of them, are the result of the missionary zeal and labors of earlier days. Our fathers, moved by the Divine Spirit, went over the country, where in those days it was not at all easy to go, carrying the message of salvation to the then scattered population. Many of our present ministers, and a considerable proportion of the older members of the churches, were converted through the ministry of home missionaries—either those who went out independently, or those sent by the missionary committee of the Conference. Churches that are now strong, easily supporting their own local interests, were once in need of missionary help, and but for it might have gone under in the struggle. Such churches are under special obligation to give practical expression of their gratitude in liberal

contributions to help the struggling churches of today, and, also, to carry the glad tidings to the dark places of the earth.

The churches are much abler to contribute liberally to God's cause than they were in earlier years. Of the increased wealth in the country, a considerable portion is in the hands of the members of the churches. More having been given to them, of them more is required. God holds people accountable for the use of the money they have, as for the use of powers and opportunities. There is reason to fear that few, comparatively, realize that they are called to be God's stewards in the use of the money they have. Christian liberality is essential to spiritual growth. The Christian who selfishly closes his heart against the appeals of the needy, who makes no effort, no sacrifice, to bless men, cannot long have true spiritual experience. There can be no growth in Christlikeness in those who live in neglect of the duties which God has assigned to His people. And the same is true of a church. There can be no real increase of spiritual life and power in a church, or in a denomination, that is not filled with and giving practical expression to the tender sympathy and benevolence of Christ. Every Christian, even the poorest, should be prepared to have some share in the work of the Lord; and every church, however weak and struggling, and even though itself needs mission help, should be sure to contribute something to every fund which represents the enterprises and activities of the body with which it is connected.

THE PRESBYTERIANS.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada is in annual session in St. John. Representative ministers and laymen from every part of the Dominion are present—the number being about 320. The session began Wednesday evening, with a sermon by the retiring Moderator, Rev. Dr. Fletcher. Rev. Dr. Milligan, of Toronto, was elected Moderator for the present year. The statistical report presented Thursday morning showed a gain of 12,000 in membership during the past year. The receipts for all purposes are largely increased. The reports of home mission work were very interesting, showing large things done, and revealing steadily increasing demands. For missions in the eastern provinces over \$13,000 was contributed by eastern churches, besides which they gave nearly \$6,000 for the western mission work. At the beginning of the year the home mission committee estimated that they would need at least \$110,000 for the western work; they asked for it, and received during the year \$114,306. Fifty-eight new fields have been opened in the west, the whole number now occupied being 488, in which there are 1314 preaching places. Forty-eight churches and twenty-four manses were erected during the year.

The reports on foreign missions showed that much important work is being done, and with a good degree of success. The expenditure last year was \$138,000. The work is extending, and the demands increasing, but not beyond what will be readily met by this great church.

VOICES AND ECHOES.

Why is it that two of the three bandits hanged in Chicago on Friday last became Catholics at the last, and went to the scaffold attended by two priests, saying a litany and kissing a crucifix held before them by a priest?

Commenting on this fact—a not uncommon one, the *Journal and Messenger* says that while it has no controversy with the view that a murderer may repent at the last moment, and may exercise faith in Christ, and may be saved, there is strong objections to be made to the practices of the Roman Catholic priesthood in such cases—the teaching that by the repetition of the litany and the kissing of a crucifix the most wretched characters are sufficiently repentant, and may expect salvation, at least for release from purgatory after a series of years. And it adds: The dogma of purgatory as taught by the Church of Rome is one of the most fearful errors ever taught in the name of religion. It stands directly in the way of a true repentance and a vitalizing faith. So long as the Church of Rome teaches auricular confession and the dogma of purgatory, it is the duty of every lover of truth and of Christ to protest against it, show it up in its true light, and warn the unwary against her wiles and her plausible explanations.

Now that the Dominion Alliance has found that the total prohibition of the liquor traffic is an impossibility for the present, it might turn its attention to the prohibition of matches and electricity.

The *Canadian Magazine*, which seeks to be national in character, and also in circulation, might find something better than the foregoing to say of an organization like the Dominion Alliance, composed of men who are most unselfishly seeking to promote the moral welfare of the country.

We hope that Goldwin Smith's suggestion in his letter to Andrew Carnegie that instead of giving so many millions to found public libraries, he should devote his surplus wealth to the relief of suffering among the poor, will commend itself to the multi-millionaire.

So says the *Christian Guardian*. We could wish the hope might be realized, but fear there is small chance of it, unless the gift can take a form which allows a tablet, or some sort of label, on which shall be spread the fact that Carnegie did it.

Experience has repeatedly shown the solidity and power of the liquor vote, and any administration or party pressing that vote beyond the point of reason are simply inviting their own downfall.

So said the *Wine and Spirit Journal*, discussing the Ontario situation. It was intended to be a warning to the Ontario government to not interfere with the license law. The threat had effect. When will temperance voters be equally solid and determined? When they are—and not till then—will governments respect their petitions for prohibitive legislation.

CARD OF THANKS.—I wish to thank the many friends, who by letters, visits, flowers, and in every way, kindly expressed their sympathy with me in my hour of deep sorrow, the death of my husband, Rev. Walter Weston.  
LOUISA D. WESTON.