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## Religious Intelligencer.

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

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### Editorial.

—We are thankful to those subscribers who have remitted their 1904 subscriptions. There are many more from whom we have been expecting payments. We still hope to hear from them before the end of the month. We need to hear from all our friends. Their promptness will be a great help just now. Do it this week, if possible.

—Lack of harmony among the members of a church seriously interferes with its spiritual life work.

—"Awake, thou that sleepest!" is a cry that needs ever to be sounded in the ears of masses of careless church members of all denominations.

—The battle against bribery and corruption should be shared in by all who believe in God and righteousness, and who desire the welfare of their country.

—Christ will not abide in a selfish church. He conditions His presence upon faithful obedience to His commandment, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

—Somebody who has been looking into the matter, says that every large gift by Mr. Rockefeller has been made simultaneously with an advance in the price of oil. It is, also, said that some educational and theological institutions have resolved to decline any gifts from the multi-millionaire.

—A great tide of missionary enthusiasm is said to be sweeping through the New Zealand churches. This is attributed, and doubtless correctly, to the revival of 1902, when so many were added to the churches and their spiritual life was so much quickened. One of the truest signs of genuine revival is an awakened and deepened interest in the world's evangelization.

—"May we be obedient to thy prohibitions as well as thy commands," was a touching sentence in a recent prayer of the venerable Dr. Alexander MacLaren, now unable to preach regularly. He is having experience of that kind of obedience—a more trying obedience than when he abounded in activities in his Lord's service. May we all learn to be humbly obedient to God's prohibitions.

—The state of ecclesiastical affairs in France has brought the Protestant churches face to face with the problem of state aid. A small party of the Protestants see no harm in receiving aid from the state. They regard such aid as mutually beneficial to the state and their churches. The great majority, however, welcome the idea of complete separation from the state. All they ask for is perfect freedom to organize themselves and to carry on their work with the funds they can provide. It is notable the Protestants generally, and especially the pastors who have work at stake, hail the prospect of disestablishment with joy, while the Roman Catholics are opposed to it, and look upon it as spoilation.

—To the question, "Is the employment of singers and organists who are unbelievers authorized by the Word of God?" the *Examiner* gives an answer which we wish to pass along:

The only mention of choirs in the Bible relates to the singers connected with the temple service, and the members of these were undoubtedly all believers in Jehovah, so long as the worship continued uncorrupt. In the primitive churches the singing appears to have been purely congregational, and therefore presumably all were believers. The modern church choir system was unknown in Bible times, and hence nothing is directly said with regard to it. But we have long felt that the custom of employing persons to lead in the worship of song, without regard even to their moral—to say nothing of their religious—character, simply because they are good musicians, is opposed to the spirit, if not any specific letter, of the Word of God. The Father seeks those to worship him who worship in spirit and in truth, and men should follow the same rule in selecting the leaders of song in the services of God's house.

—February 14th has been designated by the World's Student Christian Federation as the universal day of prayer for students. For several years the corresponding date, the second Sunday in February, has been observed in this way, and year by year an increasing number of universities, colleges and schools have united in its observance. The Christian student movement has now a place in all countries, and embraces over 1,600 Christian student societies, with a total membership of 89,000 students and professors. Ministers and churches and Christians everywhere are asked to remember especially the students on the designated prayer day—that this year may be notable in the number of conversions among students in all parts of the world, and that God may thrust forth from among Christian students a still larger number of laborers into the wide and ripe harvest fields. What a source of spiritual blessing and power such a concert of prayer should be!

## NOVA SCOTIA THREATENED.

If, as is intimated, the Nova Scotia legislature is to be asked to enact a law for the establishment of the Gothenburg system of dealing with the liquor traffic, the friends of temperance in that province need to bestir themselves at once to prevent such legislation. It is really the most deceptive form of license in existence to-day, and, therefore, the most dangerous.

The advocates of the Gothenburg system claim that it reduces the consumption of liquors, that it lessens drunkenness and other evils which result from drink, that it removes the temptation for personal gain, that it is financially advantageous to the community, and that it promotes the public welfare generally.

An examination of the records of the places in which the system has been in operation several years will show that it does not do any of the good things claimed by the advocates. On the contrary it will be seen that drunkenness has increased, that there is illicit sale, that all the evils, that attend upon the drink traffic abound, that licensed companies are quite as eager for profit as are licensed individuals, and that companies are not in the business to promote morality any more than the ordinary grog-seller is.

A great deal is made of the statement that the profits are shared with the communities in which the traffic is carried on, and that public improvements are thus well provided for. And yet the share of the profits paid to the municipalities is not different in character from the usual license fee. It is simply the money paid by the company for the rum-selling monopoly. The company system offers it in a form that is the strongest appeal to the cupidity of the municipal authorities; and it is, also, such a system as opens the way for much corruption of officials and others. We do not know who are the promoters of Gothenburg system in Nova Scotia. It is safe to say, however, that they are not persons who are chiefly concerned for the moral welfare of the province. They are, probably, men who see large profits in a liquor traffic combine.

There are no places in Nova Scotia—not even those in which the laws for the restriction of the liquor traffic are most violated—that are not greatly better off than any place in which the Gothenburg system is in operation.

The friends of prohibition in Nova Scotia have resisted many attempts to destroy the measure of prohibition they having succeeded in securing. Most vigorously they should resist the present attempt to establish a legalized liquor traffic amongst them. No previous attempt has been so dangerous.

## PROTESTANTS IN GERMANY.

The authorities of the church of Rome have at last sounded an official note of alarm against the Protestant movement which for the past four years has been agitating several provinces of the Austrian Empire, notably Bohemia. Recent correspondence says that the archbishop of Prague and three other Bohemian bishops have issued a pastoral letter, which has been read on three consecutive Sundays in all Catholic

churches throughout what they call the "infected" districts.

The pastoral is undoubtedly a note of alarm, adopting a totally different attitude to that hitherto observed by the Austrian church dignitaries. Till now the chief weapon has been ridicule and a persistent denial that any real movement away from Rome existed. When the statement was made that 10,000 persons had left Rome, they smiled. When the number of converts rose to 20,000, they laughed. When 30,000 were reported as lost to the fold, their merriment knew no bounds. Now the chief Ultramontane organ in Bohemia admits that 37,000 persons have severed their connection with the Roman church during the past four years. As a matter of fact the number exceeds 45,000, but the enemy is not yet ripe for this admission.

The pastoral warns the faithful in the first instance against German Protestant associations. The object, of course, in selecting these associations as an object of attack is to rouse the patriotic feelings against the old enemy, Germany. Careful instructions are to be given by the clergy to their flocks how best to deal with Protestant agents. The faithful sons of the church are to be careful not to allow their young people to mix freely with Protestant young people. In certain districts they are even recommended to avoid all social intercourse with heretics. In an especial degree they are to avoid reading Protestant books, and among these are Bibles and New Testaments published by Protestant societies. Above all, even casual attendance at an Evangelical church or prayer-meeting is to be regarded as a sin, which only the severest penances can wipe away.

It is interesting to note that the higher clergy admit that the movement can only be met by united and strenuous action on the part of Catholics. They admit that it is a movement possessing great vitality and dangerous to the church. But it is still more interesting to hear that the leaders of the "Los von Rom" movement are fully prepared for the coming onslaught, and fear nothing for their cause.

## THE WORK MAY BE HURT.

Here is an incident relating to two great preachers, illustrating the danger of a good work being hurt by a good man:

It is impossible for even the best of preachers to know how to preach in a revival until they have for some time participated in the work. Dr. Lyman Beecher and the celebrated Dr. Asahel Nettleton were particular friends, and Dr. Beecher was one of the best revival preachers in the land. A revival had been going on near New Haven for a fortnight in which Mr. Nettleton had been laboring, but one evening when the Middle Church was filled with hearers, Dr. Beecher arrived late in town, and was persuaded to preach before he had learned the exact state of the revival. At the close of the service Mr. Nettleton met him at the bottom of the pulpit stairs, and put the question, "Do you know what you have been doing this evening?" "I have been trying to preach the Gospel," was the doctor's reply. "You have put back this revival a fortnight," was the rejoinder.

Dr. Lyman Beecher, the father of Henry Ward Beecher, was a great preacher, and a great revivalist, and yet, not knowing the condition of the work, his sermon, which was doubtless a good one, failed to help.