

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

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Rev. Joseph McLeod, D. D. • Editor

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1904.

To all our readers we send
Christian greeting, wishing them
a Happy New Year.

—A New Year present that will repeat itself fifty-two times in the year—a subscription to the RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER. Your son or daughter or friend might enjoy such a present.

—The senior editor of the *Herald and Presbyterian*, Dr. Monfort, is now in his ninety-fifth year. He began his editorial work seventy years ago. He is probably the oldest editor in the world.

—To Rev. E. S. Parker belongs the distinction of organizing the first new church on the basis of Union of two Baptist bodies. The report of this organization appears on another page.

—About the privilege and duty of spreading the knowledge of Christ amongst men in every part of the world, Robert E. Speer says the man who does not feel constrained to do so ought, in common honesty, to surrender Christ himself. What right, he asks, has such an one to Christ? If Christ is not able to save a world he is not able to save a single soul. If he can save a soul it is awful to withhold him from any, even the lowest. And no soul can honorably claim His power in his behalf who proposes, when he has secured it, to let the rest of mankind struggle on without the Saviour whom he believes to be indispensable, but whom he is content to have obtained for himself alone.

—In Mr. Moogy's late years his work was devoted largely to awakening the churches. He felt that it was of the utmost importance to have the members of the churches alive to their responsibilities—that this must be before there could be general and successful work for winning the unconverted to Christ. There is that same need today. If, as the *Christian-Evangelist* says,

every church "would seriously set about putting itself right with God, and all the members would put away their worldliness, and all wrongdoing, and devote themselves to the work of God and of the church, the question of a revival would already be solved. The matter of the preacher would be one of secondary importance. The moral power of a whole church turning to God, confessing sins, and seeking the face and blessing of God, would vastly exceed any sermon or series of sermons. Any preacher, whose own heart and life are in touch with God, could win men to Christ in such a church."

—Rev. H. H. Roach, pastor of the Main St. Baptist Church, St. John, died last Wednesday night, after about ten days illness. He preached to his people on Sunday, 4th inst., though not then feeling well, and a few days afterward was compelled to give up work. Mr. Roach had been in St. John three or four years, and in that time had commended himself not only to the confidence and love of the people of his own denomination, but of the Christian people generally, by his earnest and unselfish Christian labors. He was two years pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, and a little over a year ago became pastor of the Main St. church. He was a good preacher, an active pastor, and did not spare himself in any branch of the work of the Lord to which he had given his life. During the small-pox epidemic in St. John about two years ago, he undertook the difficult and somewhat dangerous work of ministering to those who had the dreaded disease. His courage and fidelity won the approval of the whole community. He was not yet forty years of age, and his early death will be much mourned by his brethren.

—There ought to be more conversions. Churches are numerous, and have large membership. They spend much money for places of worship, have able men for pastors, and are generally well equipped for service. And yet the number of conversions is not nearly so large as might be expected. Why is it? The question is often asked. Dr. Cuyler, whose large experience and success in the Christian ministry enables him to speak with authority, gives what he believes is one reason. He says: "I am convinced that one reason is that—with happy exception—there has been a decline of direct, pointed, faithful and persuasive preaching to the unconverted. Too many discourses are addressed to nobody in particular; preaching to Christians has been relatively overdone, and preaching to the impenitent underdone. I do not mean denunciations that only irritate, or mere exhortations that are often a waste of breath. I mean that the preachers should so hold up the ugliness and doom of sin before the sinner's eye that he should feel his own guiltiness, and so present Jesus Christ that that sinner should flee to him as his only Saviour. 'Warn them for me,' is God's solemn injunction to every minister; he has therefore no more right to cap Sinai or conceal hell than he has to hide the sin-atoning cross of Calvary. In short, I mean logic set on fire by love."

VOLUME FIFTY-TWO.

With this issue the fifty-second volume of the RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER is completed. With gratitude we acknowledge the goodness of God in enabling this work to be continued through so many years. It had a small beginning. It was undertaken because it was believed to be necessary, and in response to what its founder was persuaded was a divine call.

He "rests from his labors," but the work he instituted goes on. There have been changes and enlargements, but all the time there has been an earnest endeavor to keep the paper true to its mission. Those who have read it longest—and we are glad to have among its readers some who have not missed a copy from the first—are kind enough to say that its character has been maintained, and that it is not less interesting and helpful than in its earlier years. For whatever good it has done in the homes it has visited, and for the instruction and cheer and courage it may have carried to men and women in the struggles of life, we are thankful to God, by whose blessing alone it has done these things.

As, closing the volume, we thank God for having given the INTELLIGENCER a place in his work, so we look to the future with confidence in his all-wise guidance, and pray that he may continue his favor. And we ask that the friends of the work we seek to do, as they pray for their pastors, will also pray for this paper—which aims to be a pastor at large in all the churches—that its going amongst them may be a blessing.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER.

The week commencing next Sunday is the world's week of prayer. In another column will be found the topics suggested by the Evangelical Alliance for thought and prayer during the week. In every part of Christendom the church of God will be united in supplication for the blessings designated.

The week of prayer originated in an appeal from the foreign mission field for united prayer for an abundant outpouring of the Holy Spirit. From that time the first week in the year has been devoted to a concert of prayer. Who can tell how great blessings have come to the world in answer to the cryings of the Lord's people, united in a single desire!

Sometimes it has seemed that the programme for the week, as arranged by the Evangelical Alliance, was so full as to be formal and arbitrary, checking the Spirit's movings in the hearts of the Lord's people. But, all things considered, there is small reason for complaint. The objection that the suggested subjects for prayer are principally those not immediately associated with home and local interests is not well taken. Local interests do not suffer loss, nor is personal gain in spiritual blessing sacrificed when Christians are praying God to bless "the ends of the earth," and to prosper the institutions and enterprises everywhere which extend Christ's kingdom. Instead, the wide sympathy with every means that spreads salvation abroad, which finds voice in fervent prayers for their success, is sure to

have heaven's recognition in richer personal experiences and fuller blessings on local activities.

The first year the week of prayer was observed, there was a great and widespread revival. It was a work of grace of almost unprecedented power. That year, in accordance with the plea of the missionary committee, which asked for united prayer, the people were praying, especially for blessing on Christian work in mission fields. God not only answered their prayer for the work among the heathen, but he poured out a great blessing on their own lives and communities. So he always does. Those who, unmindful of others, desire good only for themselves, get nothing; while those who, in the spirit of Christian love, desire good for the neediest and the farthest away, receive the fullness of blessing in their own souls, and on their own work.

The week of prayer should be observed by all the churches. The meetings held should be especially prayer-meetings—not meetings for speech-making. There are found plenty of men who are ready to discuss, more or less intelligently, the several topics suggested. The speeches might better be left unspoken. Praying is what is needed—real praying. And let all the people pray, not just two or three ministers or "leading" laymen. Not only in the churches, but in every Christian home, also, the concert of prayer should be observed. There is need—such pressing need—of the Spirit's reviving power throughout the church. Zion languishes. The love of many has become cold. The Word preached is too often without effectiveness. The indifference of the unsaved increases. Nothing will change all this but the power of the Holy Spirit. The humble waiting on God by his people in sincere prayer will not be in vain. "He is faithful who has promised."

THE END OF THE YEAR.

The end of another year is at hand. A few more days and its record will be completed. What does a review of the year reveal? Successes, failures, hopes realized, disappointments, mistakes, unused opportunities, help given, help received, joys, sorrows—these all will be found mingled in many lives; these are the common lot.

Thought of the year's experiences may cause many a heart to ache. But none need despair. God is good. He will pardon our sins, "for there is forgiveness of sins with him." And he will strengthen us for the better living. We should avail ourselves of his great mercy that all the errors and sins of the dying year may be pardoned, and that we may enter the new year with the assurance of his grace to enable us to make a clean record. "So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." A.

BAPTIST UNION NOTES.

The following churches have voted in favor of union: Millville, Gibson, Tracey Mills, Taylor Village, Apohaqui, White Head, Bellisle Bay.