

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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—Temporizing with the liquor traffic is like placing a soothing plaster on a cancer that is steadily eating out the life.

—The religion that is not taken everywhere the man goes, giving character to everything he does, is not worth having. It is without value.

—In spite of the war Bible work has gone on successfully in Manchuria. There has been large distribution of Bibles to soldiers, and especially to the wounded in the hospitals.

—It will be seen by the report in another column that the Nova Scotia Conference adopted a resolution in favor of Baptist union. The Lord hastens the time when all branches of the Baptist family in Canada shall be one people.

—A World's Congress of Baptists is to be held in London in July of next year. Every branch of the Baptist family, it is expected, will be represented. The meeting will, doubtless, have the effect of bringing them nearer together, and will, probably, help to organic union in many cases.

—Take the children to church. Begin to take them at an early age, and thus form in them the habit of church-going. How good if it could be said of every parent, as God said of Abraham: "I know that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord."

—"Let us look after the heathen at home first." How often that is heard. They who say it have not given the matter thought. They have not studied the mind of Christ, nor His methods. He did not so act, nor did His disciples under His immediate direction. Our Lord did not say to His disciples: "Limit your work to Jerusalem; convert everybody in Judea before you

go to Antioch or Cyprus with the message of Christ." The message of Christ is not a geographical message. Christ died for the whole world. The church is essentially missionary. And the home work is better carried on when due attention is given to the needs of the regions beyond."

—During his recent tour in India, Dr. Charles Cuthbert Hall wrote these strong words: As from the midst of suffering, error-stricken India, I look back at the church at home, it seems to me as if the realization of her duty to the world is most imperfect and inadequate. The perennial temptation of the church at home is to be satisfied with her local prosperity and to be immersed in her local interests. Her world-view is deficient. Too few of her members consider what the stewardship of the gospel means as the church has received that gospel from the pierced hands of her Lord and Master. Too few of her ministers have made it their business so to study the world and its needs as to acquire a world-wide view, and to be stirred with the passion for world-evangelization.

—Writing of the several movements for the organic union of religious bodies in Canada, Dr. Withrow, of Toronto, one of the leading ministers of the Methodist church, says: "This is not a mere question of economics or of the saving of money, though that is important, but it is the deeper and wider question of promoting the unity and welfare of Christ's kingdom, and more adequately meeting the needs of the hour in the home and foreign mission fields. There are, of course, difficulties in the way; as in what great movement are there not? But it is believed that these can all be overcome. We have special need in Canada of such a union because in our population of six million people nearly one-fourth are French Roman Catholics. We feel that if the Christians of Canada can bring about organic union of the principal religious bodies in the Dominion, it will be an object-lesson of piety and common sense to the whole world."

PRAY FOR THE CONFERENCE.

Before another issue of the INTELLIGENCER the seventy-second annual session of the New Brunswick Conference of the Free Baptists will have begun and ended. The brethren who assemble in Conference will have matters of large importance to deal with. They need sound judgment, clear vision, patience, courage, brotherliness, and a purpose to do those things, and only those things, which will most promote the Kingdom of Christ. They are God's servants, dealing with God's work entrusted to them. From Him they may seek wisdom and strength, and He will not fail to enable them to do His will. In the churches and amongst all the people there will be no little anxiety about the Conference deliberations, and their result. If that anxiety finds expression in fervent prayer for God's presence in the Conference, and His guiding and over-ruling power in all the deliberations, those at home will con-

tribute more than they know to the wise determination of all questions that may arise. So let us all pray. And the Lord's will be done.

THE BAPTIST VIEW.

Rev. Dr. Trotter, President of Acadia University, communicates to *The Watchman*, of Boston, an account of the Maritime Baptist Convention. Dr. Trotter takes a deep interest in the proposed union of the Baptists and Free Baptists, and in the Convention contributed much to the endeavor to make the basis satisfactory to both bodies, removing the possibilities of misunderstanding and friction. His account of the union discussion is so clear and fair, and so well states the feeling of the Convention and the reason for proposing the substitute section, that we feel sure it will do Free Baptists good to see it. After a brief reference to the union agitation, begun twenty years ago, and the Basis of Union formulated by a joint committee in 1887, he says:

"At the meeting of the Free Baptist Conference in 1903 the Conference adopted the recommendations of its committee, including the doctrinal basis—amended, however, in two particulars: (1) as to the article on Final Perseverance, and (2) as to the article on the Lord's Supper. The amendments were made not with any desire to press the Baptists to any essential change of position, but as helping to avoid friction in the future. The findings of the Conference, including these amendments were then resubmitted to the committee of the Baptist Convention, and the committee decided to recommend the Convention to declare for union on the amended basis. This was the form in which the matter came before the Convention at Truro.

"The discussion in Convention was earnest and thorough-going, but in the best of spirit. The sentiment for union was unanimous and pronounced. In the actual facts of the case, whether one is thinking of the substance of preaching, of the order of the churches, or of the effective use of men and means for the furtherance of Christ's kingdom, there is nothing that can justify a continuance of the existing separation, while there are the mightiest reasons why the bodies should become united. This was the solid sentiment of the Convention.

"After the fullest consideration, however, it was felt that the amendments to the doctrinal basis as incorporated in the findings of the Free Baptist Conference would not accomplish satisfactorily the object intended. The two articles as amended might still be misconstrued and become an occasion of friction. The Convention, therefore, voted to drop out altogether the article on "final perseverance," and to eliminate from the article on the "Lord's Supper" all reference to the contentious aspects of that subject, the article to read simply: "We believe that the Lord's Supper is an ordinance of Christ to be observed by the churches in accordance with His instructions in Matt. 26: 26-30." With these amendments adopted, the Convention voted unanimously in favor of union, and with the

fervent desire that it might be consummated.

The sole motive for the above modifications was the desire to remove all contentious elements from the doctrinal basis, perfect liberty in the Lord at these points, and trusting the Spirit of the Lord, rather than any ambiguous written formulary, to weld the two bodies into a real unity on all essential points. There can be no doubt that while doctrinal formulations by representatives of the two bodies might here and there contain differences, the two bodies are already in all essential respects one.

"It seems reasonable to anticipate the hearty concurrence of the Free Baptists at their approaching Conference in the basis as passed by the Convention. Should this concurrence be voted, a joint committee, including representatives of the two bodies, will proceed to consider the subsequent necessary steps in order to bring the union into effect."

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION IN CANADA.

In view of the forthcoming visit to Canada of the Rev. John H. Ritson, M. A., Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, it is interesting to record one or two details in connection with work that is being accomplished in British North America through the instrumentality of the Bible Society. During the past twelve months—from August, 1903, to August, 1904—no less than 81,319 volumes were shipped from the Bible House in London; and the Canadian demand for Scriptures is increasing. An interesting light is thrown on the variety of nationalities to be found between Newfoundland and Vancouver by the fact that two recent large orders for the Scriptures represented twenty-six different languages, including Japanese, Russ and Finn, Icelandic, and Chinese. Special importations of Scriptures in Ruthenian, Hungarian and other foreign languages have been made for the Dukhobors, Galacians, etc., in the Northwest Territories.

One example will suffice to illustrate the demand for Scriptures in languages of whose existence in our midst some of us are scarcely aware. The issues last year from Toronto alone included the following languages: Arabic, Armenian, Chinese, Cree, Danish, Finnish, Flemish, French, Gaelic, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Icelandic, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian Polish, Roman, Russian, Ruthenian, Spanish, Swedish, Syriac and Welsh.

Another important feature of the Bible Society's work in Canada is the system of colportage, whereby the Word of God is taken to many remote and outlying districts scarcely touched by any other religious workers. Among the lumber camps, as in the mining camps, the colporteur moves about and leaves behind him the message which may rekindle hope in souls that have said for many a long year, "Who will show us any good?" The latest report states that in 1902 the colporteurs conducted services in 161 lumber camps, occupied by 7,447 men, and sold 2292 volumes of the Scriptures. A Russian colporteur has been at work among the Doukhobors and Galacians in Assiniboia. Two French colporteurs are em-