

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

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Rev. Joseph McLeod, D. D. - Editor

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1904.

—The church that is contented in the thought that it is "holding its own," is generally not holding its own.

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—It is only to the inconsiderate church member that the evangelist of a week, or the passing preacher, is more desirable than the pastor.

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—A prince of preachers, Dr. Alexander MacLaren, says: "To efface one's self is one of the preacher's first duties. The herald should be lost in the message."

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—If the balances of salaries due some ministers—salaries promised but only partly paid—were in their hands, they would be saved many a distressing experience. Simple honesty requires such payment.

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—To be broad and liberal, as some regard it, is to see the defects of every good thing, and the favorable features of every bad thing, that there seem to be little choice between them. Such people are not broad, they are merely flat.

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—The wrecks of sin and shame—men and women made haggard and hideous by excesses and uncleanness, are living advertisements of the awfulness of sin, permitted to linger on the earth as warnings to those who are starting on the downward road.

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—From the way some newspapers talk of the mistakes of temperance men, and of the good qualities of whiskey sellers, one would think that in their judgment the whiskey sellers are persecuted saints, while the temperance men are fiends destroying society.

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—A New Year's wish for a young friend by the late Phillips Brooks:

"Do not pray for easy lives! Pray to be stronger men! Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle. But you shall be a miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself, at the richness of life which has come in you by the grace of God."

—The only real failure in life is failure to be true to the best one knows. Archbishop Whately said: "I never fail. My orders are not to conquer, but only to fight. Whenever I conquer, also, that is so much over and above." Doing all that one can is all that God requires. Let us be sure to do that. We may leave the rest with him.

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—We have to thank those subscribers who have been prompt with their renewals. They are helpers in our work. We are expecting to hear from a great many more before the end of this month. Will each one whose subscription is due kindly make an effort to forward it at the earliest convenient date? Their promptness will be greatly appreciated. This week is a good time to do it—if you can. Try.

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—The value of a religious paper in a family is far greater than many know. Where it has long been taken and read in Christian homes, it does its part in creating and establishing the reading tastes of the children, and developing in them interest in things good. And when they establish homes of their own they want the religious paper in them. No small sum is better invested by parents than the price they pay for the religious paper. It pays them dividends of incalculable worth.

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—The "peace at any price" people are a great nuisance. They may not know it but they are, practically, the strongest allies of abuses and evils that need to be vigorously assailed. Because evils are strongly entrenched is not a reason for letting them alone—except to a weak-kneed time-server. Their very strength is, instead, a chief reason for making vigorous and relentless war on them. Don't be a coward. Give no quarter to evil. Strike. Strike hard. Keep on striking. Do not stop till you die. The effect of your faithful service will be felt after you have passed away.

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—As to mission work Christians have no option. They have read and believed with joy, that "He is the propitiation for our sins." When they have wiped the tears of joy from their eyes they have finished the reading—"and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." They cannot fail to understand it, and what is involved in it. The renewed heart responds to the demand. A Christian must be interested in missions. A Christian church must be a missionary church. There is no option. Never mind the cost. Missions pay. The recompense is sure, and sublime.

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—Rev. Dr. Lathern, for many years a foremost Methodist minister in the Maritime Provinces, passed to his eternal reward last week. He was born in England, but came to this province soon after he entered the ministry. He was pastor in the principal churches of his denomination, and was for several years editor of *The Wesleyan*. A few years ago he retired from the active work. His home in his later years was in Halifax. All the positions to which he was called he filled with distinguished ability. He was a man of marked piety, and

many who sat under his preaching in his several pastorates will remember, with thankfulness to God, his very helpful ministry.

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—The great want in pulpit and pew and everywhere is Christ. Says the venerable Dr. Cuyler: "With Him everything; without Him nothing. The gift that includes all gifts, the blessing that enwraps all blessings, is a present Saviour working in us as a Refiner, as a Chastener, as a converting Power, as a Quickener of the dead to life. A personal Jesus preached awakens sinners; a personal Jesus accepted means salvation; a personal Jesus obeyed is sanctification; a personal Jesus possessed is the fullness of joy and power. If any are honestly longing for a genuine revival of spiritual life and power, let them pray and work for the coming of Christ among them; and whatsoever He saith to them, do it! Set the heart-house in order, and send for the Master."

"WITNESSES UNTO ME."

"Ye shall be witnesses unto me." These are the words of the Lord Jesus in his parting directions to his disciples. He, doubtless, means that when necessary his followers shall utter testimony, present arguments and advocate his claims. But he means more than that. He means that his disciples, in themselves, in their own persons, characters, lives, shall be his witnesses. The great and commanding truth of this statement is that real witnessing for Christ is rooted in an experience of Christ. One cannot testify of the living Lord Jesus unless he knows him in his living saving power. And he cannot so know Christ unless in his own life he has actual experience of vital union with him, and his undwelling.

The Son of God is no longer on the earth in the flesh. None of us can testify that we have sat with him at meat, or walked the streets and the fields with him, or been with him on the sea. Yet we may have as real, and infinitely more important, knowledge of him and companionship with him, and be truer witnesses for him. Christ claims the power to give the help, the forgiveness, and the very life of God to every man who trusts and obeys him. We who are his disciples say, in our declaration of discipleship, that we have received through him forgiveness of our sins and the indwelling divine life—that we are "new creatures." The being true to this new life,—its motives, its aspirations, its spirit and purpose, its character, its Christlikeness—is the witnessing which our Lord requires. Men all around us are either denying or doubting that Christ has the power of making "new creatures." To argue with them has small effect. They refuse to become interested in theological theories. The argument about Christ as the Saviour that will most surely reach and persuade them is an actual new life wrought in the sinner by the power of Christ. If Christians are manifestly changed, if the power of God is seen to have wrought, and to be constantly working, in their lives, they are "witnesses" unto him" whose testimony cannot be questioned. The whole force of our witnessing for Christ is based on living ex-

perience with him. It involves our character. We do not witness for him unless we are showing him forth in gentleness, charitableness, meekness, unselfishness, purity, godliness.

To this personal witnessing to the personal Christ does our Lord commit his kingdom in this world, and the lifting up and enthronement of Himself as King over all. Such witnesses he calls his people to be. Are we testifying thus for our Lord? If so, we are of a vast company the world round. The whole true church of God, the host of the saved by the Lord Jesus, speaks with mighty voice, proclaiming him the "mighty to save." Not only are the faithful testifying for Christ, but with him. Into mysterious sweetness and power of his own perfect testimony to the gracious power of the Father, the true living and the humble utterances of his disciples are blended. So will his "kingdom come" and his "will be done" in the whole earth.

A YEAR OF PROGRESS.

Sunday, February 12th, has been appointed the universal day of prayer for students, and Christians everywhere are asked to have it in mind. In connection with the announcement of the prayer day some interesting facts are given concerning Christian work among students. The movement now embraces 721 student organizations, and are in all kinds of colleges and preparatory schools. The membership of these organizations is now 47,000. In the matter of conversions the last year was the best in the history of the work. The year was, also, the best in the increase of Bible study. The number of colleges having Bible study circles has increased more than one hundred during the year; and the enrolment is about double what it was the preceding year. More students have offered themselves for missionary service than in any previous year. Two hundred and fifty have entered upon foreign mission work. The number enrolled in missionary study is over 9,000, and over \$70,000 was contributed to home and foreign missions through student organizations. The movement is one of large importance and is sure to increasingly bear good fruit. It deserves the sympathy and prayers of all who desire the coming of Christ's kingdom.

EVANGELISTIC WORK.

Referring to the favorable time which, in many respects, the early weeks of the year afford for special work in the churches, the *Standard* says: "The chief business of preaching is primarily the winning of souls to the kingdom. Their training is an after consideration. The preacher should feel that no time ought to be lost at this season in securing the attention of the people before social functions have a claim upon them. Sermons should be especially directed at this time to awaken and deepen conviction of need of salvation. Popular themes, doctrinal discussions, or the treatment of social and ethical problems even, may be deferred to other seasons in view of the importance of the present hour. No pastor can feel content to allow his work, at the beginning of the year, to fall to the place