

TERMS AND NOTICES.

THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER, published in the interests of the Free Baptists of Canada, is issued every Wednesday.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.50 a year, in advance. When not paid within three months, the price is \$2.00 a year. Subscriptions may begin at any time.

The date on the address label is the time to which the subscription is paid. The date is changed within two weeks after payment is received. If not changed in two weeks, we should be notified.

To discontinue the paper, it is necessary to notify us and pay arrears, if any are due. Papers are continued till such notice is given and payment made.

When asking change of address, be careful to give both the old and the new address. Notify us promptly of any irregularity or other mistakes.

Every Free Baptist minister in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia is an agent for the INTELLIGENCER, and is authorized to receive subscriptions.

ADVERTISING rates on application. ST. JOHN OFFICE: Barnes & Co., 84 Prince William Street.

All letters, whether on business or for publication, should be addressed to THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER, Box 384, Fredericton, N. B.

•• THE ••

Religious Intelligencer.

(ESTABLISHED 1853.)

Manager's and Editor's Office: Fredericton, N. B.

Rev. Joseph McLeod, D. D. - Editor

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1905.

—One day at a time. So we are to live. Let each day be filled with earnest effort to do good.

—Each year cannot be the best, but each year may be good. By the grace of God make this one good.

—Every church should be a center of some evangelistic work. There are about it those who need to be reached with the gospel message and Christian influences. The mission of a church is to reach them.

—Lyman Beecher's advice to one of his sons is very good advice for everybody: "Do not always be running races with yourself. Do not try to outstrip yourself each year. You will not always be able to do it. But fill each day with earnest effort, and do your very best each year."

—The federation of all the Presbyterian and Reformed Presbyterian churches in the United States is being agitated. Representatives of the several bodies met lately and formulated a plan to be submitted to the chief courts of the bodies concerned. The movement may develop slowly, but something good is sure to come of it.

—The salvation of the individual is the chief end of preaching. The preacher's message must, therefore, be such as will make clear man's personal relationship and obligation to God. The message will need, also, to show that such service as God requires is not necessarily a task, but a delight, that "Christ's yoke is easy," and that his true servants "find rest to their souls."

—The *Canadian Baptist*, Toronto, has just completed its fiftieth year. It is an excellent paper. In its half century's service for the denomination with which it is connected, and for the kingdom of Christ, it has made a worthy record. How far-reaching and abiding the helpful influence of such a religious paper

has been none can tell. Its value to the cause it advocates is far greater than even its most ardent admirers know. We congratulate it on its success and wish it a steadily widening field and increasing power.

—We greatly desire the active co-operating of all the ministers to enlarge the INTELLIGENCER'S circulation. We thank them for what they have done. In all their congregations there are yet homes not now receiving the paper. They need it: It needs them. Our brethren in the ministry can better than any others introduce it to each home. We appeal to them to earnestly endeavor to do so. This is a good time to do it. They might make next Sunday INTELLIGENCER Sunday. They would, probably, be able to secure many new subscribers and a large number of renewals. Give it a trial, brethren. "We are workers together."

—"You are my witnesses," saith the Lord. God calls all his people to witness. When the church, by its individual members, is constant and faithful in witnessing, the work of the Lord prospers. Only a witnessing church is a true church of Jesus Christ. We have too much fallen into the habit of thinking that all is done when we support pastors who do our preaching for us. We forget, as says Dr. Strong, "that in the early church, when Christians were scattered abroad, they and not the apostles, went everywhere preaching the word. Not sermons, but individual voices of private members of the church, are to evangelize the world. When the Romans shortened their swords they lengthened their territories. Wherever and whenever we have done this hand to hand work our increase has been great. When we cease to believe that men around us are lost, cease in private to urge them to come to Christ, the glory will depart from us. The church that ceases to be evangelistic will soon cease to be evangelical; and the church that ceases to be evangelical will soon cease to exist."

—Dr. H. C. Creed, Secretary of the Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces, has been in correspondence with the secretaries of the Canadian conventions and with Rev. J. H. Shakespeare, secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, with reference to the Baptist World's Congress which is to be held in London in July next. Dr. Creed, writing about it in the *Messenger and Visitor*, says the Ontario and Quebec Convention has taken action practically identical with that taken by the Maritime Convention, which was the appointment of a committee to name delegates to the Congress and furnish them with credentials. A letter recently received by him from the secretary of the British Baptist Union details the arrangements so far as they relate to Canada, and urges prompt designation of men to fill the several places on the programme assigned to this country, and desiring as soon as possible the names of Canadian ministers who expect to be in London on Sunday, July

16th. Dr. Creed desires such Baptist ministers and laymen in the Maritime Provinces as have thought of attending the Congress to write him, with a view to appointment as delegates. He also suggests that some Free Baptist brethren should be named as delegates. There is no doubt that many, both of Baptists and Free Baptists, would like to attend the great meeting, but how to do it will be the question with most of them. We trust, however, that it will be made possible for some.

THE NEW YEAR.

None can tell what may be in his lot in the year now begun. It is well that the future is veiled. We are better prepared for its varied experiences by their being gradually unfolded. The pain will be hard enough to bear when it comes, and we will be better able to bear it than if our strength had been wasted in distressing anticipation. And the joy, too, will be truer and fuller because of its sometimes suddenness, like the clear, beautiful sunlight after the terrifying storm.

Amidst all the uncertainties in human conditions and experiences, let us be thankful that there are divine certainties which every heart is privileged to cherish, and in them find comfort and strength. In God there is "no variableness neither shadow of turning." He is "the same yesterday, today and forever." His power knows no diminution. His love is infinite. His promises, which are exceeding great and precious, never fail. He keeps covenant with His people. His tender mercies are over all. His long-suffering is immeasurable. His grace is sufficient for every human need and trial, and is freely given to seeking, trusting souls. Jesus Christ is the Saviour. He gave Himself a ransom for us. He ever lives to save. He saves to the uttermost all who go to Him. None need despair. It is His delight and glory to save. The joy of salvation is real. The hope of heaven is real. This joy and this hope may be the cherished possession of those who have not an atom of earthly good.

When hard pressed in the struggles of this year and distressed by the uncertainties that attach to things human, let us remember and hold fast to the divine certainties, and have the fullness of blessing so graciously for us all.

Let us pray: "Almighty God, the unfailing source of light and mercy, who has brought us to the beginning of this year, and art sparing us to love thee and to keep thy commandments, prepare us, we beseech thee for the coming days. Let thy grace enlighten our darkness and strengthen our weakness. Help us to forget the sins and sorrows of the past, cherishing only the wisdom and humility they have taught us. Inspire us with new purposes and new hopes. Deepen within our hearts the love of truth and goodness. Renew in us the life of that which alone makes life worth living. Enable us to discern the solemn meaning of these earthly days, and the high and sacred purpose for which they are given. Suffer us not to be unfaithful to thee. Thou hast richly blessed us hitherto; still lead us by thy hand; still admonish and guide us by thy Spirit,

and leave us not to ourselves, thou Good Shepherd of the sheep. Let not our sin take from us the thought that we are thine. Let not the sorrow and weariness of life, nor the darkness and mystery of the world, rob us of our faith in thee. Whatever light may shine or shadow fall, keep us in the fellowship of those who trust and love and obey thee, and in the service of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!"

"LO, I AM WITH YOU,"

This old watchword for the new year is given to the Church at large in the *Missionary Review of the World*.

In the whole range of the "exceeding great and precious promises" there is no assurance grander, or more inspiring and uplifting. God has planned a campaign, world wide and age long, against all the combined forces of error and evil, and calls every disciple to be a soldier and fight the good fight of faith. So vast is the army of foes, so impregnable their defences, so desperate their resistance, so subtle their strategy, that, but for that imperial word of command, which the Iron Duke called "our marching orders," the conflict would long since have been abandoned in despair of victory.

But one word sustains and strengthens us—it is this changeless promise of the personal presence of the Lord Himself on the field, leading on His Church. The same Captain of the Lord's Host whom Joshua saw before Jericho, to whom he gave up the whole conduct of that siege, and under whose Divine guidance that initial stronghold was captured without one carnal blow or weapon, is today still our General-in-Chief leading us to battle. Faith sees Him in the thickest of the fight, and at every new step hears His clarion call. It is this realized Presence that has made Christian missionaries courageous and confident amid countless delays and discouragements, and has turned apparent disasters and defeats into victories. This is God's campaign, and conquest is sure. Under Him seeming failure becomes real success.

But let us remember that this grand promise is the heritage only of a living, moving, witnessing Church. It is the Church which goes that He is with. He says: "Go ye into all the world, make disciples of all nations, preach the Gospel to every creature, and, lo! I am with you even all the days, even to the end of the age." The conjunction is a connective, linking command and promise, conditioning the assurance upon the obedience. We must not put asunder what God hath joined together. This promise is the incentive and recompense of aggressive action. No church and no Christian that is apathetic and inactive about this world-wide work of Christ can plead or possess this promise of his presence. Let this year surpass all that have gone before in true missionary zeal and work, and we shall see signs following, as never before, that he is with us, and even Pharaoh's magicians will be compelled to confess "this is the finger of God."