

Religious Intelligencer.

ST. JOHN, N. B., DEC. 15, 1853.

OUR PAPER.

THE PAST.

With this number of the Intelligencer the first year of its existence closes. We cannot help looking back with astonishment. Twelve months ago we issued the first number, in size 16 by 22 inches. We issued it almost *in secret*—no subscribers—no patronage that we could rely upon, and but two or three friends only to give the project their countenance. To all human appearance there was no chance of success—we did not expect at the utmost over 800 or 1000 subscribers—we could not make ourselves *certain* of even one quarter of that. An existence of over six months (12 numbers) looked exceedingly improbable. But we sent it forth, *because we believed it to be our duty to do so*. We hope nothing improper will be attributed to us, when we say that the success which has attended it we regard as owing entirely to the approbation and favour of God. That it has had many imperfections we do not pretend to deny. We were unskilled in the duties of an Editor, but in the simplicity of our earnestness to do good, we ventured to take the responsibility of spreading before the public twice a month a small amount of such reading as we thought would be a benefit to the people. It was favourably received—far, very far beyond anything we anticipated. It has commenced a work, the fruit of which we are already beginning to see; and which will be carried on we trust to the saving of precious souls. To the many friends whose encouraging words, have cheered us during the past year we now tender our grateful acknowledgements. To those Editors and Publishers who have favoured us with exchanges, we give our sincere thanks; and we solicit the favour continued. To our subscribers and readers, one and all, who have overlooked our imperfections, and given us their approval, we most sincerely offer our unfeigned thanks, and solicit their future good will and interest. But above all—to God—the only Wise and only Good—we offer up the thanksgiving and adoration of our whole heart—fully conscious, that all labour is in vain without his blessing—and that He only can really prosper the works of our hands. We feel ourselves bound to acknowledge Him, and we cannot refer to the past without remembrance of his mercy and goodness. MAY IT BE CONTINUED.

THE FUTURE.

We announced to our friends some months since that on the first of January next we should commence its WEEKLY publication. There have been several reasons, which have influenced us to this. Many of our subscribers in the country take no other paper, and wish it to fill the double place of a newspaper and religious magazine. This we could not make a semi-monthly do, to any extent. While news a fortnight old might suit some readers, it would destroy the character of the paper altogether in the estimation of others. We can not give that connected chain of events in a semi-monthly which is necessary to make the paper interesting, and if we attempt to give our paper anything of the character of a newspaper we must publish it weekly. Our subscribers generally require it, and we are certain it should be so, in order to its future usefulness.

We shall accordingly hereafter issue the "RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER" on FRIDAY of each week, commencing on the first Friday in January next. It will always contain the news of importance up to Friday morning, and the general intelligence

will be selected with a view to keep our readers constantly advised of passing events, both Foreign and Domestic. Our columns will *probably* always contain as much, and as late news as is usually found in some of the secular papers. We refrain from making any further observations at present on its future character—the first number we intend as a specimen, and in it we shall give some exposition of the course we intend to pursue.

THE FORM.

We have also by the advice of several friends whose judgment we esteem, and in agreement to our own mind, decided on altering the *form* of our paper. Its size will be the same as at present, that is 22 by 32 inches, but it will be folded but once instead of twice, making four pages instead of eight. By this we shall be able to arrange our articles much better, and our printer informs us it will contain about two columns more of reading matter.

THE TERMS.

The price as formerly announced is ONE DOLLAR a year, in all cases payable in advance. Any one person sending us *three pounds*, shall have *thirteen* directed copies as he may wish. All will perceive that a very large subscription list is required to sustain our paper. Was *profit* the object of our publication we should, make the price at least fifty per cent higher. But as we wish to put it within the reach of every body, we therefore place the subscription at the lowest possible rate.

OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

It is quite probable that *some* of our subscribers will discontinue with the receipt of this number. Various causes may influence them to this. We shall, however, send to the most of our old subscribers the first number of the weekly. Our object in this is not to *force* them to continue. We do not wish to force our paper or our labours on any; we wish it to be received freely—it is necessary it should be, in order that it may be a benefit. One thing of course we should be happy to receive; that is the renewal of all our former subscriptions, with a large addition of new ones. To such of our readers as we shall not hereafter greet, we say;—acquaint yourselves with God, and be at peace with him, that thereby good may come unto you. Remember that HAPPINESS IS ONLY FOUND IN HOLINESS, and with all the knowledge we may acquire, if we have not the knowledge of God, we have no Eternal Life. Kind friends, we commend you to God and the word of His grace—we shall pursue our work—we shall as noiselessly as possible urge our way onward, and whatever hindrances may be before us, we shall look unto Him, who has said—"all things are possible unto them that believe."

OUR AGENTS.

We wish all our former agents to continue; and we are in need of others in different places. We hope they will interest themselves with as little delay as possible. Our paper is much depending on the activity and energy of its friends. Should its former success induce a spirit of negligence on their part, it must necessarily sustain a loss. The greatest efforts which can be made by the Publishers and Editor will be insufficient to sustain it, without the energetic co-operation of its friends throughout the Provinces. We wish our agents to forward us as soon as possible their respective lists of subscribers.

COMPLAINTS.

Some complaints have reached us from two or three places of not receiving our paper regularly, or not receiving it at all. We can only say, that all papers have been mailed regularly by us. Some may have been lost in passing through the

Post Office. But we think the principal reason of irregularity has been in our not having the names of the proper post or way office to which the papers should be sent. In some parishes there are three or four offices, all having different names, and if our agents and subscribers would be careful to give us to the name of the *office*, instead of the parish to which they wish their papers sent, we think much irregularity would be obviated. Will our agents and subscribers see to this hereafter.

DR. DUFF'S SPEECH.

We wish all our readers to read carefully Dr. Duff's Speech on our second and third pages. We think it impossible for any christian to rise up from its perusal without a mind deeply impressed with the fact that God requires something of them; and that an indifference to the wants of our fellow men—an apathy in relation to the salvation of others, is indicative of a selfishness which has no existence in the *christianity of Christ*. How many who bear the christian name, are making "provision for the flesh to fulfill the lust thereof" while starving souls are perishing for the bread of life, and stretching out their hands to us for the word of God—How many have a religion that does not extend beyond themselves, and who leave their fellow men to perish with cold indifference. If but a tithe of what is uselessly expended by christians in unnecessary dress, ornaments and equipages was cast into the Lord's treasury, there would not be so many families ruined by the patrimony left them. There is much property, *honestly gotten* upon which no blessing rest, because it has *never been tithed to God*.

AGENTS.—Brother William N. Mallory of Wakefield, has our sincere thanks for the interest he has taken in procuring subscribers for this paper. His long list is received with the money enclosed. Many of our friends will remember that they are interested in the paper beyond a mere friendly feeling, and if they do not *seek* subscribers, instead of subscribers seeking them, that the circulation of the paper will be lessened instead of increased. Brother Mallory has acted a good example by calling upon persons to subscribe, and we hope it will be followed by many others. Mr. Hiram Edgett of Greenwich, also has our thanks for the list sent.

PAPERS.—We will supply the subscribers to the *Intelligencer* with the following papers at the following rates.

American Messenger, monthly at 1s. per year.	
Child's Paper, do. 7d. 1-2.	
Youth's Gazette, semi-monthly. 1s.	
The Myrtle, do. 1s.	

The Myrtle is a Free-will Baptist Sabbath School paper, nearly as large as the Child's paper, and is very interesting to children. These can be mailed as received by us, with the *Intelligencer*.

"THE ST. JOHN FREE PRESS."—This Paper according to previous announcement made its first appearance on the 7th inst. We think it likely that it comes up to the full expectation of the public, and there is no doubt but the Editor Mr. Porter, will show himself an able journalist. We sincerely wish him a large circulation.

NEW BRUNSWICK AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.—The Annual Meeting of this Society will take place in the Wesleyan Centenary Chapel, on the evening of Wednesday the 4th of January next. A collection will be taken up on behalf of the funds.

BOOKS! BOOKS!—We have received since our last an additional assortment of Books—religious, historical, scientific, &c., which we sell at low rates.