

# THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

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## TERMS AND NOTICES.

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## Religious Intelligencer.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., SEPTEMBER 2, 1870.

## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

WHITE PAGES, Michigan, Aug. 11, 1870.

TALL CORN.

To-day we were shown a stock of corn, of Michigan growth, which reached the respectable height of thirteen feet seven inches. Perhaps the reader can better understand its proportions if he will imagine two of the tallest men in his community, standing one upon the head of the other, with the heavier body of both, and something else added to their combined height. We had nothing to say when asked in Western parlance, "How is that for high?" Unfortunately though, like too many men, his ambition to be high had exhausted its whole strength. In his conceit it could look down upon its neighbors; but in the more desirable, i. e., the useful respects, there was no development; rows of blisters were found where corn was expected. But then it would answer very well for fuel, as in some sections the crop is so abundant that corn is actually made to do service in keeping the fire-irons. The careful, economical reader, must not be startled into exclaiming, "What a shameful waste," for economy prompts its use. Wood is scarce, and it is thought cheaper to burn the corn than to send it to market and with the proceeds procure other fuel. It makes a mopping fire, and many a pleasant hour is whiled away in the cheerful glow of its creation.

Backward, so far as we could see, is scarce; a small patch occasionally is all that is noticed. Perhaps its cultivation is deemed unprofitable. Of

"CANADA, THIRTIETH."

(so called) the farmers have a fine class horror. In the States bordering on Canada a law formerly existed prohibiting under a heavy penalty the importation of Canadian seed grain. Our informant did not say whether the law is in operation, but we think not. In some places officers were appointed, whose duty it was to make occasional tours of inspection through the several districts in search of the dreaded weed. As discovered, were to the tiller, and to the man as well, whose neglect allowed it to exist. It must be presumed that the prohibition was necessary; but how strange that moral laws, injurious to all the interests of man, are allowed to be freely disseminated, and their propagation openly countenanced and encouraged by those whose duty is the protection of society. But such is the way of the world, "straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel."

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.

though admirable, is of course not without defects. Everybody is not satisfied, as everybody never will be. Some are anxious for a change making the attendance compulsory; while others try hard to make themselves, and as many more as possible believe that such an addition to the law would rob them of the liberty of which they so oft and so loudly boast. It appears to us, however, that the educational facilities, excellent though they be, must fail to accomplish all they are intended to, till the people are compelled to give their children the benefit of that for which the law now makes them pay. There are too many so ignorant or selfish that they think it pays better to have their boys hoeing potatoes and corn than attending school, getting "book learnin'." Nothing short of law will cure this evil, and give the children of such individuals equal privileges with those of more thoughtful and ambitious parents. The different districts seem to vie with each other in the excellence of their school buildings. Faying nothing of the number and style in the large cities, the smaller towns, and even the rural districts, evidence a commendable ambition in the class of buildings they have erected for school purposes. It is not a very rare thing to find a fine academy in a town comparatively thinly populated, and of very humble pretensions in other respects. We could not check our thoughts (though we tried hard, for we knew humilitation must follow) when they reverted to our own city—St. John. All over the city they went—east, west, north, and south—traversing every street in search of a school house even respectable to appearance. Yain was the search. Even when we thought of the Training School, an institution under the immediate patronage and control of the Government, we could not restrain the blush that came when we thought how much our home was behind in this matter, second in importance only to religion. We think that could the citizens of N. B. have a panoramic view of what their neighbors have done in the way of providing facilities for the education of their sons and daughters, their pride would be touched considerably, and an ambition aroused that would result in the immediate adoption of a Free School system.

We hope our present representatives have the moral courage to initiate the movement. Any Legislature can afford to suffer political martyrdom in an effort to advance the educational interests of a country. At

SOUTH BRID.

Indians, the Roman Catholics have a fine Educational Institution. Everything in connection with it (externally) is of the first order. We cannot say whether in the male department anything more is taught than "the duty of a Christian man," which study in some Catholic schools is put in the room of the reading, writing and arithmetic of ordinary schools; but report says that the female department turns out "accomplished" young ladies, those of course excepted who are kept in as nuns, etc. A great many foolish Protestant parents, anxious for their daughters acquire all the modern "accomplishments," are silly enough to allow them to attend these "whited sepulchres," little thinking of or caring for the dangers to which they are subjected. They believe the assertions of the teachers that the religious belief of Protestants is not tampered with. But experience has frequently proved the contrary. It is only a few weeks ago that a father discovered that his daughter, who had been three years at one of these institutions, had been kept in ignorance, and been led to believe that she was not yet ready for graduation. Only by accident he discovered the true state of affairs, just as she was about going farther into the mysteries of the papacy—so far as to be beyond his

reach. He promptly took her home; but how much better to have kept her there in the first place. One might as well think of putting his children in the fire, expecting them not to be burned, as to place them under the influence of Jesuits, and imagine that they would escape taint. When will Protestants learn wisdom in this respect? Our next letter will probably be dated at some point nearer home.

## DENOMINATIONAL.

The Seventh District Meeting held its Session with the church at Fair Haven, Deer Island, on the 12th, 14th, and 15th of August. The Elders present were—Malloch, Taylor, Balcock, Barnes, Brown, Kinghorn, and Parsons. Two visiting brethren from the Christian connection—Messrs. Kirkland and Parsons—were also present during the Session. The preaching, devotional, and business meetings were largely attended, and deeply interesting. They were held in a nice new church, erected by three public spirited gentlemen, residents of that part of the island, viz., Messrs. Calder, Holmes, and Thompson; and by them kindly tendered for the use of the meeting. As early as Friday strangers from St. John, Grand Manan, Campbellville, and the Islands adjacent, began to arrive, and at evening a fair congregation were assembled to hear the word of life from one of God's servants—Elder Parsons, preached on "Effectual Prayer." The sermon was followed by a number of warm exhortations from ministering brethren and others. All felt, at closing, that the meetings were auspiciously commenced.

On Saturday at 10 o'clock, an interesting congregation met in conference. The presence of the Master was evidently felt, and many were enabled to rejoice in God, the rock of their salvation. Old age, with silvered locks and hoary beard; middle life, with mental vigor and muscular power; and blooming youth, with its warmth of energy and wealth of hope, had each representatives in that meeting.

At 2 o'clock the business meeting was organized by electing Elder Parsons to the Chair. Reports were received from nine out of the ten churches in this district. While the reports represented the spiritual state of the churches generally as low, and lacking in that vitality and interest that has characterized them formerly, yet it was a pleasing feature that no trials existed, and all were unitedly laboring and hoping for a brighter day. A Sabbath School was also reported in connection with each church, which is full of hope and promise.

The Sabbath meetings were very largely attended, and of deep interest. Presiding in the morning by Elder Kinghorn; in the afternoon, by Elder Parsons; in the evening by Elder Moses (Christian connection). The sermons were scriptural, practical, and earnest; and from the respectful attention with which they were received, can but be productive of future good.

Some matters of business were introduced on Monday, of importance, which we will be obliged to omit in this notice, but may refer to them again. We cannot speak too highly of the hospitality and Christian kindness manifested, not only by the little church at Fair Haven, but by the inhabitants generally, in opening their hearts and homes to entertain the numerous strangers attending the meeting. May the dear Saviour who said, "Inasmuch as ye do it unto one of the least of these my little ones, ye do it unto me," give them each and all a hearty welcome into the great home above, from sincere prayer.

A meeting in connection with our Mission Society was held on Monday evening. A very large congregation attended, and the claims of these Societies were ably presented by a number of speakers. This meeting was not held for the purpose, or with the expectation, of receiving aid pecuniary but to give the people of the island, with whom we meet for the first time, some idea of the various departments of our denominational work, and enlist their sympathies and co-operation. The collection, however, were generous, and a subscription paper was started and put in the hands of two influential ladies, who received a subscription of \$ each, to commence with, from two gentlemen. A number of the Home Mission Executive were present at the meeting, and agreed to expend all the money raised in the District on destitute churches within its bounds, and made arrangements with Elder Balcock to commence labor immediately.

We may never meet the dear brethren and sisters whose acquaintances we formed, again on earth. Tempestuous oceans divide us here. But we hope to meet again in that better land, where "there shall be no more sea."

Bro. C. T. Phillips writes that Bro. Noble baptized four converts at Corn Ridge, K. C., on Monday, the 15th ult.

No reports have yet been received from the Second and Fifth District Meetings, which were held the first Saturday in July.

The Chairman of the Committee, appointed at the 5th D. M. to visit the Church in Henderson Settlement, writes that they carried the matter as far as they deemed expedient, and have concluded to refer the further consideration to General Conference.

NOVA SCOTIA.—The Conference of Free Baptists, in Nova Scotia is to be held with the Church in Port Medway, on Thursday next, the 8th inst. Brethren Balcock and Reid are the delegates from the N. B. Conference. We presume they have made arrangements to go. The Editor of this paper purposed being present, but recent absence has made it impossible. We hope the INTERESTED will not be forgotten. All the ministers are authorized agents; and the delegates from this Province will be glad to "Express" cash from subscribers to this office.

The Clerk of Conference—Bro. Porter—will, as heretofore, furnish an account of proceedings for these columns.

We understand that some religious interest has been enjoyed at Bear Island under the labors of Rev. A. Kliney. One convert was baptized recently.

Rev. S. E. Curry is holding special services on the Barony, Dunbrides, with prospect of revival. May God give him success.

A good interest continues at Nashua Mills, where Bro. Gunter labored a few weeks since. The young converts are fully in earnest in the work of the Lord.

The following letter, from Bro. Ridout, was received too late for last week. We omit the portion referring to the Editor, thanking Bro. R. for his kind cheering words:—

"I am far from believing that God is in any way a stranger to our needs. With confidence we may trust in Him always. 'Seek first the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you.' 'Help in time of need, friends in time of affliction, &c.' His promises have been verified in my experience. While I gladly acknowledge the hand of God—the giver of every good and perfect gift—in all the mercies which have been mine to enjoy, I do not forget the many friends who have unceasingly cared for me in my helpless state; with sincere gratitude I remember them. The prospect is that they shall see in their generation the fruits of their labors of love. I would be writing about something better than poor self were circumstances

different. But I remember it takes all men to fill all stations. It matters little what our position so long as we have Godliness, for 'Godliness with contentment is great gain.'"

"The better with me now than when I last wrote. I now can walk a little with crutch and cane. I write this for the satisfaction of some distant friends who have desired me to do so.

"If any of the friends could furnish me with some books occasionally, it would add much to my comfort while in this invalid state, and I would be thankful to receive them. I am, however, and also soundness of mind. I can behold nature's bloom and decay. I can peruse the blessed word of God. Rob me of this privilege, and I fear I would be unhappy and useless.

Your sick brother,

A RIDOUT.

SABBATH SCHOOL RETURNS.—We are requested to state that blank forms for returns of Free Baptist Sabbath Schools have been forwarded to all Superintendents who made returns last year, and also to the Elders and Licentiates. Superintendents not receiving these forms, can obtain them from any of the Ministers.

Not only should the information asked be promptly given, but every Superintendent should endeavor to furnish as full and as correct statistics as possible.

We have some copies on hand, which we will furnish, if called for.

## SKEPTICISM AND FAITH.

Skepticism abounds. So does faith. There is now more intelligent faith than ever before. Solid learning is favorable to belief, while it dispels superstition and unthinking devotion. Wicked men will of course reject the word of God. It is not for the voice of conscience, the truth, and the light, of punishment which can not be banished, they would believe less than they do. Eternal judgment is a dark shadow over them constantly. We are now a new class of doubters—students of science and nature, such as the modernists incline to unbelief. It is the peculiar stage of these pursuits which works the mischief. The great mass of scientists are just now in the sophomore period; they have learned something new; they know more of all evidences of truth, and the truth, and the light, of punishment which can not be banished, they would believe less than they do. Eternal judgment is a dark shadow over them constantly. 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