

THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

TERMS AND NOTICES.
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Religious Intelligencer.

REV. JOSEPH McLEOD, EDITOR.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1873.

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

It is feared that the churches have been rather forgetful of the Foreign Mission interests which have been entrusted to their care, for the support of which they are responsible. The Treasurer informs us that funds have come in very slowly, scarcely at all indeed, and that the treasury is about the same as empty. Perhaps the brethren who generally take the most active part in raising the funds have been waiting for "a convenient season," a time when cash shall be more plentiful than for some time. That convenient time must certainly have come now. At least the "mission chest" cries out for immediate and generous supplies. It will be remembered that at the annual meeting of the Foreign Mission Society, the Treasurer suggested the idea of dividing the amount to be raised (\$800) into fifty shares of \$17.20 each. Some thirty shares were taken at the meeting. The takers of those shares should report as soon as possible. And are there not others ready to assume the remaining twenty shares? In every community where no share is being raised there ought to be some person or persons willing and anxious to undertake to collect one or more shares according to the ability of the people of the community. If a whole share cannot be raised try a half; and where no systematic collection is made, let the friends of the mission send along their individual contribution. The Treasurer, Bro. Wm. Peters, St. John, will be glad to hear from all, and the sooner the better. The amount to be raised for the support of our missionaries is comparatively light; no one need be burdened, if each will do what he can and ought. Our missionaries are laboring faithfully and successfully. The Lord is prospering them; and He and they look to us for the cash necessary to the carrying on of the work. Shall we fail? Of course not. Do what you can brethren and sisters. Ask your hearts, in view of all the Lord has done and is doing for you, what you ought to do, and then do it at once. "The Lord loveth the cheerful giver."

PASSING EVENTS.

A LONG PASTORATE.—Rev. Dr. Brooke, pastor of the Presbyterian church in Fredericton, has presided over one church for thirty years. On Sabbath (2nd instant) he preached from Acts xx. 32, and made fitting and touching reference to his long ministerial labours, and the many changes that have taken place during that time. He does not even now propose to relinquish his charge; nor is he, though well advanced in years, incapacitated for the work. Not long since in conversation, he said to us that he felt quite equal to the preaching duties of his office. He is beloved by his people, and esteemed by citizens of all denominations. May he live long to proclaim the "good news."

COOL.—A member of the House of Representatives of the United States the other day introduced a Bill to relieve certain Roman Catholic books from the duties now paid on all foreign books imported into that country. Among them are the "Life of St. Patrick," "A visit to the altar of St. Mary," and others of like significant titles. What will they not ask for? They seem to have persuaded themselves that any and every law should be set aside at any time to gratify their wishes and whims. And here they do not differ in any respect from their brethren in the United States or elsewhere. With the utmost coolness they ask for this and that and the other thing, and because their requests are not granted they whine about being ill-treated, down-trodden, &c., apparently oblivious to the fact that other people have rights, and that the country has laws that apply equally to all classes, burdening none but those who throw themselves against them. In view of all this, those who do not see "eye to eye" with them almost begin to consider whether it is not best at once to make Roman Catholics public benefactors, support their schools and churches, supply them with books, dry goods, groceries and all they want, and have no more bother about it?

JAPAN is making rapid advances in the right direction. Her people are wide-awake, and are evidently determined not to lag behind any longer in the race of progress. Very fortunately the ruler of the country is far ahead of his predecessors, and the influence of his course will be great, and widely felt. Wise, liberal, common sense rules always influence their subjects beneficially. Of Japan's ruler it is said that he "is rapidly acquiring the reputation of being the most sensible sovereign of the age. He recently visited the custom house of Yokohama in strictly European garb, and with a modest retinue. He is described as being about five feet ten inches high, and a little darker than most of the Japanese. His eyes are dark, though sparkling with intelligence, and ever on the look out; and his whole person quite dignified, though he is yet a little awkward in European costume, especially the boots, which do not seem to sit easy on his feet. His every effort seems to be for reform, and his life is spent in the most simple and diligent manner. He rises at seven, and studies for an hour Japanese classics under a teacher, and then modern languages and literature. He takes special pleasure in geography and physiology. At 11 o'clock he receives his ministers who are to keep him posted on all the matters of their departments, and after several hours of these interviews he rides or drives out for fresh air and exercise. His passion is said to be an evening walk through the streets of Yeddo incognito, that he may leisurely observe a thousand things that no other ruler of Japan ever saw before him. It seems almost providential that just at this juncture a man of such capital good sense and such rare qualities has been given to this modern land of promise. The human mind can scarcely estimate the result of his influence on the development of his own people on the general progress of the age."

THE CATHEDRAL MEETING.—Our Roman Catholic friends have great perseverance. "Try, try again," is one of their mottoes. Their persistency has done much for them in the past. In seeking ends, to gain which others would have thought it useless to make effort, they have persevered, till by the very doggedness with which they have urged their claims (?), they have succeeded. Encouraged by their success in the past they keep "pegging

away" at the school law. During the service in the Cathedral last Sunday morning, the Bishop expressed himself in very severe terms respecting the free school law. At the close of the afternoon service a largely attended meeting was held, over which the bishop presided, the object of which was to devise means to influence the government to accede to the demands of Roman Catholics; and also to raise funds for carrying on their schools during the present year. After having received a report, in which it was stated that over \$2000 had been contributed to their schools for the past year, and opening a subscription list for the present year, the meeting proceeded to condemn in the usual strong terms the law of the country which provides for the free education of all the children of the country, without distinction of wealth, social position or religious belief. Several resolutions were passed denouncing the law, and expressing a determination to have it either repealed or modified. We believe they will do as they say, leave nothing—fair or unfair—undone that will in any degree assist them in accomplishing their purpose. We do not believe though that they will succeed, unless the friends of the school law forget to watch with jealous care the great boon of which they have become possessed after so long and severe a struggle. To know the purpose and tactics of an enemy makes the wise man guarded. To know the determination of the enemies of the school law, and to know their unscrupulous devices (for with them "the end justifies the means") must make the friends of the law wary.

BETTER TERMS.—The Commissioners appointed by the New Brunswick government to urge the claims of this province to better terms upon the Dominion authorities have been diligently prosecuting the work assigned them, and "the case" some days ago was sent up. What course the Dominion government may decide to pursue is only conjectured, and nothing definite can be publicly known till after the meeting of the Legislature. It is rumored however that the whole matter will be referred to a commission, to be appointed jointly by the Dominion and Provincial governments. The press has suggested that the New Brunswick M. P.'s and senators be invited to meet the Provincial legislature or government in order to discuss the course of action best to be pursued in seeking better terms. It is probable that the suggestion will be carried out; and such meeting and consultation cannot but be beneficial, ensuring as it will greater unanimity and more definite and concentrated action than there could otherwise be.

A PROTEST.—Rev. George Armstrong, of the Stone church, preached last Sunday a sermon on the immortality of the soul, "The Gift Concerts," to be held by the Academy of Music Company in this city in May. The text—"Oh, do not this abominable thing that I hate"—was very appropriate. His remarks are said to have been very pointed. He also read the law, which says:

"Whoever shall set up, or publish the setting up of any lottery, or induce any person to purchase tickets for, or shall play at, or purchase or possess, any tickets in such lottery, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be fined or imprisoned at the discretion of the Court."

We are informed that Mr. Armstrong, when the scheme was first mooted, called on the Mayor and other officers of the city, endeavoring to induce them to prevent a violation of the law, but he failed in his attempt. No one was disposed to interfere in the matter, probably because the projectors of the lottery are men of some standing. "Boss" Tweed's money secures him against conviction in the New York courts, though everybody knows, and he himself does not deny, that he robbed the city of immense sums; so here the social and money standing of the Academy of Music Corporation secures them against interference, though their project is manifestly a violation of a plainly written law. We are glad, however, that though Mr. Armstrong failed to induce the officers of the law to exercise the authority vested in them, he has spoken out like the true, Christian man that he is. All honor to him for his faithful protest. All the ministers of the city and throughout the province should do the same. If the Christian pupils of the land protest not against the great iniquity, their utility may well be questioned. That the thing was allowed to be proposed is bad enough; but we tremble when we think what must be the effect upon the whole province should it succeed. Hitherto we have been free from evil in such form, but if this venture should be successful the way will be open for every species of gambling and swindling, the end of which who can tell? The pulpits cannot afford to be silent now. The Lord God, who hateth sin in every form, requires that His servants give no uncertain sound in this matter, and that they protest against and in every way strive to contravene the influences of the lottery. We believe that if the religious and moral elements in the community would protest as they might against it, they would prevent the great wrong attempted to be inflicted upon the city and province.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS.

FREDERICTON Church is being blessed with some refreshing. Five believers in the Lord Jesus Christ have followed Him in baptism. We hope that many more may be converted. Pray for us, brethren.

NORTH BRANCH, ONTARIO.—Rev. Wm. Brown writes under date February 11th: "About two weeks ago I came here on a visit. Commenced a series of meetings, which have been continued every evening since. The Lord has blessed us. The church has been much revived, and sinners have been converted. Last Sabbath I baptized seven happy converts. Many others are anxiously seeking the way of life. I purpose remaining here this week, after which I shall return to my regular field of labor. Pray for us."

LOWER QUEENSBURY.—Good news from this church, of which Rev. S. E. Currie is pastor. Assisted by Father McMullin he is holding a series of meetings, which are being attended with much blessing. On Sabbath last five converts were baptized.

ON THE SUNNY SIDE.—Rev. Aaron Kinney wishes to express his thanks to his friends in Wakefield and vicinity for a donation of \$103, received on the 29th ult.

HARMONY, NOVA SCOTIA, QUARTERLY MEETING.—The January session was to be held with the church at East Medway. Owing to bad travelling and stormy weather, there were no ministers, delegates, or other members of Quarterly Meeting Conference, from abroad, at the place and time of appointment. A few gathered on Saturday, but so few that it was impracticable to attempt even the common routine of business. But with the few, and others of the immediate vicinity who gathered, (altogether a goodly number) we commenced religious services, and continued them over the Sabbath. We had conference meeting on Saturday afternoon and preaching in the evening. On Sabbath morning in the morning, sacramental social meeting in the afternoon, and preaching in the evening. There was preaching and social meetings on Monday and other evenings during the week. We have to say to the praise of God, that He was with us in all of these meetings and services, giving them interest, and making them a means of strength

and comfort to many present, and of encouragement and upbuilding to that little "branch of Zion." There being no business transacted, there is no arrangement made for the next session. We will, however try and have it fixed in due time.

Another reason why we had no ministerial help was the sickness of Bro. Granville, of Harmony. He has been in a weak and sickly state so that he has been confined to his house and much of the time to his bed since, I think, early in November. I visited him a few weeks ago, and found him considerably discouraged because he had been so long unable to attend to his pastoral duties, and there seemed to him so little prospect of being able to resume them. The brethren are looking well to his temporal wants during the time of his and their affliction. In behalf of our brother in the ministry, this man of God, and his worthy Christian companion, we ask the prayers of all the brethren, that God will sustain them in their affliction, and, if it can be His will, speedily restore him to health; not, enable them to say, with strong faith, "Thy will be done." Let all of the brethren also pray for all the ministers and the churches of this Quarterly Meeting, that God will pour out His Spirit upon them and quicken them anew with holy zeal and power. And not only so, but that the universal church may "arise and shine." "And let the whole earth be filled with His glory."

THEO. H. CROVELL, Q. M. Clerk.

Port Medway, Nova Scotia, January 1873.

THE INFLUENCE OF CHRISTIANITY ON CIVILIZATION.

The following is an extract from the report read by W. Bowman, Esq., at the recent Missionary Anniversary, Dundas Street, London:

"The Gospel inspires the true spirit of freedom, claims relationship to the highest knowledge, and ministers to social peace and harmony. The world's part has been to impart the noblest civilization to fallen minds, and long ago, had science or art that power, this world would have reached its meridian glory and blessedness; but failure is written every where, and we are forced back on the truth, now demanding our serious thought and nerving to earnest resolve, that the power to reach man, to give him a type of civilization the grandest and most abiding, is from without—from God. The word that inspiration has given, the spirit that divine wisdom bestows, the voice that breathes a common sympathy and proclaims a Saviour mighty to save, these combined form the nucleus of power, the uplifted lever, the conserving force, the cementing bond, and crowning glory of humanity. Our remarks would also apply to British Columbia, and to the regions beyond. Look and mark across that mighty ocean, a gleam of light—a fosterer seems to point the way to regions beyond—Japan that home of myriads, where social and political problems are working themselves out, causing the eyes of all civilized nations to turn towards her—it is without a parallel in this world's recorded history—a nation as it were, in a day, peacefully breaking off the shackles which for ages had bound her; politically, socially, and intellectually undergoing a complete revolution. The light of science and civilization permeating its very centres, a new era dawning, old traditions, forms and associations breaking up—vanishing. Knowledge, science and commerce have been at work quietly undermining; and side by side with these vanquishing powers our Christianity must push itself, growing like a tree, which long rooted over and bent in by walls, at length enjoys the open main and the breeze, rapidly sprouting and reaching out, until the vigorous prosecution of the work before her—initiate the persecution of the early Christians—throw herself into the great enterprise with all her vast resources and energy, and the day of triumph will quickly come. Let the Church be awake to her power to overcome obstacles; faith, unshaken by the presence of stupendous difficulties, rises into the calm confidence of perfect assurance—"we are well able to go up and possess the land." We are not launching Columbus like on an unknown sea. Ours is no problem demanding solution. The Gospel is the power of God—our faith is one of centuries—its root takes hold on the eternal hills—it triumphs stand out on the records of the world, ancient and modern, like a succession of splendid avatars. Let the Church be awake to her vigorous prosecution of the work before her—initiate the persecution of the early Christians—throw herself into the great enterprise with all her vast resources and energy, and the day of triumph will quickly come. Let the Church be awake to her power to overcome obstacles; faith, unshaken by the presence of stupendous difficulties, rises into the calm confidence of perfect assurance—"we are well able to go up and possess the land." We are not launching Columbus like on an unknown sea. Ours is no problem demanding solution. The Gospel is the power of God—our faith is one of centuries—its root takes hold on the eternal hills—it triumphs stand out on the records of the world, ancient and modern, like a succession of splendid avatars. 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