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The RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER is published weekly, at the Office of Messrs. BARNES & Co., 58 Prince William Street, St. John, N. B.

TERMS—$2.00 a year, IN ADVANCE.

☞ All Communications for insertion should be addressed, Rev. JOSEPH McLEOD, Box 81, Fredericton, N. B.

☞ All Exchanges should be addressed RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER, Fredericton, N. B.

☞ Subscriptions may either be paid to Messrs. BARNES & Co., St. John, or remitted to the Editor, at Fredericton.

Religious Intelligencer.

REV. JOSEPH McLEOD.....EDITOR.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1876.

THE INTELLIGENCER FOR 1877.

Perhaps, as the year gets near its close, it may be in order, after the manner of most newspapers, to say a few words of the INTELLIGENCER, its past and its future. We will do it in the fewest words possible.

THE PAST.

Of its past we do not think there is any reason to be ashamed.

The record is made. By that the INTELLIGENCER must be judged. By it we are willing it should be judged.

THE FUTURE.

We have not many promises to make.

The INTELLIGENCER will live. Its right and ability to live are well established. That right and that ability it is purposed to exercise for an indefinite number of years.

In the year to come this paper will be at least as good as in the past, and as much better as it is possible to make it.

There will probably be some new features introduced, which will make the paper more acceptable even than now.

Proper attention will be given to the leading questions of the day. Right will be commended and defended; and wrong, wherever found, will be exposed and condemned.

No quarter will be given to the rum traffic and traffickers. The INTELLIGENCER believes in the prohibition of "the gigantic crime of crimes," and will, to the fullest of its ability and in all ways that seem right, labour to bring it about.

The various religious questions that agitate the world will receive due prominence.

News of the progress of vital Christianity at home and abroad will be carefully collected and presented to our readers.

Sermons by Talmage and other notable preachers will frequently be published. Thus many who do not often nor regularly hear the voice of the living

The general religious reading, carefully prepared, will be full and varied, as in the past. The children's and other departments will receive careful attention, and effort will be made to make them all increasingly interesting and instructive.

The secular news columns will contain a summary of what is transpiring not only at home, but all the world over. Furnishing a good summary of news in addition to the large amount of religious and other instructive reading, makes the INTELLIGENCER especially adapted to families that cannot subscribe for more than one paper.

In conclusion, the INTELLIGENCER in the year to come will be as good, earnest and true as it can be made. It will aim to help to a better and purer life all who read it.

For all the success that has thus far attended it, we do not forget that we are indebted to the goodness of God. And that it may be increasingly helpful to all who read it, the prayers of Christians are asked.

THE JEWS AND THE EAST.

We see it intimated that Mr. L. Gluckstein, author of a pamphlet on "The Eastern Question and the Jews," is about to draw public attention to the relation of the Jews to the Eastern Question in its present aspects. There are some phases of the present difficulty which admit of being construed into favorable symptoms of the near approach of the re-occupation by the Jews of their former heritage. We know that at present the Jews of America, or large portion of them, have no desire to emigrate to Palestine, and that they scout the idea that such an event is ever to happen; and we suppose that European Jews, those of them at least who are living in countries in which they have equal rights with other subjects, and are living comfortable or amassing wealth, are of the same mind as their American brethren. Yet, while this may be true of these, others may entertain very different hopes and feelings, and it would not require the whole of that scattered people either to people the territory or to fulfil the predictions of the prophecy in so doing. But if none of them entertained at present any hope or desire to remove there, it would not affect the fact of their actual return to the extent of one hour's time. It is predicted of them that they shall return, and that settles the probabilities. The when depends upon circumstances over which they, as a people, have no control; but there is little doubt that so soon as the opportunity arrives their hearts will quickly wake to a passionate earnestness to rehabilitate that famous land.

From the present state of the question, it is quite evident that a modification must be made in the Mohammedan rule in respect of Christian subjects. Whether the Porte concedes this, and, as a consequence, is permitted to hold European territory, or whether, in case of refusal, the Turk is driven out of Europe now, does not materially affect the result. Perhaps the choice most favorable for the Jews' return would be for reforms to be made such as would put the Ottoman Empire quite on a par with advanced Christian nations in the matters of equal rights of subjects and protection of life and property. For if the Greek Christian enjoys their blessings, the Armenian Christian, who is to-day more severely and inhumanly oppressed than his Greek brother, cannot long be kept from like concessions, especially as Russia has for years been quite earnestly cultivating a good understanding with them also, and is as ready, no doubt, to champion their cause as she is that of the Greeks, and for the same reasons. Russia has had five hundred thousand Armenians under her rule for years, who have, contrary to all notions of Russian Government, been treated with the utmost kindliness, a state of things which contrasts greatly with the barbarities of Turkish rule; and as the territory these occupy joins that occupied by the three or four million Armenians under Turkish rule, it would be a consistent thing for Russia to make the mis-government of the latter a national matter, and, as on the Greek side, take the territory to save the people. Failing in Europe, there is at least the opportunity left her for pressing her good offices in Armenia, unless reform be made there also in Government. In fact, reform in Mussulman rule in Europe means reform throughout the Empire, and a state of things which will make life and property comparatively safe in all central points within it. This will virtually remove one obstacle to the settlement of the country along the Mediterranean coast. To multitudes of Jews this is the only opening desired. True, they are not the wealthier classes of that people, but they are as good material for colonizing a country as are usually met with in that character, and are much better adapted for that particular movement than the simple capitalist.

In case the Turk be driven out of Europe, which we think is not at all the present probability, the return of the Jews will be indefinitely postponed; for the exasperation against every one, Christian and Jew alike, will be so great for generations to come that no life other than that of the Mussulman will be safe. Missions, schools, and trading stations will be closed immediately in the territory that remains

EXPECT SUCCESS.

"Your labour shall not be in vain in the Lord," is a statement of the Divine word. Yet how often Christians forget it. They labour, but have little or no hope of accomplishing anything. The *Working Church* has some words of encouragement on this subject: "Faith and a hopeful spirit will accomplish wonders. The man who is easily discouraged, and says 'I cannot do it,' is almost sure to fail, but his neighbour comes triumphantly through greater perils and difficulties, because he never loses faith, either in himself or his work. This is especially true in everything that pertains to the Christian life, and the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom. For here we have to do with a realm, from which are eliminated those uncertain factors that are connected with material success. The believer can say, as did the Apostle, 'I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me.'

There is a half faith, or rather, lack of faith, except in the use of this word, which will explain most of the failures in Christian effort. Like the disciples who gathered in the house of Mary, to pray for the deliverance of Peter, and when the servant brought word that he was at the gate, would not believe it possible, so we, while praying, it may be earnestly, for some desired object, are ready to falter and doubt the possibility of a direct answer. The faith is weak and imperfect, that puts any limitation on the power of God. Not that prayer will always be answered in the line of our imperfect requests, but in his own best way, our Heavenly Father will hear and answer. They who have learned to rest in the perfect assurance of help are always successful. Those parents who pray for the conversion of their children, and in the every-day home life, let them feel and know that an answer to their prayer is the expectation of their hearts, will not be disappointed. The Sunday-school teacher that never ceases to think of ways of winning the hearts of all the members of his class to Jesus, and depends with unfaltering trust in the Divine promises, will not labor in vain. The pastor who speaks his Sabbath message as the ambassador of the King of kings, and meets men with the confidence that the Holy Spirit will care for the truth, and use it in bringing them to the Saviour, will be permitted to gather in a glorious harvest.

Every work has its discouragements, and times when it seems to stand still or even lose ground, but it is in these seasons that the real test of faith falter in spite of discouragements, and the *without* reliance on God and renewed earnestness which is called forth by the obstacles which stand in the way, often leads to a greater blessing and success, than would otherwise have been the case."

EDITORIAL NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—ABOUT "DONATIONS."—A donation is a good thing. A "donation (so-called), that is to pay a deficiency in salary, is an altogether bad thing. It appears that some of our Congregational brethren over the border, have recently held a council about this very thing, and have properly decided that "donations are not to be reckoned as part of the minister's salary. The donation is a matter of grace. The salary is a debt. The paying a debt by donations has the bad effect of causing the church to regard the payment as a favour, and thereby it comes to think more highly of itself than it should. There is another practice which deserves reprobation—that of one section of the church making a presentation to a minister to annoy the other section that is opposed to his continuance in the pastoral office. Such presentations are delusive, and increase the bitterness which all should combine to remove."

—CONSCIENCE.—An exchange tells that very recently "the Customs officer at Paris, Canada, was surprised by a lady who wished to pay duty on a number of spoons she had smuggled into the country twenty years ago. This sin had been a source of unrest to her mind ever since. Recently becoming converted, the Saviour gave her the needed humility and strength to go and pay the debt. Doubtless many other hearts are troubled over past acts, apparently no more heinous than this, yet which in reality are a burden to their souls. The way of deliverance is clear.

—SACRIFICE.—The true idea of sacrifice, says the *Christian World*, is in the following. On a recent Sunday, Dr. Tyng told the women of his church that he needed $4,000 for the church orphanage, and if they would buy one button instead of three button gloves, the difference in price would support the establishment. Whether the ladies will act on the plan or not, we cannot tell; but let the principle suggested take root everywhere. Give up some personal gratification for Christ and his work rather than fail in doing your part of this Christian duty.

—DARWINISM.—Thos. Carlyle's opinion of Darwin and the men who adopt his views, may be worth something. In a conversation with an American gentlemen, not long ago, he said:

"A good sort of man is this Darwin, and well-meaning, but with very little intellect. Ah, it's a sad and terrible thing to see nigh a whole generation of men and women, professing to be cultivated, looking around in a purblind fashion and finding no God in this universe. I suppose it is a reaction from the reign of cant and hollow pretense, professing to believe what in fact they do not believe. And this is what we have got to. All things from frog spawn: the gospel of dirt the order of the day. The older I grow—and I now stand upon the brink of eternity—the more comes back to me the sentence in the catechism, which I learned when a child, and the fuller and deeper its meaning becomes—'What is the great end of man?' 'To glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.' No gospel of dirt, teaching that men have descended from frogs through monkeys, can ever set that aside."

—CHARITY.—The *Christian Union* thinks the claims of Christian charity have never been more urgent than they will be this winter. The mild autumn has kept the wolf from the door, who nevertheless bays at no great distance from many a home. It counsels to not let your charity simply blindfold you to suffering. There were two who passed by on the other side, but only one good Samaritan. Give to no unknown beggars. Blessed is he that *considereth* the poor. One dollar given with consideration is worth ten inconsiderately given. Organize in your churches for charitable work. "The greatest heresy," says Cecil, "is lack of love." Do not let your church fall into that heresy. Study your own neighborhood. Dumb poverty is both worse and worthier than that which cries aloud.

DISESTABLISHMENT.—Reports agree that the movement for disestablishment is progressing in Britain. "In Scotland the United Presbyterian Church has just issued a manifesto, advocating Disestablishment. The document says that even if all the people of a country were united in their faith, it would be a poor thing to have to go to Government and ask it to tax them to give for their religion. The present is felt to be a time for gathering together those who agree in the great essentials of gospel truth."

—DOESN'T READ IT.—The RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER, which is so eager to engage in political contests, has not yet uttered a single word about the last St. John election.—*Freeman.*

We are sorry that the editor of the *Freeman* does not read the INTELLIGENCER more carefully. If he did he would not fall into such mistakes as the above. We think, too, the reading of some truth occasionally, might possibly do even him good.

—ENGLISH PATENTS.—The "Commissioners of Patents" of Queen Victoria has make public their annual report, which will be in the hands of Parliament in a few days. It is a document differing widely from the similar publication issued not long ago by the United States' Patent Office; but is, notwithstanding, full of information. Messrs. Louis Bagger & Co., Patent Attorneys, Washington, D. C., had compiled some tables from this report, of which the following is an extract:

"The total number of Patents granted in Great Britain (exclusive of the colonies) last year was 4,561, or very few more than, during the same period of time, were granted in the United States to residents in the State of New York alone. The revenue of the office was 110,950 pounds sterling, or more than six times that of the United States Patent Office. Of the number of applications filed, 1173 were forfeited and became public property owing to the non-payment of the required fees. Within the past eighteen months the London Patent Office has had added to it the office for registering designs, and also that for registering trade-marks; this latter office being a new creation entirely, while the former office was merely transferred from the London Board of Trade."

—THE RIGHT THING TO DO.—Rev. S. E. Currie writes:—"I frequently mention the INTELLIGENCER both publicly and privately. Many seem anxious to take it."

Thank you, Bro. Currie. Such seed-sowing will not be in vain. How many other ministers recommend the INTELLIGENCER to their people? Some do, we know. Do all? You can help us greatly, brethren.

—THE REVIVAL IN CHICAGO.—Of the progress of the work of revival in connection with the labors of Moody and Sankey in Chicago, the *Standard* remarks:

"The evidences are unmistakable that the work in progress at the tabernacle is more and more a power. We do not know that any estimate is yet made of the number of conversions, but they must have amounted to several hundred, even during the past week. The remarkable degree to which the attendance is sustained, night after night, in spite of storms and threatening of storm, of itself indicates that if at one time most of the large audience were drawn by mere curiosity, that stage is far past. After five weeks of such meetings curiosity would be fully satisfied, while motives more strenuous than any so inspired are necessary to bring people out by thousands in spite of wind, rain and mire. The thronged inquiry rooms, besides the signs of deep feeling, the bright, happy faces of rejoicing ones—these are proofs not to be mistaken that 'truly God is in the place.'"

suitable home for the circuit should have a [illegible] that this matter is receiving attention among the Congregationalists of England. It is stated that the English Chapel-building Society has formed a distinct manse fund, formulated rules for its administration, and wishes as a first effort to aid in the erection of fifty houses in five years. A printed letter has also been addressed to the ministers and deacons of Congregational churches in England and Wales, which advocates the rule that wherever in a village or small town there is a church having a pastor, a residence should be provided for him. This, it is argued, would give completeness and stability to the church, greatly add to the comfort and pecuniary relief of the minister, and aid evangelistic effort by lifting scores of weak churches above dependence on external aid, thus setting the funds of the Home Missionary and the county associations free for new efforts.

—THE TOMBS.—A mission to the prisoners in the New York Tombs, under the direction of well known ministers and laymen, is proving a blessing. A report says, that during the twelve months ending 1875, there were committed to the Tombs 38-404 persons, 22,296 of whom were men, 15,108 women, and 1,030 boys. The regular Sabbath morning services, cell to cell visitation, and the distribution of religious literature, have been welcomed by the prisoners, and in many instances it seems to have been effective in reaching their hearts, as letters from them testify. It takes $1,800 or more annually to carry on the work. It happens that a large portion of the prisoners in the Tombs are not confirmed criminals, but are innocent persons arrested on suspicion and detained there till a trial can be had, or young persons led unawares into trouble through drink and evil companions. Such persons are usually easily reached by the gospel while in trouble, and checked in their first steps to ruin. Money spent in saving them, save the public from criminals.

—MINISTERS MISSIONS.—Dr. Duff said a wise and true word when asked what he regarded the obstacle to the success of missions, he promptly replied, "The greatest obstacle lies in the apathy and indifference of ministers." Commenting on this one says, certain it is that differences of fifty, or a hundred, or even two hundred per cent. will often appear in the contributions of the same church under different pastorates. A pastor has opportunities which none else can command. He can preach on the subject of Missions at suitable intervals, presenting facts and argument that shall inform the ignorant and quicken the apathetic. It is not safe to assume that the masses even of the church are familiar with the work of Missions. Facts are published abundantly, but the people do not read them There is a class of men who, through ignorance, are sceptical on the whole subject, and it seems impossible to reach them. They are never at the Monthly Concert or at a Missionary Meeting of any kind, and they do not read Missionary publications. But there is one and only one way of reaching them. They are at church on Sabbath mornings and the pastor, in a Missionary sermon, may constrain them to consider the subject. None so well as he can overcome the scepticism, arouse the apathy, and dispel the protexts of this class."

—THE NATIONAL TEMPERANCE ALMANAC and Teetotaler's Year Book for the Year 1877, published by the National Temperance Society and Publication House, is now ready for distribution, containing a greater amount of valuable information than any similar document ever issued. In addition to the Calendar and Astronomical Calculations, it contains—Statistics of intemperance, valuable reading-matter, Anecdotes, Stories, Puzzles, Choice Illustrations, etc, together with a full List of National and State Societies and Grand Bodies, Women's State Christian Temperance Unions, with Post-Office Address of their Chief Officers; all Temperance Publications and Papers, and a great variety of other interesting matter for every family circle and temperance man, woman, and child in the country. The reliable information it furnishes, both of facts and figures, and other matter of great interest to every friend of Temperance, make it a very valuable document for general distribution. The Department for the Children, has stories, illustrated by choice Engravings, Facts, Incidents, a choice piece of Music, and general instruction in the principles and doctrines of Total Abstinence; and we hope that all who are interested in the education of children, both in the Day and Sabbath Schools, will see that a copy is placed in the hands of every child in America. It is one of the best documents that can be circulated in any community. Temperance Organizations, and all who are interested in the advancement of the cause of Temperance, should help introduce it. It contains 72 pages, printed on fine tinted paper, and is illustrated with choice engravings. Price 10 cents, single copies; $1 per dozen; $7 per hundred; $60 per thousand. J. N. Stearns, Publisher 58 Reade Street, New York.

OUR INDIA LETTER.

SANTIPORE, Oct. 17, 1876.

MR. EDITOR—Hail you been with us here the first few months and witnessed, as we have done, the continued rainy days, for the pouring rains which have followed each other in quick succession, until more than 80 inches of rain water have been poured out on the surface of the earth, you would then be prepared to appreciate, as we now do, the delightful,—I had almost said the *glorious*,—change which has come over us. The clouds have disappeared, and the bright sun is now out in his glory, and busy drying up the ponds of mud and water the late rains have left us. True, in the middle of the day the heat is still *intense*, but the mornings are delightfully cool, and at night we begin to feel the need of something over us. Fevers and other diseases are likely to be rife for a month or two, after such a severe rainy season; but from this time on till the first of March our climate is a charming one.

Through mercy all the members of the Mission are at present enjoying pretty good health, and our work moves on about as usual. *Out-and-out* conversions, as yet, seem a good deal like angels' visits. At our last communion season I had the happiness of baptizing one of our orphan boys, and two grievous backsliders returned to the fold, confessing their sins. The same at Jellasore last week, where a church trial of over two years standing was happily settled up, and two excellent members restored. Still, though our increase is slow, we labor on in hope of the good time coming, when a nation shall be born in a day. Looking back over the space of ten years, we can see great changes and manifest progress made. In this, as well as on the Divine promises we are content to rest our hopes for the ultimate triumph of our cause. The work is the Lord's, but he honors his servants by allowing them to have a share in it.

The Educational question continues to be discussed through the papers in this country, and here, as on most subjects, two parties are found, taking opposite sides. Shall missionaries engage in school teaching, or shall they give themselves wholly to the ministry of the Lord? Much is said and written on both sides. For ourselves we see no necessity of making such an issue at all. Nor do we imagine St. Paul would have done so, for he expressly declares: "I am made all things to all men, *that I might by all means save some*," and "Every man has his proper gift of God one after this manner and another after that." And we know that "the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." While none can deny that *preaching* publicly, and from house to house, is the Divine method or propagating the glad tidings of salvation; at the same time it is abundantly manifest that the blessing of God rests largely on *Mission Schools* properly conducted, and these furnish a ready and very desirable sphere of usefulness for the wives and daughters of missionaries, and many other warm hearted individuals who do not feel themselves called to occupy a more public sphere. To our mind a more appropriate question would be: How far are missionaries justified in accepting Government grants-in-aid for carrying on school work? The successful prosecution of schools requires *money*, and few, if any, Missionary Societies have a surplus of [illegible] Government alive to the importance of promoting education among the great masses, steps forward and tenders its grants-in-aid. With this assistance, more and larger and in some respects, *better* schools may be had, a higher grade of teachers employed, and our pupils at once put upon a track which, if successfully followed up, may ensure them *a diploma from a University!* But this is not all clear gain. There are some very serious drawbacks, viewed from the missionary stand point. For, although in Mission Schools thus aided, Christian school-books and even the Bible may be used. Still the chances are that more *non* Christian teachers will find employ in them, and Christian pupils be largely associated with heathen scholars, much to their disadvantage. Again, the struggle for progress in those branches which lead to educational honors and preferment, would very naturally come to take precedence, and crowd out those of a more especially moral and religious character. These are by no means imaginary evils. Numerous and large Missionary Institutions could be named, with well organized Boards of Instruction, that annually send up scores of students for the entrance examination, with but here and there a *convert* to Christianity, if indeed any at all! Here assuredly exists a fault, but on whose shoulders it rests may not be so easily determined. There is no disputing the fact that Missionaries in India have led the way in both *popular* and *the higher* education, and have really done an excellent work. But now that Government has, with far more ample means at command, undertaken the work in good earnest of enlightening the masses, as well as providing for the higher branches of learning, it would seem that the time had come for the agents and funds of Mission Societies to be turned into *a more direct missionary channel*. In order to this, however, missionaries need to be supplied with more ample funds for sustaining their schools, and be at liberty to place them, without let or hindrance, on the best *Missionary* basis possible. But this is a large subject, and with the above hints I drop it, and will close by appending a slip cut from a late number of the *Friend of India*, which not only shows the hold superstition still has on the minds of the people of India, but their readiness to support it at an enormous outlay. When will the disciples of Christ be ready thus to pour out their treasures in support of that cause in which our great Master laid down his life! O, when!

J. PHILLIPS.

A Hindu correspondent of the *Madras Standard* writes from Ellore:—"For the last three months the supposed cholera goddess has been worshipped here, and last Wednesday (14th) was the *satara* (sacrifice) day. One can hardly imagine the horrible slaughter of thousands of sheep and scores of buffaloes in a *satara*. On Wednesday last some two thousand sheep and about 60 or 70 buffaloes are said to have been sacrificed to the goddess. I witnessed the massacre, and observed the place before the goddess covered with blood, with a large heap of sheep heads on one side and a little hill of rice and cakes on the other. In front of these heaps stood two men with naked and blood-bedaubed swords in their hands, engaged, without intermission, in striking down innocent creatures, whose agonies it was difficult to see. Close by the innocent blood of the victims flowed like a little stream, and the whole sight brought to my memory the history of the savage men of some island who offer like sacrifices to their goddesses. The sacrifices commenced at about 12 noon, and continued till 6 p. m. The next day was the day of sending away the goddess out of the town. On that day a small car, called *Lorala Bandi*, was taken through the town in procession. On the top of this dreadful car there were a few hooks, over which pigs, sheep and fowls were hanged; the sides were covered with cloth dipped in blood, and in the car there sat a man—I could hardly believe it was a man. He was quite drunk and disguised. He wore a woman's cloth dipped in the blood of the slaughtered sheep, etc., and, on the whole, he made an exact appearance of what he was meant to represent, the dreadful cholera goddess. On each side of the car there was a man with a buffalo head over his head. In front of the car were a number of frantic dancers with ugly idols, spinning-wheels and other instruments. To prevent any of these representatives and servants of the goddess from deserting the procession, there were hundreds of men around, armed with big sticks, with which they constantly made a great noise. Thus the cholera goddess of Ellore was sent away in the fashion I have described, and I hope she will never make her appearance again here."

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

"All quiet on the Potomac!"—Caleb Cushing and Wm. M. Evarts in Washington—The President's Message—Mr. Fish's Dinner Party—An Unfounded Rumor—"Newspaper Row," and the Lady Correspondents—Thanksgiving Turkey, &c., &c.

(From our regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 29, 1876.

To judge from the sensational reports sent from here by a certain class of correspondents, one would think that Washington was, at present, the scene of considerable excitement, which was rapidly developing into a communistic feeling, requiring the presence of armed forces to prevent an outbreak. Some had even gone so far as to assert positively that the old fortifications, now little better than ruins, were clandestinely being repaired and put in order; that large quantities of powder and shot had been sent hither from Portsmouth and Port Royal, and that torpedoes were being placed in the eastern branch of the Potomac, while several monitors and other men-of-war were on their way from Hampton Roads "to protect the National Capital!" but the fact is that Washington was never more quiet than at present; and even last night, when news came of the proceedings in South Carolina, it scarcely caused a ripple of excitement here. True, that "still water runs deep," and that the feeling of uncertainty which now prevails throughout the country is shared by our citizens, to so many of whom the Government Departments furnish employment; but it is seldom that one hears even an excited debate on the subject which engrosses all minds, and if political conversation is indulged in, it is in a friendly and conciliatory manner and tone, which augurs well for the sound sense of the people.

In official circles, the same quiet reigns, and there is not, either at the War or Navy Departments, any evidence of warlike preparations. Those high in office seem to concede that the important questions which now, for the first time, confront the American public, can and *will* be settled in a lawful and equitable manner, and that such a thing as war is simply impossible. It is thought significant that Mr. Cushing and Mr. Wm. M. Evarts were both here at the same time, and that both had interviews with the President and with the Secretary of State, though not with each other, for it is well understood that Mr. Cushing sustains the Administration in sending troops to South Carolina, while Mr. Evarts is reported as taking an opposite view, and holding that federal armed interference is, under the circumstances, not justifiable. Both are equally eminent as lawyers and statesmen, and both are Republicans—or they would scarcely have been consulted.

It is natural to suppose that the President will, in his forthcoming message, deal largely with the important questions at issue, and it is more than probable that he will advise a constitutional amendment providing for the election of President and Vice-President by the popular vote. At the Cabinet meeting yesterday, all the members were present, except Secretary Robeson; but the session lasted only about an hour, and no important business was transacted. In the evening, Secretary Fish gave a dinner to the President, at which were present, among other distinguished guests, Generals Sherman and Barnes, Commissary-General Beckwith, and Senator Frelinghuysen.

On Monday next, Congress will assemble, and on the following day, Tuesday, December 5th, the counting of the electoral vote by the Senate and House of Representatives, in joint Session, will probably commence. When it will end, it is more difficult to predict; but it must come to a close before the 4th of March. *How* it will end, it is still more difficult to prognosticate; but in view of recent developements, it is probable that the vote of Louisiana, if returned for Mr. Hayes, will be thrown out by the House with the concurrence of the Senate. The opinion that I expressed in my last letter, viz.:—that the election of President and Vice-President will, ultimately, devolve upon the [illegible] of both parties, and this position will be strongly argued and maintained on the opening of Congress by Messrs. Randall, Hewitt, Cox, Taylor and Holman, in the House, and by Messrs. Thurman, Eaton, Lamar and Gordon, in the Senate. It is currently reported here, but I cannot state on what authority, that Senators Conkling and Sherman take the same view, and contend that, under the circumstances (neither candidate having the requisite number of *legal* votes), the House has the power to elect.

It was rumored here a day or two ago, and was extensively telegraphed, that General Butler had been retained by the Democrats to argue and defend the claim of Governor Tilden; but this rumor is absolutely without foundation. Nor do I see precisely how, or in what capacity, he could be of any service, as it is not at all probable that either the House or Senate will permit outside counsel for either party to appear. The General will, however, remain in Washington during the session, and is now having his house on Capitol Hill, put in order, preparatory to moving into it for the season.

Meanwhile, our city is rapidly filling up with Congressmen, Senators, and the nondescript "hangers' on," which always follow in the wake of every Congressional session, waiting, Micawber-like, "for something to turn up!" Newspaper Row, which has been so long deserted, is once more assuming its wonted aspect, and there is a notable influx of lady correspondents, who have come to attend the receptions and "do" the fashions. Anticipating lively times as soon as Congress meets, the applications for seats in the Reporters' Gallery of the House and Senate, is far in excess of the supply, and the door-keeper informed me to-day, that there were about ten or twelve applicants for every available seat, fully one-half of the applicants being ladies. Having my pass securely in my pocket, I feel no anxiety; and as my number is one of the front seats, just over the Speaker's chair, I shall be able to see and hear all that passes, and will endeavor to portray it, or so much of it as is worth portraying, to your readers, without fear or favor!

To-morrow being "Thanksgiving Day," the Treasury and some other Departments were closed at noon, to enable the clerks to buy their thanksgiving turkey. As, even if they had the time to spare, they could not very well do this unless they had the "wherewith" also, they were all paid off; and there were more smiling faces to be seen in the public offices to-day, than there has been at any time since the election. Politics seldom interferes with a man's appetite or digestion, and let us hope that both Democrats and Republicans, over the length and breadth of the land, will, to-morrow, eat their turkey in peace!

L. B.

THIS AND THAT.—About 2,000 persons attended the Christian Convention in Chicago, called and presided over by Mr. Moody.....Mr. Willis has retired from the Government of New Brunswick.... The Bazaar of the Waterloo street Church was a success....The *Telegraph* says, correspondence has been entered into with the Young Men's Christian Association, of this city, requesting them to engage Mrs. Ann Eliza Young (the Mormon prophet's 19th wife) to lecture here. It is now announced that No. 19 is not coming to St. John.....A public Temperance meeting, the second of the series, was held in the Temperance Hall, Fredericton, last Sabbath evening. Rev. Mr. McKeown and W. Wilson, Esq., addressed the meeting.....Saint Ann's Lodge, Fredericton, held its first open Lodge meeting on Monday evening. There was a large attendance; reading, singing, recitations, and speeches, were on the programme, and a very pleasant evening was spent.

☞ The Minutes of the last General Conference are printed, and are being distributed. The work has been well done, and at a very moderate cost.

☞ We have received Barnes' New Brunswick Almanack for 1877; and also Belcher's Farmers' Almanack for Nova Scotia. Both are useful publications.

SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION.

A most interesting meeting of the Shelburne County Sabbath School Convention was lately held at Barrington Passage. It commenced on the evening of Nov. 1st by a public meeting in "the Island Meeting House." Addresses of welcome were given by Rev. Messrs. Downey, Porter and Richan in behalf of the Sabbath Schools, Churches and parents in Barrington, and in response Revs. Messrs. Millar, Ainley, Pickles, Peckham and Henry spoke. The choir also favored the meeting with some excellent singing. The house was full, the interest deep, and the attention unflagging till the close. It was a most auspicious opening.

Next day the Convention met in the Presbyterian Church, and had two sessions there—morning and afternoon. The weather was unfavorable, but the attendance was good, the rain not apparently dampening the interest of the people around. After half an hour's prayer, the Convention proceeded to work. Organization was first attended to, and the following officers appointed: President, Rev. W. Richan; Vice-Presidents, Rev. Messrs. Millar and Taylor; Secretary, Rev. M. G. Henry; Executive Committee, Revs. Messrs. Archibald and Ainley, and Messrs. Allen, Hibbard and Irvin. The Secretary reported, giving the statistics of Sabbath Schools in the County. But as they were incomplete he was directed to endeavor to get returns from all the schools as soon as possible.

Delegates from different parts of the County were then heard on the state of Sabbath School work in their localities. After hearing these, the following resolution was passed:

Resolved, The Convention regrets that in some places stagnation appears, and want of interest on the part of parents is painfully felt; yet thanks God for the progress made in general, and feel greatly encouraged.

A discussion opened by Rev. M. G. Henry on "Organization, Order and Equipment of Sabbath Schools" closed with this resolution:

Resolved, This Convention considers that sufficient attention is not given to organization; urges regular annual election of officers; a more systematic keeping of a roll of attendance, and of collections for equipments and religious purposes; a fuller provision made for supplying libraries, lesson papers for scholars and Sabbath School papers for teachers; and closer fidelity to order, both in arrangement of exercises and general deportment.

Rev. E. D. Millar read a vigorous paper on "Catechetical Teaching." The object of the paper was to show the advantages of questioning in teaching over mere lecturing, and the importance of cultivating the faculty for questioning.

In the afternoon the Convention commenced with the "Question Box," when there were found quite a number of important inquiries which elicited profitable answers from the President and others.

Rev. Mr. Pickles read an interesting paper on the "Art of Securing Attention," and Rev. W. Richan a well prepared one on "The Growth of the Teacher Intellectually and Spiritually." Each of the papers read were followed by discussion. We would like to give outlines of the papers, but we feel that we could not do justice to the liveliness and excellency by any mere skeleton; and besides there is not room in a newspaper notice. If the people of the County want a full report they must furnish funds to have it printed in a pamphlet form. Perhaps a dollar from each Sabbath School would do.

The Convention closed by a public meeting in the evening in the Baptist Church. Another grand meeting. A crowded house and an audience all alive to the subjects discussed.

Rev. Mr. Peckham (Evangelist from the United States) conducted a class of boys and girls, keeping them interested for half an hour on the next Sabbath School lesson. Then followed addresses on the general subject:—"Wants of Sabbath Schools," Rev. Mr. Howie pleaded touchingly for [illegible] of parents and ministers. Rev. Mr. Ainley set forth most fully and earnestly the need for suitable teachers possessing the qualifications of piety and intelligence, taste for and interest in Sabbath School work, approachableness and punctuality.

Rev. Mr. Pickles called for more money in such a pleasant and effective manner, that no doubt the hearts and purses of all who heard were opened never to be closed again when contributions for Sabbath Schools are called for.

A large body of children and young people delighted the meeting with their beautiful singing, showing that Barrington Sabbath Schools do not neglect the service of praise in their exercises.

The Convention adjourned to meet in Shelburne in February next.

Thus closed a most delightful meeting of the Shelburne County Sabbath School Convention. The only regret we express is that so many teachers and superintendants of different parts of the County were not there. When they hear the accounts of those who attended they will be sorry too. The spirit that pervaded the meetings, the interest the Barrington people took in them, the warm welcome and hearty hospitality extended to the delegates made it so that the Convention could scarcely prove a failure, and showed that in this part of the County Sabbath School work is attended to and appreciated. But, above all, we believe that the Spirit of power was there, and trust that the stimulus imparted will be abiding.

M. G. HENRY, *Secretary.*

DENOMINATIONAL.

MONCTON.—We are glad to see that Rev. S. H. Weyman is likely to have regular preaching services in Moncton. There are many Free Baptists there, and we trust they may be gathered into a church. May the Lord bless Bro. Weyman in the new field.

REV. O. M. BUBAR writes that he has three churches under his care, Middleland, Norton Station, and the River Church. He has in addition a number of preaching stations. The churches, he says, seem to be enjoying considerable strength, and the prospect is quite encouraging.

DONATION.—The friends of Rev. S. E. Currie in Arthurette, on three hours' notice, met at the residence of Bro. W. Grant to make him a donation. Bro. Joshua Giberson was made chairman of the meeting, and on behalf of those present presented Bro. Currie with cash, etc., to the amount of $17.07. A number of excellent speeches were made, the proceedings being concluded with prayer by Bro. Currie.—COM.

ARTHURETTE, VICTORIA CO.—*Dear Bro. McLeod:* I have good news to write. You and the readers of the INTELLIGENCER will be interested to hear of the work of the Lord at Arthurette. I went up there after Conference, and at once began to hold meetings. The church then numbered fourteen. The first week looked rather discouraging, but I was not without hope of seeing good done. And now I have to report that we have seen it even beyond our expectations. The power of God has been wonderfully displayed. The weak have been strengthened, wanderers reclaimed, and many have been brought to the knowledge of the truth. All ages, from the grey-haired down to the youth of fifteen, have shared in the blessing. Husbands and their wives, parents and children have together sought and found the Saviour, and followed Him in the ordinance of baptism. Thirty have been baptized, who with seventeen others have been added to the church, so that it now numbers sixty-one members. Bros. Joshua Giberson and Banford Camber have been appointed Deacons, Bro. Joshua Brown, Clerk, and Bro. John Giberson, Treasurer. When I came away the work was still going forward, and many had come forward who have not yet been baptized.

While I was there the people laid the foundation of a meeting house, and intend to carry it on to completion. Yours, S. E. CURRIE.

Lower Southampton, Nov. 16, 1876.

[The foregoing letter from Bro. Currie should have appeared sooner, but was mislaid.]

BLACK ROCK, N. S.—*Dear Bro. McLeod:* In leaving my home many of my friends wanted me to report myself to them. I do not know any better way than through the INTELLIGENCER. I arrived here, after a good tossing about in the *Scud*, on the 11th of this month, having left what made me feel unpleasant in the Bay. I was met at the station at Kentville by one of my friends, and conveyed to a good home, where the outer man was refreshed with food and rest. The next morning being Sabbath I was conveyed by the good brother to the appointment that was made for me. The greeting I received and the good time I had in speaking to the people made me forget for a time that I am getting old. The following Wednesday evening I commenced special effort for revival. I found things very low in the church. Some had gone back, others had got discouraged, some of the burden-bearers had died, and things looked very dark. But I felt the Lord had sent me here; others believed in answer to prayer I had come, and taking hold of this and the promise of God the interest began to come up, not as rapidly as at some other times, but I think as far as it has gone the foundation is laid for good. Our meetings last week were solemn and generally interesting. Some have moved in the meetings for the first time. Saturday was an especially interesting season. The Lord was present to help his people. Sabbath morning was a good season, and we believe good is being done. Different things seem to militate against an advance, but we believe the cloud will soon be withdrawn. I hope soon to have more encouraging news to write.

Yours in the Gospel,

Nov. 27, 1876. J. NOBLE.

DONATION.—The friends of Rev. William M. Knollin recently made a surprise visit to his home, took possession, spread the table sumptuously, and made him the richer by a considerable donation. The following address and reply tell the story:

REV. WM. M. KNOLLIN: *Beloved Pastor,*—Please accept from the members of the Free Baptist Church and congregation at Chocogue Point, over which you preside, the sum of fifty-one dollars and seventy-five cents, ($51.75), as a small token of our appreciation of your faithful, earnest, and Christian labours among us. Were our means equal to our will, we would make the substantial expression of our kindly feeling far exceed the present offering. With this be assured, dear sir, you have our hearty prayers to the great Head of the church, whose steward you are, that you, with Mrs. Knollin and every member of your family, may day by day be ab