

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., APRIL 18, 1879.

One Dollar!

For one dollar we will send the INTELLIGENCER to new subscribers till the end of the present year.

Will the ministers and other friends of the paper make this offer known? We would like to receive a large addition to our list.

EDITORIAL NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—PROLOGUE.—The N. B. Legislature was prorogued on Tuesday, after a seven weeks' session. Notwithstanding several lively struggles between the two parties in the Assembly, the session has, from first to last, been a very pleasant one. There is much more speaking talent in the present House than in its predecessor, which fact, perhaps, contributed to lengthen the session.

—THE LETTERS AFFAIR.—This matter will, perhaps, not be so soon settled as was anticipated. An Ottawa despatch of Tuesday, states that the Government of Quebec has appointed a delegation to proceed to England to present the case of the Governor, and requests the Imperial authorities to delay decision until the arguments of the delegation have been heard. The delegates will probably sail from Halifax, on Saturday.

—THE NOVA SCOTIA GOVERNMENT which has so strong, almost unanimous, support in the Assembly, seems to have a more determined opposition in the Legislative Council. The Government's measures for the abolition of the Council which passed the Assembly without division, was thrown out upstairs. And now the Government's bill to fund the public debt of the Province and borrow \$800,000, has been defeated in the Council by a vote of 13 to 5. The action of "the lords" has aroused a very strong feeling in Government circles. It would seem that the Council is determined to thwart the purpose of the administration whenever possible. The situation is not pleasant. How the Government will get around the difficulty has not transpired.

—SLAVE TRADE.—It appears that a flourishing slave trade is being carried on between Egypt and Nubia. But the Egyptian Government is endeavoring to break up the trade. An exchange told that the Egyptian forces recently had an engagement with Suleiman, one of the principal slave traders in southwestern Nubia. Suleiman had over 10,000 women at his disposal awaiting transportation to Egypt, and he attacked the Egyptian forces with 11,000 Arabs in his command. They fought with the greatest desperation, but the Egyptians withstood all their assaults and Suleiman's forces finally fled in disorder leaving eleven hundred of their number dead on the field. This victory over the slave-trade is likely to materially aid in suppressing the traffic.

—HELPS FOR SERGIEN.—An effort is being made in England, and also in the United States, to collect relief for the sufferers by the recent disastrous flood at Segedin in Hungary. A considerable amount has been subscribed in London. We have received the following card from Rev. Gustavus Alexy, New York: The great disaster which has befallen Segedin, the second great commercial center of Hungary, My Fatherland (I being the only Hungarian minister in New York), puts on me the painful duty to ask help for my destitute countrymen, not only in my own, but among the various denominations of the Christian Church in America. Therefore, we beg you to ask my dear brethren, are you willing to ask your congregations for voluntary contributions for the sufferers at Segedin, in Hungary, where 80,000 people have been rendered homeless wanderers by the flood? If so, will you kindly send any contributions, however small, to the Chancellor of the University of New York, Rev. Howard Crosby, D.D., 116 East 19th Street.

—INDIAN MISSIONS.—Mission work in India is succeeding more and more, and not alone in numbers of converts is success apparent. It is the testimony of the missionaries of the Madura Mission of the American Board that with the increase of 2,299 new members have come more zeal and devotion among the professed Christians than ever before. "Whatever," they say, "may have been the effect of God's judgments on the heathen mind, which has been very marked, it is evident that Christians have been spiritually benefited by the discipline. This has been the fruit in England, of enlarged amount contributed by the people for benevolent purposes, being a gain of \$1,277 upon Rs. 3,000 contributed the previous year, making a total of Rs. 4,277. In two stations the increase has been twenty-five per cent, in one thirty-five, in one twenty-five; in two others it has nearly doubled, in one it has increased threefold, and in still another four-fold."

—ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION.—An attempt was made on Monday to assassinate the Czar of Russia. The Czar was taking a walk near the Imperial Palace, when the would-be assassin fired five times. Fortunately none of the shots took effect. Of course the excitement was very great. Twice before, attempts have been made on the life of the Russian Emperor, the first in 1866, and the second the year following. Ever since, the Czar has been in dread, and has had his person very carefully guarded whenever he moved about. His fear has so wrought upon him that his life would seem a burden. Reports of his mental condition in the past year, are true. "Uncasy lies the head," &c., is a truth, so far as the experience of the present sovereign of Europe goes. The revolutionary feeling throughout Europe is evidently very strong. But in Russia it seems more than elsewhere.

—A GOOD PASTOR.—How often do Church officers pray with and for the pastor? The Editor of Zion's Herald tells a recent experience, which we commend to the attention of Church officers generally. He says:—Being called, a few Sabbaths since, to preach in the pulpit of a Church of a sister denomination, we were shown into the pastor's room, where we were informed the deacons would soon meet us. In a few moments the officers of the church came to the room, and after explaining the reasons, remarked that they were accustomed to have a word of prayer with their pastor before he went to the pulpit. Kneeling down together, one of the deacons offered a peculiarly tender and earnest petition for divine aid for the preacher and a divine blessing upon his word. The subject of these prayers was fairly melted under the supplication, and was wonderfully prepared for the public exercises upon which he was about to enter. This excellent custom might be happily initiated in all our Churches. It would be likely to secure both better and more effective preaching in all the pulpits.

—THE RECOMMENDATION.—More than the briefest reference to the recommendation of the F. M. Executive is unnecessary. The case, as put by the Committee, ought to have weight with every minister and member of the denomination. In addition to the publication of the recommendation in these columns, the Corresponding Secretary of the society has, by letter, to each minister called attention to it. There is much pressing need that the churches awake to a realization of their responsibility in the matter of giving the gospel to those who are in darkness. We commend to all Spurgeon's way of putting the matter. Referring to the query sometimes made, "will the heathen be saved if we do not send the missionaries?" he asks, "Will you be saved if you do not send out any missionaries? because I have very dreadful doubts about whether you will. The man that does nothing for his Master, will be heaved up because I have very dreadful doubts about whether you will. The man that does nothing for his Master, will be heaved up! The man that never cares about the perishing heathen, is he saved? Is he like Christ?"

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SPRITUALITY AS A SOURCE OF INTELLECTUAL VIGOR.

There is a vast advantage of a mental character derivable from a fervent spirituality. A close fellowship with God promotes intellectual clearness in Scripture knowledge. There is in it the explanation and proof of the passage of 1 John, ii: 20, "But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things." A spiritual mind comprehends at a glance the bearings and applications of a Scripture text important for the accomplishment of spiritual ends. Hence the fertility of golly revivals, and their ability to preach right on day and evening with freshness and interest.

There are two ways of explaining the superior skill of spiritually minded persons in accomplishing labors which seem to involve a greater extent of knowledge and intellectual power than they are held to possess.

In the first place there is a direct communication of Divine illumination and power. No one who has truly attempted to attain to a proper spiritual fitness for the ministration of the word has failed to experience on occasions a clearness, eagerness, and vigor of thought and a capability of recollection which have proceeded only from direct aid of the Divine Spirit, and no one who has read and believes the Scriptures will deny that Christ has promised his disciples such supernatural help.

In the second place, there is a wonderful illumination of the intellect connected with the spiritual life, which enhances the spirituality of a Christian. Luther knew the value of meditation and prayer, of communion with God, for successful intellectual application. He could accomplish most in his study by spending several hours each day in his closet. Truly spiritual exercises involve a steady application of the intellect, and are followed by a moral composure which promotes vigor and clearness of thought.

Let the minister of God's word never regard the time devoted to the improvement of his spirituality as lost to the cultivation of his intellect. The most intellectual effort in the pulpit unsupported by a fervent spirituality is comparatively shallow and flippant. Spirituality alone can give weight and saving efficiency to a sermon.

SENSATIONAL REPORTS.

Every now and then the papers are flooded, sometimes day after day in succession, by an overflow of objectionable, horrible or trivial details, concerning the last sensational crime. If, as must be supposed, editors of successful journals know what pleases the public, this is a most lamentable sign of the prevalence of a morbid and contemptible appetite. The course of justice in the detection and punishment of crime, no doubt, a subject of general importance to society at large. But there is a vast difference between making it known that in particular instances wrong-doers have been convicted and society protected and the custom of pandering to prurient tastes and intellectual imbecility by dressing up every incident of a criminal career, and photographing the whole procedure necessary in the administration of justice. So far from such excessive detail having a deterrent effect, it is well known that the criminal class rejoice in the notoriety thus afforded to members of their order, and that the criminals themselves are flattered by the distinction. The direct tendency of these elaborate records of evil-doing is to excite numerous ignorant and depraved persons to some sort of imitation; and the less obvious mental and moral harm done by the habitual perusal of such garbage is incalculable.

A MISSIONARY SABBATH.

TO THE CHURCHES.

The Executive Committee of the New Brunswick Free Baptist Foreign Mission Society held a meeting in this city on Friday, 11th inst.

Regret was expressed that the appeal for contributions made by the Executive a few weeks ago has not been responded to as the Committee had hoped. It was, therefore, resolved to republish the substance of that appeal. The facts as stated in it deserve the earnest attention of all the churches, and the hope is now expressed by the Executive that it may have such attention. It is as follows:

"Since the organization of the Society, we have endeavored to pay the salary of Dr. Phillips and wife, who were at that time adopted as our missionaries to India; but for the two years past there has been some calculation in the receipting of the receipts, and the Society was \$907.00 short of meeting the required sum up to January 1st, 1879. The Executive are anxious to raise all the funds the cause needs, if possible, in this good work. True, our obligation with the parent Society was to pay what we could, and if we cannot pay the whole amount, we have done our duty. Our brethren and friends all in this good work. We beseech you not to say no. The Society is sadly in need of funds to carry on its important work. Hitherto we have done well. Can we do more?—We drop the work now? Will not the Marquis be displeased? Will we not suffer irreparable loss? United machinery soon rusts, and rusty machinery cannot do good. Let us do what we can to support the cause. We hope to hear from many of the friends of the mission soon. All who will be anxious to see the Society prosper, and the credit of the denomination be sustained in our Foreign Mission work."

The Executive Committee wishes also to recommend to our churches the propriety of holding one Missionary Prayer Meeting each month, in which suitable addresses may be delivered by the pastor or brother leading the meeting, and others; and the cause of missions be kept before the people as a collection task. By this means the missionary spirit would be fostered and developed, and funds raised. We think, in this way, the several amounts appropriated to the churches in the part of the credit of the denomination be sustained in our Foreign Mission work."

Brothers, something should be done, and must be done at once. What shall we do? Shall we fail now? To fail now would, we fear, be to fail for all time. Or will we make one noble, united effort, and do our duty to the cause? We have heard of the thought of all the churches directly to the mission work, to enlist new interest in it, and furnish a channel for the immediate outflow of their benevolent intentions concerning it, it was resolved to recommend the observance of a Missionary Sabbath. The following resolution embodies the recommendation:

"Whereas, There has been a serious falling off of contributions to the Foreign Mission treasury, by reason of which the obligations of the Society have not been fully met, and the credit of the denomination be sustained in our Foreign Mission work."

"And Whereas, It is desirable to raise immediately as much as possible towards the payment of the Society's present indebtedness;

"And Whereas, It is of the greatest importance that the missionary spirit be kept alive, and the denomination be able to do its full share in the great work of winning the heathen to Christ;

"Therefore Resolved, That the Executive recommend the churches to observe the first Sabbath of May as a Missionary Sabbath; that on that day the ministers preach, and the members, or hold missionary meetings, in such way as may be best adapted to accomplish the object in view; that prayer meetings be held, the mission and missionaries being the subjects of special prayer; and that in each church a special collection be taken in aid of the mission cause."

The Executive expresses the hope that every Free Baptist Church in New Brunswick will

comply with the request made, and that a good report may be had from them.

On behalf of the Executive Committee,

J. T. PARSONS, J. W. CLARK, Chairman, Secretary.

PROHIBITION DOES PROHIBIT.

The following letter from Hon. Neal Dow, in reply to inquiries by Professor Foster, ought to put an end to the fallacious argument again circulated to the effect that the Prohibitory Law in Maine is a failure:

My DEAR PROF. FOSTER,—On my return home yesterday from New Hampshire, where I have been for some days, I found your card on my table, saying that "No one who has read and believes the Scriptures will deny that Christ has promised his disciples such supernatural help."

The fallacious argument, that the Prohibitory law in Maine is a failure, is based on the fact that the number of saloons in the State has increased since the law was passed. This is a very common fallacy, and one which is often used to mislead the public. The fact is, that the number of saloons in the State has increased since the law was passed, but this does not mean that the law is a failure. The law has been successful in its purpose, and the number of saloons in the State has increased since the law was passed.

It is a little annoying that some of our excellent and simple-minded and innocent-hearted friends—least some who call themselves such—should attach to this silly fallacy and pass it along with unwary credence. A few names added to it. Yesterday I had a letter from a gentleman in Amherst, N. S., almost in an agony of apprehension, that he had been arrested from the State reiteration of this silly fallacy by a clergyman in a public meeting in St. John.

I suppose that I have replied to this mendacious statement a hundred times, and hundreds of times, but my replies have been printed and scattered widely over the country, but somehow they never attract the notice of the enemies of temperance and never reach the eyes of those who are misled. On the contrary, my friends to whom I allude, on the contrary, ever and anon make a statement of the matter is caught by them and spread far and wide through the country.

Before the Maine Law we had many distilleries in Maine, some of them large, running night and day. The number of saloons in the State has increased since the law was passed, but this does not mean that the law is a failure. The law has been successful in its purpose, and the number of saloons in the State has increased since the law was passed.

The amount of money expended in the British Isles for intoxicating liquors is sufficient, it would seem, to ruin any country. In a recent communication to the London Times, Mr. Wm. Hoyle showed, by a table based on the excise returns, that in Great Britain and Ireland, during the year 1878, the consumption of spirits, wine and beer rose to the enormous total of 1,100,886,401 gallons, valued at \$710,944,000. A sea of liquor and a mountain of gold! To conceive of the vastness of such a sum is almost impossible. It is a sum that nearly equals the value of all the vast quantities of wheat, pork, bacon, butter, cheese, tobacco, petroleum, cotton, and all the other exports from the United States during the last year, which amounted to \$722,528,161. The people of Great Britain, during the past year of trade and business depression, actually expended \$908,346 more for intoxicating drinks during the preceding year.

The increase in the use of intoxicating drink in Great Britain within the past fifteen years is fearful to contemplate. During the four years from 1869 to 1873 inclusive, the annual expenditure averaged \$453,494,420, while during the past four years the annual average has been \$717,051,950, an increase of 58 per cent, while the increase of population has been only 15 per cent. With such a waste of money for drink, it is no wonder that destitution, starvation and misery prevail during the present depression of business in that country.

TEMPERANCE NOTES.

The numerous friends of the veteran temperance advocate, Dr. Charles Jewett, who has just died, are raising a testimonial fund to aid his family, who are in very poor circumstances.

The Coffee Tavern Company in London has made its mark in the work of temperance reform. Fifteen coffee taverns have been opened, in which about 4,000 persons have signed the pledge. It is said that the coffee is well-prepared, and good to drink.

The Bell Punch Law has passed one House of the Connecticut Legislature, and will probably receive the assent of the Senate. This is the Virginia regulation: Purses are set up in every village, and the law is made to be made to register every drink sold, and the tax is levied on every glass of alcoholic liquors, and one cent for each glass of beer—is collected monthly, and the State will gain \$100,000 in one year by this means. The proposal is to pay of this tax to a State Inebriate Asylum.

A Philadelphia paper puts the matter more strongly than ours: Our legislators are discussing the question of death to *Spirits*! while in Philadelphia alone, there are 5,093 licensed, and probably 2,000 unlicensed, saloons, more than the dens of tigers, for the ravages of disease and death! And every year, by their own returns, the keepers of these dens admit that they sell more than \$14,000,000 worth of the poison of intoxicating drink, causing, as our judges tell us, four-fifths, if not nine-tenths, of all the murders, non-slaughters, burglaries, robberies, riots, tumults, adulteries, fornications, rapes, and all other crimes that are the terror and curse of society! Gentlemen of the Legislature, do not death all the *Spirits*! do not fail to pass laws, strong and efficient laws, against evil, worse a thousand-fold, than all the *Spirits* do on the face of the earth, though each one was turned to a tiger, and all let loose to prey on the community!

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The amount of money expended in the British Isles for intoxicating liquors is sufficient, it would seem, to ruin any country. In a recent communication to the London Times, Mr. Wm. Hoyle showed, by a table based on the excise returns, that in Great Britain and Ireland, during the year 1878, the consumption of spirits, wine and beer rose to the enormous total of 1,100,886,401 gallons, valued at \$710,944,000. A sea of liquor and a mountain of gold! To conceive of the vastness of such a sum is almost impossible. It is a sum that nearly equals the value of all the vast quantities of wheat, pork, bacon, butter, cheese, tobacco, petroleum, cotton, and all the other exports from the United States during the last year, which amounted to \$722,528,161. The people of Great Britain, during the past year of trade and business depression, actually expended \$908,346 more for intoxicating drinks during the preceding year.

The increase in the use of intoxicating drink in Great Britain within the past fifteen years is fearful to contemplate. During the four years from 1869 to 1873 inclusive, the annual expenditure averaged \$453,494,420, while during the past four years the annual average has been \$717,051,950, an increase of 58 per cent, while the increase of population has been only 15 per cent. With such a waste of money for drink, it is no wonder that destitution, starvation and misery prevail during the present depression of business in that country.

The numerous friends of the veteran temperance advocate, Dr. Charles Jewett, who has just died, are raising a testimonial fund to aid his family, who are in very poor circumstances.

The Coffee Tavern Company in London has made its mark in the work of temperance reform. Fifteen coffee taverns have been opened, in which about 4,000 persons have signed the pledge. It is said that the coffee is well-prepared, and good to drink.

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