

TERMS AND NOTICES.  
The RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER is published weekly from the office of BARNES & CO., Prince William Street, Saint John, N. B.  
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All communications for insertion should be addressed, REV. JOSEPH MCLEOD, P. O. Box 351, Fredericton, N. B.

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The friends of the paper who are not ministers—and they are a host—will do us a great favour and help forward a good work by each mentioning the matter to his neighbours and soliciting them to subscribe.

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—UNLESS we are indwelt of the spirit our Christianity is questionable, no matter what our professions may be. The presence of the spirit is essential to real piety. He is in our hearts as the spring of action, as a river of water, as fire to enlighten and purify, as a seal to impress the image of our Father on our hearts and lives, and as a guide into all truth and holiness. It is His office, especially, to testify to our adoption. There has been much said as to whether it is possible to know our sins forgiven. The Holy Spirit is the only being who can reveal to us this fact. Ministers can do much good, but they cannot give us this witness. The Bible reveals much, and we are greatly blessed by it; but it is not by it that God sends us this testimony. The spirit beareth witness with our spirits that we are born of God. When the Spirit of God bears witness that we are His, then the world is eclipsed, and Christ has become all in all to us, the altogether ours, the chief among ten thousand.

—THE CANADA Temperance Act will go into operation in Prince Geo., N. S., on the first day of December.

CONFIDENCE LOST.

There is not much chance for a man who has lost confidence in himself. His mind is unguided, and he has no courage to exert his powers in any way. He feels unfit to bear any responsibility. He carries a burden which makes his life miserable; he can look no one only in the face. He is dissatisfied with himself, and fancies every one else is dissatisfied with him. He cannot do anything he would. He is constantly expecting to fail or break down, and he timidly quails in the middle of a well done work, which with a little courage and care, he might easily have finished. With good native powers, and even acquired skill, the feeble, infinite, agitated touch, or the weak, restrained, uncommittal voice, spoils everything. A little firmness of grasp, a few steady and full words, would calm the agitated nerves; but he cannot make them. A dread of something impending crushes every power. No advice as to how to think should be done, no instruction helps him; it is a foregone conclusion in his mind, that he must surely fail; and he gathers no idea from advice or instruction. The planer anything can happen to be true to his hazy understanding, the more suspicious he is that he will fail in it. The necessity of caution limited to him, or even self-suggestion, unsettles him all the more completely; one little blunder at the start, or at any time in the progress, and the whole affair comes to a jumble of blunders, ending in dire confusion. Confidence in one's own powers is a fundamental element of success. It will not always win success; but without it, success is a mere accident. The best of plans, feebly executed, and mostly in disaster; while inferior plans, pushed vigor, even unskillfully win the point. The benefactor of the human race has been men who believed they could win, and did win chiefly because they believed so. It was not because their power to do, or to bear was intrinsically superior to any other's; but because they had faith in themselves which buoyed them up under opposition, failures and reverses. There is no more sublime spectacle in human life, than that of a soul, conscious of its own strength, struggling through want and obscurity, to raise himself in its own esteem. It shows that adversity power is capable of reaching the highest point when supported by strong will.

In spiritual affairs, it is just so. The soul that wins is one that has determined to win, and that believes it has power to win through Christ. Lack of faith and determination is fatal. Reverses we all meet—that we must expect; but these must be firmly met. Confidence in God and in ourselves, if maintained will enable us to overcome. In spiritual conflicts, trust in our own strength alone would be fatal; but we are not left to ourselves. God is the strength of our heart, and our portion forever. In Him we may conquer, if we will. The soul whose confidence is slain, will make no progress, will withstand no pressing temptation, will assist no one heavenward. Betting sins win it. Weak in spirit, unwilling to invoke divine aid, timid and wavering, it fell an easy prey to the enemy. The sins and difficulties that rise like mountains, hide the sympathy and love of Christ—a thought, that a word, a struggling fervor, settles upon the heart, and the downward course is immediately broken. Irregular living, even though not preferred, is tolerated, for a lack of vigor to be quit of it, and of confidence to approach God for aid. A little firmness of purpose, and all is overcome. Let us hold fast the beginning of our confidence unto the end.

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—Two of Mr. Spurgeon's sons, Charles and Thomas (twins) are preachers. The latter is pastor of a church in Auckland, New Zealand, and is having good success.

—THE PRESENT WEEK has been in many places devoted to special prayer for young men. What a blessing to them and to the world did they heed Christ's injunction, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God."

—It is asserted that carefully prepared statistics show that the world spends \$888 for tobacco for every dollar given for missions. And much of this tobacco money comes from church members—who are "too poor" to give anything for the spread of the Gospel. Which do they love most, God or their tobacco?

—THERE ARE preachers—very few, we could hope—in every denomination who might profitably ponder the truth stated by the *Holston Methodist* thus: "The preacher who is afraid to press his collections, or work diligently for church enlargement, lest he cut off his own support, ought to go to something else for a religion."

—THE SIGNS of the religious movement in Germany are regarded as indicating that the country is being fast prepared for a genuine evangelical awakening. Not only are evangelists springing up over Germany to carry on the work already begun, but the cry for more of such workers is becoming importunate.

—REV. A. J. MARSHALL and wife of the Free Baptist Mission in India, who were compelled to return to America on account of Mr. M.'s shattered health, arrived in New York a few days ago. Their health was considerably improved by the voyage home. One new missionary, Miss Coombs, sailed for India last Saturday. Others are expected to go soon.

—IN ANOTHER column is a short note and appeal signed by Bro. Peters, Treasurer of the Jubilee Fund, on behalf of the Semi-centennial Committee. It is hoped the churches and individuals addressed will not neglect a matter so important, nor fail to respond to a call so deserving a general and hearty response. There is not a church in connection with the Conference but should be anxious to make an offering of thanks to the Lord.

—THERE WILL assemble in Calcutta on the 28th December, continuing session several days, the Second Decennial Missionary Conference of India. All the Christian denominations having missions in India will be represented. Dr. Phillips writes of it to the *Gospel in All Lands*, and says that "already more than two hundred missionaries have signified their intention to be present." Much good must result from such a Conference.

—WE READ often about the "condemnation" of the light of the low; but how it fades away from the light of the life of Him who, though He was rich, yet for our sakes became poor. We are sometimes commended for the few spare hours we devote to ministering to the poor and suffering; but what are these to His gifts, who always "went about doing good;" who sought not "to be ministered unto, but to minister;" and who closed all by "giving his life a ransom for many?"

—SOME PEOPLE boast that they think as much of one church as another; and seem to have persuaded themselves that they are, therefore, superior to those who show attachment to a particular church. Such people never do much good; they amount to very little in Christian work. Sectionalism and bigotry are deserving condemnation; but true and intelligent attachment to some branch of the Christian Church is necessary, nor does it necessitate little love for the whole church. Dr. Hall says very truly that few persons more quickly cease to attend any church than they do who claim that to them all churches are alike.

—HAND-SHAKING has been classed "a means of grace," and with very good reason, doubtless. "Shake hands with somebody as you go out of church." The more of it the better, if it is expressive of real interest and feeling. There may be a great deal of the spirit of the gospel put into a hearty shake of the hand. Think of St. Paul's four times repeated request—"Greet one another"—after the custom then in common use, and one which is expressive of even warmer than our common one of hand-shaking. Why not give your neighbors the benefit of the warm Christian feeling that fills you to your finger tip, and receive the like from them in return? You will both be benefited by it; and the stranger will go away feeling that the church is not, after all, so cold as he had thought it to be.

CONFIDENCE LOST.

There is not much chance for a man who has lost confidence in himself. His mind is unguided, and he has no courage to exert his powers in any way. He feels unfit to bear any responsibility. He carries a burden which makes his life miserable; he can look no one only in the face. He is dissatisfied with himself, and fancies every one else is dissatisfied with him. He cannot do anything he would. He is constantly expecting to fail or break down, and he timidly quails in the middle of a well done work, which with a little courage and care, he might easily have finished. With good native powers, and even acquired skill, the feeble, infinite, agitated touch, or the weak, restrained, uncommittal voice, spoils everything. A little firmness of grasp, a few steady and full words, would calm the agitated nerves; but he cannot make them. A dread of something impending crushes every power. No advice as to how to think should be done, no instruction helps him; it is a foregone conclusion in his mind, that he must surely fail; and he gathers no idea from advice or instruction. The planer anything can happen to be true to his hazy understanding, the more suspicious he is that he will fail in it. The necessity of caution limited to him, or even self-suggestion, unsettles him all the more completely; one little blunder at the start, or at any time in the progress, and the whole affair comes to a jumble of blunders, ending in dire confusion. Confidence in one's own powers is a fundamental element of success. It will not always win success; but without it, success is a mere accident. The best of plans, feebly executed, and mostly in disaster; while inferior plans, pushed vigor, even unskillfully win the point. The benefactor of the human race has been men who believed they could win, and did win chiefly because they believed so. It was not because their power to do, or to bear was intrinsically superior to any other's; but because they had faith in themselves which buoyed them up under opposition, failures and reverses. There is no more sublime spectacle in human life, than that of a soul, conscious of its own strength, struggling through want and obscurity, to raise himself in its own esteem. It shows that adversity power is capable of reaching the highest point when supported by strong will.

In spiritual affairs, it is just so. The soul that wins is one that has determined to win, and that believes it has power to win through Christ. Lack of faith and determination is fatal. Reverses we all meet—that we must expect; but these must be firmly met. Confidence in God and in ourselves, if maintained will enable us to overcome. In spiritual conflicts, trust in our own strength alone would be fatal; but we are not left to ourselves. God is the strength of our heart, and our portion forever. In Him we may conquer, if we will. The soul whose confidence is slain