

## TERMS, NOTICES, ETC.

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ALL COMMUNICATIONS for the INTELLIGENCER should be addressed, REV. JOSEPH McLEOD, Fredericton, N. B.

Items of religious news from every quarter are always welcome. Denominational news, as all other matter for publication, should be sent promptly.

Communications for publication should be written on only one side of the paper, and business matters and those for insertion should be written separately. Obscurity of style will prevent much copying and sometimes confusion and mistakes.

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## Religious Intelligencer.

REV. JOSEPH McLEOD, . . . . . EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1886.

—Has the INTELLIGENCER helped you in any way? If so, we would be glad to have you show your appreciation by telling your neighbors and persuading them to subscribe.

—THE RUSSIAN papers announce the emancipation of the last Russian serfs. It appears that the peasants on the estates of the foreign consuls in Transcaucasia were until quite recently the serfs of the dioceses of Jerusalem and Constantinople. This abnormal situation has attracted the attention of the authorities, and since last summer the enfranchisement of these serfs has been in progress in the government of Tiflis.

—CRUTCHANK, the artist—so Canon Farrar says—offered one hundred pounds for proof of a violent crime committed by a total abstainer, and that the money remains unclaimed to this day. Quite as striking a proposition has recently been made by a temperance society in England, offering a large reward for proof of a single instance where property accumulated by liquor selling has descended to the third generation.

—THERE ARE some "Evangelists" who, to put it in the mildest form, are not nearly so wise as they are conceited. They are well described by a correspondent of the *Central Baptist* who says, "They come into a congregation with cut and dried plans, ignore the pastor from the beginning, take charge of things, introduce the services, perhaps calling on the pastor to pray, read the hymns and make the announcements, and become at once 'head over all things to the church,' " meaning things in such a way that both pastor and people are led to the conclusion that the "Evangelist" is a *Magnus Apollo*, while the pastor is a pigmy.

—A WRITER in the *Examiner* says that the most efficient Sunday-school superintendent he ever knew was a man who could not, or believed he could not, make even a five minute speech to the school; while the worst one was his successor, who always talked and never knew when to stop. It is no doubt true that a superintendent's most important business is to have a general oversight of the school, to see that each class has a teacher, and that each teacher is in his place; that the scholars are properly graded, and that the business of the school is carried on in an efficient manner. Nevertheless, while a talking superintendent is generally a nuisance, a brief review of the lesson in a few well-chosen words, especially in the way of questions, is of immense value.

—UNION BAPTIST SEMINARY.—The fourth term of the Seminary will begin on Wednesday, April 7th, at which time new students will be admitted and new classes formed. A number of prizes have been offered for competition among the classes which will be awarded at the closing in June. Written examinations for the present term will be held on the 5th and 6th prox.

—Rev. B. A. Sherwood has accepted a call to the F. B. Church in Georgetown, Maine, and entered upon his labors there.

## THE C. T. A.

Just now there is unusual activity in Temperance circles in St. John, caused by the announcement that the vote on the adoption of the C. T. Act in the City and in the County are to be held on the 19th and 20th of April respectively. Nor is the activity confined to temperance circles; the opponents of the Act are busy too, in their own way, and are doubtless determined to prevent the adoption of the Law if possible. Both sides profess to feel quite confident of victory. The temperance people point to the tie vote of three or four years ago as an indication of a strong feeling in favour of the Act; they claim that the feeling in favour of it has steadily strengthened and increased since then, and believe that with careful and faithful work they can carry the Act in both city and county. On the other hand the rum-runners claim that the difficulties of enforcing the law where it has been adopted has made many who were its friends doubtful of its benefits, and so has lessened the chances of its adoption here.

Making due allowance for the statements of the over-sanguine on both sides, we strongly incline to believe that there is a good chance to carry the act. Its friends will not, we think, make the mistake of over-confidence. They know the enemies of the law, the desperation to which they are driven, as they contemplate the destruction of their unholy traffic, and how utterly unscrupulous they are in the employment of means to prevent the Law's adoption. In the face of such opposition as they will give the Act, victory for it can be won only by a well organized and determined campaign in which every citizen interested in the city's welfare faithfully does his part, both before and on the day of voting. The committee in charge of the campaign is composed of keen and energetic men, and they have already carefully laid out the work to be done.

Not St. John alone, but the Province at large, and especially the counties which have already adopted the Act are interested in the pending vote. All the illegal sellers in these places get their supplies from St. John, and the whole of the Province is supplied from here. To put the source of supply under the operations of the Law, will greatly help its enforcement in the other places. In every part of the Province, and far beyond it, too, many prayers will be offered for the success of the present endeavour to adopt the Act in this city.

The majority of the pulpits of the city are strongly in favor of the Act; the W.C.T. Union has been doing, and will continue to do most effective service; the various temperance organizations are combining their forces for the fight; and it is hoped the press of the city will be a unit in favour of the Law; the religious papers will do their part, the *Sun* has in the most emphatic way declared itself for the Act, and it is hoped the *Telegraph* and *Globe* will do so.

The Bill to provide some needed enforcing machinery for the C. T. Act, prepared by a Committee of the Provincial Alliance, is at the time of this writing being discussed in the Assembly, having been introduced by Mr. Stockton who made an admirable speech in explanation of its design. It is short and simply framed with a purpose to avoid, if possible, its being made a peg upon which to hang a serious case of appeal. It makes it the duty of all constables, special constables and policemen to search out and prosecute all offenders against the Act, by making complaint and prosecuting the same to conviction. It authorizes the councils of cities, towns or municipalities to appoint one or more special officers to be called inspectors, whose duty it shall be to search out and prosecute such offenders, and when information is given that there is reasonable cause to suspect a person or persons of violating the Act, it will be the inspector's duty to make diligent inquiry into the truth of the information, and if he finds reasonable or probable cause for making the same, he shall lay information and prosecute the same.

In favour of the passage of this Bill a petition containing nearly 10,000 names was presented.

The Bill described above passed the Assembly on Saturday. It caused quite a vigorous discussion, but when the vote was taken there were only four members who recorded themselves against it,—Messrs. Wetmore, Adams, McManus and McAdam. A few members had gone home, and a few were, apparently, careful to be absent from the house when the vote was taken.

Later we shall give our readers a statement showing who voted and how, and showing who did not vote and where they were.

What treatment the Bill will receive in the Legislative Council remains to be seen, but we presume it will not be obstructed.

## SEVERAL REPORTS.

Before us are several Reports of public institutions, all containing information more or less interesting to the people generally. To place before our readers some features of the reports in which they may be interested, is the purpose of this article.

While there are, perhaps, none who are wholly without concern to know of the Lunatic Asylum, there are some who have a deep and melancholy interest in it. Friends of theirs are inmates of the institution, and they scan with sad eagerness every bit of information about it, and experience a sense of relief when it is shown that the institution is being carefully, skillfully and humanely managed. Dr. Steeves, the Superintendent of the New Brunswick Lunatic Asylum, reports the past year very like its predecessors in most respects. During the year one hundred and thirty-one new patients were admitted. The largest number under treatment at one time was four hundred and eleven, and the lowest number three hundred and eighty. During the year there were discharged 46 recovered, 23 improved, and one unimproved; 36 died. Of the 405 remaining at the end of the year, it is estimated that 44 are curable and 188 incurable. From the tables given it appears that the number of patients is steadily increasing from year to year. One reason for this is the belief that patients are kindly and skillfully treated; another is that relatives and friends of the insane are coming more and more to understand that it is real kindness to them to place them in such an institution.

Of a new departure taken during the year the report speaks in this wise:

"The past year in the history of the asylum is an eventful one, in that we have begun a new era in the management and care of our insane; a new system is being inaugurated—especially for the chronic cases. Hitherto we have had almost no farming facilities; and we have continued to make additions to the present hospital building when required, just the same as when most of the cases required hospital treatment, and before the large accumulation of incurable cases existed. From this system we have departed, and practically arranged ourselves on the side of those who consent to a separation of the insane for treatment and care. The step taken is that of acquiring farm land, and erecting pavilions thereon, suited to the condition and needs of certain of the chronic cases. Of course we have taken but the first step—more land and more buildings will or may be added from time to time."

From this new departure the Superintendent is expecting good results, and we trust his expectations may be more than realized.

The report of the Halifax school for the blind which we have in the fifteenth issued by that excellent institution. To provide for the education, and in that for the equipment for self-reliance and usefulness, those who have been deprived of the blessing of sight, is a most beneficent work. The Halifax school is doing this so far as the means at its disposal will permit, and is, we judge from the report, making the most and best of all its facilities. It is sought to teach each pupil something by which he or she may earn a good livelihood. Much attention is given to music, which is always popular with the pupils, and which the Superintendent regards as the mainstay of the school.

The report well says,—"Economy in the education of the blind is a false economy, and sooner or later this must become evident to those interested in the work of their education in different parts of the world. That school of the blind which cannot insure for its intelligent graduates an independent livelihood, is most assuredly not fulfilling its mission; and the fault must lie either in the mal-administration of its internal affairs, or in the lack of adequate pecuniary support. The cost of carrying on an institution of this character cannot be compared with that of any other educational establishment; its requirements differ essentially from those of ordinary schools, and the peculiar methods employed for imparting instruction bear no comparison in cost to those in vogue in public schools. The Halifax school has, in proportion to its means, done more for the blind youth of the Maritime Provinces than could reasonably be expected; but the work has been hindered in almost every department by the economical line with which it is circumscribed." There are twenty-six pupils in the school; of these 19 are from Nova Scotia, 5 from New Brunswick, and 2 from P. E. Island.

It is, we think, to be regretted that a larger number of the blind children in the Provinces are not sent to this school. The Board of Managers speak in the highest terms of Mr. C. F. Fraser, the Superintendent. Any communications addressed to him will receive prompt attention.

The "Third Annual Report of the Fredericton Institution for the educa-

tion of the Deaf and Dumb" is the title page of the little pamphlet of twenty-three pages issued by the school at the Capital of N. B. It is a young and struggling institution, but is evidently doing satisfactory work. Mr. A. F. Woodbridge is the Principal, and his report says they "have been favoured in the enjoyment of good health, in the earnest co-operation of the officers, and in the desire of the pupils to assist the teachers by prompt and willing obedience." Seventeen pupils have been in attendance; there would probably be more but that the room is limited. The report says:

"The educational work of the year has been conscientiously performed, and it is gratifying to report a satisfactory advance in the scholastic attainments of most of our pupils, which is to some extent due to the earnestness manifested on their part in supplementing the efforts of their teachers. While that advance is not so apparent in some cases as we could have expected or desired, yet we are warranted in concluding that so far from the year's work being barren or stationary, we have cause to rejoice at the results attained, and may consider the efforts put forth to educate the children under our charge as having been largely crowned with success."

The school is pleasantly situated, and it is hoped ere long to enlarge the buildings.

## Correspondence.

## OTTAWA LETTER.

Mr. Editor.—The debate on the resolution censuring the Government for hanging Riel is still the magnet which draws crowds to the galleries of the House of Commons. Many of the lesser lights have spoken and have reiterated the stale statements which have been made for months by many of the papers. The first great speech of the debate was made by the Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, of Quebec. It was after 10 P. M., the galleries had been thinned out by monotonous harpers, the members themselves were half out and the balance of them sleepy, reading and throwing hats and making cat-calls, when the hon. gentleman caught the Speaker's eye. Soon a transformation took place; he had not spoken two minutes ere the members were in their places, and soon numbers returned to the galleries. For two and a half hours he held house and galleries spell-bound by his eloquence and finished diction. Some of his comparisons we thought overdrawn, and his sympathy for Riel too marked, yet it was fine and a relief from the weariness we had suffered. Sir Adolphe Caron followed him, and as Minister of Militia, defended the Government against the charges preferred against it. He protested earnestly against Riel being styled a martyr or a hero worthy of a place by the side of the heroic Montcalm, and we said Amen. We have heard him presented to the house as a hero, a martyr, a saint, a cut-throat, a hypocrite and a lunatic; but amid the confusion of these various epithets, we were consoled by the fact that he had graced the scaffold.

The Hon. Edward Blake spoke five hours on the resolution; he read from celebrated authors to prove that Riel had not been fairly tried; he also endeavored to prove that he was more or less crazy and should not have been hanged, and declared he would vote for the motion condemning his execution. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Thompson) followed him vindicating the Government and the court which tried the criminal. Like Mr. Laurier he held the house and the galleries throughout his oration. He is clever, calm and dignified and free from asperity and vanity.

Sir John has not been in the house for about two weeks. I was informed yesterday that he has been very ill and is not out of danger yet. A consultation of three doctors has been held in his case. Lady Macdonald is frequently in the gallery. Mrs. McKenzie and Lady Lansdowne are also often there. I noticed Archbishop Tache in the gallery, an interested spectator, looking down and listening to advice he had given and hearing letters he had sent.

An Ottawa communication to the *St. John Telegraph* a few days ago stated that the Hon. George E. Foster had abandoned the temperance cause. I may say that I heard him deliver a speech at a meeting of the Dominion Prohibitory Alliance which did not sound very much like abandonment. He is, on all hands, regarded as the temperance man of Parliament. B.

OTTAWA, March 24.

RECEIVED.—The census of the Three Provisional Districts of the Northwest Territories, 1884-5; Report of shareholders in the Chartered Banks of the Dominion of Canada as on 31st Dec. '85; Report of the Secretary of State Canada for year ended Dec. 31st last; a synopsis of companies incorporated under the Canada Joint Stock Companies Act from May, 1869, to Dec. 1885.

## A BAPTIST CHURCH IN CUBA.

A correspondent writing from Havana to the *Chicago Standard* writes an interesting account of the first Baptist church in Cuba. He says:

On landing here a few years since I was cautioned not to have the custom-house officers find a Bible in my trunk, and while riding across the country, having with me a few religious tracts in Spanish, I was told to discontinue distributing them unless I was willing to go to prison. No Protestant service could be held on the island. I, however, found one captain who held services on his own vessel in the harbor. But how great the change! To-day I find Bibles offered for sale on the public streets, and further, a Baptist church is now being organized. Fifty have already been baptized and about three hundred have given their names as members of the congregation.

Rev. Alberto I. Diaz is the pastor, a Cuban by birth, brought up in the Roman Catholic church, converted to the Protestant Christian faith while translating the New Testament into Spanish, and, as he says, "a Baptist from Bible teaching." He was ordained at Key West last December, and set apart by the South Florida Baptist Convention to organize a Baptist church in Cuba. Mr. Diaz has been engaged as Bible distributor and teacher for the past five years by the Ladies' Bible Society of Philadelphia, and there had been already quite a number of conversions. During the three Sabbaths we have been here there have been several baptisms each Sunday evening. The congregation numbers about three hundred, being as many as can find sitting or standing room. The best of order is maintained and fixed, earnest attention given.

A neat, convenient baptistry is placed in one corner of the room, and during the ordinance of baptism many of the congregation were in tears. For the want of room the men are baptized on Thursday evenings and the women on Sunday evenings. They have not had the communion yet, but expect to have the first one on the first Sabbath in April. A lady who is spending a few weeks here has become so much interested in this work that she has donated a communion service to this new Gethsemane church.

The meetings are conducted in much the same manner as in our own churches. An air of solemnity prevails, from the silent prayer at the commencement to the final amen, and one does not hear a whisper or see a sleepy hearer. The prayers and sermon are short and earnest, the latter occupying not more than twenty-five minutes. About fifteen minutes are given to reading and explaining Scripture, during which the attention of the audience is very marked indeed. A Sabbath-school has also been established which is well attended by both old and young.

## Denominational News.

## NEW BRUNSWICK.

MONCTON.—According to promise I send you a more extended account of the work here. When I came to this town the field was not very inviting, to me at least; there seemed difficulties in the way which it is unnecessary to mention. Who was responsible for part of them I need not say, but I determined to do what I could to help the people and the cause of God in connection with our denominational interests here. By the grace of God I preached, as faithfully as I knew the Word of God, and visited and offered prayers in all homes that were opened to me. God helped me, and the effect has been seen in an increased congregation and a greater interest in the prayer and social meetings. I felt that God desired to give us souls, and prayed that help might come. Bro. Colpitts having seen his way clear to come for a short time, we held special services for four weeks. The Lord blessed our efforts and sixteen were added to the church. One young man of those converted had been addicted to strong drink and profanity. I met him at the church door at the close of an evening meeting, and as I spoke to him about his soul's eternal interests, I noticed that his breath smelt strongly of whiskey. I invited him to kneel down at once and cry to God for mercy. He yielded and was saved. It would do you good to hear his clear, ringing testimony for Jesus. Last Sabbath evening during a most blessed social service he rose and said in a clear, firm voice,—"I have been bold for the devil in drinking and hooting up and down Main street and frequenting all the hell-holes in this town of which there are many, I'm sorry to say; but now I am saved and I feel very happy and like shouting for God and declaring that he has given me a pure heart." God be praised! This young man has the real old English grit in him, and now that he has taken a stand for the right I believe he will make a noble man for God. The Church has been much helped, and our social meetings are seasons of refreshing. To God be all the glory! There are others who are manifesting a desire to be saved. Don't forget to pray for us.

I am sorry to say that there are members of Free Christian Baptist churches who have moved into this town from other places and have lived here for years and yet have not connected themselves with us, and have given but little if any support to us; and yet they claim to be Free Christian Baptists. Some did decide to join, but others stay without though they have been kindly invited to come in with us. I hope and pray that they may see the inconsistency of remaining without, and unite to build up the cause here; for it is evident the Free Baptists have come to Moncton to stay. Bless the Lord! I hope the friends of the cause will not forget to pray for its success here. I have found the people very kind and hospitable and things have gone on pleasantly. Nothing but kindness has been shown to me since my coming among them.

As far as the town is concerned the liquor interests seem to be rampant and every body seems to be waiting for some other body to move against the rum-sellers.

W. B. WIGGINS.

March 23rd.

REV. T. O. DEWITT was in Fredericton a few days ago. We are sorry to learn from him that his health is not as good as is desirable. He has had a year of very hard work, which has evidently told upon him. A season of rest would probably do him more good than anything else just now.

UPPER HAMPSHIRE, Q. Co.—We are glad to learn that a good work of grace is in progress in Upper Hampshire, under the labours of the pastor, Rev. Jos. Noble, and Rev. A. Taylor. Three were baptized on Sabbath, 21st inst. We hope to have a full report soon.

FROM LICENTIATE NOBLES.—I trust I shall not be intruding upon your patience or that of your readers, while I relate a portion of my experience during the past week. The inclemency of the weather, and circumstances—over which it appeared I had no control—did so work upon my physical organism that it was thought best by others and myself far me to return to the old plantation (my home at Springfield) where treatment might be given to alleviate my suffering. I did so, hoping for a speedy recovery. I remained just one week, and in that time suffered considerably from a terrible cough and other physical ailments. However, I enjoyed the rest from study and the meeting of many friends, among which were Rev. A. B. McDonald (Baptist) and Bro. William Wetmore (Baptist). I enjoyed the company of Bro. McDonald, as I always do, and his kind words of encouragement. Heard him preach from the following subject: "God willeth that all men should be saved;" it was an excellent sermon. I also had the privilege of a chat with Bro. Wetmore, which was exceedingly pleasant. Heard him preach a good, and to me a profitable sermon—subject: "True worship of God." I returned to St. John on Monday (22nd), not feeling physically much better than when I left. I met Bro. French on the train coming down. He told me he was enjoying good health. I received counsel from him that I trust may follow me through life. I found the Seminary going on in its quiet but successful way. Pray for me that I may be kept humble, and so live that I may be a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

B. H. NOBLES.

March 23rd.

DEDICATION.—The new F. C. B. meeting-house of Wicklow, C. Co., was dedicated on Sunday, March 21st. Although the day was somewhat stormy, the house was filled with attentive listeners. The building, which is on a solid granite foundation, and which is 44 feet long and 28 feet wide, is one of the finest and best in the county. The spire, which is on the left corner of the front end of the building, and which is nearly 90 feet high, is one of the best finished and most symmetrical we have ever seen. On entering the door of the vestibule and passing into the main building you are at once in a pleasant and well-finished audience room. The ceiling, 21 feet in height, arches from the sides and ends, leaving a flat panel in the centre in which are three circles from which hang three beautiful chandeliers which afford sufficient light for the whole house. The platform is nicely carpeted and on it a neat desk and table, and three large and finely upholstered pulpit chairs of walnut. The three rows of pews, with those on either side of the platform, are painted in cherry with walnut finish, corresponding with the general wood work of the interior. This new meeting-house, costing about \$2,000, is certainly a credit to the people who, few in number, have cheerfully and liberally contributed towards its erection.

The dedicatory services beginning at 11 A. M., were as follows: Singing of the 805 Hymn by the choir; reading Scripture, by Rev. J. Perry; prayer, by Rev. J. Gravinor; singing of the 807 Hymn; sermon, by Rev. J. Perry—text, Gen. xxviii. 17, "This is none other but the house of God." The sermon, which occupied an hour, was