

TERMS, NOTICES, ETC.

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

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Religious Intelligencer.

REV. JOSEPH McLEOD, EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 1886.

—WIFE-BEATING must be on the increase in Pennsylvania, and quite prevalent. A grand jury has suggested to the Legislature of that State the general desirability of establishing the whipping-post as a punishment for wife-beaters. If they will beat their wives, they ought to be whipped.

—A CONVENTION of Christian workers, whose work is altogether among the unevangelized classes, is to be held in Chicago June 16th-23rd. Each worker is to explain his method of work, the difficulties he meets, and his way of dealing with them. Various topics will be discussed, and it is hoped the meeting will result in more systematic prosecution of work among the uncared-for classes.

—ON THE first page is a sketch by Dr. Phillips of the character and work of the late Purna Chandra Basu, of whom he wrote briefly last week. In his life was exhibited in a somewhat striking manner the gracious power of the gospel. That many more equally devoted and as well fitted in every way for the work may be raised up will be the prayer of all who are interested in the mission.

—COLUMBUS, who has always been regarded as a Genoese, it is now claimed was a native of Corsica. And recent investigations seem to establish the claim. At any rate the 400th anniversary of his discovery of America is to be celebrated in the Corsican town where it is claimed he was born. The President of France has authorized the celebration, one feature of which will be the placing an inscription on the house in which he was born.

—THE SOUTHERN Methodist Episcopal Church, which is now holding its Conference in Richmond, has taken steps towards union with the Northern M. E. Church. A resolution has been adopted providing for the appointment of a committee of seven, who shall meet like the committee from the Northern Methodist Church in 1888, looking to the reunion of the two churches. The resolution further sets forth that it is a sin and folly for two Methodist churches to occupy the same territory.

—A JAPANESE paper makes the statement that the representatives of seven Buddhist sects have agreed to unite. They are probably moved to this by the wonderful progress of Christian truth in their country, and hope by union to more effectually counteract its influence.

The most peculiar part of the report is that the united society will undertake missionary work in England, France and America. This latter statement may, we think, be received with considerable allowance.

—CRANKS abound. Among them are many of the religious sort. One of the latest is a Minneapolis man, who claims to be the Christ. He has addressed a circular to the United States Congress, in which he says,—"Citizen Samuel N. Ewing, of the State of Minnesota, one of the United States, presents himself to the world as the Christ of Revelation, ready to show that the Bible is not inspired in toto." He stated to a reporter that "the Bible was closed, and the principles of the

United States' Constitution must henceforth be the standard."

—A CORRESPONDENT of a Philadelphia paper, writing from Harper's Ferry, Va., of Storer College, a Free Baptist institution located there, says:

Among the students are two young men brought direct from Africa to be educated as missionaries. One is the son of a king of a large tribe. He is a most earnest Christian, and, as he informed me, his great desire was, not to inherit his father's honors as a king, but had resigned his claim to his uncle, preferring to prepare himself for the ministry, so that he might go back to Africa and preach to his people. He speaks English quite well and is already able to take part in the religious meeting held there every week.

—THE FIRST Sunday in June is observed by many—the majority, perhaps—churches in the United States as Children's Day. All the services are in the interests of the children, and participated in by them, and in every way they are given to see the deep concern the Church of Christ has in their welfare. That the right observance of such a day must result in great good is beyond question. We wish a like custom was more general in our own country. The church that does not show a deep and constant interest in the children must become weaker and eventually die. And it ought to.

—HON. MR. GILLESPIE having, on account of his defeat in the late election, resigned his seat in the Executive of this Province the Government has determined not to fill the vacancy. When last year a vacancy occurred by the death of Dr. Vail it was not filled. The Executive is therefore reduced from nine to seven, and at this the Government intend to let it remain. This is a step in the right direction, and is in accord with the prevailing feeling throughout the country. We hope it may soon be determined to reduce the number of the Executive to five.

—THE FREE BAPTIST Foreign Mission Board is called to meet in Boston on Tuesday, May 25th. It is expected that the Board will, at the meeting, appoint one or more missionaries to the India field. Mrs. Bachelor and her daughter are expected to go in September, and possibly Miss Hooper will accompany them. We wish there was at least one young man to go at the same time. In a note from Dr. Phillips received this week, Dr. Phillips pleads again for reinforcements. He asks,—"Is there one man in all N. B. ready to go to India in September? We so need men."

There must, in some of our churches, be some whom the Lord is calling to this work. We know that some have been thinking of it. We trust that no one who hears the call of God will be guilty of disobedience.

—HERE is a word to pastors from the Free Baptist. We trust the pastors who are and those who ought to be interested in this paper may be helped by it:

How many of our pastors are looking after the interests of those who have lately come or are about to come into their churches by seeking to get them to take a religious paper? The Christian life depends much upon the kind and course of reading which the individual pursues. If the man or woman is kept familiar with the work of the church and the Christian enterprises of the day, they will be in sympathy with the earnest work called for. On the other hand, if they only read the secular press and keep posted in worldly matters they will in nine cases out of ten become largely disinterested in regard to Christian work and drift into a life that will be unsatisfactory. The pastor has great responsibility in this matter."

—TROUBLE in the Salvation Army is reported from England. A despatch says that a split has occurred, and that a separate movement is about to be started. All the particulars that have yet reached this side of the Atlantic say that meetings of the army are being held for the purpose of denouncing the alleged "despotism" of Gen. Booth. The rebellious movement is due to a long series of arbitrary acts, culminating in the dismissal of Commissioner Colbridge and Col. Day, two influential officers of the army, who now threaten to organize another army, hoping to deprive Booth of his followers. A circular has been issued by the leaders of the secession movement calling for a monster meeting to denounce Booth's "unchristian assumption." Booth will probably be called to account for his disposition of the enormous fund which has been raised by the army. The seceders will style themselves the "Rescue Mission."

—IN VIEW of the elections soon to be held in Nova Scotia, the Presbyterian Witness, of Halifax, gives good advice thus:

"Be careful to select pure, honest, sober, virtuous men as candidates. Both parties have enough such men to place before the electors. Do not set up a ruse, a debauch, however clever or cunning he may be. You do not need him, you can do very well without him.

Can you not dispense with partyism in the Local Legislature? Party lines are broken with respect to Temperance, Education, Agriculture, and nearly every matter of importance. You should vote for a sober and Christian Tory rather than for a drunken and vicious Tory.

Go beyond your own county if necessary to secure a first class candidate. There are some men available for our Assembly who should be elected, and whose services would be of value to the whole country. Seek out such men and send them along regardless of party lines. We need men of character, who will be above the mean arts of the petty demagogue.

Insist on temperance principles, and practice. Insist on a fair moral character in your candidates."

It is such advice as ought to be heeded by electors in every Province.

—THE QUESTION of ministerial support is deserving of more consideration than it receives. It is a question affecting the welfare of the church much more seriously than is thought. In a recent number of the Lutheran Quarterly it is exhaustively treated. The writer, who clearly appreciates the importance of the question, concludes by suggesting these ways of remedying existing wrongs:

1. The place which finance holds in Christ's kingdom, and the distinction between it and benevolence should be emphasized in seminaries, synods, conferences, pulpits and pastoral relation. We will want to get away from this idea of charity and benevolence, which has somehow insinuated itself into the matter of ministerial support. 2. More information, through our church organs and from the pulpit, touching the financial demands of a ministry well qualified and growing intellectually, should be given. 3. A common interest and righteous protection of sacred advantages should abolish candidating and underbidding. Concerted effort on the part of ministers should demand more adequate support. In some quarters, a judicious ministerial strike would be justifiable."

—MANY THOUGHTFUL men in the United States see serious danger ahead. The labour strikes and similar disturbances, together with the wild utterances of the socialistic leaders, are but manifestations of a spirit which is steadily growing stronger and more reckless and defiant, and which, unless it can be checked, promotes nothing but evil for the country. Prof. Ely, of the John Hopkins University, says: "I believe we are just beginning to enter on a terrible era in the world's history—an era of internal and domestic warfare such as has never been seen, and the end of which only the Almighty can foretell." Commenting on which the Christian Statesman says:

It is a growing conviction in the minds of the most careful observers, that our great republic is steadily drifting upon the rocks. One Ex-Congressman said to another recently, "I give the republic only twenty-five years to strike." The other replied, "That is five years longer than I give her." Dr. Turner of the Virginia State University says, "I give her only five years to strike at the rate we are drifting." Dr. Miller of St. Joseph, says, "The day is near at hand, when real estate in our large cities will not be worth five cents on the dollar."

—THE Messenger and Visitor speaks some wise words of counsel and caution concerning ordination to the ministry. There is no duty of greater importance devolving on the Church, and the utmost care should be taken to guard against mistakes and the consequent injury both to the persons ordained and to the Christian cause. We make a quotation from our contemporary because it applies to all denominations, our own not excepted:

There is often a strong pressure brought to bear to yield to other than the high considerations which alone should have place in a matter of such vital consequence. There may be a strong impression abroad in a church, for instance, that a brother desiring a license is not fitted to become an acceptable minister; but he has friends who will be grieved if any object, and he has feelings which may be injured, and for these and similar reasons, the pastor and the most judicious men in the church may act against their best judgment. But in a matter of such great importance, it is needful to say that there should be kindly and straightforward action, in the fear of God! The sacred interests of the Lord's work are at stake, and they must not be imperilled by regard for the feelings of any. However right and necessary such regard may be when no higher considerations have place, in this case the higher considerations have place and rule out the lower. There is a strong temptation to take the course which will be easiest, for the present, and consent to the ordination against the best judgment. It is necessary to say this ought not to be! The highest welfare of churches, the highest usefulness of the brother himself, perhaps, and the immortal soul interests are at stake. These are more than an offset to any temporary irritation in a church, or unpleasantness to a brother. Each brother should feel he has a solemn trust to discharge and should see to it that it is done with a single eye to God's glory and the good of men.

UNION.

On two or three occasions we have referred to the agitation in favour of the union of the Free Baptists and the body known as Christians, in the United States. In March there was held in Boston a Convention of ministers of both bodies who discussed the question of possible union in an informal way. The discussion resulted in an appointment of a joint committee of eighteen to meet in New York in May, to agree, if possible, upon a basis of union to present to the two bodies. The committee met on the 5th inst. The whole question was carefully canvassed. There were, of course, many differences of view, but the discussion was carried on in good spirit and with an evident desire to reach a conclusion that would most promote the welfare of the bodies concerned. The following is the platform agreed upon:

The Free Baptist and Christian churches perceiving their unity in the reception of the Holy Scriptures as given by inspiration of God and as the only rule of faith and conduct; and that Christian character, as attained in the exercise of saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, is the indispensable condition of admission to the ordinances of the Gospel and to the fellowship of the church; and recognizing one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is above all and through all and in all; deploring the evils of needless division; conceding the liberty of the several churches to retain or adopt such local names, covenants, forms and usages as they may desire, in due subordination to the precepts of God's word, do hereby propose to form a union, as follows:

1. In efforts to carry out the commission of our Divine Lord, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." 2. In efforts for the more effectual preaching of the Gospel at home in order to the promotion of piety among Christians and the conversion of sinners, regarding the Gospel to be the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.

3. In improving the condition of our Sunday-schools, in establishing new schools, and in taking measures to have the statistics of all these schools annually reported and published. 4. In endorsing and supporting the institutions of learning already existing in either body represented in this committee, and in founding such new ones as may be deemed expedient.

5. In the sustaining of such periodicals as are now published by both bodies, and in publishing a year book and religious quarterly or magazine by some person or persons in good standing in either denomination. 6. We recommend that such churches, conferences, quarterly meetings and other bodies as occupy closely connected territories unite, that ministers of each denomination form organizations for religious worship, Biblical research and mutual improvement; and that the weak churches and scattered families of the above named bodies be brought together as rapidly as practicable.

7. That independent churches in sympathy with this movement be advised to unite with some association already existing in either body, or to form themselves into new associations to be connected with one body or the other. 8. In entering this union neither the Free Baptists nor the Christians relinquish their name, doctrines, church polity, fellowship or principles of communion, but the rather emphasize whatever they have heretofore taught and do now consider Biblical, evangelical, charitable and true, each however observing that truth for itself without attempting to force it upon another, yet hoping that by fraternal association and mutual forbearance variations may vanish away and that both may be so assimilated in the spiritual church as to become one people in every particular, for which we will labor and pray.

This platform is to be presented to the two denominations; a committee has been appointed to devise ways for securing the ends proposed.

The committee, doubtless, did all that was possible. The reader of the agreement will see, however, that there is yet a long way to go before union can be accomplished. The brethren who have the matter in charge know, of course, the difficulties in the way of union, they also know best how to deal with and overcome them, and have, presumably, adopted the plan that will enable them most readily to reach the end desired.

In a former article we expressed the opinion that, according to our information, the difficulties between the two bodies are very trifling, and not of sufficient importance to keep them apart. We are still of that opinion. And yet we have noticed a disposition, especially on the part of the Christian brethren, to attach over-much importance to some things comparatively trifling. Our Free Baptist brethren may be making the same mistake, though we have not noticed so strong indications of it. The Christian brethren appear to be particularly tenacious of their name; and they have a strong objection to a statement of belief other than to say that they take the "Bible as the only rule of faith and conduct." The Free Baptists, in common with other Christian denominations, quite as cordially accept the Bible as the rule of faith and conduct, but, to promote real agreement and for the infor-

mation of their own people and the people generally, they put in the form of a brief "creed" their understanding of the teachings of the Scriptures in things essential to salvation and a godly life. This is regarded, by Christian denominations generally, as necessary to the avoidance of confusion and of hurtful disputes and divisions.

We will continue to hope that the union which seems so desirable, and which, we think, ought not to be difficult of accomplishment, may be furthered by the steps already taken.

THE FISHERIES QUESTION.

We confess to somewhat of a feeling of surprise at the attitude assumed by some of the leading papers, and some of the leading people of the United States on the fishery dispute. It is neither dignified nor expedient—undignified because not up to the status of so great a people's repute; inexpedient because Canadians are not the kind of people to suffer and submit simply because they are abused. Abuse is not argument, and tirades convince nobody. We are heartily sorry because of the present complications, but fail to see any grounds for alarm. States have rights just as individuals, and when rights are in dispute, both parties, if honest and intelligent, are anxious to have such fairly settled. It should be little trouble for the United States and Canada or Great Britain, as the case may be, to settle this question before bad feeling is engendered on either side. The United States, however, are confessedly responsible for the present hitch in affairs. Canada yielded to the request of President Cleveland and for six months allowed the American fishermen free access to our grounds, the presumption being that a commission would be appointed to discuss the question. This the Senate of the United States refused to do.

What then? Should Canada stand idly by and see treaties violated and rights invaded? Not so. The Canadian fisherman, whose life at least is toilsome and precarious, must have the same protection of law that other citizens have in other vocations. To that end a police patrol is put on, our waters are guarded and encroaching foreigners warned off. Could a State do anything less in fairness to itself? And yet, forsooth, because we have the courage to name our rights, and that in an honorable way, retaliation is talked of, and threats are indulged in. The crisis of the question in its first stage was reached the other day by the seizure of the "David J. Adams," at Digby. The case is a complicated one, as the vessel being an American one, and without a permit, had even in the eyes of the United States law a questionable right there to trade, and in the Canadian interpretation of the treaty of 1818 had no right there for the purpose she was, even though registered or licensed. This vessel, moreover, appeared ashamed of her name and ownership, and in the alleged act of hiding the same actually admitted her guilt in violating the law. We hope that this seizure will lead to the honorable and speedy settlement of the disputed matter. We want to live in peace and to have as free trade as possible with our great, prosperous neighbor to the south, but we do not ask for the peace which only a one-sided surrender can bring, nor the trade which is free in only one direction. It is in such cases as this that the cool-headed, honest-hearted statesman rises above the noisy and tricky demagogue, and with well-advised and honorable words, teaches a people to look for truth and not revenge.

The interest of both countries lies in peace, and that peace, while it should not be difficult to secure it, must be honorable to all concerned. Even they who essayed to treat with contempt the question of our fisheries' value, are now showing plainly two things, (1) the admission of such value, (2) the envy in which they are held by our neighbors. We congratulate the Government of Canada, and the Department of Marine and Fisheries, on the purpose to preserve our rights and on the wisdom and energy of their efforts in that direction.

SUNDRIES.—Mrs. Ada H. Kepley ran against her husband for school trustee at Effingham, Ill., and defeated him by twelve majority. ... There are in Europe 4,579,000 more women than men. ... French chemists know how to improve on nature. Not only can they concoct wine without grapes, but they export currant jelly without a particle of fruit in it. ... No respectable newspaper in London publishes a Sunday edition.

—In 1741 some Baptists applied to the county court at Newbern for permission to build a church. They were all publicly whipped and required to give bonds for their good behaviour. Now there are 200,000 Baptists in North Carolina, more than of all other denominations combined.

Denominational News.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

BRO COVE, Q. Co.—It is now some time since I have written of the cause of Christ in this place. Since I last wrote I have been very much encouraged in seeing something done for Christ. We held a series of meetings which lasted three weeks and resulted in strengthening the church (or a number at least), and in the conversion of seven persons who obeyed the Lord in the ordinance of baptism. Five of them united with the church and two others by letter. But after all that God has done for this place there is a number of those belonging to this church who are inactive. I have felt like doing something in reference to their case, but the brethren seem to be backward in doing their duty toward them. I have counseled them as opportunity has offered, and I feel that the church will not be what it might be until such things are made right. Bro. Nickerson was with us and rendered good service. I wish also to acknowledge the receipt of twelve dollars (\$12) collected by Sister Northrop towards purchasing a coat, for which I tender my heartfelt thanks. I desire the prayers of God's children.

May 10th, 1886.

O. N. MOTT.

MARYSVILLE, YORK Co.—The friends of Rev. J. E. Reud in Marysville presented him with \$70 a few days ago.

PERTH, V. Co.—Rev. B. Colpitts has been holding special meetings in Lower Perth, and his labours have been blessed. Four converts have been baptized.

WOODSTOCK.—Three persons were baptized on Sabbath, 9th inst.

REV. G. B. TRAFLET has been spending a couple of weeks in Greenwich and Holderville, K. Co. He went to Temperance Vale, York Co., to spend last Sabbath. A good work is going on in the last named place. Bro. T. is now in very good health.

FROM REV. T. O. DEWITT.—Although not able to preach, I am trying to do little chores in a helpful way. Occasionally I meet with the brethren and sisters, and God is present to bless us. Some of the kind friends have been moved by our Heavenly Father to aid me in this my time of need. One brother sent me a five dollar bill just at the right time; another, not a professor of religion, handed me a five; and a good sister, who was led by Divine promptings, sent me fifteen dollars just when I scarcely knew where to look for aid, although I was asking Him who holds the world in His hand. How true it is that He who feeds the ravens and clothes the grass is mindful of His children; all glory to His name for His loving kindness. I wish here to tender my sincere and heartfelt thanks to those dear friends who have so kindly helped a struggling servant of God.

There are a few who have been converted who will go forward and put on Christ soon in His blessed ordinance. The churches are holding on and doing well. The church at Tracy's Station has received two good coats of paint, and will get some other needed improvement. The Blissville church is being painted, and I hope will receive a thorough repairing which it has long needed; it has not come any too soon. The church at Patterson Settlement is not going to be behind in this matter; already they are talking business. The church is too small, and will have to be enlarged. The friends at the Mill Settlement worship in a school-house; they need a church; they are good, true and loyal. They purpose to build. Do not some of you feel like sending us a V to help in this good cause? I will receive and acknowledge in the INTELLIGENCER all you will send. Will not some, yes all the ministers take a collection and send it to us? Who will be the first. I am improving in health, but slowly.

T. O. DEWITT.

Hoyt Station, S. Co., May 11th.

FROM REV. J. N. BARNES.—As I have just closed my connection with the church at Fair Haven and Northern Harbour, it is proper for me to make a brief notice of my labour with them. I went there to labour in the fall of 1882, and found the little church in a very weak and scattered state; they had not, as they told me, had a meeting for six months; yet there were a few who loved the Lord and were praying and hoping for better days! The meeting-house at Northern Harbour was at that time unfinished, and we had no house at Fair Haven. We began holding some meetings in the old meeting-house at Fair Haven, and on the first of the new year we opened the new meeting-house at Northern Harbour, though it was not finished. The Lord was pleased to