

TERMS, NOTICES ETC.

THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER is published every Wednesday from the Printing Office of BARNES & CO., Prince William Street, Saint John, N. B.

Terms: \$2.00 a Year, in Advance.

New subscriptions can begin at any time of the year.

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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. Observation of this rule will prevent much copying and sometimes confusion and mistakes.

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Religious Intelligencer.

REV. JOSEPH McLEOD, EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1886.

—THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Free Baptist Board of Foreign Missions is to be held at Ocean Park, Old Orchard, Maine, on Tuesday, August 10th. Decision as to the number of missionaries to be sent to India this year, and the time of their departure will then be made.

—DR. PARKHURST says a single dollar may look large, but when spread over a year it is too thin to lie down upon and pray, "Thy kingdom come." And yet there are more than a few people who are pretending to pray for the advance of Christ's kingdom, whose contributions to the work are actually mean; they might as well be nothing they are so out of proportion with their ability to pay.

—A BAPTIST CHURCH in New York (the First German) has since its organization, forty years ago, furnished from its ranks twenty-two ministers. There are not many churches with such a record. Who can compute the good done by that church through the instrumentality of those whom it has been instrumental in bringing to Christ and then sending forth to preach His Gospel? Not till "the great day" can it be known.

—IT APPEARS that Evangelist Jones—"Sam" Jones he likes to be called, though a great many people question his wisdom and good taste in this matter—has not wholly abandoned the use of tobacco as was announced from Chicago during the meetings held by him there. He has only given up chewing tobacco, and continues to smoke cigars, and he smokes a great deal. He does several other things which it would be better if he did not do.

—THE EDITOR of the *Westeyan*—Rev. T. W. Smith—is not yet sufficiently recovered from his severe illness to resume his duties. The effects of the hard and faithful work he has been doing these late years are now being felt by him. He is likely to need a long rest before he can without danger undertake his work again. We trust he may come back again to his old strength and to the work he loves, a work for which he is so well fitted and in which he has been so successful.

—IN CHINA, which has been considered the most hopeless of fields for Christian work by the critics of missions, the progress made is most encouraging. Miss Gordon Cumming, the intelligent and entertaining traveler, says that Christianity is fast making its way in China, and of this the *Spectator* says: "Well it may, for there is no state of society of which we have ever read so like that of the later Roman Empire as that which prevails in China to-day. What will be the result of the introduction of an explosive and democratic force like Christianity into an ancient but decadent civilization such as China is to-day, no one can tell. It can hardly fail to be startling."

—ALLUDING to the increasing frequency of the appeal, by a certain class of preachers and others, to what they call "Christian consciousness," and to the tendency to make this the standard of duty and the test of truth, the *Baptist Weekly* says,—"Assuming this position, many find it convenient to make

their "intuitions" an infallible guide, utterly ignoring whatever conflicts with what they call their convictions, which are nothing more than their personal predictions. The folly and presumption of this position is manifest. Infallibility is not a human prerogative, and universal experience is in proof of the fact that mortal judgments are not to be trusted. The wisest men have learned to be suspicious of the suggestions of their own minds, and no greater danger threatens one in the search of truth than the temptations to make "Christian consciousness" an ultimate authority.

—GREAT is the prayer-book. That it contains beautiful things everybody knows who is acquainted with it. But that it does not teach all those who are most familiar with it, even the ministers of the Episcopal Church, to really pray is quite apparent. The "Confessions of an Episcopalian," recently published in one of the monthly periodicals, gives the following instance:

At the time of the Chicago fire our General Convention was in session in Baltimore. In the midst of the session one day, a delegate from Illinois rose to read the telegram which he had just received announcing that the city was in danger of utter destruction from the flames. Naturally, he moved that the convention interrupt its business and proceed to prayer. Unfortunately, however, there chanced to be no collect in the prayer-book for a burning city. What then could be done. Extemporize a prayer? Perish the thought that, in order to bring down help for a city wrapped in flames, the sacred order of the prayer-book should be disregarded! Still some prayer must be offered. So these assembled dignitaries, representing the combined wisdom of the church, went solemnly through the litany, which prays for well-nigh everything except a burning city; and then rose from their knees, feeling that, though Chicago might be burned to the ground, the majesty of the prayer-book had been duly honored.

—REV. C. F. PENNEY, D. D., has, we regret to learn, been compelled to resign the pastorate of the Free Baptist church in Augusta, Me. For two or three years he has been in poor health. A year ago he tendered his resignation; the Church would not accept it, but requested him to take a year's leave of absence in the hope that he would then be able to resume his duties. But he still felt unable to go on with the work and asked to be released, which request has been very reluctantly complied with by the church. For twenty-four years Bro. Penney has been pastor of the Augusta church—the only pastorate he ever had, we think,—and his success in it has been quite remarkable. The resolutions passed by the church on the acceptance of his resignation set forth the esteem in which he is held. They say that:

By his ability as a writer and a preacher he has won a high place in our esteem, and by his tender sympathy, untiring zeal, and self-sacrificing spirit, he had become greatly endeared to our hearts; "that in plans relating to educational and moral progress he is a wise counselor and a devoted helper and that he has rendered invaluable service, not only to the church and denomination in which he is a prominent member, but also in the city in which he has lived during his long and successful pastorate of twenty-four years;" and "that his illness alone makes it possible to entertain the thought of his resignation; we greatly deplore the fact that he is deprived of a full share in life's active work, to which he is looking with longing heart, and we extend to him our hearty sympathy and love, and offer the prayer that the bountiful Giver of every good and perfect gift may minister unto him in this time of his sore trial according to the riches of his grace."

What course he has marked out for himself we do not know, but we are sure that so long as he can do anything at all by voice or pen he will be doing loving and faithful service for Him in whom his soul delights. We will still hope, and, with the many who know and love him as a devoted lover and able minister of Jesus Christ, join in praying that he may be spared yet many years to set forth in his own happy and impressive way the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Our readers have read and enjoyed quite frequent articles from his pen, than which no more instructive and helpful writings have appeared in these columns. By them they have come to know and esteem him, and will deeply regret that the state of his health has necessitated his relinquishment of the charge in which his ministry was so abundantly blessed of God.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

NO. 3.

After three District Meetings in succession it seemed to us that a few days on Grand Manan would be a desirable change and relief. So we set our face that way, taking passage in the steamer "Flushing." The "Flushing" seems very well suited for the service in which she is employed, though we fear she is not profitable to her owners. We judge chiefly from the passengers and freight

she carried on the trips when we were on board. If there is not a much larger amount of freight and many more passengers through the greater part of the season we cannot see how she can make much money. The subsidies received from the Dominion and Provincial Governments, though they are liberal—\$4,000 from the Dominion and \$2,500 from the Province,—must be needed to enable her to run without serious loss. The present business depression is, of course, accountable for the small freights and also for the small passenger list, for people cannot very well spend time and money in recreation when trade is dull and profits small.

It is nearly five years since we were last on Grand Manan. There are signs of improvement since then. A number of new buildings have been erected at North Head in that time, though there is no building going on just now.

The full and careful descriptions of the island and its progress, commercially and religiously, in the last generation, which so recently appeared in our columns from the pen of Rev. A. Taylor make it unnecessary for us to write with any particularity of these things. Speaking of Bro. Taylor's articles we heard a gentleman on the island remark that he was surprised and greatly pleased with the general accuracy of the "Reminiscences." He said Bro. T. must have a wonderful memory of events, for he had stated them, in the main, in their order and with extraordinary correctness. They were history, he said, and he had put them into his scrap-book of important records.

It was an unexpected pleasure to have as fellow-traveller from St. John Rev. H. H. Cosman, pastor of North Head church. He had been on exchange with Rev. J. N. Barnes of Campbell, and thence had gone to St. John on business. His presence added to the agreeableness of the trip.

We had hoped to be able to spend a day with Bro. Barnes on Campbell, but pressing engagements prevented. We got no nearer view of him than from the steamer's deck as we passed the island. He stood on a rocky elevation near his home, and we exchanged hat-wavings. To be nearer and enjoy, as at other times, Christian converse with him would have been a great pleasure; but it could not be. We were glad to hear that he is enjoying his work, and is being much blessed in it.

Long before Grand Manan was reached great clouds of smoke were seen rising above it. On inquiry we were told that for three or four weeks forest fires had been burning; judging by the smoke they were increasing rapidly in fierceness and extent. Sailing along the north end of the island the smoke was very dense and hot and cinders fell on the decks of the steamer. It was very gloomy, and the steamer's officers and passengers did not know what they might expect to hear of the fire's destructiveness on arrival. The dry weather had contributed so long that everything seemed to invite the fire, and a slight charge of the wind at any time towards the settled portions of the island was likely to cause the destruction of many homes and more suffering than one that there can well imagine. Fortunately the wind had not blown towards the homes of the people, and except two or three buildings in a remote place in line of the fire the destruction was confined exclusively to the forest and such timber and wood as had been cut and was awaiting hauling. The fire extended nearly the whole length of the island, and the loss caused by it is estimated at several thousand dollars, perhaps \$10,000 or \$15,000, and some think even more. On Thursday, 15th inst., the second day after our arrival, there came rain. Nothing could have been more welcome; everybody felt grateful. It checked the fire and cheered the hearts of the people who had begun to feel quite depressed and alarmed.

The visitors this season have been fewer than usual. The hotel keepers feel this. Perhaps August may have better things in store for them. We hope so.

Not many fish have been taken this season until recently. Just now there are some very good catches. Sales are slow, and the fishermen are feeling the pinchings of hard times. We interviewed several about the Fisheries' question. In every case we found the feeling to be strongly in favour of the protection of the rights of Canadian fishermen. Even though at first they may find it a little hard they say "it is our only salvation, and we want our interests protected strongly and thoroughly." They have, they say, nothing to fear if the treaty provisions are rigidly enforced. As to the bait question they say if the Yankee fishermen should be permitted to get bait the whole matter is lost. While they desire reciprocity, which will open the markets of the United States for their fish, they say that failing such reciprocity they are all right if the protection of their fisheries is kept up. Without

reciprocity it would require a little more time to adjust matters, but in the long run they claim they would be quite as well off, finding just as ready and profitable sale for their fish, as with free United States markets, if the protection is carefully and rigidly enforced. And they feel sure that the protection they need can and will be continued as long as necessary. About the time we left they were expecting a visit from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries. There is a very general feeling of strong confidence in the Minister, that he knows his duty and will faithfully perform it.

We enjoyed a drive down the island, visiting the light-house at Southern Head, kept by Mr. W. B. McLaughlin, and that at Grand Harbour kept by Mr. Mark Daggett. At both these our visit was made very pleasant. At the latter we were glad to see and respond to the invitation of the lad—Master Daggett—who a few weeks ago contributed a puzzle to the INTELLIGENCER'S Puzzle Department, which, when solved, was an invitation to the editor to visit that Light this summer. We are glad so many boys and girls are taking an interest in the puzzles, and hope the number will be increased. The work will do them good.

As already mentioned, Rev. H. H. Cosman is pastor of the church at North Head. He has been on the island nearly three years, two years having been spent in labour with the churches at Seal Cove and Grand Harbour. The present year he is pastor of North Head only. He has done good work, and the church has prospered under his ministry and faithful and judicious pastoral care. He is highly esteemed by the people both for his genial qualities and "for his work's sake."

Another minister is much needed on the island. Bro. C. cannot give attention to much more than his present charge. Castalia might, we think, very properly and profitably be included in a circuit with North Head. Even now Bro. C. gives it some care. But there are Woodward's Cove, Grand Harbour and Seal Cove without a pastor; and they are suffering in consequence. Nearly all the people on the island are either members of Free Baptist churches or in sympathy with the denomination. It is more than a pity that so large a portion of the island is without ministerial care. For an industrious, judicious and devoted young man there is a good field in the places mentioned, and opportunity to do much good. The churches and the denomination's interest generally in these places are suffering and will be seriously injured if a pastor is not soon had. We hope some one will soon be found to take charge of the work.

The island is well provided with doctors, three—Drs. Noyes, Deacon and Cameron—caring for the health of the people. In so healthy a place one wonders how they find enough to do; yet they all seem to be busy and prospering. One newspaper—the *Island Press*—supplies the journalistic demand. Mr. Spinner, the editor and proprietor, whom we were glad to meet while enjoying the work, is inclined to think the field is not quite large enough to satisfy the ambition, and in this we quite agree with him.

To the friends, old and new, whom we met we are indebted for kind attentions. Especially are we under obligation to Bro. Cosman and wife, the hospitality of whose good home we enjoyed, and whose kindness in every way was very great. We trust the Lord who has so much blessed them in their Christian work will make increasingly a blessing to those amongst whom their lot is cast.

PULPIT COURTESY.

The favorable or unfavorable effect of the manner of a preacher while in the pulpit can hardly be overestimated. It is a trying ordeal for a man to pass who is thus placed under the eyes of hundreds of persons. And yet it is of the utmost importance that his entire deportment be of an unobjectionable character. He ought not to be boorish and heady so as to offend, nor should his gentlemanliness degenerate into sycophantry. The minister ought to go to the pulpit conscious that he is there under the appointment of Christ to direct the worship of God's people, and to secure the salvation of souls. As such he is the leader of the hosts of the Lord. The *New York Evangelist* has a case in mind on which it gives this comment:

Among the minor infelicities of the pulpit is the habit of some ministers to say, when they give out the hymn, "Sing, if you please." Well, suppose they "don't please"? Is it meant that it is left to the option of the choir whether they sing or not? Or is it necessary to request them politely to do what they are appointed to do, and in many cases liberally paid for doing? As well might a pastor, when he conducts a prayer-meeting, rise and say, "Brother Smith, will you pray, if you please?" The absurdity of the expression is apparent. Or he might

say, in his excess of modesty, "Now, if you please, I will say a few words," or "I will offer prayer." Such phrases, of courtesy, while proper in the intercourse of society, have no place in an act so solemn as religious worship. A minister is not in the sacred desk to exchange pleasant words with his congregation, but to lead them in adoration and praise and prayer. As a leader, he has a right to assume a tone of authority, or at least of direction. What should we think of a general who should present himself to his soldiers and call aloud with a trumpet voice, "Shoulder arms, if you please?" The minister, when he rises in the pulpit, is a leader and a commander of the people. He is to direct them, and not to request them, to celebrate the praises of the Lord. Let him not belittle the dignity of his office by introducing phrases which belong merely to social etiquette into the worship of almighty God.

WHY THIS WASTE?

In a single year the American people spend thirty or fifty times as much on fermented and distilled liquors—thirty times as much annually for running men!—as the gifts of seventy-five years for saving men! Taking the work of the American Board as a sample, the income of the liquor traffic for a single year would have planted 20,000 churches, gathered a membership of more than a million, with not less than three millions of attendants upon the worship of God. During the three-quarters of a century of the American Board's operations, the immense war debts of Christian nations have been contracted. These amount, at present, to four billion dollars for England, the same amount for France, an equal sum for the remainder of Europe, and nearly three billion dollars for the United States; a total of fifteen billion dollars. It is a liberal estimate to say that all Continental and American Foreign Missionary Societies have expended three hundred million dollars since the present century opened. During that time, nominally Christian nations have spent fifty times as much in cutting each other's throats as in saving their fellowmen. Had we spent for Bibles what we have for powder and lead, we might have planted tens of thousands of churches, gathered thirty-five million of communicants, and Christianized a hundred million of souls. Such a policy would have made Asia as Christian as is New England. The facts are simply overwhelming. Our cheeks should mantle with shame. We cannot press the work too closely and eagerly; for the missionary policy is the most economical for the peace of the nations. Nor will anything but the Gospel of Jesus Christ ever dissipate the standing armies of the world, and seal the sword forever in the scabbard. Here at home, too, the conflict widens and deepens. Class is arrayed against class, labor mutters against capital, the poor grind their teeth against the rich; and only as the Son of man lays his pierced hands on all hearts, can the threatening storm pass away and the heavens become radiant with eternal peace and joy.—*Dr. Behren.*

Denominational News.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

PRINCE WILLIAM, YORK CO.—Perhaps a few notes from this place would be interesting to some of your many readers. Although I have nothing very special to write, yet, I think, we should not always wait for this in reporting to our denominational organ. If more of our churches would report oftener and more regularly it would, I think, tend to help and encourage the churches all along the line. It also helps the editor in the work he has to do. Sometimes it is the duty of the pastor to report the work; if not some member of the church should take enough interest in it to do so. If each church would report quarterly or even every six months, our denominational column would be well supplied with news. We all know that it is an interesting and eagerly read column. Let us then do our part in this matter.

Last spring when Rev. J. E. Reid, our former pastor, resigned this part of his circuit we were left without a minister. Soon after Rev. A. H. Trafton paid us a visit which has resulted since in engaging him for half of his time until Conference. The Queensbury church talk of engaging him for a part of his time also. Our church is in as good working order as it has been for several years past. The Conference and Social Meetings are seasons of comfort and encouragement, while the preaching services are well attended and, I trust, profitable to all. Our Sunday-school is in a flourishing condition. The interest is good and the attendance increasing. The superintendent, Bro. Thos. Slipp, together with active officers and teachers, make it a very live and interesting school. It has been gaining for several years until it is now a very nice country school. The average attendance is about forty-five. J. R. V.

NOVA SCOTIA.

FROM LICENTIATE MORTON.—I take this opportunity of letting my friends know, through the columns of the INTELLIGENCER, my whereabouts. On Friday, June 18th, I left St. John by steamer "Secret" en route to Caledonia. At Annapolis I was agreeably surprised to meet Bro. Kinney

and family, and we journeyed through to Caledonia together; a very pleasant trip. Attended Quarterly Meeting, and it was good to be there. The first Sunday I was in Queens, I preached at Westfield in the afternoon. I was also appointed by Quarterly Meeting to preach there the following Sunday. I saw the place had been neglected; there was preaching there only once a month by the Baptists, and I felt that there was some work to do. I went there on Tuesday, June 29th, and held a series of meetings, holding seventeen meetings in twelve days. The result was fifteen backsliders reclaimed and fourteen converted; the meetings were good all through. Bro. Kinney came on Sunday, July 4th, and administered the rite of baptism to seven converts—five brothers and two sisters—and added them all to the church; on Sunday, July 11th, he baptized three more and added them to the church; afterward we all sat down to the Lord's Supper and had a very refreshing time. The Lord has wonderfully blessed my labors here and to Him I give all the glory. I am enjoying good health and spirits and love the work. I am still at Westfield but expect to go to Martin's Settlement the first of next week, and from there wherever the Lord leads me. J. E. MORTON.

FROM REV. A. KINNEY.—Last winter I received an invitation from the kind friends of Caledonia to come there with my family and spend a month in the summer. After resigning the pastorate of the church in Halifax and leaving it in the care of the Rev. James Boyd, and making a visit of a few weeks at Canning, I came here with my family. At Annapolis we met Bro. Morton, just from the Union Seminary, St. John, who added to our company and made the round number of ten, who, with the other passengers, required two teams to bring over the country forty miles to Caledonia. At Caledonia we found the large house and still larger hearts of Bro. J. E. Cushing and his noble, Christian wife waiting to receive us. One of the children asked: "Mamma, is this the Caledonia house?" And well it may be called the Caledonia house, for our whole company found ample quarters not only for the night but for many days and nights. But this is not the only house in which we have been enjoying hospitality, but upon the hill at Samuel Cushing's, where four generations dwell peacefully together, and at Charles Cushing's, near the parsonage, and at Deacon Cole's and Deacon Middlemost's and Bro. Selden's and Bro. Kempton's and others too numerous to mention, where so many tokens of kindness were given us and family how quickly the weeks have passed. The children have had a joyful time, what with berries and fishing and birds and squirrels and rabbits and partridges and many new and delightful objects, they have been kept in ecstasies all the time. Then the committee asked me to occupy this comfortable and convenient parsonage and settle down among them, taking the care of the church. But I had determined not to engage with any church, but to go about among the churches or destitute places as a home missionary or evangelist; but I decided at last to spend six months of the year on this pastorate, should the other churches wish, and the remaining six months to carry out my long cherished object of evangelizing. We are now settled in the parsonage, and a beautiful home we find it. The people have been unbounded in their kindness, bringing to us so many useful things that we are kept well in stock.

Bro. Francis, who is preparing for India, is here and is engaged to labor on this pastorate until school opens again. He will likely attend the Conference and get better acquainted with the representatives of the denomination. The more he labors among the churches and the farther he goes in preparation for the work of Foreign Missions, the more earnest and anxious he is to go. He is likely the more to go that so many prayers have been made to God to send a man from our own Nova Scotia to India; and my prayer is that Nova Scotia will not be far behind my own native Province, New Brunswick, in supplying laborers for that great work.

I am now ready to consider invitations for revival services, as I am to go wherever and whenever it may seem duty. A. KINNEY.

YARMOUTH, N. S.—A strawberry festival on the 6th inst., netted \$80, which was applied to vestry and church improvements. The audience room has been improved by tinting and papering.

TUSKET, N. S.—The Tusket vestry has been repaired and made pleasant and comfortable, mainly through the work of Deacon Asa Robbins and the sisters. The Deacon is apparently as young as ever and no less enterprising.