

TERMS, NOTICES, ETC.

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Payment of subscriptions may be made to any Free Baptist minister in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and to any of our authorized agents as named in another column, as well as to the proprietor at Fredericton.

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

All communications, etc., should be addressed RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER, Box 373, Fredericton, N. B.

Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1887.

—AGENT GENERAL. Mr. Ira Cornwall having retired from the position of Agent General of New Brunswick in London, Mr. Jas. I. Fellows, formerly of St. John, has been appointed in his stead. Mr. Cornwall discharged his duties well, and did good service for the Province. In the choice of Mr. Fellows to succeed him the N. B. Government has done wisely.

—NEWS OF THE CHURCHES. We hope the ministers and other brethren will keep us well supplied with news of the Churches and the Christian work done. Brief and frequent reports of what is being done and of blessings received are what we want. Such reports are always read with interest; and they do good. Send them along.

—THE BASIS. Several inquiries have been made about the Basis of Union. We may say that it was intended to have published it before now, but the sub-committee to whom was entrusted the duty of putting it in form for publication were unable to meet till a few days ago. Their work is now going on, and the Basis will probably appear in about a month.

—KEEP AT IT. Thanking all who have helped to increase the number of the INTELLIGENCER readers, we hope he work of getting new names will still go on.

There is room for many more. There are hundreds in the churches who ought to have the paper. Get them if possible; at least, make the effort. To every one who sends us six new names \$9.00, we will give the paper one year.

—BY PROVINCES. It has been suggested that the Dominion Parliament might pass a law authorizing any Province that wishes, to pass a Prohibitory Law. Why not? Under the C. T. Act any county or town can declare for prohibition, and many have done it. Now, why not go a step further and give the Provinces the right now accorded to counties? It would be a long step towards the prohibition for the whole country which temperance men aim to secure. Several Provinces would, doubtless, fall quickly in line. New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island could be counted on to carry prohibition at once, and perhaps Ontario and Manitoba would not be far behind.

—A NEEDED REBUKE. The Southern Advocate administers a needed rebuke to those evangelists and preachers who seem to take special pleasure in letting the public know what awful sinners they were before conversion. Who has not heard them, and been pained by the evident satisfaction they have in describing in detail, and probably with no little exaggeration, the number and nature of the sins they committed? They talk glibly about their lives of profanity, intemperance and impurity, and with so little evidence of shame, that, instead of magnifying the grace of God displayed in their salvation, we are almost tempted to doubt whether they have been saved at all. The truly converted man cannot think of the dark record of his ungodly and sinful life without experiencing deep sorrow and contrition. Any reference to it is intensely mortifying, and fills him with shame.

—THE MISSION TREASURY. In another column the Treasurer of the Foreign Mission Society calls the attention of the churches to the need of friends to make the first remittance to the missionaries who sailed in October. In every church in the denomination one Sabbath this month is expected to be devoted especially to the Mission Cause. The Conference passed a resolution recommending and requesting this, and we presume the churches will gladly comply. If they do, there will be an abundance of funds. Do not neglect nor delay this matter, brethren. The Treasurer will acknowledge all receipts in the INTELLIGENCER. Send generously and quickly. It is the Lord's work. He honours us in calling us to participation in it. Let us be sure to do our part well.

—A COMMENDATION. A gentleman, thoroughly conversant with the Fisheries question, writes:

I like your remarks, in a recent number, on the President's message. You stated the truth briefly but well. Please watch and make a note of all important points in this great question, and do not forget to pray and ask ministers and Christians generally to pray that the statesmen of these great and kindred nations may have the "wisdom which is from above, pure, peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, full of mercy, without partiality and without hypocrisy." With two great nations praying for a just settlement, there need be no fears about the result.

We are glad to have the views we have expressed commended by one whose endorsement in this matter is worth a good deal. His suggestions are excellent, those of a Christian. We are sorry, though, that just now one of the parties to the dispute seems more disposed to indulge in blustering and threats than to seek a just settlement.

—TEACH THEM TO SING. Full ninety-five per cent of children can learn to sing. All they need is the encouragement and the teaching. The Evangelist strongly urges the duty of their training, saying,—"Music has been implanted in the soul as a germ by the Creator, and that germ should be developed. Where? In the family, of course, where it would lighten household cares and sweeten household life; but especially in the public schools, where it should be developed as a necessary part of the course of study, from the beginning of the pupil's career to the close. Its kindly influence on the minds and hearts of children is beyond dispute, tending to prevent truancy, and giving a relish to all the school-work. It also prepares the pupils to be singing citizens, giving them a higher value for the Church in its service of song, and for society in its various calls for vocal pleasures. No question of expense should retard the reform which would make all our public schools nurseries of this delightful art for the children's sake and the nation's sake. Congregational singing-schools ought also to be widely resumed, to give a higher tone to church-music."

—HAD TO RESIGN. It is told of a western minister that he resigned his charge after two or three years' trial, giving as the reason for his resignation that he desired to be pastor of a church and thought he could be, but that he could not and would not try to be manager of a circus. Whether the story as told is all true or only part true, it serves to illustrate and condemn the rage for amusements that prevails in too many churches. There is an idea abroad that it is part of the work of the Church to provide entertainment for the young, entertainments that will draw and interest the lovers of pleasure. It is a most pernicious notion, and is doing a deal of harm. The popularity that is secured by questionable performances is a curse rather than a blessing. It is the business of the Church to preach Christ, to look after the erring, to nurture the weak, to edify believers, not to pander to the whims and tastes of the godless.

There are entertainments—musical, intellectual, moral—which are perfectly proper for a church to have, but they are not nearly so popular with a certain class as the "circus" kind which caused the resignation of the good pastor.

TIMES OF REFRESHING.

In the news of the churches as furnished by the religious papers of the United States, we learn that many places are enjoying times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. The same is true of many places in the upper provinces. There may be like work going on in the Maritime Provinces; there is to some extent, but we fear it is not so general as elsewhere, or if it is it is not so well reported. Reports of revival have an

excellent effect, when properly made. They gladden the hearts of the faithful who constantly pray "Thy kingdom come," they encourage and stimulate to greater efforts the pastors and other Christian workers who may be getting discouraged, and they convict luke-warm and careless professors. Those who are engaged in revival work ought to furnish frequent reports of the Lord's doings, to the praise of Him whose saving power is manifested and for the help of others.

From the absence of numerous reports we infer that revivals are not so general as is desirable. Here and there a church may be enjoying quickening and souls may be being converted. But hundreds of churches are going along in a hum-drum way, its services scarcely more than mere religious routine, and making no positive, earnest effort to win the unconverted to Christ. All these need a time of refreshing; they need it now. Who does not desire the spiritual quickening of the whole church and its equipment for efficient work? None who have experience of the blessings of God's grace, who understand God's gracious design concerning the world lost in sin, who know the real state of the church and the many and subtle influences that hinder its work, who see that the love of many has become cold, who desire and pray for the universal reign of Christ, can be without deep and earnest longing for times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

God will be inquired of by His people. He is not afar off, but nigh, and ready to reveal himself in great power to them who call upon Him in truth. He waits and is anxious to bless when his people turn their hearts towards Him in faith, and in faithfulness do his whole will.

Why may not this year be one of great things in the history of the whole church in our country? There is no reason, except the failure of the Lord's people to appropriate what He offers and, in the strength He gives, to do the work to which He calls them. No opposition the world can offer, no wiles of the devil, nothing can hinder the progress of the church of God, if faithful. They may make the way difficult, but grace to the faithful will be according to the difficulties and will assure triumph over them.

The considerations that should move all Christians to seek, by prayer and consecrated effort, times of refreshing, may be set forth in this order:

There are many in the church who while they have a name to live are dead as to spiritual life. Many are luke-warm. Many have an altogether mistaken and, to them and others, harmful idea of what the Christian life involves. They regard it a mere profession and the observance of certain forms, instead of a blessed life, a daily walking with God. Many have a limited idea of what the Lord can do for believers. They think they must be satisfied with occasional spiritual impulses, spending most of the time in a state of uncertainty and severe struggle; they have not learned the truth about the fullness of blessing which may be the precious and satisfying experience of every disciple.

The Lord's demands on His church for aggressive work are great. The church is to go to the remotest places of the world with the news of salvation. The work near home, too, in benevolent undertakings, the care of poor and sick and outcasts, needs earnest and constant attention.

These demands cannot be adequately met unless the church is fully alive to its responsibility; and the responsibility is never rightly understood by the church except when it is in enjoyment of satisfying spiritual blessings. The difficulty of supporting aggressive work, both at home and abroad, is in proportion to the lack of true spiritual life. When the church of God is indwelt of the Holy Spirit there will be no lack.

The subtle influences of unbelief are constantly at work. They take advantage of the fact that there is so much that is only form and name, and so little that is life-full and practical in the church. They can be counteracted only by the thorough quickening of the church. The unconverted are all about us. They sit in the churches on the Sabbath, they live in the homes of Christians, they mingle with, and do business with Christians every day; but they feel little or none of the power which they have been told belongs to the Christian life. These all should be impressed and won. It is the church's duty to do it.

Every consideration urges the importance of times of refreshing. These are loud calls to action. Let us awaken out of sleep. The time to favour is come; it is always at hand. And does not change; He is always ready to bless. Bring ye all the like and offerings, and prove me,

and see if I will not pour out a blessing, is what God is saying to His people.

O, that everywhere the people may draw near to the Lord and seek the baptism of power. Then the pleasure of the Lord will surely prosper, and there will be a great ingathering of souls.

THE WEEK.

In Canada the absorbing topic just now is the general election. Fortunately the time to be given to it is short; in less than a month it will be over. Politicians predict that it will be a fierce fight, in which each party will do its best to win. If they would only agree to do their best it would be well; but the fear is that they will do their worst, and their worst, is very bad.

The United States is determined to act the bully towards Canada. We are sorry to have to say it, but it is a fact that the attitude our neighbour is wont to assume when questions which concern it are in dispute, is very undignified and wholly unworthy a nation of such vast extent and importance, and of vaster pretensions. Shrewd and enterprising, rich and strong, great in many respects, yet it has not got beyond the smallness and weakness of getting mad, and storming and threatening like a bad-tempered boy when it cannot have its own way, even when that way is manifestly unfair and dishonest.

It is now proposed to inaugurate a retaliatory policy against Canada simply because this country does not throw open its fisheries to Yankee fishermen. A bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives which provides that Canadian vessels shall be denied in United States ports the privileges accorded by all nations to vessels of all nations. The prohibition is intended also to prevent the entrance by land carriage in to the United States of all merchandise coming from Canada. An outline of the proposed retaliatory measure will be found on the eighth page. It is a piece of bull-doing on a large scale. Perhaps the promoters think they will force Canada into compliance with their greedy desires concerning our fisheries. But they are mistaken. Canada is younger and weaker than the United States, but we do not believe it can be successfully bullied. The course pursued by Canada is the only one open to it if it would protect its own interests and preserve its self-respect: it was forced upon it by the selfish obstinacy of the United States; it has the approval of all thinking men whose minds are unbiased by selfish or sectional feelings; and it has received the full approval of the Crown. Further developments in the bullying policy will be awaited with interest.

In Ireland the rent agitation continues, and there is serious trouble. Evictions are attended with much danger. There, certainly, must be a better way to deal with Irish affairs.

The European situation continues to have a warlike look. Some of the powers have assumed a decidedly belligerent attitude, and are making preparations for a possible big fight. Austria is hurrying preparations as though the struggle were very near. Russia is as pugnacious as usual, always not only ready, but seeking a quarrel with some power. France waits to get a chance at Germany, and will never be quite happy till it has such a chance. It is possible it will not be happy afterward. Germany is in the midst of an election. Bismarck will by some means carry out his purpose to increase the already immense army and also lengthen the time of apprenticeship of the military reserves.

A Word from the Treasurer.

The time is at hand when a remittance should go forward to India—the first quarter's salary of Brother and Sister Boyer. But at present there is not sufficient funds on hand to purchase a draft. It is presumed that very soon there will be something coming in from the proposed missionary meetings, to be held in all the churches throughout the denomination during this month. It is to be hoped there will be no delay. We have sent our brother and sister to a land of strangers, to do difficult work. We must not let them suffer now that they are there. God, in answer to our prayers, sent them to us. We have accepted them as our charge. Every one that has had brought to them the gospel message, and through it been born of God, should feel it a pleasure to contribute something for the missionaries support, while they are laboring for the salvation of the benighted heathen, and thus enabling us to do some little towards obeying the Lord's command to go preach his gospel. Shall not we, who have so "freely received," with grateful hearts "freely give," and

thereby aid in bringing about the answer to our prayer, "Thy kingdom Come."

Let all the friends of the mission, and of our Brother and Sister Boyer, quickly respond.

WILLIAM PETERS,
Treas. for Miss. Soc.

THINGS ABOUT TOWN.

—One of the city's long time rum-sellers (Russell) has taken his departure. Good riddance. He has gone west, where he will not be worried by the C. T. Act. His case is a gratifying demonstration of the fact that the law has the power to make rum-selling an unprofitable and uncomfortable business. For a long time many citizens seemed to believe that nothing could be done with him, that he would sell in spite of everything. They know better now, and what has been done in his case and with many others can be done with every fellow, however high he may try to carry his head, who violates the law. Nothing cures them so quickly as a couple of months in jail. Let them have it, if they will violate the law. They will get it.

—A Memorial Fountain is to be placed in the Post Office Square next summer. It is proposed to have it completed by the 20th June, in honor of the Queen's Jubilee. What with Lady Tilley's proposed hospital and the fountain and the other celebrations that will doubtless take place at the time, this city will fittingly honour the completion of Her Majesty's half-century of beneficent reign.

—Civic taxation is engaging some attention just now; and very properly, too. A committee of citizens have the matter in charge, and are agitating for a change in the modes of assessment. The feature of the existing assessment law chiefly objected to is the excessive rate levied on income. As the *Gleaner* puts it, "Between the Fredericton assessment law and every other assessment law in the world, so far as anybody has been able to discover, this great difference exists, that whereas in all other laws real property, personal property and income, where all are taxed, are taxed equally, in Fredericton income pays five times as great a proportion as other property. \$1 of income pays as much taxes in Fredericton as \$5 invested in a house or in a horse, but in every other place that anybody knows anything about, where income is taxed at all, it is taxed at precisely the same rate as other property." It is proposed to remedy this injustice. It certainly ought to be done.

Correspondence.

OUR PHILADELPHIA LETTER.

Our Sabbath School had a great festival New Year's day and evening. At 2½ P. M. about 350 scholars belonging to the infant department assembled in the audience room of the Hall. It was a very fine sight to see so many young children assembled in one place, ranging from four to eight years of age. I was struck forcibly with their healthy, neat, and cleanly appearance, all were well dressed and a few elegantly. The exercises were opened by a voluntary from the choir, which was rendered in a very effective manner; indeed all the music of this church is very finely executed. Our good Bros. C. P. Risteen and A. E. Stockwell take every possible pains to make the singing of a high order, and they succeed most admirably. After the opening, then followed recitation, solos, and speeches. After these exercises came the annual treat which consisted of a 1½ box of best candy, a 1½ box of figs, one large orange and two Bananas to each scholar, which was highly appreciated by all I assure you. They were then dismissed. At 7½ P. M. the intermediate and senior classes assembled in the down room. I never saw a more intelligent, healthy and respectable looking assemblage of young people. There were about 400 present. After singing by the choir, the Brass Band, engaged for the evening, discourse sweet music, to the delight of all present. Many beautiful recitations were very impressively rendered by the different speakers, a few were exhibitions of rare selections, showing much ability and very careful training. Most of the perfection in this direction is owing to the painstaking of our good "Limb of the Law," Bro. A. E. Stockwell Esq. The services were directed by the efficient Superintendent, Bro. Louis Risteen. This Good Bro. has filled this important position from the start. Under his leadership the school has grown from 20 scholars to 1000 in a little over five years. This alone shows his efficiency and ability to lead. Several interesting speeches were made by the acting

was given the annual treat, which consisted of the same articles as given to the infant department. All then dispersed to their homes feeling that they had indeed had a happy New Year. This festival cost about \$150 all which was cheerfully paid by the interested parties, and they feel it was money well spent. Another attractive feature of this school is, that in addition to the usual books and papers distributed every Sabbath, each scholar is made a present of a small and beautiful Chromo. The Bros. Risteen being engaged in the manufacture of these, they always furnish them gratis to the teachers for the classes. In this way they secure a large attendance. Undoubtedly a few come, as many followed Jesus in the days of his flesh, for the "loaves and fishes." Most of them possess genuine and hearty attachment to the school. In many cases they come long distances, through all kinds of weather, and many are present each Sabbath as regularly as the Sabbath comes. The future hope of this church is in its nursery, the large Sabbath School. With such a constituency a rapidly ripening field lies before them. The only drawback, that I see, is the scarcity of real, earnest, spiritual reapers, to go in and reap those fields of golden grain. In the past, much of the results of their sowing and cultivating has been reaped by others, from the fact that this was only a Mission and not a church. Feeling the force of this they have recently become an organized and regularly chartered Church; known as "The First Independent Church of Philadelphia (un-denominational)." The following are some of the principal rules and practices of this Church, (viz.) We baptize by immersion, only, but receive as members in full and regular standing all who have been otherwise baptized or sprinkled who are satisfied with the same. The communion is free to all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who are endeavoring to live for his glory. We formally, publicly, consecrate Children, but do not Christen them. This is done to solemnly impress upon the parents the duty of training the child for God and heaven. Thus the way is prepared for the child, when grown to suitable age and having obtained proper experience, to the baptized upon the profession of his faith. We recognize as Christians all persons who have been saved from the thralldom of sin by the saving grace of God. We believe this to be obtained, only by repentance toward God and faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ and the being born again by the transforming power of the Holy Ghost. We recognize this as embodying all that is essential to salvation. We put no restrictions upon human faith and conscience other than strict conformity to the word and spirit of God. There is permitted with us the fullest individuality of private opinion on non-essential subjects. This of course is a new departure in the way of Church organization and has yet to demonstrate its wisdom and utility—time will tell. I have been solicited to take the pastoral care of the church without any reference to my denominational standing as a Free Baptist, and could do so without sacrificing any vital or conscientious principle. But I have not yet decided to do so. Its financial position is fully insured by the wealth and generosity of the Bros. Risteen and others associated with them. But the fifteen hundred dollar salary per year would be no inducement to me if I were not convinced that the Lord wants me here. This I am endeavoring as clearly and quickly as possible to ascertain. My Elders assure me that they know that I am "the right man in the right place," but I want to be fully persuaded in my own mind. Life is too short and important to deliberately make mistakes as to how and where one should work for the master.

WM. DOWNEY.

OTTAWA LETTER.

Unlike our genial friend, Bro. Erb, who leisurely strolls around, sweltering in the sunny south, clad, I presume, in fine linen, we have to muffle up to the ears, and muffle them up too, and strike a lively gait while out, or freeze stiff. Last Sunday morning the mercury dropped thirty-five below zero, and, with the wind north-west, I could not but think of Franklin and his bold crew. So you may conclude that Bro. Erb and "this unworthy dust" are not "lukewarm." But how a man can take on flesh in a climate so hot is a puzzle to me. If we knew what he eats and drinks it might be different. But I am glad he's so well, and hope he may keep well, and get even better. Although so far apart we are alike in our anxiety about news of the proposed union—that consummation devoutly to be wished for, provided it can be arranged so as to run without too much