

## TERMS, NOTICES, ETC.

The RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER is issued every Wednesday, from the office of publication, York St., Fredericton.

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

All communications, etc., should be addressed RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER, Box 375, Fredericton, N. B.

## Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1889.

"It matters not how long we live, but how."

—Do to-day's work well, and you will be prepared for to-morrow's.

—SAVE MEN. It is the business of the preacher to preach so that men will be saved. Do not lose sight of this, brethren. "He that winneth souls is wise."

—WHY THEY WERE INTERESTED. Of a church recently dedicated it was said everyone was interested in it because everyone had given towards it. How true it is always. That to which men contribute, whether church or mission work or whatever, is sure to have their thought and sympathy.

—WHAT IS IT? Speaking of believing in Christ, a pastor in a recent sermon said: "Believing in Christ. A great phrase. Christ—what is Christ? Christ is purity, honesty, sobriety, truth, tenderness, kindness, pity, love, Christ is the divine synonym for all goodness. He is virtue alive, love alive, holiness alive; and to believe in Christ means not only to rely on Him as Saviour from hell, but it means also the consent of your whole being to all that is good, the committal of yourself to an alliance with all the qualities incarnate in Christ."

—OTHERS MAY DOUBT. It is related of Robert Hall that a man whose life was not at all free from evil practices, boasted to him of the strength of his faith, declaring that he never had a doubt or misgiving about his acceptance &c. Mr. Hall, thinking of his evil ways, said very emphatically, "Well then, sir, allow me to doubt for you." He evidently needed the rebuke, though it is doubtful if he profited by it, for he was of the Pharisaical class who believe themselves righteous above their fellows. "Faith without works is dead"—is not faith.

—GO TO PRAYER MEETING. Though a church member, you have, perhaps, been neglectful of the prayer-meeting. You have attended only occasionally, if at all, during the past year. You are not so good a Christian, nor so less useful and happy, as if you had not forsaken the assembling together of Christians for prayer and praise and Christian converse.

Do better this year. Go to prayer-meeting regularly. The meeting needs you, your brethren will be helped by your presence, and you need the good you cannot get elsewhere.

Go in a right spirit. Make it a point to pray beforehand that God will bless the service, and always go expecting the blessing. Go looking up, not down, remembering that hope is success and discouragement is defeat. Renew your consecration and polish up your faith; and then don't try to buy the blessing by your tears and desperate entreaties; but accept them by simple faith as a free gift through the merits of Jesus. Obtain a picture of God's love and willingness to bless richly, and then, with child-like faith, simply reach out and take every blessing needed for yourself and others. Thank God that he is going to bestow them, and then fully expect them. Unless you expect the blessings, God is prevented from bestowing them.

—THE SEMINARY. Rumours have been abroad about difficulty in the Seminary. As in all such cases facts were greatly exaggerated, and wrong impressions given. The Board of Directors thought it well to take notice of the matter and, by committee, investigated with a view to an understanding and settlement of the difficulty. The matter was arranged, and the Board of Directors make the following statement:

A strong committee of the board had a conference with the faculty and gave prolonged consideration to questions which had arisen. The board itself met and a conclusion was finally reached. It was found that the difficulties were chiefly those which are liable to arise at the beginning of a school under very peculiar circumstances before adjustment have been made to new and untried conditions. As the final result of the whole investigation and conference, the board are glad to find that the scholastic work done the last term is eminently satisfactory, and that they can announce to the public that they have the fullest confidence in all members of the faculty and that the members of the faculty go back to their duties determined to work in the fullest harmony to advance the best interests of the school. The board bespeak for the school and its officers the confidence and support of all its patrons, assured that neither will be undeserved.

The attendance at the Institution last term was large, and is likely to be considerably increased this term. The school opens again, after the vacation, tomorrow, Thursday.

## Public Worship.

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." So said David, expressing his love for God and the services of His house. But how many alas! in this day, even of those professing godliness, have but little love for God's house. One of this class, said of himself: "I have not attended meetings very often for a year or more. And when the pastor of the church to which I belong, asked me why I had been absent, I told him I had several volumes of sermons at home, and that I was a pretty good reader and I thought I could get about as much good reading from them as to go and hear his."

Perhaps his answer to his pastor may be thought to have been very frank; it certainly was everything but courteous. But these things aside, was he right in staying away from the house of worship? Let it be admitted that his pastor's sermons are not equal to those he claimed to read, does he act the part of a Christian in absenting himself from the Lord's house? He is wrong, decidedly and emphatically wrong. And he is one of a class that is, we fear, quite large, and growing larger. And, then, we very much doubt whether it is their fondness for good sermons and their love of Bible study and holy meditation that induces them to remain at home on the Sabbath. If the truth were told, it would probably appear that they are more lazy than devout, and that the Sabbaths at home are spent more in lounging about and sleeping, than in Bible and sermon reading. If their minds are busy, it is more with thoughts of the coming Monday's business and work, than with thoughts of God's love in Christ Jesus, and their own great indebtedness to Him because of it; and they have more anxiety about the success of their secular affairs, than about keeping from sin and honouring God. There is more business planning than religious praying. God is not pleased with such a course, and does not bless men in indolence and sin. Christians who through illness, or other causes beyond their control, are kept from the house of worship, may and will find the Lord precious present with them; but they who can go to public worship, but do not, need not expect his presence and blessing. Public worship is of God's instituting, and neglect of it is sin. God has expressly commanded his people "not to forsake the assembling of themselves together." They are enjoined to "reverence his Sabbaths," and "lift up their hands in his sanctuary," where he has promised to meet them and bless them. They gather together not merely for the purpose of receiving religious instruction from the preacher, but also for the purpose of worshipping God publicly and unitedly. Would an Israelite in the olden time have been held blameless, if he never attended the temple worship, just because he happened to possess a roll of the law at home? But the services of the sanctuary are, in a certain important sense, our temple worship. They are God's own appointed means for the development of the spiritual life. Let them be entirely abolished, and soon Christianity would become extinct. The church member, who stays away regularly, from the house of God, is not only depriving himself of the means of grace but is doing what little he can to introduce practical heathenism. He is contributing his influence towards the secularizing of the community where

he dwells. If his example were to become universal, a spirit of irreligion would soon prevail, and the great mass of the people would slowly sink back into practical atheism.

## The Knowledge of Christianity.

This is of various degrees no doubt in the best of good men. Some may be endowed with greater capacity for the exercise of faith than others. This capacity may be even as five talents to two or one. And in some the activity of faith has been so constant and fruitful as to greatly strengthen it and greatly increase the head and heart knowledge of the spiritual. So reasonable does this appear that it seems rather uncharitable to question the most emphatic and transcendent statements of good men as to the knowledge of Christianity affords. Nevertheless the incredulity of many is such that like some who had witnessed miracles in our Lord's day, we still ask for a sign,—further evidence to help our faith.

Is our knowledge, at best in this life, of God and of Christianity as clear and conclusive as any knowledge which comes through the senses?

It evidently is not, and without doubt, it is for our good that it is not. Our all-wise Creator would have revealed to us Himself and the blessed doctrines He taught as plainly as the sunlight if such revelation would have enhanced our usefulness and happiness more than the present knowledge of Him does. We are in search of some new sign, but such is vain, for none shall be given. A ground of belief which would admit of no doubt would change the whole plan of salvation. We are saved by faith in the only begotten Son; but faith always implies the possibility of doubt. Nevertheless the strong evidence upon which Christianity is based will so increase by candid reflection that the devout heart comes at last to doubt no more. But this knowledge lies not on the surface. Nor can we ever obtain it only by faithful obedience in well doing. The "white stone" and the "new name" is known only to him who receiveth it. He who devoutly studies the revelations, old and new, of the Divine One will increasingly find the fulfilment of our Lord's promise in himself—ye shall know of the doctrine of God.

B. A. S.

## Current Topics.

## ALASKA SCANDALS.

Very serious charges have been made against United States Government officers in Alaska. Making large allowance for the exaggeration which almost always attaches to such reports, if only a tithe of what is told is true, there is a shocking state of affairs, a disgrace to civilization, demanding thorough investigation and the severe punishment of the guilty parties. As is always the case where licentiousness and outrage prevail, rum abounds and is an incentive to the dreadful doings. A writer in the N. Y. Tribune says:

Those who are most familiar with Alaska, ascribe the beginning of gross immorality in Alaska to the occupation of the Territory by United States troops. No stronger testimony of the evil influence of the soldiers could be given than that of W. S. Dodge, Collector of Customs and Mayor of Sitka, who, in a report to Special Indian Commissioner Vincent Collier in 1869, says: "The conduct of certain military and naval officers and soldiers has been bad and demoralizing in the extreme." These immoralities continued during ten years of military rule, and still continue. The Governor has done nothing to suppress liquor-stores and dance-houses in Sitka and other mining centres. The result of the immunity to these grog-shops is a great spread of immorality among the natives, who will sell their offspring or wives for whiskey."

## GREED FOR NUMBERS.

There is often danger that anxiety for numerical increase in churches may cause forgetfulness of the more important work of the spiritual edification of the church. Referring to this the Standard says:

To read the reports of revival meetings, in which the great number of conversions under Brother So-and-so is always the prominent feature, is to be impressed with this view. It may give an appearance of success to receive large accessions to membership, and it does not follow that this may not go along with proper training of those received; but the fact is kept uppermost is that a minister's true success lies in impressing himself upon individual lives and moulding Christian character. Growth in numbers is good, if it comes from conversion and not mere excitement or pressure, but growth in grace is the prime factor of the church's conquest of the world for Christ.

## THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

A good deal has been heard lately of the Argentine Republic, of its enterprise and development. There is, it would seem, a belief in some quarters that its development is too rapid for its population and present needs. There has been much borrowing, and some financiers predict a crash unless

the phenomenal and reckless borrowing by the government and the capitalists of the Republic does not cease.

Says the Zion's Herald:—

The London Economist foots up the total debt of the Republic—at \$600,000,000, of which \$100,000,000 has been contracted during the past year—clearly an unhealthy state of things, and indicating a financial momentum which it may be difficult to arrest. Railroads, too, have more than kept pace with the needs and resources of the people. Speculation in land is carried on to an alarming extent. The banking institutions have caught the infection and have multiplied their circulating paper, which already is at 30 or 40 per cent. discount. This general inflation is attended with the usual extravagance of living. The Argentine country is a magnificent one in size, climate and natural resources. Immigrants are attracted to it to the number of 100,000 yearly. Its annual exports of grain, cattle, sheep, tallow, hides, etc., aggregate in value \$70,000,000. No country has a finer future, if it could only recognize the absolute necessity of hastening slowly.

## AN APPEAL TO EPISCOPALIANS.

Rev. Dr. Leavitt, a minister of the Episcopal Church has, in the Independent, addressed a strong article to his fellow churchmen under the above heading. He criticizes many things in the constitution and work of his denomination in a very plain and forcible way.

The N. Y. Advocate gives this outline of his appeal:

He proposes a crusade against the ritualistic errors which have invaded the Church on a new line. He would go to the root of the evil, and change the Prayer Book so as to make it conform to Scripture in every particular. He would extirpate the doctrine of infant regeneration because it is taught in the Office of baptism but not in the Bible. He would abolish the priesthood because it is a sacerdotal office confined to the old dispensation and fulfilled in Christ. He would overthrow the notion that episcopacy is essential to the Church. He says: "We cannot end our struggles by the old fight between High-Church and Low-Church. High-Church appealed to the Offices and was sustained. Low-Church appealed to the Articles and was sustained. But High-Church twisted the Articles. Both are uncandid. A reform party is rising which proposes to begin at the root. The article has produced a profound sensation among the Episcopal clergy. Dr. Leavitt is a forcible writer, a logical thinker, and a fearless Christian, and proposes to defend the position he has taken, believing this the true and only ground on which the ritualistic party can be defeated."

## LIABLE TO BE DECEIVED.

An article in Zion's Herald deals with the fact, known to so many Christians, that as one advances in the divine life he needs to use great care and much scrutiny of himself lest he accept a false for a genuine experience. There are so many semblances and substitutes for true affection, that the best meaning may be deceived unless they constantly test themselves. We commend the following extract to every Christian who would know the way of God perfectly:

The genuine feeling may be known by infallible signs. Perfect love is gentle and teachable, kind and easy to be entreated. It enters as a pupil, not as master, the school of Christ, realizing how much is yet to be learned rather than how much has been attained. Perfect love reveals our weakness, and begets a strong desire to dissipate the gloom and enter the realm of more perfect knowledge. If you find yourself growing wise above all your teachers, inclined to be dogmatic, to lay down the law for fellow disciples and to set yourself up as a standard for the whole church, you have no little reason to fear that you have mistaken the ambitious promptings of your own heart for the leading of the Spirit of God. In this way self-wisdom may easily assume the place of Divine wisdom; and one concerned with the most holy things may be deceived by the false lights of the enemy. In no way are Satan's ends more effectually secured than by inducing people to promote holy living by illegitimate methods and a dogmatic spirit.

## Religious Miscellany.

The church on the little island of Atufa, in the South Seas, includes all the adults on the island.

There are two Episcopal ministers—missionaries—on the Yukon River, Alaska. They are three thousand miles from the southeastern line of the Territory.

Twenty-one schools in Syria which had been closed by order of the Turkish officials, have been re-opened. This result is to be credited to the efforts of Mr. Strauss, the American minister who is a Jew, but was educated at Princeton College.

Rev. Tillman C. Trowbridge, D. D., died a few weeks ago at Marsh, Turkey. For the courage displayed in spending a year among the fierce Kurds to preach the Gospel to them, he was called by Dr. Washburn, president of Robert College, "the bravest man in Turkey."

The colored Roman Catholics have been holding a national convention during the present week at Washing-

ton. This is a significant and ominous fact. It shows the alertness of the Roman Catholic Church. It is now claimed that there are 200,000 adherents among the negro people of that church in this country. The ceremonial of the Romish Church is especially fascinating to the negro.

The Christian World (London) says: "It is feared that Rev. Hugh Price Hughes is overtaxing his strength. His friends declare that he is working in a fashion that would tell upon a Samson, and they fear that unless he declines outside engagements he may find it necessary to lay aside for awhile the work in which he is specially engaged in West London."

D. S. Ford, of Boston, editor of the Youth's Companion, is extensively engaged in city evangelization. In the work he is said to expend fifty thousand dollars a year. He claims to do business for the Lord, and his income is sacredly spent in accordance with this profession.

—The Churchman tells of eight missionaries who serve eighteen congregations in East Carolina on an average daily wage of eighty-eight cents and two mills. This service is rendered patiently and gladly, and never with complaint. Surely, the self-sacrificing heroism so requisite to plant the Gospel in uncultivated fields, is not confined to any one denomination.

## DENOMINATIONAL NEWS.

REV. L. A. LANG will close his labors with the church in Halifax the last Sabbath in this month. He is prepared to make an engagement for work in any part of the field, either in New Brunswick or Nova Scotia.

REV. A. C. THOMPSON was not forgotten by his friends at Christmas and New Year. Among the presents he received were a dressing gown and slippers, a fine morocco dressing case, the Schaff-Herzog complete Encyclopedia (5 vols), Dick's Works (2 vols), and a number of other books &c., for all of which he is deeply grateful to his thoughtful friends.

WOODSTOCK.—The annual festival of the F. C. B. Sunday school was held last Thursday evening. Besides a good programme for the interest of the members of the school, there was given to each a rich treat of cake and confectionery. The school is in a very prosperous condition under the clever management of Moses Burpee, who has lately been appointed superintendent.—Cor. Telegraph.

ADVOCATE HARBOR, N. S.—We have three Free Baptist churches organized in this county. Last May a church of eight members was organized at Port Greville, a prosperous community, fifteen miles from Advocate. There are at present fourteen members, four of whom were baptized at the time they united with the church. Dea. James Howard is an earnest and active worker, and has done much to build up the interests of this church.

We recently organized a church at Apple River, to be known as the Apple River and Salem Church, as the two places are near together, and can work to good advantage in one organization. Seven of those comprising the church have been baptized since it was organized. The outlook for the churches is good. Free Baptist views meet with approval among the people, and we hope that much good may be done through the planting of this interest in this portion of the province.

D. T. PORTER.

FROM REV. J. J. BARNES.—Our friend at Arthurette and Lower Perth have once more given us occasion to express our heart felt gratitude to them for their thoughtful remembrance of our temporal wants. The people at Arthurette, besides helping us to season of the year, liberally supplied some money which is so useful at this our larger with poultry and fresh meat. The cash goes towards salary, but the provisions are a present.

The annual Sabbath School concert at Lower Perth this year took the form of a social and Christmas Tree. It occurred on the evening of the 24th ult., and was well patronized, and, judging from the many expressions which we have heard, was pleasing to all. As it was not our privilege to be present we are little acquainted with the programme. It is said it was good and well rendered. It consisted of dialogues and recitations, interspersed with music. Miss Nina O. Bloodworth presided at the organ. The Xmas tree was burdened with presents for different persons, some of considerable value. Though absent we were not forgotten. Among the presents received by us were a nice quilt, a pair of water-proof over-boots for Mrs. Barnes and a fur cap for my self. The children were also remembered. May heaven reward them.

Towards the last of this week I start to hold extra meetings at different points along the Tobique river. Pray for us.

J. J. BARNES.

MONCTON.—Rev. T. O. DeWitt is at present labouring in Moncton. He writes that the meetings are very well attended, that there is a deepening spiritual interest, and that some are seeking salvation. He hopes for good results.

Since the foregoing was in type, we have received the following encouraging communication from Moncton:

No doubt many of your readers will be interested in hearing how the church in Moncton is getting on. Probably few, if any of our churches have been so affected as this by the recent troubles in our denomination and the consequent withdrawal or disaffection of so many members. While we deeply regret that a number of our brethren have left us, we cannot but feel that the denomination has taken the only step open to them to preserve unity among the members and conformity to Free Baptist principles. And we believe God will overrule it all for our good. Already it has had the effect of causing those who are interested in our church here to work with greater zeal and earnestness. Many of our church members and others who have hitherto held aloof from active service in the church have come forward to help and will make most energetic and valuable workers.

Bro. T. O. DeWitt has been with us the last two Sabbaths, and began holding revival meetings on Christmas evening. They have been continued almost every evening since and with most encouraging results. All the meetings are well attended, the congregation, at the Sabbath services especially, are much larger than usual. Bro. DeWitt is a most active worker and has thrown himself with his whole soul into the work of upbuilding our church, and his services are highly appreciated by the brethren.

Bro. A. H. McLeod occupied the pulpit very acceptably for several Sabbaths before Bro. DeWitt arrived. We regret that an attack of quinsy has prevented Bro. McLeod from being with us as often as we would wish. We are pleased to say that he is much better now.

At a recent meeting of the church our Sabbath School was re-organized. Bro. J. H. Wetmore has received and accepted the position of Superintendent, with Bro. W. E. Day as assistant. All the brethren are much encouraged in the work. They believe that there is a place for a Free Baptist Church in Moncton, and with God's blessing, they intend to go forward. We trust we have the prayers of all who desire to see our cause prosper in this place.

Jan. 4: '89.

FROM REV. J. PERRY.—Please give a little space in the INTELLIGENCER for a few lines from me. I have just returned from Grand Manan where I made a short visit very pleasantly. Twenty-seven years ago I was on the island and preached at the opening of the meeting house at the North Head. I was then much pleased with the people and place; I thought then I would go back very soon and make them another visit, but the way did not seem to open and so I did not get there until now. The 27th November I left home, and reached the island the 30th. The place has changed considerably in appearance; a good many houses have been built and the meeting house almost built new; a neat little Episcopal Church has been built. I am speaking particularly of North Head as I did not visit any other part of the island at that time, and this time, only drove down once as far as Grand Harbour. The people are engaged in fishing and storekeeping and some of them follow the coasting trade. Brother Tatton keeps a store and has a steam saw mill, and does a profitable business in sawing fishbox lumber. Bro. Flewelling does quite a business in building and repairing boats and I understood there were other boat builders on the island. Brother Watt & Sons keep quite a large store and run a vessel and do a good business in the fish and oil trade. Brother Thomas Redmond seems to be doing a large business and owns a good deal of property. Mr. E. Gas-kill owns several vessels; his son is captain of one of them. There are many others with whom I did not get acquainted, who are doing business on the island. Many have small lots of land and do a little farming. Brother E. Dagget and M. Small do the most at farming of any with whom I became acquainted. They have as fine a school house as I know of in the Province, outside the cities, and I venture to say that as many scholars attend as any other place. It seems to be a fine place for children. The school has three fine teachers in the persons of M. A. Sherwood, Miss Fullerton and Miss Clark. The steamer "Flushing" runs twice a week to North Head and, I should judge, is doing a good business and is certainly a great accommodation to the place. The captain, mate and engineer are three as fine social men as one can meet. Captain Ingleson has followed the coasting business ever since he was a boy. I was told, running a vessel to New York, Boston and other parts along the coast, and never met with a mishap. They speak of him as one of the best managers of a vessel that follow the business. The mate is a young man from Canning, Queens Co., a son of the late Jarvis Estabrooks.

But I must not forget to say something in respect to the religious state of the place and people. For years there was only the Episcopal and F. C. Baptist churches at North Head, and peace and harmony prevailed. But, said to say, two or three years ago a man went there and introduced trouble amongst them and then the Salvation Army was brought there, and so the place where unity prevailed is now a place of discord. The night before I left W. B. Wiggins arrived, and what the result of his mission will be I do not know. Brother Babcock and Brother Bonnell live at North Head and will spend the winter with the churches, I expect.

I reached home on Monday, spent last Sunday at Caverhill and Millville and have engaged with these two places and Rockland and Coldstream churches. So you will see I am busy. I feel a great many times to say in the language of the Psalmist, "Plead thine own cause O God, and give not thine heritage to reproach."

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But I must not forget to say something in respect to the religious state of the place and people. For years there was only the Episcopal and F. C. Baptist churches at North Head, and peace and harmony prevailed. But, said to say, two or three years ago a man went there and introduced trouble amongst them and then the Salvation Army was brought there, and so the place where unity prevailed is now a place of discord. The night before I left W. B. Wiggins arrived, and what the result of his mission will be I do not know. Brother Babcock and Brother Bonnell live at North Head and will spend the winter with the churches, I expect.

I reached home on Monday, spent last Sunday at Caverhill and Millville and have engaged with these two places and Rockland and Coldstream churches. So you will see I am busy. I feel a great many times to say in the language of the Psalmist, "Plead thine own cause O God, and give not thine heritage to reproach."

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Jan. 4: '89.

FROM REV. J. PERRY.—