

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.

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 error, 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, MARCH, 20, 1889.

"It is no use for a man to get jealous and ugly; it only hurts his own cause."

So writes a good brother. And we say Amen!

—LYMAN ABBOTT says "the object of christianity is not so much to get people into the church as to get religion into people."

—A RECENT estimate says there are in the United States nearly one and a quarter million labouring men who have to work every Sabbath.

—THE TWENTY-EIGHTH International Convention of the Y. M. C. Associations of North America will be held in Philadelphia May 8-12. A large attendance is expected.

—A MEETING of the Free Baptist Foreign Mission Board is being held today in Boston.

—MARK GUY PEARSE says it for us thus: "My faith in perfection is very weak when I look at others; it is extinguished altogether when I look at myself."

—THIS is the day of conventions. They are held for the promotion of all kinds of projects and notions. A writer in a contemporary suggests one "for the promotion of common sense. That very uncommon gift would be a great blessing to some people in religion as well as in other matters."

—"He has given up preaching, and gone to jawing." So writes one of a minister, one who has been a good and successful minister, too. What a pity. A minister cannot make a much more serious mistake than to fall into the habit of scolding his congregation. He should keep sweet and tender and patient, and diligently carry on his work in the confidence that his "labour is not in vain in the Lord."

OF THE recently deceased California millionaire, J. C. Flood, it is said, that he was a selfish and revengeful man, who made no response to the appeals of philanthropic causes, and who apparently had little or no desire for the good opinion of his fellowmen. This is not surprising when it is known that he began life as a rumseller, and never got rid of the spirit of that heartless and cruel traffic.

—"YOU may deceive all the people part of the time, and part of the people all the time, but not all the people all the time." So said Abraham Lincoln.

—PRESIDENT HARRISON bidding farewell to his friends assembled at the railway station when he left his Indianapolis home for Washington to assume the duties of the Presidency, said:

"There is a great sense of loneliness in the discharge of high public duties. The moment of decision is one of isolation. But there is one whose help comes even into the quiet chamber of judgment, and to his wise and unfailing guidance will I look for direction and safety."

It is well when the head of a great nation realizes God as his helper, and has learned to look to Him for guidance and strength.

—SPURGEON is often sick, but he is always clear-headed; he suffers excruciating pains, but he can always say a sharp and witty thing. The "Interior" tells that he recently wrote a friend, a pastor in an English town where some "spiritually perfect and sinless" folk were making a sensation,

begging him to get a specimen and send him on as a curiosity for Londoners to see. He said he had known people "who might have been thought perfect, but they always disclaimed it; and some who claimed it, while no mortal ever believed in their pretensions." Same here. What a man is and what he says he is, are often as far apart as the two ends which the cleverest figuring is not able to make meet.

—OF A NOTED infidel, Wilnot, it is related that when dying he laid his trembling, emaciated hands on the Bible and exclaimed solemnly, "The only objection against this book is a bad life."

—A MEMBER of the Methodist Episcopal church—an office-bearer he was, too, said to his minister recently, "Isn't there a great dearth of revivals this winter?" The minister looked surprised at the man's lack of information; but his astonishment abated when, on inquiry, he learned that he was not a subscriber to his church paper. No wonder he didn't know what was going on. Commenting on this incident the Advocate says:

There are thousands of church members who remain ignorant of the most important events taking place in their own Denomination. And their children are growing up in the same sad condition because they ignore the Church paper. Many think they get all the news in the secular papers. These papers devote large space to prize-fights, base-ball matches, murders, and social abominations, but precious little to revivals of religion and events which mark religious progress. Children will learn enough of the bad side of the world without ever looking into a newspaper, but the good they will not find in the secular prints. Only in religious journals will they find reliable accounts of the current news of the victories of the Gospel, and on these the progress of humanity depends.

The Converts.

During the winter now closing many persons have been converted. The pastors and members of the churches blessed have rejoiced; and their joy has been shared by all christians who have read from week to week reports of the work of grace.

Among the converted are many young people; a very few are far along in years, a few are in middle life, but the great majority are young. All these have become members in some church; if any have not, they ought to unite with a church at once. They need the church, and the church needs them.

To get all these to Christ, to believe in Him and to declare their faith by obedience to Him, ministers and churches have prayed and laboured. They may well rejoice in God that He accepted their love and labour, and caused them to bear such blessed fruit. But their responsibility as to these converts has not ceased because they have declared themselves for Christ and are in the church.

The work now required of pastors and churches is to get the new members into the right places in church work, and establish them in the new life upon which they have entered. The main thing is to set them to work. Let the newly-formed members, that now exist only as aspirations, be hardened into fixed determinations and controlling motives over life. The convert should understand that unless he sets about confirming the new life he has begun in his soul by the regular and constant use of all those means of grace that God has provided for the spiritual life, the warmth and glow of his first experience will soon pass away, and leave him back where he was before he started, with the added burden of a failure to discourage from renewed effort. He will need all the support that can be obtained from prayer in the closet and in the service, from the diligent and daily study of the Bible, from public testimony, from association with christians in all the varied activities of the church, and from the use of all the means of grace through which the Christian may keep alive the love which has been born in his soul.

It is well said that one of the reasons why many great revivals have such disproportionate permanent results is because the pastor and church have not learned how to husband the fruit of their efforts. It is too often taken for granted when the converts are gathered into the church that the work is done, and nothing remains but to go on with the work of the church as usual.

It is forgotten that these tender souls in the warmth of their first love are all unfamiliar with the habits of activity through which the life they have just begun is to find fixedness of expression. They are now ready and willing to enter upon the duties of the Christian life wherever they may be made clear

to them. If they are promptly set to work in such Christian activities as will keep alive their good resolutions, they gradually may become established in all the good ways of Christian life. But if the duty of prompt and regular activity in holy living is not shown to them, their ardor may cool down, their good impulses be dissipated, and they soon find themselves back in the ways of the world.

After a long and intense revival interest it is not unnatural that there should be something of reaction in the church. At the time when the new converts most need attention and assistance, the older members and pastor of the church are worn with the fatigue of their efforts and find it most difficult to apply themselves with interest and diligence to their wonted church activities. But it is a critical period in the history of the new convert and in the welfare of the church. Nothing should be allowed to stand in the way of giving that careful instruction to the new disciple that will enable him to enter upon the habitual activities of the Christian life with intelligence and promptness. He needs enlightenment, he needs gentle encouragement, he needs affectionate chiding. It is all new to him, and with only the experience of a novice, he will soon expend the energy of a new purpose that has entered into his life in fruitless effort and discouraged failure. But with guidance and sympathy he may develop into a stalwart Christian tried and proved in all things.

Look after the young converts. Set them to work. Give them help. Give them sympathy.

Some Reports.

THE SCHOOLS.

The Report of the Schools of the Province is always interesting, and repays examination. We have just received the 1888 Report presented to the Legislature by the Chief Superintendent of Education. It contains much information about schools and school-work. It begins with a statement—a statement fully borne out by the statistical tables, the comparative statements and the other facts given in detail—that there has during the year been a very satisfactory degree of activity and progress in the several parts of the service. A large number of new school-houses have been built, others have been substantially repaired, and many have been supplied with suitable furniture and needed appliances. The grounds and premises of many have been greatly improved, and in some cases beautified.

The reports of the inspectors show that the work in the schools has been carried on with efficiency. The enrollment of pupils for the year was 62,863. With the exception of one year (1879) it was higher than in any previous year. The Superintendent points out, though, that the attendance is much below what it ought to be. There are many thousands of children in the Province of school age who are not getting the benefits so fully provided for in our admirable schools system. Urging some plan of compulsory attendance, the Chief Superintendent says:

We have fully 15,000 children in our midst growing up in ignorance, and very probably acquiring habits ruinous to themselves and liable to become troublesome to the State. With such facts before us it is clear that some provision ought to be made whereby these children may be brought under the advantages which the State has provided for them. There are, no doubt, difficulties in the way of effecting carrying out a law compelling the attendance of children at school in all parts of the Province, but if the Legislature is not at present prepared to adopt the principle universally, I respectfully recommend that it pass a measure empowering Boards of Trustees in cities and incorporated towns at least, to enforce such attendance as shall ensure due attention to the education of all educable children within the limits of their jurisdiction. The Board of Trustees of St. John has repeatedly solicited that such authority be granted them, as likewise has the School Board of St. Stephen, and the Board of Fredericton in their report in Appendix C recommends that "a compulsory attendance clause be inserted in the Common Schools Act, so that no children may be allowed to grow up to manhood without the possession of sufficient knowledge to enable them to become good citizens." The inspectors, too, who are painfully cognizant of the defects of the system in this respect have time and again recommended the adoption of some remedial measure.

Forty-four Superior Schools have been in operation during the year, which is only five less than the full number provided for by law on the basis of population. These schools are evidently doing a very good work in many places.

The salaries of teachers are not as large as they should be. It is not surprising that so few remain long in the service. The average salary is for 1st class male teachers, \$526.50; 1st class female, \$328.49; 2nd class male, \$303.66; 2nd class female, \$225.75; 3rd class male, \$231.00; 3rd class female,

\$187.47. A table of comparison, covering seven years, shows that salaries have remained about stationary, with a slight tendency to decrease, if anything. The Superintendent well says of this: "The economy which is too often observed by ratepayers in the maintenance of schools is applied to a service which seeks to promote the highest interests of the community, and which is at best scantily remunerated. An efficient school service is the cheapest given at a cost much in excess of the present rates."

The Report contains reports of the Principal of the Normal School, of the Inspectors, of the President of the University, of the Frederick Deaf and Dumb School, and of the Halifax school for the Blind.

THE INSANE.

The medical Superintendent of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum at St. John has made his report for 1888. The number of patients under care during the year was greater than in any previous year, though the daily average falls slightly below that of the year preceding because the period of residence of some was not so great as in the previous year. At the beginning of the year there were 445 in the institution; there were admitted during the year 115, making a total of 570 treated during the year; and there remained at the close of the year 449, of those discharged from the Asylum during the year, 41 were recovered, 21 improved, and 10 unimproved; and 49 died.

The Agricultural Department of the Asylum is reported fairly successful in its operations. Improvements have been made on the farm, while it has afforded the opportunity of employing many patients whose condition is bettered by such work.

The Superintendent urges the erection of another wing to the Asylum annex, and also the appointment of a capable man to superintend the work and affairs of the farm.

The cost of the maintenance of the institution for the year was \$42,838.91, a little less than in 1887, 1886 and 1884. The most of this is a charge upon the Provincial Treasury, as only a few of the patients are supported wholly or in part by their friends.

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES.

On January 1st 1888, the Registration Act of the Province came into operation. The first report of the returns made under the Act has just been made public. It covers the year 1888. The Births recorded during the year number 4,153; the Deaths 3028; and the Marriages 1802. The returns are manifestly very incomplete. There must have been many more births, deaths and marriages that have been reported to Registration officers. The Deputy Registrar General explaining the lack says: "It may be accounted for by the novelty of the duties imposed by the Act, and the difficulty experienced by new Officers in accumulating the information necessary to make the Returns complete; it is also, I would venture to suggest, in a still larger measure due to the unwillingness on the part of many Clergymen, Medical men and others, to perform the duties which have been imposed upon them by the Act."

He also suggests that "Perhaps it may be found, when people become familiar with the requirements of the Act, it may be possible without enforcing any of the penalties for the non-compliance with its provisions, to secure fuller and more accurate reports from persons charged under the Act with the duty of supplying the Division Registrars therewith."

Many Infallible Proofs.

"Go back eighteen hundred years, and start with Christ's Gospel as it enters on its historic path. It enters and enshrines itself in a few humble, unlearned men, and their lives burn with its beauty and end with voluntary martyrdom. Follow the Gospel of Christ as it marches down the centuries, and what do you see? Hard hearts, cruel with crime, that no human love could soften, no human power impress, are broken into contrition and awe. Weak women, timid and trembling, are fortified by it to dare the scourge, the rack, the stake, the cross, or face without fear the fierce Numidian lion in the arena. Millions of martyrs, under no compulsion but the sweet restraint of love, welcome the agonies of torture, and from all grades of society come up to their blood, rather than utter one word to disown or dishonour Him whom, not having seen, they love.

"The world can furnish no parallel to this! Men have died for a principle, and that principle an error; for a religious faith, and that faith a falsehood; but self-sacrifice so perfect, so pure, and so repeated, is peculiar to the followers of Christ, and it has challenged the wonder and the applause even of the enemies of Christ."—Dr. Pier-

Notes of Religious Work.

—A Parisian lady, Madame Andre, has given all her jewels (valued at £40,000) toward the establishment of shelters for the homeless poor.

—The sum of 300,000 is reported to have been given by a wealthy man, who conceals his name, to establish a Christian university in Peking, China.

—Ranabai is lecturing in Japan to great audiences. "In Tokio, the largest lecture-hall in the city was so crowded that the doors had to be closed half an hour before the meeting began, every inch of room being already occupied. Ranabai, of course, speaks through an interpreter.

—The Pennsylvania Railroad has made a great concession to the growing sentiment in favor of the observance of the Sabbath. All freight trains on that road, except those containing live stock and perishable merchandise, have been discontinued. The rule is to be extended over the connecting lines of the Company west of Pittsburg. The order gives rest to several thousands of employes.

—A strange story is just published concerning three prominent St. Louis men, who until about two years ago were familiar and prominent figures in the daily life of that city. According to the story, a lady friend of these gentlemen was some two years ago compelled to undergo a dangerous surgical operation. The three men, on their knees at her bedside, made a vow that if the lady's life was spared they would renounce the world and devote the remainder of their lives to the spiritual elevation of mankind. The lady lived and the trio have kept their vow. They have since visited various cities, sought and secured the most humble employments, and devoted all their spare time to street preaching. When last seen they were in Buffalo, preaching among the poorest classes.

—It seems that the Baptists are not the only people in Russia who are persecuted because of their dissent from their established church. The Lutherans are suffering a great deal just now, and those who derive their religion from Germany are suffering in Russia what those who derive theirs from the Bible have been wont to suffer in Germany. A Lutheran minister has been banished to Siberia for receiving back into his church some of his former members who had been enticed away to the State church by promises of freedom from annoyance and taxation. The watchword of the Russian authorities is "One country, one language, one religion." It sounds beautiful, but its interpretation is not good.

—At a recent meeting of the London Missionary Society, Captain Hore, of the Central African Mission, gave an address. He considered the missionaries on Lake Tanganyika were in the safest position of any. They had two means of escape if in danger; and by means of the vessels belonging to the mission they could remove from one part of the country to another. They had never been subject there to the caprice of any one powerful chief and his followers. When he left the Lake the condition of things was on the whole favorable. After speaking of the way in which he had been engaged during his last six years in Africa, Captain Hore urged that there might be no thought of giving up the mission while there were faithful men willing to go there. He valued the Society's property at Lake Tanganyika at about \$10,000. There was a great work to be done there, which would bring good results. The Arabs were only concerned about the slave trade, and their opposition had nothing to do with their religion. The missionaries, knowing their inability to interfere with the trade, were obliged to be neutral, but the Arabs knew they were opposed to it.

DOMINATIONAL NEWS.

HOME MISSION REPORT.—Rev. J. T. Parsons, Cor. Sec. H. M. Society:

Dear Bro. It becomes my duty to report my labour as missionary. I left St. John Jan. 31st for Erb Settlement. I found the people there in quite a low state religiously. But beginning work for the Lord, it soon became evident that good would be accomplished. Our people there have a good house of worship; but there are not many to keep up the cause, and the work has been neglected. There are three churches quite convenient to this church, viz. Sussex, Apolaqui and Norton, and the ministers who preach to them might try to give this people some care. They are willing to pay what they are able to support the ministry; and it seems to me that it would be well for the brethren to try to look after the interest there a little. If we do not care for it, some other denomination will. After holding meetings for about a week, Bro. Steeves came along and helped me; his coming was timely. Bro. S. bids fair to make a useful man in the ministry. Backsliders came forward and took their places again, and sinners were converted. On account of the heavy storm we only stopped two weeks, intending to return in March to continue the work and baptize some

converts. After leaving I spent about a week in St. John with my family, they having just got moved from Lowell. On the 21st Jan., Bro. Steeves and I started for Deer Island. At Eastport we found Bro. Oliver Fountain waiting to take us to the island, and we had a pleasant passage. On our arrival we learned that Bro. L. Cosman and Bro. Burr (a Disciple minister) had meeting at Northern Harbour that evening, some went. Several have been baptized and some added to the church. We made an appointment at Chocolate Cove for the next evening. We found there a number of warm-hearted friends. This church is the one that came into our conference some three or four years ago, and we find among them good earnest workers. We held meetings for about a week, when we heard that Bro. Cosman had meetings at Lambert Cove and wanted us to come over. We went, and that evening I preached. The school house in which the meeting was held could not accommodate all who wanted to get in; some had to stand out in the cold. Having an appointment at the Cove the next evening I could not stay longer, but I advised Bro. Steeves to remain with Bro. Cosman, and he did so, and they have been there ever since. I am now holding meetings at Chocolate Cove and Fair Haven. The people at Fair Haven have a good house of worship nearly finished; they intend to finish it right away. We have three churches on the western part of this island; they could support a man all the time. Some eight years ago I preached here; since that some of the old friends have passed away, and I miss them much. Old uncle George Fountain, as all used to call him, is among those whom I miss; and when I visited the old home, the room where we used to sit and talk about Jesus seemed lonesome without him in it. Today I am at old Bro. Thomas Holmes; he and his good wife have been very kind to me, and they are to all the ministers as far as I know. Here is where I made my home when I was on the island before; this time I am making my home with Bro. William Cummings, and they have been very kind. I have not done much yet in the way of collecting for the Mission Fund, but I think the people will be willing to do their part. I intend to stay here some when I have been here a month. I am visiting the people and holding meetings most of the time. I have visited some sick who are almost through with life, but their hope is strong in Jesus. A good number here have past four score years and are still quite smart. Old Deacon Butler walked to Lambert Cove to meeting and back, and I think he told me that he is eight-four years old.

JOHN A. ROBERTSON.

March 8th.

Sussex.—The Sussex correspondent of the Sun says:

Rev. Mr. Francis, who recently assumed the pastorate of the F. C. Baptist church here, has created a favorable impression. He is holding special meetings at Penobscot and is to do so in Sussex very soon.

FREDERICTON JUNCTION.—The ladies of the Foreign Missionary Society held a public meeting in the F. B. church on Saturday evening, 10th inst. Dr. Second, president of the society, occupied the chair. The evening being very pleasant a large number assembled to witness the following programme: Singing by choir, There's a Work for Each of Us; address by Rev. Geo. W. Foster; reading by Miss Maggie Alexander, Missionary Work; choir, From Greenland's Icy Mountains; speech by D. H. Smith; reading, Miss Smith, Foreign Missions; dialogue, Good Tidings; quartette, Seeking the Lost, by Miss Susie Kelly, Miss Ida Thomas, Mr. S. J. Currie and Mr. Frank Alexander; speech by T. L. Alexander; recitation by Miss Adams, The Drunkard's Home; recitation by Miss Susie Kelly, The Dying Soldier; choir, God be With You till We Meet Again, Miss Blanche Hoyt presiding at the organ; recitation by Mrs. W. Kingston; Doxology. One of the most interesting features of the programme was the dialogue between several little girls, dressed very prettily in white with pink sashes and caps, and who acquitted themselves in a very creditable manner. The proceeds of the evening go toward foreign missions.—Cor. Gleaner.

St. John.—The meetings in the Waterloo St. church are of deep interest, and good is being done.

HALIFAX.—Many readers of the RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER will no doubt be glad to know how this church is prospering. For two Sabbaths the services were held in the vestry, owing to the audience room undergoing a renovation which it greatly needed. On Sunday the 3rd inst., it was again opened to the public, and although the smell of paint was prevalent, the church was clean and made comfortable for the increasing number of worshippers. Thanks are due to the ladies of the church for the way they worked together to achieve success, and they have succeeded. The Sabbath School gave a very interesting concert the same evening, the principle exercise of the evening being entitled "The Story of Redemption." The church was well filled. The congregations are increasing, and pastor and people are very much encouraged. We feel that the mercy drops are falling, and it is our earnest prayer that the Great Head of the church will pour upon us the showers of blessing. We have been called upon to part with a dear sister, whose obituary I will send later.

A.

FROM REV. G. W. FOSTER.—I am glad to tell you that the Lord is graciously blessing us in the special meetings at Fredericton Junction. The hearts of christians have been warmed