

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 needless 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, Nov. 20, 1889.

—A RUMSELLER. The Vice-President of the United States, Mr. Morton, has become a licensed rum-seller.

—EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE. The second annual session of Evangelical Alliance of Canada is to be held in Toronto, Dec. 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Several questions will be considered, among them Christian Unity in its relations to Missions, Temperance, Papal Aggression, &c.

—WOULD BE FREE. The late Dr. Christlieb, the eminent German divine, was solicited to become one of the Court preachers to the Emperor of Germany. Almost any man would have eagerly accepted the honour offered. But Dr. Christlieb declined, saying that no man, not even an Emperor, should have, in any degree, control of his speech.

—BRAZIL. A resolution has changed Brazil into a republic. It seems to have been done very quietly. The Emperor, who has always been regarded as an enlightened and wise ruler, and who has been held in high esteem by the people at large, has left the country. He seems to have expected a change, but it was not thought probable that it would take place till after his death. Affairs in Brazil will now be watched with unusual interest.

—INFORM THEM. The children of our homes and Sabbath schools should be carefully and constantly informed about missionary work. There is much in the facts about missionaries, their methods of work the difficulties besetting them, the countries where they labour, the peculiarities of heathen peoples, &c. that will interest them. Addresses in the Sabbath Schools, the distribution of suitable missionary literature, familiar talks at home about these things will certainly have marked effect on the children. What greater things will be done for missions in a few years if the children of to-day are instructed concerning the great work.

—CONFESSION OF FAILURE. A very surprising confession of the failure of the Roman Catholic church is this from the *Catholic Review*, which says:

"In every country of the world to-day the governments are either Protestant or pagan, with exception of Spain, Austria and Ecuador. In these three countries the education is Catholic; in the others it has been wrested from the Catholics, not because their methods were failures, but because they were Catholic; because the pagans wished to educate their children as pagans; because they hate Christianity in any shape as superstition and wish to destroy it."

—PREPARE FOR IT. Quoting the statement of a minister's wife that her husband "spends as much time in preparing for his prayer meeting as he does in preparing to preach," the *Telegraph* says,—"We are sure that many prayer-meetings are poorly attended for want of interest, and we are equally sure that nothing so much contributes to a want of interest as a want of preparation on the part of the leader. If he has not thought of what he is to say, and his own heart is not already deeply enlisted in the subject he is to present, he will not be likely to interest others. A prayerful study of the lesson, with a few clear-cut well-devel-

oped, practical thoughts, coming from a heart in love with God's truth and the souls of men, will enable the leaders to so present the truth as to touch some chord in the hearts of other prayerful Christians that will make the meeting of deep spiritual interest. Let the importance of the prayer-meeting be emphasized by a more prayerful and studious preparation for it by pastors and people.

—HAD NO MONEY. Dr. Gray tells of a church member who said,—"I have no money for benevolences this year," and to show how closely he was compelled to finance to get along he added "On Monday morning I buy 50 cents' worth of tobacco, and make seven piles out of it, and I only chew one pile a day." He had \$26 a year for an unhealthful, unclean, unnecessary, and undesirable habit, and nothing for God and humanity.

There are, unhappily, many everywhere just like this man. They consume on their own lusts what they ought to give to the Lord.

The Great Truth.

The fact of Jesus death is the great central truth of the whole grand system of God's mercy. It is of first importance that, following Apostolic example, it should be placed in the foreground of all discourses which are intended to bring about the conversion of men. It is this fact of wonderful love and great sacrifice which, by the blessing of the Holy Spirit, converts men from sin to holiness.

The barrenness of many a pulpit is because it utters elaborate homilies or philosophical essays in which the central truth of the Gospel is scarcely recognizable or only incidentally mentioned. The readers of the New Testament epistles cannot fail to see that the death of Christ for the sins of men is their leading theme. Their other utterances have respect to this, illustrate it, show its relation to other truths, which in their turn, derive their significance from it. How important then, that in Christian teaching this great truth have the first and chief place. It is the power of God unto Salvation to every one that believeth. It is the declaration and demonstration of the Divine love, and it touches the heart. "The Jews desire a sign," says the Apostle, "and the Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, * * * the power of God and wisdom of God."

It is related of certain Greenland missionaries that for several years they kept back the truth, thinking it too profound to be placed before persons so low and dull as the Esquimaux; but with all their efforts there was not a single conversion. At last they abandoned their process of simplifying, as they called it, and preached in Scriptural language the great fact, "Christ died for our sins," and "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." Very soon the Lord honoured this presentation of His truth, and conversions multiplied. The lesson is obvious. All preachers and Christian workers may rely upon it—to use Paul's remarkable and suggestive words—that "the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men." He will honour nothing else, He will abide by His own plan, He will not adopt ours. All experience testifies that it is not our word but God's which has power; and all experience therefore, calls upon us, as does the express command of Scripture, to "preach the word"—that God "loved us, and sent His son to be the propitiation for our sins."

The story of the cross is what the world needs. Let it be told everywhere to every sinner.

The Repeal Movement Notes.

Next week (Thursday) the voting on the repeal petition will take place. As the day approaches there is a manifest increase of interest in the question and, we trust, the cause of temperance is gaining strength.

The rum party has made no demonstration. There is nothing they can say publicly in behalf of their cause; knowing this they discreetly refrain from any attempt at public discussion. They are not idle, however. Very quietly and very diligently they are at work, using whatever plea or consideration may seem suited to win a vote.

They would have the people believe that they are not anxious to have the law repealed. Some, perhaps many believe their lie, but surely there cannot be many so easily deceived. Who originated the petition for repeal? The rum-sellers. They paid \$100 or more for getting the signatures to say nothing of other expenses and the trouble they had for several months in getting the petition ready. And in the face of all this they have the

affrontery to pretend that they do not desire the repeal. Who are paying the men now moving about so quietly among electors seeking to prejudice them against the law and secure their promises to vote for its repeal? Are they doing all this out of love for the rum cause? Not many will believe so.

A meeting in the interests of the temperance party will be held in the City Hall every evening up to the day of voting. Rev. Mr. Hinson was with us and spoke with good effect on Sunday and Monday evenings. It is hoped that Mr. O'Brien a "chalk talker" on the temperance question will be present this evening, and tomorrow evening. Mr. Spence of Toronto is expected to arrive to-morrow and assist during the remainder of the campaign. Rev. Wm. Dobson is expected one evening. The local speakers are doing their full share of work, and the Ward Committee are doing diligent and careful face to face work.

A challenge will be issued at once to the rum party to meet the advocates of the law in a public discussion of the question. If the repealers have anything to say in favor of their movement which they are not ashamed to utter in the presence of the public the temperance party wishes to give them a chance to do it.

The W. C. T. Union are circulating a protest against returning to license for signatures. The ladies cannot vote, but what they desire ought to have some weight with those who do vote.

If this should come under the eyes of any non-residents who have votes in this city, will they regard it as an earnest request and appeal to be in the city on the 28th inst., and vote to sustain the Act and so defeat the evil designs of the would be legal rum-sellers.

And everywhere we trust that those who are interested in the welfare of the young, and who desire the promotion of sobriety and righteousness will make prayer for the success of the temperance cause in this city at this critical time.

The Prohibition Convention.

On Wednesday and Thursday of last week, a convention of Prohibitionists of the Maritime Provinces was held in Moncton. There was a good attendance. Dr. Black of Amherst, was made Chairman. The first meeting was taken up with speeches by the Chairman, Mr. Bulmer, and a number of others, all of whom warmly advocated prohibition of the drink traffic, and declared their conviction that the time has come when by organization the cause should be pushed. The spirit and purpose of the convention is shown in the resolutions adopted. The following was submitted by a committee composed of Revs. Messrs. Brown and Paisley and Mr. Bulmer:

Whereas, There is a steady growing conversion in the minds of all right thinking persons that the liquor traffic is in such an alarming degree destructive of the social, moral and material welfare of society that its prohibition is the supreme necessity of the hour and should be made the great issue in the politics of Canada; and

Whereas, The liquor traffic is thoroughly organized and by reason of the revenue it gives the government and the votes and subscriptions it gives politicians and political parties it has become a vast machine in the hands of the unscrupulous for bribing, deceiving and confusing public opinion and thereby corrupting our politics, legislation and administrations of law; and, until this organized strength is met by an organization more powerful the suppression of the liquor traffic in Canada is simply impossible; and

Whereas, It must be evident to all notwithstanding the overwhelming public opinion in favor of prohibition in the maritime provinces, we will never be able to obtain it so long as we are separated into clubs, associations, divisions, lodges, unions, societies, leagues, etc., all working for the same end, but without that concerted political action which when obtained will enable us to sweep the legalized liquor traffic of Canada in a single campaign; and

Whereas, United action is necessary to secure prohibition; and

Whereas, Neither party has declared for prohibition; therefore,

Resolved, That this convention do now organize itself into a maritime province prohibition party, and take all the necessary steps to complete its organization and carry out the object contemplated.

The resolution elicited an earnest discussion, but there was substantial agreement, and it was unanimously adopted.

Revs. Dr. Goodspeed and A. C. Thompson and Mr. E. B. Elderkin were a committee to prepare a platform for the new party. The following is their report as adopted by the Convention:

1. We acknowledge the righteous Ruler of the universe.

2. It is the recognized duty of the state to protect and conserve by law the material welfare, the health and the morals of the people. It is equally acknowledged that the liquor

traffic works the greatest injury to all these chief interests of the individual, the home and the community. It is therefore a most evident right and duty of the state totally to prohibit the traffic which is the greatest foe to these interests, which the state is pledged to protect and conserve.

3. With the great organized influence of the liquor interest in the old political parties, we have no ground of hope that either the government or the opposition will make prohibition a plank in their platform in the near future if at all.

4. We fail to distinguish any distinct issue of principle between the existing political parties at all comparable to prohibition.

5. We therefore declare the total suppression of the liquor traffic to be the chief plank of the platform on which we stand, and believe it to form a political issue which claims the sympathy and political support of the good citizens who have the highest welfare of the country at heart.

6. We recognize the fact that when the prohibition party may have to assume the responsibilities of power the minor interests affecting the welfare of the country will require to be considered. Until, however, this time has nearly come we do not consider it best to risk the division of the prohibitionists by introducing these issues before they require immediate practical consideration.

7. In the meantime our representatives in parliament are expected to give an independent support to all measures they consider for the best interests of the country.

The Press of the Provinces was thanked for advertising the Convention.

A resolution of sympathy with Fredericton Temperance workers in the present C. T. Act contest was passed.

Subscriptions to carry on the work were made to the amount of about \$300.

The Voice of Halifax was named the official organ of the new party.

The following officers were elected: President—J. T. Bulmer, Halifax. Vice-Presidents—Rev. Dr. H. Pickard, Sackville; Rev. J. D. Murray, Red Bank; Rev. C. Goodspeed, St. John; Jesse Burns, Lower Freetown, P. E. I.; Rev. J. A. Cahill, Central Bedouque, P. E. I.; Rev. H. A. S. Hartley, St. John; Rev. A. T. Dyke-man, New Glasgow; Rev. J. Tweedie, Stellarton; C. S. Chapman, Amherst. Secretary—Rev. A. C. Thompson, Petitediac. Treasurer—B. D. Rogers, Stellarton.

CURRENT TOPICS.

THE BEHRING SEA DISPUTE.

The Behring Sea dispute still remains unsettled, though why it should remain so so long it is hard to understand. If it were a matter to which there are two sides, the delay could be understood; but it is, admittedly, a question in which the argument is all on one side. There has scarcely been even a pretence of arguing in support of the United States claims. Many of their writers and speakers, the best of them, have frankly admitted that their country has no case. Says *The Week*:

And now, to cap the climax, Professor James B. Angell, unquestionably one of the weightiest authorities in the United States on such a question, comes forward in the *Forum* and establishes beyond dispute the substance of the Canadian contention. It is needless to summarize his article. It is but a clear and able presentation of arguments which have again and again been presented, though probably never before in a shape in which they could reach the eyes and command the attention of so many thoughtful Americans. We do not suppose that Mr. Angell's relations with the Washington Government are of such a character as to warrant the supposition that his article is intended to pave the way to a surrender which has very likely been contemplated from the first. Mr. Angell summarizes his conclusion as follows: "On the whole we find no ground on which we can claim as a right the exclusion of foreigners from the open waters of Behring Sea for the purpose of protecting seals. If we have any good ground and are determined to stand upon it, then we ought to proceed with more vigor in maintaining our policy. To send one little revenue steamer, carrying a small crew, into Behring Sea, and to despatch on each of the captured vessels one man, a common seaman, as a prize crew or commanding officer, is simply absurd." He urges, moreover, that negotiations should be opened at once with a view to an amicable settlement. Such an article from such a source is gratifying.

NOT NEEDED.

The Independent seems to think there are some kinds of ministers who are not needed, and proceeds to describe them thus:

A Minister who, on leaving the theological seminary, finds that he has "peculiar notions" on religious topics and moral questions, and who, on accepting a call to the pastorate of a Christian Church, resolves with considerable firmness that he will air those notions, and thus begins his life work in a way sure to make, as he well knows, divisions and trouble generally, not only in the church to which he is called to minister and to the denomination with which he is connected, but to the entire Christian community—such a man has no proper place in the

pulpit; for he is likely to do far more harm than good.

A man who joins a church, and then in the exercise of his "freedom in a free country" proceeds with a fixed determination to assert his right to use intoxicating drinks when he pleases, to observe the Sabbath Day by attending dinner-parties or in travelling; to disbelieve a great many things recorded in the Bible, particularly what is said about future punishment—such a man in nine cases out of ten will do more harm in a church than good, and so far as his influence is concerned, he had better be out of the church than in it.

A man who clings with all his might to non-essentials and who is determined at all times and on all occasions that the Church and "all the world" shall know how great a man he is, and how important it is, in his own estimation, that he should have a high place as a public teacher and also be well paid for his valuable services, in propagating his peculiar views—such a man we humbly think should have a long probation—at home.

A man who has a "new theory of his own," and a peculiar one; who has a hobby, and generally a wooden one; who believes in freedom of speech for himself; who doesn't care a fig for other people, or their opinions, but who generally is "first to get the floor" to fight the battles of the minority of one—such a man is not exactly the one best qualified to lead an army to serve as President, to control a church, to instruct a political party, or devise measures or make creeds for practical working Christians at home or abroad.

A farmer who spends most of his time in gunning and fishing, in building fences and whitewashing the same, in talking loud about his new methods in agriculture; who pays no attention to Canada thistles, mulens or dogwood on his grounds; who talks "horse" a great deal and of his own crops very little; who has no time to plant seed or enrich his grounds—such a man would not pass as a model farmer.

Just now the world is in great need of practical ministers, practical missionaries, practical Christians, practical rulers, practical statesmen, practical business men. These should march up to the front and when there, "stand" and fight for the best good of mankind.

CAUSE FOR THANKSGIVING.

The *Canada Presbyterian*, writing of Thanksgiving Day, believes that the people of this Country are not without reasons for real gladness. It says:

Have any people under heaven greater reason to be grateful than Canadians? If so, name them. Where do they live and what advantages do they enjoy that Canadians do not possess? It is quite easy to mention the names of nations or states that at first sight seem to be better off than we are, but if we know as much about their position as we know about our own we might not think so. Just name any country under heaven that, all things considered, has been dealt more kindly with.

Texas Letter.

DEAR INTELLIGENCER:—The time has come for me to write you a few lines. After reading the good news from the Conference I thanked God from the depths of my heart for his blessings on the brethren at home who have been working so hard through the past year. While some have not been exempt from severe trials, yet the ranks of the ministry have been unbroken by death and God's blessing has been on their work. I am sure the absent ministers prayed that blessings might fall abundantly on the brethren assembled in Conference. Those who for different reasons, were hindered from being present have sustained great loss, but the good news from the work comes like a letter from a friend, and calls to greater faithfulness and consecration, which I feel shall be on our part as never before. I have prayed that God would enable me to do better work for Him. Have you ever been prevented from meeting at the Conference? Then you know my feelings. I was homesick as the time of the session came on, and longed to be there to look into the faces of those who have been so true and who have so many times helped me in many ways. I had the privilege last week, for the first time, of meeting in the Baptist Association of San Antonio which convened with the first church. It is a very respectable appearing body. The business is done much after the order of our home Conference. There was a number of men present who would have graced any assemblage, prominent among them being J. B. Cranfill, D. D., Superintendent of Baptist Missions in Texas, Dr. Morris, agent of Baylor University at Waco, Texas, Dr. Hardwick, Dr. J. N. Prestidge pastor of the first Baptist church San Antonio; they are all good looking men; they all made speeches, and I think about the best short speeches I ever heard.

The missionary spirit seems to take hold of the Baptists in this country, and, with a man like Dr. J. B. Cranfill to manage the work, they can reasonably expect success. The question of educating the young men coming into the ministry was fully discussed, and a strong effort is being made to that end. The most important questions of the day were considered, such as the observance of the Sabbath.

Here I would say that one of the most marked changes in this country in four years, is the observance of the Lord's day. It is by no means yet what it should be, yet there is a steadily increasing sentiment in favour of regarding the law on this point. The committee on temperance appealed to all Christians and others, to aid in carrying out the law against violators.

There is marked improvement on every hand in this country, for only a few weeks ago I married a couple for which the groom paid me the large sum of one dollar, and yesterday evening I performed another ceremony for which the principal paid me ten dollars. So I hope the good work of reform may go on until you shall realize a change even in old New Brunswick, for I think by the time we get marriage fees up to about fifty dollars here, you can expect the same to be at least twenty-five.

I shall have to stop writing for the present, but would say before closing, that I wish it was so, that I could make a visit to those four churches that are without a pastor, that I see mentioned in the denominational news of last week. But the winter is at hand, and the best advice that I have had, is to stop in this climate until the cold winter is past, then if it should be the Lord's will I may make the change. In the meantime may the blessings of Heaven be upon the churches at home and elsewhere.

Yours etc., J. H. EBB.

San Antonio, Texas,

Oct. 29th.

Letter From Rev. D. V. Lucas.

Dear Dr. McLeod: I am now at Winnipeg, assisting the Manitoba Alliance in its war against the rum traffic.

I have had a wide experience since I saw you, and am more and more convinced of the righteousness of our cause and of the necessity for our action in our effort to oppose and ultimately to abolish this world-wide foe of mankind, the liquor traffic.

Wherever it fastens itself to the soil, it curses poor humanity. Whether we find it in Australia, India, England or Canada, it is all the same a disgrace to our civilization, and a daily insult to God.

I see you are to have another repeal vote. If I were not in the far-west, I certainly would join you in your fight to retain a law that has been a blessing to your city. I sincerely hope your good people will not allow the Scott Act to be repealed. I know that the law has been enforced under great difficulties, largely because of the opposition of some high officials of your Province who ought to be ashamed thus to abuse the trust committed to them. I must confess that respect, such as every good citizen would like to feel for men in their position, is annihilated by their manifest sympathy with this great source of sin and crime. However, I hope you will again triumph in spite of all opposition from whatever source it may come.

There is no doubt your opponents will point to the west as an evidence that the Scott Act is a failure. I am sorry to say that the averaged Temperance man in Ontario is not equal to the average Temperance man in the Maritime Provinces. Someway, I think, in the long run, you are made of better stuff down by the sea. In many of the counties westward, they now see the terrible mistake they made in letting go of the Scott Act. My native county, Halton, has now ten times the drinking and four times the crime it had when that very useful measure was in force.

I was myself present in the Mayor's office in the county town when as many cases were being tried for two days drinking, at the annual fair in that town, as for the entire community for the entire year under the Scott Act.

Halton intends to restore the Act just as soon as its provisions will allow, and I have no doubt other counties will do so also; for whatever defects it may have it is, as these people have fully proved, a long, long way better than the license system. With an earnest prayer that your efforts may again be attended with success, and with best wishes for all the workers, I am

Sincerely Yours,

D. V. LUCAS.

Address—483 Ontario St., Toronto.

OF MINISTERS.—Rev. Mr. Bottrell has resigned the pastorate of Lenister St. Baptist church, St. John. Rev. Mr. McDougall, who has just resigned the charge of Calvin Presbyterian church, St. John, is, it is stated, to remain in the city and hold services in a Hall. Rev. Dr. Archibald (Presbyterian) for some years pastor in Amherst, N. S., died last week. Rev. S. Nelson was installed pastor of the Portland Baptist church last week.