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 375, Fredericton N. B.

Religious Intelligencer.

REV. JOSEPH MCLEOD, D. D.....EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8, 1890.

—INTERESTING. The letters in the Denominational News department will be read with interest. It is a department which is always eagerly read. We are greatly pleased to have so many and so good reports. We are expecting to have this department fuller this year than ever before.

—THANK YOU. We have to thank those subscribers who have sent new names with their own renewals. We are hoping that a great many will do this, taking advantage of the special offers. With a little effort a very large increase can be secured.

—A BETTER RATING. Dr. Parkhurst himself an admirable and successful pastor, thinks "it is time to stop rating a minister by his power to draw, and guage him by his ability to drive his people out to work. It is time to put the light of the churches where it is dark.

—MUST WORK LESS. Dr. Joseph Parker, of the City Temple, London, finds himself compelled to do less work. He has hitherto done a great deal outside his church; but he is now compelled to decline all invitations to extra service, and to confine himself exclusively to his church.

—A GOOD MOVE. Sir Wilfred Lawson, it is understood, intends at the next session of the British Parliament to move a resolution forbidding the sale of intoxicants within the precints of the House of Commons.

A like resolution should be introduced in the Parliament of Canada. There is no reason why rum should be sold in the Parliament buildings, and there is abundance of reason why such sale should be prohibited. It is a disgrace that it has been permitted so long.

—HE DID IT. A Presbyterian minister, believing that his people would be greatly helped by having the regular visits of the denominational paper, went to work to introduce it. He visited every family, explained the importance of having the paper, and solicited their subscriptions. When he began the work there were six papers taken in his congregation, when he had finished his canvass forty-three families had become subscribers. And he did it all in a short time.

Brethren of the Conferences of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, you can do just as well as this for your paper. Let there be a systematic canvass in every congregation. It ought to be begun at once.

—THE "SHORT-CUT." The short way to the ministry is never the best way. The *Inquirer*, speaking of a few ministers who have reached eminent positions by immense effort and herculean toil, says, what is no doubt true, that those men bewail their mistake in taking the "short-cut," and would be the last to advise others to do so. A man who has cut short his course of training in college knows what he has lost, and though by desperation he has overcome the loss, he would advise every young man to get the most thorough education he can, and to take no short-cut if he can avoid it.

—THE "CONFESSION." About the Presbyterian Confession of Faith, which it is sought to revise, the *Interior* (Presbyterian) says: "The defects of the Confession are indefensible. We have carried them at an immense cost of energy and loss of efficiency and usefulness much too long already. If we now volutarily retain them, while our ship will not be stranded, it will drag more and more heavily on the sand, and require a still larger expenditure of strength to give it motion,—strength which will be painfully employed, and absolutely wasted."

—POLITICAL FEELING. Just now, when the Province is having a general election, this reference to the feelings ehtertained and the statements made by opposing political parties, may keep somebody from being too unreasonably partizan.

If either political party were absolutely perfect, if all its politicians were honest and incapable of making mistakes, the utterances of the newspapers supporting it could scarcely be more uniformly laudatory than are those of the organs when discussing public men and public measures which bear the same label as themselves. On the other hand, there is no good in either party when viewed by an organ of the opposing party. Consequently the reader of a partizan newspaper never knows whether an item of political news has been correctly presented to him or not. If he be such a thorough-paced party man that he prefers misleading but agreeable fiction to the plain, unvarnished truth, he is satisfied with the warped and one-sided views of his organ. Otherwise he is not.

—A STRANGE PRAYER. At the funeral of Jeff. Davis, the ex-President of the defunct Confederacy, one of the ministers made the following odd petition:

"Help us to hold steadfastly those principles which were embodied in that form of government which Thou in thine inscrutable providence wast pleased to bring to a disastrous end. May those principles, like unto germs, bring forth the fruit of truth and justice and fidelity to every obligation in the future."

Why he should ask God to help them hold steadfastly the principles which he, in the same sentence, acknowledges were brought to a disastrous end by Divine providence, is a little hard to understand. Nor is it easier to comprehend how those God-destroyed principles can be the germs from which may spring "the fruit of truth and justice and fidelity." It is probable that there was more desire to eulogize the dead rebel chief than to make either a sensible or devout prayer to the Almighty. The same thing has been done a good many times at the funerals of less notable persons

—THE INFLUENZA. The epidemic of influenza which has so seriously affected Europe has made its appearance on this continent. New York, Boston and other places have been suffering considerably from it; and it has, perhaps, only begun its course on this side of the world. There have been some cases in St. John, and we have heard of at least one case in this city.

La Grippe, the name by which it is known in Europe, occasions a good deal of alarm wherever it appears there. In Paris there have been a good many fatal cases. It is no respecter of persons; in St. Petersburg it attacked the British, German, Turkish, Chinese, and Persian Ambassadors; a Spanish Princess was prostrated with it in France, and a Russian Prince was among the victims in Rome. In England the Marquis of Salisbury has been prostrate. Nor does it confine itself to persons, for in many places horses have been its victims.

The characteristics of the influenza are continuous headaches, pains all over the body, feverishness at night, sickness, and insurmountable lassitude. On the third day a soreness of the throat is accompanied by a persistent hacking cough. By the fifth day the patient is comparatively well, but the cough continues, and there is a danger of the attack being followed by inflammation of the lungs. Some think the malady is due to the presence of microbes in the air, the damp weather favouring the spread of the disease. Fear was entertained that it might be the precursor of cholera, which is raging in Persia and Mesopotamia, but the best medical authorities hold that this fear is unfounded.

☞ The readers of the article in last week's issue entitled Renewals Needed, would readily see that the heading should have been *Revivals*, instead of "Renewals." Types do strange things sometimes, which proof readers fail to correct.

Those who have so promptly renewed have our thanks. We hope to have reason to thank all the others right away.

NOW IS THE TIME.

A large proportion of subscriptions expired with the year. Now we are looking for renewal subscriptions for 1890. Already a good many have come. From all the others we are anxious to hear at once. Please do not delay.

We would like each subscriber to send, if possible, one or more new names with his renewal. There are many families in every community, not now receiving the INTELLIGENCER, who ought to have it. To secure them as subscribers is worth an effort. Will our friends kindly make that effort?

The canvass for renewals and new subscriptions should go on together. The ministers can do this work, or have it done with good effect. The extension of our circulation depends mainly on them and other friends of the cause.

Adopting the language of a contemporary, we may say,—If you love the institutions of the denominations; if you desire the highest interests of the families committed to your care; if you wish to distribute religious and denominational reading in the most effective way, and keep your people abreast of "the times," in all that goes to make a community wiser and better; if you wish the aid of an agency of power in creating and keeping alive an interest in the benevolent enterprises of your church; if you wish to put into the hands of the members of your church and congregation a paper which represents the denomination of which you are a minister, instead of leaving them to take none, or some non-denominational paper, which will leave the family in ignorance of what the denomination is really doing, *this is the time for you to be active in securing NEW and renewing OLD subscriptions for the* INTELLIGENCER.

Christian Progress in 1889.

The *Independent* has for a long time given at the close of each year a summary statement of the progress of religious work during the year and the religious condition of the world. The exhibit for 1889 is quite encouraging. Though the year was marked by no extraordinary ecclesiastical events, and the life of the churches has, in the main, been quiet, there have been clear indications of gain; and movements looking to the consolidation and better organization of christian forces have made progress.

No extraordinary revival influence swept over the churches as in some other years, and yet the year was not, by any means, a barren one in accessions and other gains. The increase of the previous year was nearly a million, and there is reason to believe that the increase in 1889 was quite as large.

The increase of activity in mission work is especially noteworthy. The contributions for the evangelization of the world are larger each year. This is one of the best and most promising signs of the times. And reports from the various mission fields are encouraging; the Gospel is making its way amongst the heathen peoples everywhere. Japan is opening widely to the Gospel; Africa invites christian enterprise as never before; China is surely yielding to the influence of christianity; and India shows many encouraging evidences of the progress of the life-giving truth.

A review of the whole field, and a careful estimate of the forces at work and their effects give much encouragement to those who look and hope for the triumph of the church of Christ.

A Catechism.

An English Vicar, Rev. Mr. Gace, has published a Catechism in which he simplifies and makes as plain as possible the teachings of the Church of England as he understands them. While all the ministers of the established church do not believe as he does, and some may openly repudiate his interpretations of the Church's doctrines, the fact remains that he is a minister in good standing in the church, and that the church Catechism is open to the construction he puts upon it. The following extracts from his somewhat extraordinary publication will show the character of the teaching which is given to many, young and old:

"Q. Why do you call it your Christian name? A. Because it was given to me when I was made a Christian."

"Q. When were you made a Christian? A. When I was baptized."

"Q. In what light must we view those who have never been baptized? A. As the heathen, whether they are old or young, notwithstanding they may be in the habit of attending divine worship."

"Q. What are those persons said to be who have rightly received baptism? A. They are said to be 'born again,' or to be 'regenerate.'"

"Q. What other privilege attaches to baptism? A. We become inheritors of the Kingdom of Heaven."

"Q. Does baptism entirely cleanse us from these (sins)? A. Yes, it places us in a state as if we never committed them."

The rigid and unchristian exclusiveness by which Mr. Gace excludes from the kingdom of grace all who do not pronounce his "shibboleth," is one of the most striking features of this catechism.

"Q. What do you mean by the Catholic Church? A. I mean that *visible* society of faithful men all over the world, which is called by the name of Christ, and governed according to the appointment of the Apostles, by bishops, priests and deacons."

"Q. Is not the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, as it is denominated by law, considered by the Church as one of its branches? A. No; and therefore there is a branch of the true Church of Christ in that country, which for the sake of distinction, is called the Episcopal Church."

"Q. We have amongst us various sects and denominations which go by the general name of Dissenters. In what light are we to consider them? A. As heretics; and in our Litany we expressly pray to be delivered from the sins of 'false doctrine, heresy and schism.'"

"Q. Is then their worship a laudable service? A. No; because they worship God according to their own evil and corrupt imaginations, and not according to his will, and therefore their worship is idolatrous."

"Q. Is Dissent a great sin? A. Yes; it is in direct opposition to our duty toward God."

"Q. But why have not Dissenters been excommunicated? A. Because the law of the land does not allow the wholesome law of the Church to be acted upon."

"Q. Is it wicked then to enter a meeting-house? A. Most assuredly; because, as was said above, it is a house where God is worshipped otherwise than he has commanded, and therefore it is not dedicated to his honor and glory."

"Q. In what light are we to regard Roman Catholics? A. These are in different case from 'Protestant Dissenters.' The Roman Church is a true branch of the Catholic Church." etc.

Prompt payment is a double benefit to the paper— (1) it helps pay the bills, and (2) it assures us of our practical interest in the work.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS.

REV. E CROWELL writes; "Rev. Mr. Reeder (the new pastor of Cape Island) has arrived. Bro. Freeman has had some revival, with baptisms, at Kemptville."

NORTH HEAD, GRAND MANAN.—There has been some revival interest manifested here. Quite a number of the church members have been helped and are again taking their place in the church work. Three young people have made a start in the christian life, others are concerned yet seem unwilling to yield to love's resistless power. I had hoped ere this to see quite an ingathering of souls. But we "know that our labour is not in vain in the Lord." I have visited forty-five families since coming to the island, have held thirty three meetings, buried two persons and married two couples. I have been very busy early and late. I intend to work in faith, expecting fruit by the blessing of God. The church is encouraged and helped. Yet we are not satisfied and are looking to God for greater blessing.

T. O. DEWITT.

FROM REV. R. FRENCH.—Agreeable to the promises made at the last Conference the ministers have been reporting every month more or less. And now I send along a few words in a short way.

Since the Conference I have not been very well, as I have been afflicted with boils, so that I have only been away from home twice since the session. But I am not discouraged. I like, very well, the order of things with regard to reporting. The people generally think well of it. The paper, each week, is a welcome visitor. We hope the editor's health will keep up. We believe the Lord will bless this agent for good, not only among ourselves, but amongst others as well. I have nothing more to say of myself. I intend to toil on till the end comes.

I hope our younger brethren will keep lowly, and that they will be efficient workers in the cause of Christ. I have been glad to hear of all their prosperity. "Though small my allotment below, I will not as others repne."

Each morning I get through, and can thank God and take courage, and so it will be always: nothing to spare, to think we are better than others; nothing to boast of. Things are quite peaceable in their place. Brother Nobles is getting along harmoniously with his people. I will leave the rest for another time.

St. John, N. E. R. FRENCH.

[A part of Bro. French's communication—some thoughts on Christmas—have to be left over till another time. Bro. F's many friends will be sorry that he has been suffering, and he may be assured of their sympathy and prayers.—ED.]

TOBIQUE RIVER, V. Co.—I wish to acknowledge, through the INTELLIGENCER, the receipt of $12.10 the proceeds of a social held in Arthurette on Christmas eve.

The people at Long Island have procured a new organ and placed it in the school house where our religious services are held. The people there are to be congratulated. Several of the young ladies of the place, through whose efforts the instrument was procured, wish to express their thanks for the help received from friends outside of their own village.

Notwithstanding many of the men are away lumbering, the congregations are encouragingly large, and if it were not for the ravages of that "hell-born-fiend"—rum, which is ruining some of the brightest of the young men in this part of the country, I would have no complaint to make. It seems strange that certain persons are allowed to sell liquor in this County in open violation of the law. It is hard that so many young men must be disgraced and destroyed simply that a few unprincipled persons, who are too lazy to work, may be supported in idleness and luxury.

I am preaching at Arthurette, Reed Settlement, Long Island and Foster's Cove, and purpose extending my circuit after a time. Since I came from Conference I have spent four very pleasant Sabbaths with the churches at Lower Perth and Perth Centre. Never have I enjoyed better health or a more pleasant time than since I came to Tobique.

There seems to be a rivalry among the friends on this pastorate to see who can show me the most kindness, and among the homes as to which can make me the most comfortable and contented. I have made 167 christian calls since coming here, and am looking for a good and prosperous year. I love the work. I love the sinners, many of whom will, I hope, before the end of the year be converted to God. Pray for the work here.

FRANK A. CURRIER.

Arthurette, V. Co.

CLARK'S HARBOUR, N. S.—Since Bro. Atwood closed his pastoral work on this island, it has been my privilege to baptize twice, one last Sabbath, both joining the Clark's Harbour church. Since May 1st, I have preached here once a day nearly every Sabbath, and sometimes twice. The attendance has been large. The general interest is good. We have also had sermons and assistance during the past season from Brethren L. A. Lang, James Smith, G. Swim, W. Miller, A. Jones and C. F. Cooper. Our Sabbath School has a large attendance. I have found the work as S. S. Superintendent very pleasant indeed.

Last week a tea-meeting was held for the purpose of raising funds for the purchase of a new organ for the church. The tea was a success, financially and socially. A few weeks ago a number of ladies called and presented Mrs. Sturgis with a beautiful quilt and a silver butter knife. Last week friends called and left cash and valuables to the amount of twenty-two dollars, as a donation. Since July I have had an appointment at Newelltown each Sunday, also a prayer meeting there during the week. I have preached twice this month at the Centerville church, and have an appointment there next Sabbath. I may say for myself that I have done the most work in 1889 of any year of my life. I am thankful for continued good health, and for many mercies and blessings from the kind heavenly Father's hand. We are expecting, as you have already learned, Rev. Bro. Reester to take pastoral charge of the churches on the island at the beginning of the year 1890. I presume no one will give a heartier greeting to him then I shall. May his coming and his labours be abundantly blessed of the Lord, is the prayer of many.

GEO. E. STURGIS.

FROM REV. A. C. THOMPSON.—Again I take my pen to jot down a few things that may be of interest to some of the numerous readers of the INTELLIGENCER. I send you with this several renewals for the paper from the Corn Hill church. I do not suppose you expect any new names from that locality, as nearly every home in that community is blessed by the INTELLIGENCER'S visits. That church continues on in the even tenor of its way without any perceptible change. Five Points, Coverdale, is growing spiritually, temporally and influentially. A fine organ has been recently purchased and placed in the church; a good choir is being organized; the congregations are increasingly large; and, taken altogether, the outlook there is very encouraging. A little ripple on the baptismal question has also worked to our advantage.

I regret that a press of duties prevents me from extending care this year, to the Portage and Wheaton Settlement churches. Last year I had the happy privilege of visiting both these churches several times; and permit me here gratefully to acknowledge from the Wheaton Settlement church two very liberal donations, besides several generous contributions. They, evidently, have been trained to devise liberal things for God's cause. From the Portage church I was made the happy recipient of liberal private donations from the Dunfield and Jonah families. May God's blessing ever attend them, is my wish and prayer.

I am hopeful that Wheaton Settlement will engage the services of Bro. Abram Perry whose successful efforts in preaching the gospel has caused us all to rejoice. We are very glad that Bro. Vanwart is coming into this District, and feel assured that the churches which have been fortunate enough to secure his labours will greatly profit thereby.

Let us one and all pray, trust and work, that the year 1890 may be a happy, a blessed year to us as a denomination, and to the many precious souls still unconverted, that are found each Lord's day in our several churches.

A. C. THOMPSON.

Petitcodiac, Dec. 30, 1889.

FROM BRO. G. A. DOWNEY.—I have read the letters from the various brethren with great interest and not a little profit. You will understand how I value denominational news when I say that I read it first of all.

I have been working on the Port Medway, East Port Medway, and Port Mouton pastorate for about three months. This is my first work of the kind. It is a grand work. Mine has not been a wonderful experience, but I have been able to see the hand of the Lord in the management of our affairs from week to week. I preach three times on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Sabbaths of each month, and twice on the 3rd Sabbath. I attend six prayer meetings and three conference meetings each month, and also one week-day preaching service. Our meetings are spiritual and show a steadily increasing interest. Professing Christians are being aroused to their responsibility and accountability, and a new interest is manifest in all departments of the church work. The sisters, in a the churches, are taking hold, and everybody knows what that means. They have just held a tea-meeting and fancy sale here to raise the debt on the church organ. They accomplished their object, with a few dollars in addition, and the meeting was free from the usual objectionable features of tea-meetings. To-night a similar effort is being made in East Port in the Sabbath School, and New Year's night will witness another in Port Mouton with a view of increasing the comfort of the meeting-house.

I see nothing to discourage the churches in Queens Co. "If God be for us who can be against us?" I believe the Free Baptist cause here, as well as elsewhere, is God's cause, and that He will carry on the work to His honor and glory, if the churches will take hold, and keep hold, and work.

I was interested in Bro. Parsons' account of the methods adopted by his church for raising funds. By a two-months-and-a-half trip through Queens and Kings Cos. last summer, and by my previous knowledge of Free Baptists in other parts of the Province, I know that they are no worse off in worldly affairs than people of other denominations. I have long been convinced that the great need in Free Baptist churche is system in raising church funds. Let it be monthly, or fortnightly, or weekly (*not* quarterly, much less annually), but let there be system. Be it a twentieth, or a tenth, or a twelfth of one's income, let it be *something* from *every* member. The smaller the sum collected at any one time from any individual, the easier it will come. Two of the churches on this pastorate have adopted a monthly system, and the people are doing nobly. Later I purpose to propose some system for our Mission Education, and Relief interests. Sometimes, in religious as in secular affairs, it is well to make haste slowly.

I have found the people uniformly kind, and have yet to see the dark side of a minister's life. To be sure, I see signs of coming difficulties, and I know they must come, but "sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof," and then, "my grace is sufficient."

GEO. A. DOWNEY.

Port Medway, N. S.

HALIFAX.—Last night the ladies of the Starr street Free Baptist church held a social in the vestry. After tea the pastor, Rev. A. G. Jones, was presented with the following address.