

TERMS, NOTICES, ETC.

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Terms of religious news from every quarter are always welcome. Denominational news, as all other matter for publication, should be sent promptly.

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Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, March 18th, 1891.

FATHER CHINIQUEY is authority for the statement that during 1890 fully one thousand Roman Catholics in the United States and Canada left the Church of Rome.

SCHWAUPELIANS is the name of the smallest religious denomination in the United States. They are found only in Pennsylvania, and number, all told, 306 persons.

PROTESTANTS in the United States are said to be increasing more rapidly than the population, and the Romanists less rapidly. The communicants of Protestant churches now number about 12,000,000, and the number of Romanists is not quite five millions.

THE POPE passed his eighty-first birthday anniversary on the 2nd inst. His health is frail.

NEW MEMBERS are being received into the churches. To build them up in the faith of the gospel and to lead them to faithful christian service is now the important duty of pastors and older christians.

IF A MAN has not an interest in the spread of his religious convictions, they will soon cease to have any vital influence on his own belief and life.

RELIGION is not something apart from every-day life. If it does not enter into and control the whole life—at home, in business, and in all its relations to all men, it is "a sounding brass."

THE LAST annual report of the Metropolitan Tabernacle (Spurgeon's), states that during the year there has been a decrease in the weekly offerings, and that the number of members paying for sittings considerably decreased. Nobody, however, makes Mr. Spurgeon responsible for these fallings-off. The church officers have both the sense and the honesty to rightly account for them.

THE "Christian Inquirer," referring to the lack of funds in the Baptist Foreign Mission treasury, remarks: "One of two things is evident about our foreign missions. Churches had better give more money or cease their prayers."

We incline to the opinion that if there were more real praying there would be a corresponding increase of money flowing into the treasury.

TOO LITTLE THOUGHT is given to the spirit in which contributions for Christian purposes are made. An eminent minister has well said: "Money! It may be beautiful as the gems of heaven—as was the widow's mite; or it may be a flouting vulgarity, even within the Christian Church—'lucre' with the filth on it, upon which God will not look."

THE DOCTORS differ. In another place is the statement that a committee of physicians in Madrid have taken strong ground against the Koch Lymph; and there are others who are, at least, very doubtful about it. But here is another statement to the effect that it is winning its way to medical confidence as an effective and reliable remedial agent. Official experiments in 2,172 cases of tuberculosis under treatment in Germany from the middle of November to the end of December, resulted in a very small percent-

age of death, in several undoubted cures, and in marked improvement in over 700 instances. Dr. Jacobi, of New York, after a careful review of experiments, publishes his conviction that "the careful and persistent use of tuberculin," combined with climatic treatment, will be the chief dependence hereafter in dealing with pulmonary tuberculosis.

TEMPERANCE ADVOCATES in these days are sometimes accused of saying too strong things. John Wesley has been dead one hundred years. This is what he said in the eighteenth century: "The [liquor sellers] murder his majesty's subjects by wholesale, neither does their eye pity or spare. They drive them to hell like sheep; and what is their gain? Is it not the blood of these men? Who then would envy their large estates and sumptuous palaces? A curse is in the midst of them; the curse of God cleaves to the stones, the timber, the furniture of them; the curse of God is in their gardens, their walks, their groves; a fire that burns to the nethermost hell! Blood, blood is there; the foundation, the floor, the walls, the roof, are stained with blood! And canst thou hope, oh, thou man of blood, though thou art clothed in scarlet and fine linen, and farest sumptuously every day, canst thou hope to deliver down thy fields of blood to the third generation? Not so, for there is a God in heaven; therefore, thy name shall soon be rooted out."

The truth is not uttered more plainly in these days. It certainly should not be less pointed. There are ministers, including some even who call themselves followers of Wesley, who might be helped by a study of the foregoing.

"EXTREME UNCTION," as administered by Roman Catholic priests to the dying, is thus described: "The oil used must be olive oil that has been blessed by a bishop. The priest dips the thumb of his right hand in the holy oil, and marks the organs of the five senses of the penitent with the sign of the cross. He has seven balls of cotton, and wipes away the oil with a fresh ball each time. The eyes, the ears, the nostrils, the palms of the hands, the soles of the feet, are all touched. When the anointing is ended the priest rubs those of his fingers that have touched the oil with bits of bread, and then washes his hands. The crumbs of bread and the water are thrown into the fire, and the pieces of cotton are burned in the church and the ashes are thrown into the sacarium.

And they think it helps them to heaven!

THE MARCH contributions for Missions—have the churches attended to them yet? The month is more than half gone. Money is needed for the work.

Christ in the World.

"And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me." So said Jesus. And he was laughed to scorn for saying it. But the centuries attest the divinity of His prophecy and His power. The world's changed life is the proof of the divine and gracious influence of His doctrines. The religion of Jesus, says one, has not merely rectified particular abuses, removed special evils, exerted a benign and salutary influence on local institutions.

It has formed and introduced into the world a general Christian consciousness which is practically ubiquitous and commanding in Christendom; to which institutions, tendencies and persons are more distinctly amenable; which judges all by an ideal standard, to which flattering concessions to wealth, or power, or genius, or culture are inherently offensive; which constitutes a spiritual bond of union of most widely separate states, and which affirms with sure expectation its approaching supremacy in the world.

The prophecy is being fulfilled—is even now largely fulfilled, that "His Kingdom ruleth over all." And "Jesus shall reign where'er the sun Does his successive journeys run, His kingdom stretch from shore to shore, Till moons shall wax and wane no more."

Renewal of Christians.

Not for the unconverted alone, but for Christians as well, revivals are needed. Spiritual life needs and must have its renewal. And many Christians, unfortunately, live in such relation to God that they do not receive that supply of spiritual life they need without participating in the seasons of refreshing that revival brings. Is spiritual life low? If so, it is a sure sign that there is need of laying in spiritual supplies. God's children need to draw near to Him and renew the strength of their love.

But while Christians will surely be gainers by a revival, it is not the thought of themselves and their gain that must move them. If they have no other thought or anxiety they will have no revival. True refreshing comes only when we are stirred by thoughts of others. We receive blessing when we seek to secure it for others. When we are moved to labor for the perishing about us, we find in that holy effort the uplifting that we

ourselves need. In the endeavour to bring spiritual blessings to our fellows we are, ourselves, enriched. Are there unconverted ones around you? Go to work for them, to get them into the experience of salvation. And at the same time you will find your own spiritual life renewed and developed.

OBJECTIONS.

How to Meet Them.

BY REV. DR. PENNEY.

Among the readers of a religious paper there are always some—and especially at this season of the year, when so many revivals are abroad—who are breaking away from their old enemy, and who find, as they grow earnest in this matter, how wonderfully fertile in objections their minds have grown. Let me select one such for a word of counsel.

You never thought yourself before so rich in point of invention. But now, no sooner does the subject come up, then a perpetual stream of evasions, excuses, apologies for delaying repentance, pours into your mind. What is the meaning of it all? It is, believe me, no fruit of your own mind alone. Other intellects, more fertile than yours, are busy with you. These new thoughts are the arrows from the out-works of hell, which Bunyan describes as you travel toward the wicket gate.

"Religion is mysterious," says the tempter. "You don't know what to do. You may make some mistakes, and had better not try." What is your only safe answer? Go straight to Christ. Ask him to pardon and save you. Tell him your perplexities. Ask him to help you. Remember that, whatever else may be dark, one thing is transparently clear,—that "Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners." Keep this single, simple truth in view, and at once set upon it.

"But you need more feeling," whispers Satan. "Wait till the Spirit has got a more thorough hold upon you." No. Remember this,—that religion does not consist in feeling. You may agonize till your brains reel, and be no Christian. You may be as calm as a child in its father's arms, and have full assurance in believing. Religion consists in an obedient will, choosing and following Christ with faith. Go directly to him with what feeling you have. It is dishonest to stay away, waiting for conviction. What if you go to a man to collect a bill, and he tells you, "Well, I ought to pay; I'd like to; but, really, I don't feel enough interest in the subject!" Is that what you are doing to Christ. And if you wait for him to take you up on some great flood-tide of feeling, and float you into the kingdom, in spite of yourself, you will wait forever.

"You are good enough now," says the tempter. Are you sure of that? Sure that the eye of God discovers nothing rotten in such a foundation for hope? The dissector's knife lays open disease that the subject, when alive, had no suspicion of. Are you certain that, when God dissects your secret motives, with that "Word" which is "sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart," he will find you all right within? Dare you stake your soul upon it?

But if Satan fails in that direction, he will try you in another. "You are too guilty. There is no hope for a sinner like you. You've passed the day of grace." Too guilty? God's mercy in Christ too short to supply a case like yours? As if a man dying of thirst on the shore of one of our large inland lakes, and urged to drink, should answer, "I would, if there were only water enough." Do you suppose the grace that has saved unnumbered millions of vile men and women cannot reach you? Too guilty! You are the very man that God is after. If you are broken-hearted with the greatness of your sin, you have the very preparation that he wants. Go, laboring, heavy-laden soul to your Saviour, and lay your burden at his feet.

"But I may not persevere." That let me tell you, is no business of yours. Christ will take care of tomorrow. Now is the accepted time. Leave the future to God. This moment is the only moment for which you are responsible. You have seen a man with a lantern at night. Around him was a little circle of light, perhaps two yards across. Beyond all that was darkness. If, now, he had set down his lantern, and said, "I must stop; it is all dark there ahead, and I may pitch into some hole," he would have acted just as you are acting. But he went on, and the circle of light went with him. And the light of Christ will go with you, if you only keep moving, instead of sitting down to whine and tremble! Hear what he says to you: "When thou passest through the waters, I will be thee, and through the rivers,

they shall not overflow thee." "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." Do you want any better insurance on your soul than that?

"But I've tried to go to Christ, and don't get any comfort." Then go again. Keep going, as long as he spares your life. "But isn't there something else to do?" Nothing whatever. Throw yourself on him, as a guilty, helpless creature; and, first or last, you are a great deal more sure to find light and peace than the sun is to rise to-morrow morning. Waste no time or thought in looking about for some other way. If a shipwrecked sailor in the surf, after striking out three or four times for the shore, has been as often carried back by the undertow, would you have him turn and put to sea? There is death in any other direction than toward Christ alone.

Your old enemy will change like a very chameleon, in pushing these evasions upon you. But his sole object, remember, is one and the same through them all,—to keep you off from Christ, the only hope. If you would baffle his scheme, if you would escape his doom, if you would save your soul, ask, and keep asking of Christ to receive you.

Notes by the Way.

NO. IX.

A Sabbath (the 8th inst.), and part of two other days, were pleasantly spent with Rev. Jos. Noble on his pastorate, which embraces Lower Brighton, Hartland and Upper Brighton. Bro. Noble, though now in his seventy-eighth year, is in good health, and attends regularly his preaching appointments and does the other work of his pastorate. He has, usually, but two preaching services on the Sabbath, but the day we were with him he had three, with a view, probably, to getting all the work possible out of the visiting brother. And the visiting brother made no objection, indeed enjoyed it. The morning service was at Lower Brighton, the afternoon at Upper Brighton, and the evening at Hartland. At each place there was a good congregation. The heavy snow storm of the Thursday and Friday preceding had made heavy travelling, but there was good attendance notwithstanding. We have not seen during the winter such large drifts as those in Lower Brighton, through which the men of the district had to shovel on Saturday.

The Lower Brighton church is reported not so strong as it has been in some former years, though stronger and having a more hopeful outlook than a year or two ago. Some division, chiefly attributable to misunderstanding, has weakened it somewhat; but we hope there may be complete understanding and reconciliation, and a return of the old strength and a condition of even increased efficiency. There is not room in the community for two churches to work advantageously. It is a pleasant community of really good people, and we are strongly hopeful that they will work together with increasing unanimity. God grant it for His cause sake, and for the blessing of the young people of the homes there.

The Sabbath School, under the Superintendency of Bro. Norris Brown, has, for the first time, been kept open all winter, and, in spite of the severe weather and storms, has been interesting.

Hartland church was never strong numerically. But a few faithful brethren and sisters are holding steadily on their way. That they have continued to this time is the best proof of their faith and zeal in Christian work and their loyalty to the denomination to which they belong. And their faith and labour has not been in vain. Others have been stimulated by their steadfastness, and they, themselves, are sure to reap the reward of their well doing. "Be not weary in well-doing, for in due season ye shall reap, if ye faint not."

Upper Brighton, as the other two places, has a good church building. The resident membership of the church is not large. Their prayer meetings are reported seasons of considerable interest. Bro. Noble is encouraged by some indications of increasing interest, and he intends to hold some special meetings there, in the hope of stimulating the church members and winning other souls to Christ. We hope to hear of an ingathering. Bro. Noble's years have not lessened his interest in the cause to which he has for more than half a century been devoted. Indeed, his concern for the prosperity of the churches seems to deepen, and in labours he continues to be abundant. Everywhere the people hold him in reverence for his wise and godly walk, and love him for his devotion to Christian work.

At Upper Brighton we had the privilege of addressing a temperance meeting Monday evening, held under

the auspices of the Lodge of Templars there. There has been a somewhat widespread increase of temperance interest there and thereabout within a few months, and in consequence there has been considerable increase in the membership of the temperance organizations.

At the three places visited we were pleased to meet many friends, and the hospitality of the homes that entertained us was much enjoyed.

We were glad to meet Rev. Thos. VanWart at the Sabbath evening service in Hartland. He had been visiting two or three days in the country, where he lived and laboured a number of years. His health is not as robust as he would like, but he said he intended to begin special work at Long Point, K. Co.—one of his churches—soon after his return home.

A drive of five or six miles from Upper Brighton took us to the home of Rev. John Perry at Connell. He is in very fair health, but says the winter has been quite trying to him. He has two churches—the one at Connell where he lives, and that at Waterville. He preaches in each fortnightly.

We did not have an opportunity to see either Rev. E. Sipprell or Rev. S. W. Shaw, but heard from both. Bro. Sipprell, though past four score and ten, is in good health; Bro. Shaw is not at all well, and is unable to engage in active work. His wife, also, is an invalid, necessitating his remaining at home all the time.

Though several weeks have elapsed since the last of Notes By The Way appeared, the winter has not been idle. Some of the time was spent in Woodstock, assisting Bro. Phillips in special meetings. Large congregations attend the ministry of Bro. P., and his people are warmly attached to him. He reports the religious life of the church much helped. He has had the joy of receiving several into membership since the beginning of the year, and he is expecting others.

About two weeks were spent with Bro. Clark in special meetings at Tracey Mills. Despite bad roads and the distracting influence of the election good congregations attended the meetings. Christians were helped, and the unconverted sought the saving grace. The latest report from Bro. C., said that the good work is still going on. The Tracey Mills church is a good one, strong not only numerically but in religious life. The pastor is held in high esteem by his people, and he has the joy of seeing the work of the Lord prosper under his ministry.

Both in Woodstock and at Tracey Mills we enjoyed the companionship of the pastors, who are earnest, devoted and successful workers. Each has had the joy this year of having a daughter confess Christ in baptism. We were glad of the opportunity of meeting old friends in their congregations, and of getting acquainted with many more of them; and our intercourse with all was very pleasant.

General Religious News.

The recent reports of baptisms from other stations, in addition to the 3,023 at Osgoche, will make the whole number baptized in the Telugu mission in the last few months about Four Thousand.

The Germans are collecting funds for a large Protestant church to be erected in the city of Rome, 38,000 marks having already been received.

The Icelandic Lutheran congregations in Manitoba and the Northwestern States recently celebrated the three hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the translation of the Scriptures into Icelandic.

Of the 478 ministers who left the Established Church of Scotland at the Disruption, forty-two are still living in Switzerland, while a few others are living in other countries. Dr. Beith, who was ordained sixty-eight years ago, is one of them.

The Christian Worker gives a statistical exhibit of the Friends of this country and Canada, showing that they have 781 meetings, 1,093 ministers, and 76,136 members. Adding the membership in Great Britain, Ireland, Australia and other countries the result is a grand total of 101,872 members.

Student volunteers for foreign missions, to the number of 500, convened at Cleveland last week from all parts of the world for their first international convention. The movement began at the Mount Hermon meeting of college men in the summer of 1888. Fully 300 students have already entered upon this noble work in regions abroad.

In Belgium one out of every two hundred of the population is a monastic brother. These 32,000 monks, not withstanding their vow of poverty, have property valued at \$26,000,000. In France there are fully ten thousand Sisters of Mercy, who upon entering

the eight hundred cloisters of that country, resign all claims to their property. Yet the property of these orders is worth more than five million dollars.

Pundita Ramabai, the woman apostle of truth and purity in India, has at present in her school seventeen widow pupils, nearly all Brahmins. Eight of these young women lost their husbands before the age of ten, and others between the age of ten and thirteen. The pupils in the school are earnest workers, and ambitious of becoming trained nurses or filling some useful post. The school has been removed to Poona.

Protestant principles are evidently still a factor and force in the religious life of France. The friends of the departed Pasteur Bersier published an edition of ten thousand copies of the sermons preached by that eloquent theologian, the object being to erect a monument with the funds thus secured. Within less than five weeks the entire edition had been sold. One of the most active religious organizations in the land is the Protestant League for the Practical Study of Social Questions. The third general Annual Meeting of the Association was held a few months ago in Moempelgard and then reports of the proceedings, constituting a volume of more than 200 pages, has just been issued.

In the Mexican Republic, Evangelical Christianity is making very encouraging progress. In the Presbyteries of the city of Mexico and Zacatecas there are ninety-seven churches, twenty-nine ordained ministers, and twenty-three young men who have nearly completed their studies who are engaged in preaching the Gospel. Already the Presbyterian Church can number 5,000 communicants. The Methodist Church in the United States has also extensive missions in Mexico and their efforts have met with a corresponding degree of success. With the inspiring influence of a pure Gospel and free institutions Mexico has a promising future.

Revivals.

The work of revival in the Baptist church in this city continues. Last Sabbath Rev. F. D. Crawley baptized seven converts, making seventy-three to date. The labours of Evangelist Whittier were much appreciated by the people, and have borne good fruit. His methods are simple, his presentation of truth very plain and tender, and his spirit excellent. There is in all his utterances and methods of work an absence of the things so often objected to in evangelists. He is evidently a devoted man of God, and certainly his work is owned and blessed.

In a revival now going on in one of the Methodist Episcopal churches in New York, under the leadership of Rev. Thos. Harrison, 400 are reported as having professed conversion.

In Bridgeport, Conn., a series of Union Gospel meetings has been held in the Opera House Sunday afternoons for some weeks. Ministers and others of different denominations are engaged in the work. Over 150 young men have become Christians and united with the churches.

The meetings being held in the Brussels Street (St. John) Baptist church by Evangelist Whittier are reported very interesting. The attendance is large and many are being impressed.

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS.

MIDLAND.—Three more converts were baptized Sabbath, 1st inst. My health is not very good now.

T. S. VANWART.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.—I wish to acknowledge the receipt of \$8.40 in groceries from friends at Kemptville, and \$5.20 from friends at Rockingham.

S. K. WEST.

ST. JOHN, N. E.—We have not been holding special meetings lately, but the interest keeps good. Last Sabbath the ordinance of baptism was administered. We are expecting others to follow.

B. H. NOBLES.

March 10th.

TRACEY MILLS, C. Co.—The meetings are good. The attendance is large notwithstanding the bad weather. Seven were baptized last Sabbath. More will, doubtless, follow.

J. W. CLARK.

March 12th.

BUMFRAU, C. Co.—The interest in the meetings at Bumfrau is gaining. We are looking for a good revival. Deacon Samuel and Bro. Stephen Barker of Bath, have both been sick and confined to their homes a good part of the winter. We are glad to see them out and at prayer meeting again. We cannot well spare the willing and strong from our prayer meetings.

J. J. BARNES.