

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.S.

Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, September 30th, 1891.

CONFERENCE RENEWALS.

We are hoping to receive a larger number of renewal subscriptions at Conference. Many renewals are due all of which we now need.

We will be glad if the ministers will speak to their congregations about it, saying that they will take subscriptions.

—THE W. M. SOCIETY column had to be held over, to make room for the N. S. Conference report.

—A CAUSE is always injured by exaggerated statements about its success by those interested in it. It is better to keep to the plain truth.

—A MINISTER should be intimately identified in heart, and, if possible, in purse, with every general interest of his denomination. One way to make this interest close and strong is to make each branch of work the subject of frequent prayer for God's special blessing on it.

—DO SOME PEOPLE think the time given to business so much taken from what might otherwise be used to strengthen the spiritual life? What a mistake. Business, as says one, is not inimical to the souls good. If pursued under the control of Christian principles, and with a recognition of the right uses of prosperity, it may tend to the highest good.

—CONGREGATIONAL SINGING has been receiving attention in the "Christian Union." The great hindrance to it is timidity, and this is caused chiefly by the tunes being difficult or unknown. Any congregation which does not sing could begin with a few simple tunes often repeated. Musical taste must wait till musical enthusiasm has been kindled. The people having once been persuaded to find and use their voices, they can be led on to great proficiency. There is, Dr. Abbott well says, no better preparation for a sermon, there is no better method to fasten its spiritual lessons in the heart, and to make them really effective in the life, than a great congregational chorus, in which all the worshippers join. Even in wealthy and aristocratic churches, where there is plenty of money to hire the best singers, the ancient psalm is not improved by the modern fashionable version, "Let the people praise Thee, O God; yea let four people in the gallery praise Thee." But in most towns and villages and country places, the choice is not between a good choir and good congregational singing, it is between a moderate choir and good congregational singing. For in most towns and villages and country the choir is almost necessarily second rate, if its work be regarded simply as a musical performance. But in any place a truly noble congregational singing is attainable by a patient enthusiasm.

—THERE IS A FORM of worship among the Buddhists which consists chiefly in running around a stupa till the worshipper is exhausted, and then going home to boast of great faithfulness. It is suggested that too many professing Christians do service which is not much more acceptable. Their idea of worship is to attend

church at stated times, and doing nothing more. They seem to forget, if they ever knew, that personal work among the unconverted, ministering to the sick, helping the needy, and taking an active interest in the work of winning the heathen to Christ, are the services to which all Christians are called.

—FIVE YEARS AGO, Mr. Vassily Pavloff, the head of the Russian Baptists, was banished to Siberia. In the Spring of this year he was permitted to return to his home. Immediately after his return he was asked by the police to sign a document pledging himself to abstain from preaching. He refused. His recalcitrant conduct was reported to St. Petersburg, and an order has just been received by the police to send him back to Siberia for four years. In company with three other companions in affliction he is on his way to Siberia again.

—A BAPTIST CHURCH in Nebraska has successfully carried out a novel scheme of raising money for church purposes, all other means having failed. The church was in financial straits, the members were poor; they appeared to have contributed as largely as was possible, and yet there was a deficit. Unwilling to resort to the too common method of getting up a fair or other entertainment as a makeshift for sacrifice, they organized what they termed a "Do without Society" to run for a period of one month. Each one joining the society agreed to see how much they could do without in their personal expenses for the period named. At the end of the month the society was to meet and compare notes and pay over the money they had each saved. Many whole families deprived themselves of tea, coffee, pie, cake, clothing, vacation trips, luxuries etc., three men gave up the use of tobacco. The result was \$200 in cash, and no one the poorer, but all happy over the outcome.

It is a good plan, and might with great advantage, be tried by churches nearer home.

—TALMAGE, writing of ministers salaries, says the average salary in the United States is under \$400 a year. And then he urges "feed them better," thus:

The world wonders that, with such a rousing theme as the Gospel, and with such a grand work as saving souls, the ministry should ever be nervous. Some ascribe it to lack of piety, and some to timidity of temperament. We believe that in a great number of cases it is from the lack of nourishing food. Many of the clerical brotherhood are on low diet. After jackets and sacks have been provided for the light or ten children of the parsonage, the father and mother must watch the table with severest economy. Coming in suddenly upon the dinner-hour of the country clergyman, the housewife apologizes for what she calls a "picked-up" dinner, when alas! it is nearly always picked-up. Congregations sometimes mourn over dull preaching when, themselves are to blame. Give your minister more food and he will have more fire. Next to the Divine unction, the minister needs blood; and he cannot make that out of tough leather. One reason why the apostles preached so powerfully was that they had healthy food. Fish was cheap along Galilee, and this, with unboltered bread, gave them plenty of phosphorus for brain food.

—"WHY I AM A BAPTIST" is the subject of a sermon by Rev. Mr. Montague, a western preacher of note in his denomination, recently published in the Chicago Standard. Speaking of the Lord's Supper, he says:

"Yet if on his own responsibility, and not on the strength of my teaching, an unimmersed fellow-believer, deeming himself scripturally qualified for the Supper, remains to observe it with me, I, for one, shall not suggest, nor think, that he should retire; nay, I shall even be glad that he remains."

That, we think, is pretty good Free Baptist doctrine. And the editor of the Standard, a western Baptist organ, endorses it, thus:

Many of our brethren might not feel able to go so far as in the above extract, in making this protest, yet the spirit of it, surely, represents fairly the attitude of Baptists toward those who differ from them on questions that concern the church and its ordinances. They hold that they have no more call to "lord it" over God's ordinances than over his "heritage," nor do they sit in judgment upon those who differ from them. "To his own Master let each stand or fall," is what they will say in this as in other cases.

The General Conference.

Next week the fifty-ninth annual Conference of the Free Baptists of New Brunswick will begin. The session will be held in the church at Marysville.

The meeting of General Conference is always an occasion of interest. It is more than an occasion, it is an event. It marks the end of a year's work, and it gathers and puts into form, so far as possible, the results.

Ministers, at the end of a year of labour, meet to compare notes, interchange views, and renew and strengthen fellowship. They have

heard from and of each other through the paper but the majority not having met since the last Conference, are glad to have the opportunity for closer and more personal communication.

The churches, scattered over a large area, meet by their representatives, and, with the ministers, confer together concerning things of common interest—things touching the Redeemer's Kingdom and His glory. In personal intercourse, in public worship, and in Christian business—which is also worship—the brethren will spend several days which may be expected to be profitable to them while it increases the efficiency of the body for work in "the vineyard of the Lord."

One essential to a good Conference is the attendance of every member. The non-attendance of some who are expected, and the partial attendance of others has sometimes quite seriously interfered with the satisfactory discharge of Conference duties. There has, however, been a marked and gratifying improvement in this respect in late years. There are very few now who accept appointment as delegates unless they intend to be at Conference and remain to the close. It is hoped that this year every man will be in his place, and be ready to do his part of the work.

Another essential to a comfortable and profitable session is that the brethren come together in singleness of purpose. There may be—indeed, there is sure to be—quite widely differing opinions on many questions that will engage attention; but amidst even the greatest variety of view as to methods, there may be genuine oneness of feeling and purpose—the desire to strengthen and advance the cause of Christ, and the purpose to do so at any sacrifice of personal views. "There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all." An earnest seeking after the "unity of the spirit" will assure peace and success.

It is scarcely worth while making estimates of the results of the year's work, now that the official record is so soon to be before us all. We are safe in saying, though, that the Report of the Corresponding Secretary, presenting a summary of the reports of the churches to their respective District Meetings, is likely to show a good degree of success in the work of ingathering. Revivals have been more numerous than for several years, and the additions to our membership must, we feel sure, be considerable.

It is not always easy to state the actual spiritual condition of the churches; but we think we may hope that the facts presented will show that those things—adequate support of the ministry, generous contributions to missions, earnest and successful work in the Sabbath schools, well attended prayer meetings, the regular observance of the ordinances, a general increase of Christian activity, &c., &c.—which indicate healthful and growing spiritual life are abounding more and more.

Churches need to increase not only in the number of members, but also in all the graces of the Spirit. Without the latter the former is a doubtful gain. Not multiplication alone, but building up in the faith of Jesus and in the knowledge and practice of His doctrines is the great need. And this, building up shows itself in a good degree, even in statistical tables. Let us hope that the fact of increased spiritual life will be very apparent.

The report, will, of course, set forth facts showing weakness at some points. In this our record will not be different from that of other denominations. But the defects and neglects are none the less regrettable because they are common to Christian bodies. Nor should they be passed by lightly. So long as a defect exists—and that, probably, will be so long as organizations for the accomplishment of divine purposes are composed of human beings—there should be patient endeavour to remedy it. Thy duty of Conference is to look all the facts fairly in the face, to know the worst as well as the best, to thoroughly investigate as to the causes of weakness, and then to courageously apply the remedy, patiently persevering in the treatment till the cure is effected.

Among the things which are likely to engage the attention of Conference are these:

The pastoral system. There is increasing interest in it. It meets with increasing favour. Though as yet partially developed and worked, its wisdom and usefulness have been demonstrated. The Conference may profitably devote time to consideration of it, with a view to perfecting it.

Evangelistic work. There is need of more of this; and there is an appar-

ent demand for it by the churches. Properly directed evangelistic work would not only afford help to pastors in special work, when needed, but it could occupy new fields which await the coming of Free Baptist preachers.

Missions. Both Home and Foreign Missions require and will, doubtless, receive consideration. To the importance of better system in these branches of our work reference was made last week.

Education. And in this connection the interests of the Seminary, its importance to the denomination, and its claims on our people should have careful attention.

Relief of Aged and Sick Ministers. The fund for this purpose is not large. No heavy drafts have been made on it. But the time will come, and is not far off, when there may be more and greater demands on it. Its increase, and a plan of keeping it up to the needs of those for whom it is intended should be devised.

A resolution adopted by the Nova Scotia Conference will necessitate the consideration of the bodies in the Provinces that are essentially Free Baptist. The Conference will be asked to appoint a committee to confer with other committees on the subject.

The foregoing are only some of the questions that are likely to receive attention.

To these and all others we hope there will be given clear, sincere, unbiased thought, coupled with a purpose of heart to reach conclusions pleasing to God, and, so, promotive of His purposes.

Members of Conference should come to it with prayer for Divine guidance. And in all the churches and homes of our people supplication should be made for the blessing of God on the session.

Purgatory in a Convent.

Last week we published an account of the rescue of a nun from a convent.

The rescued lady has furnished an English paper with an interesting statement of the manner of life &c. The lady is Miss Golding, now living in Yorkshire, and the convent is at Douai. She says it is the custom for the commonest, coarsest, most brutal woman to be appointed Lady Superior. "My sister, you must think of death," is the dolorous advice constantly given. The nuns are obliged to say prayers for hours at a time, even while engaged in teaching, or they are punished with what is called "sore throat." Some detection is given in the food, which parchest the throat, brings on fever and dizziness, the cold fastens on the lungs, "you take to bed, and then you are told to prepare for death." Miss Golding earned for the convent £20 a week by her teaching, but every penny of that, as well as her private income of £45 a year, and her gold watch and chain, was taken by the Superior. Food was poor, and the clothing coarse and ragged. When she asked to be allowed to leave, the Superior threatened to send her to the madhouse. Another punishment is to forbid attendance at prayers, the culprit sitting isolated like a black sheep. Miss Golding wrote once for her brother-in-law to fetch her away, but when he arrived, overcome by the mysterious influence of the place, she felt compelled to say, "I am not disposed to go yet," although she was dying to go. As was to be expected, the Mother Superior, together with the ecclesiastical authorities connected with the convent, deny Miss Golding's story. They always do. The lady's brother-in-law indignantly denies the contradiction, and declares the whole story to be true. He is a Roman Catholic, and, indeed, converted Miss Golding to that faith, she being received by Bishop (now Cardinal) Manning. The Roman Catholic Dean, of Hull, on Sunday told his congregation that the convent authorities say Miss Golding was subject to hysteria, and had illusions. Did the London solicitor also have illusions, when the Mother Superior of the convent cunningly locked him in a room, and he burst open the door, and found the four nuns struggling with Miss Golding? The Mother Superior cannot overcome this difficulty, but she tries to explain the violence by saying that Miss Golding would not wait to have her nun's costume changed, "and as she would not listen to reason, they took from her the cross and veil, at which she cried and abused them loudly." It is to be hoped that Miss Golding's experience will cause other ladies who think of entering convents to decide to remain in the world, and do their duty, instead of getting themselves buried alive.

PERSONAL.—Mrs. Perry, wife of Rev. John Perry, who had a stroke of paralysis a short time ago, is, we are glad to learn, slowly recovering.

The editor of the *Messenger & Visitor*, who has been ill for some weeks, is now away on vacation. He expects soon to resume his editorial duties.

Prospects in the Canadian West.

Mr. Van Horn, President of the C. P. R. returned last week from a trip across the continent. Being interviewed by the *Toronto Empire* he spoke in glowing terms of what he had seen during his trip, and of the prospects of the country, as they appear to him. He said there does not seem now to be a single cloud across the commercial horizon of the Northwest. He went on to say:

The grain is all out, "and the prospects for the future of our great Northwest are just as bright as they possibly can be. The wheat is being delivered at the stations in Manitoba and the territories at the rate of 30,000 bushels daily, and the volume will increase from this out."

He said that in past years some of the farmers had made the mistake of neglecting their fall ploughing by paying too much attention to the moving of grain, which resulted in having late wheat the next year. It is not the case, however, this fall, as ploughing is going on with great rapidity, and the unprecedented grain crop will also be attended to in good time.

QUALITY OF THE GRAIN.

Being asked as to the quality of the grain turned out, Mr. Van Horn stated that as far as he could judge from the many samples seen during his trip across the country, a very large proportion would be No. 1 hard. The party did not go south to Fort McLeod, but north to Edmonton, the road from Calgary being taken over by the Canadian Pacific the first of September. "This stretch of country between Calgary and Edmonton," continued the president, "is, I think, the finest I have ever seen in any part of the world. There is a black, rich soil, plenty of timber, the best of water in abundance, and people are rapidly taking advantage, as the country is filling up very fast."

THE WHEAT FOR EXPORT.

"What quantity of wheat will Manitoba and the territories export this year?" asked the correspondent. "The estimate is 25,000,000 bushels, but it may possibly be a little less, and there is a chance of it being a great deal more. I may say that at least \$18,000,000 of new money will this year go into Manitoba and the Northwest from the sale of wheat and other grain crops and cattle. The season has been a splendid one for all sorts of grain and cattle, and the hay crop has likewise been a first-rate one."

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Entering British Columbia, president Van Horn was most agreeably surprised at the marked development in mining, lumber and other interests, and observed that a great amount of outside capital is being invested in the Pacific province. "I am confident," added the president of the Canadian Pacific, "that in a few years British Columbia will be the greatest wealth-producing section of the Dominion." Pleasure travel is reported very large, the company's hotels in the mountains being all full. "All that I can add," concluded the president, "is that the road is in splendid condition for freight, and there is plenty of freight in sight."

Mission News and Notes.

—It is reported the Kurds are martyring many Christians in Armenia.

—The Moravian missions report fifteen hundred conversions last year. New stations have been founded in the north of Lake Nyassa, near the northernmost station of the Livingstonia Mission, in the north of Queensland, among the negroes of Trinidad and among the Indians of Northwest California.

—The council of the Swedish Congo Mission have resolved to add to their missionary college training staff a professor of Congo languages, and to require all their candidates to pass a satisfactory examination before they are sent out. The object is to reduce, as far as possible, the danger resulting from over-study in such a climate.

—King Leopold, of Belgium, has conferred the decoration of "The Order of Leopold" upon a Baptist Missionary on the Congo, Rev. George Grenfell. Mr. Grenfell is a great explorer as well as a preacher. He has discovered that the Mobangi is probably the greatest of the Congo's tributaries, and that forms an important link with the basins of the Nile and the Niger.

—The missionaries of the Church Missionary Society in North India express some anxiety in regard to the state of the native congregations. They say that there is too often a deficiency in vigor and aggressiveness, and if European supervision is withdrawn, a tendency manifests itself to lapse into spiritual coldness and lax discipline.

—Bishop William Taylor calls especial attention to Angola as a mission field. He mentions the following advantages which it possesses over most, if not all, of the West African mission fields: 1. Its fertility; 2. its supply of good cattle; 3. its great commercial activity, it being in a marked degree the outlet for a large proportion of the trade of Central Africa. On the line of stations extending one hundred and fifty miles inland from St. Paul de Loando, the Bishop has five self-supporting stations, and there is abundant opportunity for more if they can be started.

—A REVIVAL in Charlottetown, P. E. I., has resulted in the addition of about 300 to the churches. The meetings were conducted by evangelists Bliss and Clarke.

CANADIAN trade will have the same advantages in the Spanish West Indies as the United States traders enjoy,—till 30th June next.

—The *Missionary Intelligencer* for September tells of a large hurricane proof church built by native congregations of the islanders of New Hebrides, at Aneityum, in a way that tells of sacrifice that should inspire us to do something worthy of our ability. The cost of the whole building was defrayed by contributions of dry cocoanut and arrow root. It is said: "The natives denied themselves all their little luxuries for six months in order that this might be accomplished." At the raising of the church built by such sacrifices, one native said, "by the raising of this church we are raised indeed."

—A LADY traveller gives an interesting account in the *Sunday School Chronicle* of what she lately saw of Christian work in Italy! Count Campeggio, an ex-canon of St. Peters, has now established four mission stations in the province of Umbria, giving at each much attention to the religious teaching of the young. Dr. Comandi's industrial home for boys at Florence is on the plan of Dr. Bernardo's work.

The home, which was opened three years ago, has already one hundred inmates. Mr. Wall, the Baptist minister in Rome, is along with his wife doing good service in a medical mission and by evangelistic visitation. They say there is a vast population, living in the squalid garrets of former palaces who are quite uncared for. Into these poor homes English ladies have no difficulty in obtaining an entrance. The women are always glad to listen to a few verses read from the New Testament and a simple explanation. The writer suggests that tourists might with advantage take more interest than they commonly do in the Sunday services of the evangelistic Churches and schools.

War Clouds in Europe.

Says the *Guardian*: Rumours of the conflict which the alarmists say is sure to come soon have lately been very frequent and are again disturbing the European situation. The latest known sources of danger are the Dardanelles, and a possible conflict of Russia with Afghanistan. The Sultan of Turkey has granted, or seems ready to grant, permission to Russia to send warships through this strait, thus formidably menacing the balance of power by securing a favorable situation for attacking Turkey. The Treaty of Paris contains a stipulation that the consent of the great Powers is necessary to this step, and the violation of this by Turkey threatens to re-open the whole question and plunge nations again into perplexity and possible war. Again, the capture of General Alikanoff, a spy in the Russian service, by the Ameer of Afghanistan, threatens to start hostilities which would involve England and Russia. Alikanoff is an experienced and astute officer, whose services have been and are very valuable to Russia, and his execution would provoke the Czar to severe retaliation. The occupation of Herat by a Russian force, which is the most likely step to be taken in case of hostilities, would menace the approach to British India and call for the active interference of Great Britain. These are the two difficulties which have sprung up within the last few days. Apart from this there seems to be a settled conviction, if the utterances of leading journals are correct indication, that a conflict between France and Germany will not be long postponed. At the banquet recently given in connection with the French army manoeuvres, De Freycinet said that the Republic, in spite of surface changes, had proven capable of long-conceived designs, and that the army was the principal element of France's influence in the world. A remark like this, made by a responsible minister in connection with a great military display, could not have a disquieting effect. The twenty-third anniversary of the victory of Sedan was likewise the occasion of widely expressed opinion by German authorities. *The National Zeitung* says: "Never before have our minds been so filled with the possibility of being compelled to fight to retain our winnings of 1870." The *Post* says: "It is a great error to dissimulate the fact that the situation is becoming worse." Here is another grim comment by the *Kreuz Zeitung*: "If war is inevitable it will be a struggle of which the world has never seen the like. If we are beaten it will be *finis Germania*." Opinions like this, expressed unwillingly and with foreboding, are an indication of the serious outlook for the near future.

—On hearing a lady aside my to aid Bro. went forward elements I the able of the "M bath of the 6 persons, and 14 members. sized 5 more, creased to 21 whom are the church is well the strongest i ed away from against my own invitations of and continue t ing settlement had already e not longer rem to my church. Bro. S. J. Tobique, spent rendered value delighted with of this part of that, in the e family to this a farm, proba said to be the the Province. Our people ing about bui They have exo for building. place, is group m, superinte deacon of the ageously and the bank of th miles from th

—CLARK'S R. Sept. 20th, w in the S. Sch service, and vice. At the vious Saturd for prayers.

FROM REV. probably, be erous readers District agent us here, and cause along t moves steady unusually bu of finishing a meeting hous have already Kent has rev the present y ning to build the Fitzherbe stands, but is oldest house i are seeking to house to occ meeting hous by, when our few of whom conditions of difficulties, up try we had vigorous chu present year Sabbath serv near Wright back of Up doubt, among our people in house for God

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