

TERMS AND NOTICES

The RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER is published weekly from the office of publication, 122 West 14th St., New York, N. Y.

It costs \$1.50 a year, in advance.

If not paid in advance the price is \$2.00.

New subscriptions may begin at any time during the year.

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ALL COMMUNICATIONS, etc., should be addressed RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER, Box 575, Fredericton, N. B.

Pastors Can Help.

The ministers can help the INTELLIGENCER very much just now, by reminding their people of the importance of the prompt payment of renewals and arrears.

We depend on our brethren in the ministry to give special help to the INTELLIGENCER—their fellow-helper—just now.

Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 30TH, 1896.

We wish all our readers a Happy New Year.

The faithful preacher of the gospel will not be blind to the great evils which are about him, working havoc amongst those whom he is sent to save. And he will not fail to declare God's message concerning these evils.

We have to thank those brethren who are interesting themselves to secure prompt payments from present subscribers and to increase the lists of subscribers in their congregations. Like interest in every part of the field cannot fail to have good effect.

The new archbishop of Canterbury is said to believe in the confessional, and it is stated that he hears confessions, and, presumably, appoints penances and grants absolution to the confessing sinners. The Evangelicals in the Church of England are not feeling very well about his appointment to the Primacy.

The Sunday newspaper, so popular in the United States, was recently spoken of thus by Dr. Storrs the veteran Brooklyn pastor: "A Sunday morning bath in the world's business, politics, blood and fun, can hardly be the best preparation for the high thought, holy aspiration and consecrated purpose of which the day to men should be full."

The Army movement in the Protestant Episcopal church of the United States has evidently come to stay. A training school for those who will be engaged in the work has been opened in New York. Music, instrumental and vocal, suited to the work, will be taught, practical rescue work, will be done, and examp'ns given as to the use of the Bible; lectures in elocution, mannerisms and how to approach and win people will be given.

A note from Commandant Booth-Tucker requests us to announce that the Salvation Army has a bureau for tracing lost and missing friends. He says that through it "thousands of missing people are found every year." He adds, "We are especially able to deal with these matters because we have agents throughout the world." No charge is made, except for postage. Letters should be addressed, "Inquiry Department," 122 West 14th St., New York.

A subscriber of the 'S. S. Times' refused to renew her subscription for another year because "there are no funny stories in the paper." Whereupon the editor remarks,—

It is not easy to please everybody. An editor finds that out, as well as a doctor or a merchant. The columns of a religious paper do not contain just what all readers would like to find in it. There isn't any fun in an editor's

life, and of course he has no funny stories to tell about it. The only strange thing in this case is that that woman subscribed the first time. What made her think that she could find any funny stories in it? Some readers may think that that in itself is funny. Well, may the 'Times' keep at its serious business, and may that mother find her fun in life somewhere, even if she has to subscribe for a sectarian weekly!

There is in some quarters a disposition to criticize Dr. John Watson (Ian Maclaren) as not being quite orthodox, gauged by the Westminster Confession. Nobody, not even those who do not think him quite sound in some respects, will question the truth or fail to feel the force of the following from one of his Yale lectures on preaching:

"What is wanted above everything to-day is positive preaching, by men who believe with all their mind and heart in Jesus Christ. If a man has any doubt about Christ he must on no account be his minister, and if one in the ministry be afflicted from time to time by failures of faith, let him consume his own smoke and keep a brave face in the pulpit. The pulpit is not the place for discussing systems of scepticism, or proving the instinctive truths of religion, or adjusting the speculative difficulties of Christianity, or apologizing for Christ. These are belated tactics. For years the church has been on her defense, meeting attacks from science, from philosophy, from literature, from history. We render thanks to God for the apologists of the faith, who have done their work nobly, with skill and nerve. They have held the ground with stubborn courage; it is now time for the cavalry to charge and complete the victory. We have defended and explained our Lord long enough; let us now proclaim him and magnify his Cross with a high heart and unshaken voice in the face of the whole world."

It is sometimes charged by those not in sympathy with missions, that only the low-caste people in countries like India are reached by christian influences. If it were true it would be no reflection of the christian religion nor on its teachers in heathendom. During our Lord's earthly mission "the common people heard Him gladly." And ever since the message of salvation has been eagerly listened to and accepted by the common people. But it is not true that only the low-caste people of heathen countries accept christianity. An article in the December number of the 'Missionary Review' deals with the matter, and disproves the charge. The writer says it is a pity that those who make such statements do not study the facts which have been occurring for the last forty or fifty years. "He then mentions the names of a number of highly educated gentlemen belonging to respectable families, and follows that by a list of twenty-seven names of men of education and high descent who have embraced Christianity during the last fourteen or fifteen months only. This list includes Brahmins and high-caste Hindus, men in Government employ and in the professions, which shows that Christianity is making progress among the educated people. He goes on to say that if the proportion of the members of the high castes and low castes is taken into consideration, Christianity is making as much progress among the highly educated as among the degraded and despised. "According to the last census returns, the population of India is 285,000,000, out of whom only 11,000,000 can read and write; i.e., the percentage of the latter is only about four; how much less, then, must be the percentage of the really educated?" "Christianity is indeed spreading its arms, and is every year embracing and elevating, in social, intellectual, moral, and religious status, thousands and tens of thousands of the long-despised and down-trodden children of the soil whom other religions have kept enchained for ages with cruel customs and unequal laws," but he does not allow the truthfulness of the contention that it reaches these classes alone.

Close of Volume.

With this issue (which, by the way, being the fifty-third in the year, is an extra number given to our readers this year) the INTELLIGENCER completes its forty-fourth volume.

It makes no special celebration of the event, though many papers not much more than half its age have had celebrations, and quite properly too. When the INTELLIGENCER reaches its half-century, which by the blessing of God it hopes to do, it may then have a modest little jubilee celebration. Meantime, we thank God for His favour to this christian enterprise, and, looking to Him for guidance, face another year.

ABOUT THE INTELLIGENCER.—A subscriber writes: "God and all prohibitionists bless your manly, sturdy fight against rum and rum-makers."

End of the Year Thoughts.

At the end of a year thoughtful men are more than usually thoughtful. They scan the past and mourn their blunders and sins. They realize with greater clearness the rapid flight of time, and feel the importance of using what may remain to them wisely, usefully. They count over the mercies of God, and are more profoundly grateful. They set themselves to the duties before them with firmer purpose to walk in righteousness and true holiness; and, realizing their own weaknesses, they rely more on God and pray more fervently for His abiding presence and His help.

Many things, says Dr. Miller, we leave behind us as we go on. We can never go back again over the closing year. We never go over any life-path a second time. We never pass a second time through any experience. We have infancy once, childhood once, youth once, manhood and womanhood once, old age once, and we die once. We are forever leaving things, places, conditions and experiences behind us. But through all these we have the same Christ, unchanged, unchanging.

The old ark was carried forward into the new land of promise, and still led the people. The Christ of childhood and of youth remains the Christ of manhood and of old age. Whatever changes the years bring to us, we must ever keep our eyes on the living Christ. He will always be all we need. There will never be a path which He cannot find for us and show us: There will never be a dark valley which He cannot light up for us. There will never be a battle which He cannot fight for us. There will never be an experience through which He cannot safely take us. We are leaving the old year behind, but we are not leaving Christ in the dead year. We need not be afraid, therefore, to go forward, if we go with Him. We have not passed this new way heretofore, and it is all strange to our inexperience; but Christ knows and He will guide us, and all will be well if we put our hand in His.

The Week of Prayer.

In another column will be found the list of topics for the week of prayer suggested by the Evangelical Alliance. There will, as usual, it is hoped, be a very general observance of the week by churches of all denominations. Wherever practicable it is well to have union meetings; but where this cannot be done, or does not seem to be the best thing, each church should in its own way participate in the concert of prayer.

Mr. Moody has issued the following call to the churches everywhere for special evangelistic services during the month of January.

"Never during the past century has the Church of Christ had such an opportunity for the spread of the Gospel as now presents itself. Never has the world manifested a greater interest in religious teaching. All substitutes for Christianity have proved a failure, and the nation is seeking once more for the old paths, the good old way. Let the Church arise and make ready for the work."

"First, let us have a revival of righteousness among ourselves and then open wide our churches to those whom we have so long neglected. There were 3,000 churches in two denominations alone last year that reported no accessions on profession of faith. Is it the will of God that millions upon millions of people be expended upon these places of worship, to be used but once or twice a week, while our neighbors are needing his message?"

"Is it not time that the Church should arise? If we refuse to work in His service be assured he will turn from the regular channels and find servants who will do his bidding in spreading the Gospel to every living soul."

"During the remaining days of this year let us all wait upon our Master for a special preparation for the coming winter, and when the New Year opens why should not every Christian church in America begin the season with a thirty days' service of Gospel meetings? Why not set aside all other diversions, and church work itself, during January, in a united work for the spread of the Gospel?"

"The world needs it sorely, and was never more ready to receive it, and it is the privilege of the Church to proclaim it. If every church will but answer to this appeal with open doors and hearty response; if every pastor will exert himself to spend and be spent in the Master's service at this special season; if every officer will give his sympathy and co-operation to the work, the Church will have cause to remember January, 1897, both in time and through eternity."

There are already signs of blessing in many places, and many are praying and expecting that the week of prayer may witness the beginning of a powerful work of grace all over the land. The Lord graciously grant it.

JOURNALISTIC.—The Canada Presbyterian has completed twenty-five years, and celebrates the event by a double number, illustrated, and largely historical. The Presbyterian is a most excellent paper. We congratulate it on the good degree of success it has achieved, and trust it may go on from "grace to grace."

Notes on Current Events.

At the confirmation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, last week, a protest against the confirmation was made by one of the ministers—Rev. Edward Brown—John. The ground of his objection was that the Archbishop holds the doctrine of evolution. The congregation was, of course, astonished; the officiating bishop refused to entertain the protest, and Mr. Brown John retired amidst groans and other uncomplimentary expressions.

The principal terms of the general treaty of arbitration about which negotiations have been going on between Great Britain and the United States, are said to be the following: (1.) A term of five years from the date of the exchange of ratification within which the treaty shall be operative. (2.) A court of arbitration of six members, three to be drawn from the judiciary of the United States and three from the judiciary of Great Britain. (3.) The submission to this tribunal of all differences between the two nations, now pending or to arise within the period of five years, this not to include the Behring Sea question or the Venezuela question, now before independent commissions, but to include the question of the boundary between Alaska and British North America.

Russia has extensive war preparations on the Turkish frontier. Large quantities of grain and ammunition have been stored in the vicinity of Kars, and the garrisons of Kars and other frontier towns have been largely added to.

A Montreal correspondent of a Boston paper says that a memorial, signed by a large number of the Roman Catholic members of Parliament, has been forwarded to Rome asking the Pope's approval of the settlement of the Manitoba Schools Question.

The wheat crop of the world is short this year in Russia, India, Australia and Argentina. India has not more than half a crop, Argentina about one-third, Australia is even worse off, and Russia is short some millions of bushels. On this continent the crop has been good, especially in Canada.

Miss Francis E. Willard, President of the World's W. C. T. U., is again in poor health. All her engagements have been canceled by her physician's order. He considers her condition somewhat serious. Christian women, everywhere, and many who are neither women nor christians, will greatly desire her restoration not only for the sake of the great work she has done, but for the great work which seems to be before her if her life is spared.

Spain seems disposed to give a form of home-rule to Cuba. The insurgents must first be beaten, however; and this the Spanish military authorities think they can do by March. A former plan of home-rule proposed that a Cuban Congress of thirty members be constituted, fifteen of them to be appointed by the Crown, and fifteen elected by the people. The new plan, now being talked of, provides that the whole Congress be elected by the people.

A home for old and broken down newspaper men is projected in England. Though working hard through many years, many are unable to make any provision for old age and infirmity. It is better, perhaps, to have such a home as is proposed than to be knocked about without knowing where they may get a meal or a place to sleep; but it is at the best, a poor ending of the lives of men who have occupied positions of influence, and who have done nobody knows how much in creating the best public opinion and stimulating the best public action at critical periods.

Last year a Hong Kong despatch announced that a convention between Russia and China had been concluded, by which Russia obtained the right to make railways through Manchuria, and to fortify and hold Port Arthur. The Russian Government formally denied the statement, but now The North China Daily News, a Shanghai journal, says it has obtained a copy of the full text of the Convention, which not only bears out the original statement, but goes far beyond it. If this document is authentic, Russia has been granted immense privileges in China, which can only be compared in importance to those obtained by Englishmen in the early days of the East India Company. She is to be allowed to carry the Trans-Siberian railway right through Chinese territory to Vladivostok. Then she is to be allowed to build a branch railway connecting it with Port Arthur, unless the Chinese themselves elect to build it

with funds supplied by Russia. In addition, the right to protect the lines with troops, to work mines, and to use the ports of Port Arthur and Taliemwan is conceded. In short, the convention places the important province of Manchuria practically at Russia's disposal.

Now that a good deal is being said about the promised prohibition plebiscite, this explanation (from the 'Montreal Witness') of origin and use of the plebiscite may be interesting to many readers. The word 'plebiscite' is French, but it is derived from the Latin. The people of Rome were divided into patricians, knights and the common people, called the 'plebs.' The plebeians gradually asserted themselves, and for the protection of their rights secured the appointment of officers called 'tribunes of the plebs.' These could convocate popular assemblies which could pass laws. Such a law was called a plebiscite, because it was the result of the plebs being cited or called. The word came into modern use through the acts of the Bonapartes. Both Napoleon the First and Napoleon the Third applied this word to the farce that was gone through of taking the opinion of the people when they usurped the imperial dignity. Since then the phrase has generally been used for any universal vote of the people on a question submitted to them for settlement. The plebiscite has, however, been for the most part an imagined rather than an actual proceeding. The reference of the question of prohibition to the vote in several provinces in Canada has been called a plebiscite, and the phrase is fully adopted in connection with the similar reference promised by the national government.

Voices and Echoes.

Hon. A. R. McClellan, the new Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, is a Methodist and a member of the Board of Governors of Mount Allison University. Mr. G. G. King, who succeeds him in the Senate, is a Presbyterian.—Can. Presbyterian.

There are only two mistakes in the foregoing. Governor McClellan is not a Methodist, and Senator King is not a Presbyterian. The Governor is said to be a Presbyterian, and the Senator is a Baptist.

The Maryland Baptist Union association has recommended to the churches that they exclude from their membership those who sell or drink intoxicating liquors as a beverage.—Exchange.

"Better late than never. And yet perhaps we ought not to say very much for even in this part of the world the rum-drinking and rum-selling classes still exercise large influence over the church."

It is intimated that some people contribute to missions according to their means rather than their means.—N. Y. Observer.

How is it in your case brother, and in your church? Be sure to be on the right side by contributing freely. "Freely ye have received" of the blessings of divine grace, "freely give" to spread that grace abroad.

No man who is intoxicated, or whose breath is even tainted with strong drink, is allowed to take his post on a train on the Grand Trunk Railway.—The Globe.

That is what some people are fond of calling fan-ticism. But it is simply business. It is doubtful if the management has the slightest thought of the morals of the men, aside from their usefulness as employees. It is just a business rule, for a business purpose. It is the strongest kind of a temperance lecture—from the business point of view.

Religious Ideas of Children.

A REQUEST.

I would like the assistance of parents and teachers in the Maritime Provinces in collecting data relative to the religious ideas and feelings of children and young people. The accompanying syllabus will serve to indicate the line along which enquiry may be made. If I receive sufficient response it is my purpose to publish in this paper the result of this study. I hope that the manifest importance of such an enquiry will serve as a warrant for the request made, and will stimulate many to take some pains in collecting these data. If you have anything to report touching one or more of the items of the syllabus, kindly send it. Not so much the extraordinary as the ordinary ideas and remarks of children are what is wanted. Do not use pencil and paper in the presence of the child, and pursue the enquiry with seriousness.

SYLLABUS FOR CHILD STUDY.

1. Give age and sex of child; religious preference of parents.
2. God—What is He like? What can He do? Where is He? Why cannot we see Him?
3. DEATH—Why do people die? Where do they go when they die?
4. HEAVEN AND HELL—Where is Heaven? What is it like? Who goes there? What do they do there? What will children have there? Where is Hell? What is it like? What must one do to go there?
5. ANGELS—Who are they? What are they like? What do they do?
6. GHOSTS AND WITCHES—Why are people afraid of ghosts? What can witches do?

7. PRAYER—Why do we pray? For what do we pray? Why do we not always get the things we pray for?

8. RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES—Why do we go to church? To Sunday School? To prayer-meeting? Why do we celebrate Christmas? Easter?

9. METHOD AND GENERAL OBSERVATIONS—(a) Draw out the younger children's ideas by wise conversation and enquiry. Be careful not to weary the little one. Get older children (10 to 16 years) to write compositions on "Heaven" and "Hell." (b) Is the matter treated seriously by older children, or not? (c) Does the child speak of God with a solemn, awed, tone of voice, or naturally and familiarly? (d) Does the child ever open up religious conversation voluntarily? More often on Sunday than on other days? More often at bedtime than at other times? (e) Do you think the thought of God's anger keeps children from doing wrong or makes them sorry? (f) Does the child like to go to church or Sunday School, or not? Why? (g) Does he pray by rote or intelligently? Give instances of unexpected, original, petitions in prayer. Does he pray for many persons by name, for cats, dogs and other pets? (h) Give any instances of questions showing an enquiring spirit in children, e.g., "Who made God?" "Who made Satan?" "Why did God make Satan?" "If Jesus had to die, why were they wicked who killed him?" (i) Have you any distinct memories of your own ideas about religion in childhood? Give them.

Give exact words of children. Send manuscript of essays as written.

Send all returns to
CHAS. H. HUESTIS,
Barrington, N. S.

Mission News and Notes

Bishop Thoburn, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, says he expects to witness 1000 Christian conversions in India every month during the next year.

A foreign missionary put a thoughtful question when he rose in an audience and asked, "Which is the 'foreign nation' in the thought of God?"

According to the number of missionaries at present located in the N. W. Provinces of India, each missionary has an average population of 200,000 souls to evangelize.

The King of Corea has issued an edict bawling the amount of money annually squandered upon the worship of idols. His majesty has already destroyed thirty temples in and about Seoul.

In proportion to their numbers the Friends send more missionaries to the foreign fields than any other denomination. In Great Britain about one in 250 of the whole membership is a missionary.

It is said that in the last twenty-five years the members of the Church of England have voluntarily contributed more than \$400,000,000 to foreign and home missions, to church building and repair, to elementary education and to charity.

Our lineage is heathen. Missionary enterprise rescued us from paganism. Gratitude for our own emancipation and love for our brethren, the heathen of all countries, should move us with a mighty impulse to engage in missionary work.

In 1812 all Christian teaching was prohibited in India. During the past year over seventeen hundred Sunday schools, containing sixty-six thousand scholars, were established. There are now two hundred and fifty thousand connected with the India Sunday school Union.

More Bibles have been sold in Burmah since the beginning of 1892 than in the previous twenty years. This is due in part to the issuance of Dr. Judson's version in cheap and portable form, but chiefly to the increased desire for the Word of God among the Burmese.

A Negro on the shores of the river Bony, in Africa, was condemned to death for having listened to the teaching of the missionaries and given up the worship of idols. At the last moment he was told that his life should be spared if he would return to idolatry. With great calmness he replied, "It is impossible for me to turn back to heathen worship, for Jesus has taken charge of my heart and padlock it to Himself. The key is with Him so you see it is impossible for me to undo it without Him."

The Church Missionary Society has issued a statement regarding the missions in Africa. It is calculated that there are in Africa 1,000,000 Pro-