TERMS AND NOTICES

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Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28TH, 1897.

A minister had been discussing, in a series of sermons, the relations of religion and science. On coming to the pulpit one Sunday morning he found a card laid upon the Bible, with this Scripture on it, "Sirs, we would see Jesus." The preacher took the hint, and devoted himself to an earnest presentation of Jesus as the Saviour of men. Four Sundays had he presented this theme with increasing interest and fervor. On the fifth, entering the sacred desk, he found another card, and on it was written, "Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord."

Next Tuesday the annual convention of Free Baptist Young People's Societies in New Brunswick convenes at Woodstock. The programme has been published several times, and will be found on page six of last week's INTELLIGENCER. It is hoped there will be a full attendance of representatives of all the societies. A hearty welcome will be given all who attend. It is particularly desirable that those who attend will have in mind all the time the object of the meeting—the improvemunt of individual christian life, and better equipment for personal and organized christian work in connection with the church with which they are connected. Many prayers will be offered for the presence of the Holy Spirit, in quickening, guiding and saving power.

Rev. E. B. Stiles, of the Free Baptist India Mission, has been compelled to return to America on account of his wife's health. The India letter in another column mentions it, and a letter from bro Stiles, in the 'Star,' written at Midnapore, Ind., June 8th, says :

The continued illness of my dear wife has made it imperative for me to leave India again. I cannot tell how sorry I am to be compelled to leave, especially in view of the fewness of laborers. What is to be done? How are those that are already overburdened to bear additional burdens? Where are the young men that ought to be here? God must be calling some that do not give heed to the call. Are you such an one?

I leave Calcutta the 16th, and hope to get to New York about the first of August. My home address will be Groton, Mass.

It seems to me that I have been a very poor investment for the board, but I comfort myself with the thought that we were willing, and have tried our best to stay and work. The burden has fallen very heavily upon my wife. She is the hero of this story.

The already weakened mission band will greatly miss so devoted and efficient a missionary as bro. Stiles. He will probably reach his home this week. We trust he may find Mrs. Stiles in improved health.

The Christian world will await with intense interest, remarks the 'Canadian Baptist,' the publication of a translation of the MS., "Words of Christ," which is one of the atest and most important discoveries which have been made under the auspices of the Egyptian Exploration Society. The papyri are the oldest known, bearing the words of Christ. They comprise a dozen leaves (another account says one leaf) five-and-a-half by three and-a-half inches in size, remarkably well preserved, and clearly written in uncial characters of the ancient Greek. Their date has been placed as early as about sixty years after the crucifixion, but they undoubtedly are not later than the third century; and so are at least one hundred years older than any MS. of the Gospels now known. The MS. has easily been translated, and is found to consist of detached sayings of Christ without context, each beginning with the words, "Jesus saith." The translation will soon be published by the Egyptian Exploration Fund. An immense edition at a few pence per copy will be provided, so as to reach everybody.

"The wanton disregard of the ethical principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is," the 'Religious Telescope' declares, the curse of the times. "The cure is to be found in an honest recognition of these principles and their practical application to government and society. There must be a recognition of the great truth that "Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Society needs a good supply of the savory salt of genuine Christianity; it needs to be rid of its superabundance of "the leaven of the scribes and Pharisees, which is hypocrisy." There is need for less of the smooth-bore "popular" preaching, and for more of the twist-rifle, Nathan and John Baptist kind, which drives the truth right home to the guilty heart, and wounds to the death the popular sin assailed. This will not only reach the curse, but remove it. "Judgment must begin at the house of God." "The ax must be laid at the root of the tree." The big, wealthy, influential sinner in the church must be told plainly, pointedly, kindly, face to face, 'Thou art the man," even at the risk of his withdrawing his membership and stopping the payment of his contribution.

The Responsibility.

It often happens that so soon as a church loses its pastor the whole work begins to flag. The prayer meeting is thinly attended, the Sunday School interest wanes, and the attendance at the Sunday services is perceptibly smaller. At such time many church members think themselves at liberty to throw off individual responsibility, and they go and come as they please.

The loss of a pastor is undoubtedly the loss of a leader. No church can do its work thoroughly without a faithful pastor. But, when the church is for a time without a pastor, the neglect of their duty by so many is a serious mistake, the evil effects of which are more serious than is imagined. Not the least serious feature of it is that it is the result of the application of the commercial principle in the management of church affairs, a practice which is being encouraged and is extending.

Thoughtful christians recognize that the offices of the church are primarily for the children of God. The flock is to be fed, and its spiritual life quickened and developed. If the fruits of the Spirit abound the church will be full of active life. Each member will realize the obligation to be at work; attempts to be relieved of personal duty will be the exception rather than the rule. The world will feel the power of the church from within, for the church will be instinctively and constantly aggressive. This is seen in times of revival. Christians are then at work. Meetings are crowded, and sinners are converted. What is it that draws the people? Not eloquent preaching, nor fine music, but the Spirit in and blessing the consecrated labours of the people of God.

There is reason to fear that this truth is being lost sight of, and that the commercial notion heresy is gaining ground. A church is organized, a house of worship is erected, and the next step is to obtain a suitable minister—"suitable" meaning one who will draw congregations and money. For a time the church is crowded, and all seems prosperous. After a few years, perhaps much sooner, there are signs of dissatisfaction, some persons give up their pews, the congregation is not so large, and the income is decreased. Then those who have the management of affairs begin to ask the reason for the change. And they often decide that the responsibility is the minister's. He may be a most devoted man, preaching the gospel with faithfulness, but for some reason—probably on account of his faithfulness, he has ceased to satisfy certain classes, is regarded as having lost his popularity, and must, therefore, make way for another.

That ministers may frequently change their fields is well understood. But to hold the minister responsible for the prosperity or failure of the church is most unjust. Such a view cannot be held except where the people, quite unwittingly perhaps, have suffered themselves to believe that a good church building, an eloquent pulpit, attractive music, a large congregation are all that is needed to make a church prosper. They forget that the true strength of a church lies not in any of these things, however good they may be in their proper place, but in the personal power of a truly religious life. When this is more fully realized there will be fewer changes in pastorates, and more stability and true prosperity in the churches. Then when, from any cause church loses its pastor, every member will feel an increased obligation to "strengthen the things that remain," so that when a new pastor comes he will find continuous activity and spiritual life.

M.

Notes on Current Events.

It is said that Mgr. Merry del Val was not very well pleased with the treatment he received from the Manitoba government. The members of that government, he says, promised to discuss the schools settlement with him, and to modify some of the clauses to make them acceptable to Catholics, but, that instead of doing so, they avoided him. Whether they were guilty of discourtesy, as he intimates, we do not know, but it is probable that they thought it more important to keep in harmony with public opinion in the Province than to dance attendance on the Pope's man.

* *

In many parts of Maine bicycles are now taxed. In sixteen counties last year the bicycle tax imposed amounted to $3,228. This year the tax will amount to much more. All the money raised in this way is used on the roads, with the result that they are greatly improved. A like tax might very properly be imposed in other places.

* *

Mr. W. W. Buchanan has tendered his resignation as Manager of the Royal Templars order and editor of the "Templar," the resignation to take effect in three months. Mr. Buchanan has been prominently connected with the Templars from the first, and has become widely known as the vigorous editor of the "Templar". His retirement just now might have a serious effect on the organization and on the paper.

* *

Rev. Dr. Chiniquy has just come home from a somewhat protracted visit to Great Britain and the continent. He was hard at work most of the time he was away, always, of course, at his favorite subject — enlightening the people as to the true character of the Church of Rome. Though eighty-eight years old he is still active and abundant in labors

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The Eastern Baptist Association, at its late session in Albert Co. adopted a report on temperance which contained the following recommendations :

1st. That every church in this association be urged to withdraw fellowship from every member who uses intoxicating liquors as a beverage ; 2nd, that the churches should similarly deal with those of their members who, in the day of battle, are found in the ranks of the enemy, working for or voting for the rum traffic ;' 3rd, that the churches should censure, and use all means in their power to bring to their aid, those members who come not to the help of the Lord against the mighty ; 4th. that church members should separate themselves from every organization that sympathized with the rum traffic.

The following resolution about the proposed plebiscite was also adopted :

Resolved, that the eastern N. B. association, convened at Albert, July, 1897, strongly expresses their opinion and request to the parliament of Canada that the plebiscite on prohibition be given to the electors free and untrammelled with any rider or hindrance, which might be calculated to influence the electors against the adoption of prohibition of the liquor traffic in Canada.

* *

The thirty-second anniversary of the establishment of the Salvation Army was celebrated in London last week. There was an immense gathering in Crystal Palace, including Army representatives from all parts of the world.

* *

The retail merchants of Toronto have resolved upon making war on the departmental stores which are so seriously interfering with them. They claim that the departmental stores make an unfair competition, which is crushing out the specialist merchants throughout the city, and subjecting them and property owners to great loss and distress, and are concentrating the retail trade and commerce of the city into the control of a very few persons, preventing the general circulation of currency, and causing the central business district of the city to become yearly more and more congested, real estate values in this district being enormously enhanced. while values and rentals of other properties in other sections of this city are being destroyed. The closing of many smaller stores deprives persons of employment and has a tendency to reduce the wages of those employed in departmental stores.

It is a matter in which store-keepers outside Toronto and the large cities are much concerned, as dealers in all parts of the country are interfered with by the large mail-order business done by the departmental stores.

* *

The Canada Temperance Act was repealed in Charlottetown, P. E. I. on Thursday last. The vote stood, for the Act 673, against the Act 786, making the majority in favor of repeal 113. The situation was complicated by the Provincial election which took place the day before. The friends of the C. T. Act made a good fight, though they seem to have delayed too long in getting ready for it. Charlottetown will now have three years of practically free rum. There is no license law on the Statute books of P. E. Island, and the legislature is not likely to enact one. All the island except Charlottetown is under the C. T. Act, and likely to remain so. It is to be regretted that the capital city of the Province should give itself up to the rum traffic.

The Christian Endeavour Convention.

The International Convention of societies of Christian Endeavour, held in SanFrancisco, is properly spoken of as "great." There were 25,000 Endeavourers in the city, which seemed for the time to be given up to the visitors. Great enthusiasm was manifest all the time, and it is hoped that great permanent good will result.

The report of Mr. Baer, the Secretary, showed that the Society had grown greatly during the year. Five thousand new societies have been added, making now 50747 local societies, or a total of 50,770, with a membership of fully 3,000,000. Among the States Pennsylvania still leads with 3,443; next comes New York, with 3,049; Ohio, 2,383; Illinois, 2,013; while Ontario, Indiana, Iowa and Michigan have over 1,000 ; this apart from the Junior societies, the Intermediate societies, the Senior and Mothers societies. Among Junior societies Pennsylvania leads with 1,397, altho the banner for increase during the year goes to Ohio, with 970. The banner for the greatest proportionate increase in the number of Junior societies, held successively by Delaware, Assiniboia and Mexico, passes to Spain. The Intermediate societies number 367, California leading with 51; the Mothers societies 70 — 30 of them in Illinois. Twenty-seven churches report the organization of their regular mid-week prayer-meetings into Senior societies by applying the Christian Endeavor idea.

Canada reports 3,390 while across the Atlantic England has 3,925 societies; Australia, 2,124; Scotland, 433; Wales, 311; India, 250 ; Ireland, 169 ; Madagascar, 93 ; France, 68 ; Mexico; 100 ; Japan, 66; West Indies, 63; Turkey 41; China, 53 ; Africa, 52 ; Germany, 32, and so on until the total of 7,919 is reached.

Divided among the different denominations the Presbyterians lead with 5,331 Young People's societies and 2,934 Junior societies ; then come the Congregationalists with 4,156 and 2,407; Disciples of Christ, 3,208 and 1,322; Baptist, 2,640 and 1,080; Cumberland Presbyterians, 867 and 361; Methodist Protestants, 971 and 251; Lutherans, 869 and 324, and so on, including nearly forty denominations. In Canada the Methodists lead off with 1,062 Young People's and 170 Junior societies; the Presbyterians come next, with 1,056 and 146, and the Baptists third, with 168 and 35. In Great Britain the Congregationalists lead with 1,216; but the Baptists come next with only six less, followed by the Presbyterians and Primitive Methodists. In Australasia the Wesleyan Methodists are the most numerous.

Turning to the missionary phase of the work the roll of honor includes 10,468 Christian Endeavor societies that have given nearly $200,000 to missions through their own denominational missionary boards and an equal amount for other benevolence. The Clarendon Street Baptist Society, of Boston, leads with $1,437, followed by the Calvary Presbyterian Society, of Buffalo, with $1,016, while third comes a Chinese Congregational mission in San Francisco, giving nearly $700 to its own board, and supporting six missionaries in the field.

In proportionate giving the Tenth Legion, enrolling those who promise to give to God not less than one-tenth of their income, altho but three months old, numbers already over 1,600 members.

India Letter.

DEAR FRIENDS. — We are going about in a "trying-to-be-brave" sort of way these days, for that which we feared has come upon us and we know that it simply must be borne. Mr. Stiles is going home! He has had such discouraging news from his wife that there seems no question but that his place is with her now. We had hoped she would have been able to join him ere this, but there has been no perceptible improvement in her condition. We cannot say one word of disapproval concerning his decision, for it is hard enough for him at the best, but we wonder all the same what is to be done with all the interests he has been so faithfully looking after—the Press, the building of the new Bible School Hall, his classes in that school, the preachers, the colporteurs, the outside churches, the country trips, the bazar Sunday Schools, the C. E. Society, the Boys' School, and the many individual interests and sympathies which cannot be shifted from one's shoulders to another's.

We seem to be no sooner past one crisis than another is upon us. A few months ago the need of money threatened grave disaster, but that need was grandly met by our good people at home. Now the need is not so much money as men. Will this need be as promptly met? Even if there should spring up half a dozen men they could not fill the gap, for they would not be available for service until the language is mastered, and that leaves the present need unmet.

I fear our need of workers is more pressing than is generally understood. Miss Butts is taking a well-earned furlough. Mr. Stiles is forced to leave when he is sorely needed. Mr. Hallam will probably not be long in following him. "Dr. Mary" Bacheler is simply making herself stay because it seems impossible to get away, but both these latter cannot probably hold out more than another year. Where are the men and women who should be here now learning the language in order to "take hold" when these go?

Besides this need of missionaries is an even more crying need of native workers. The Bible School is pitifully small, and the young men who are leaving our schools are not offering themselves for the ministry but are seeking places in Government employ, where they can receive more pay.

May it not be possible that we have thought too little of Christs' command, "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that He would raise up and send forth laborers into His harvest'? Have we taken it too much for granted that of course men would be forth-coming somewhere and somehow, while the prayer remains unuttered, the command Pray ye disobeyed?

This need cannot be met by money, but may it not be possible that such a volume of prayer, united and powerful through faith, shall ascend to the "Lord of the harvest" that from unexpected and hitherto unknown sources shall come forth the "laborers to gladden our hearts and save the wasting field?"

In spite of these discouraging features our work goes steadily on and our numbers slowly increase. Bro. Burkholder baptized two at Ulda a few weeks ago; our native pastor, Jacob, baptized five at Dinmari about the same time; and last Sunday four were baptized here in the tank next our chapel. The condition of our church is hopeful and our C. E. is alive and aggressive.

Bengal has been comparatively free from the devastations of the famine and the plague, but the long arms of the former, octopus like are reaching down among us and clutching here and there. The plague is disappearing, but the famine cannot grow less but must rather increase until this year's crop is harvested, and that will not be for five or six months yet.

We are all praying that a good yield may be granted this year, but nothing can be sure until the rice is actually headed out. Last year the prospects for an abundant harvest were very promising until the last of September. where the rains suddenly stopped just as a few more showers were needed to push on the swelling grains. But they were stopped, and the result was a short crop and from even this, loads and loads have been sent to the striken ones until the exceedingly high prices make it very hard for the poor here.

Our Christian people, as a whole, keep in fairly good flesh, indicating that their regular daily allowance is not greatly diminished; but there are some families who show all too plainly that they have had to reduce their usual amount. We have to help these of course.

Last weeks 'India Witness' had a most horrowing account of the dreadful sights one is obliged to see, and the experiences to be gone through, written by one right in the midst of the starving multitudes. The number of deaths is not so dreadful, for they would all have had to die sometimes; but the slow, painful tortures of such deaths are something horrible to think of, and cause one to wonder, "why"?

L. C. COOMBS.

Midnapore, June 8, 1897.

This Week.

Our friends who intend helping us, and can do so, will do us greatest service by sending their FREE WILL GIFT this week. By doing so, you will be in time to help us over THE MOST PRESSING NEED. We are praying the Lord to influence some who are financially able, to change our much tested faith into realization.

For the Moncton church.

E. S. PARKER.

Mission News and Notes.

—In India there are abeut 300,000 Protestant communicants and over 1,000,000 adherents.

—It is proposed to hold in 1900 a great ecumenical missionary conference in New York City.

—The King of Corea wants to destroy the idols worshipped in that country; so it is said. He has destroyed thirty temples. This would probably pave the way for Christian faith.

—One hundred and thirty-seven native student volunteers in India have made this solemn declaration : 'It is my purpose, if God permit, to devote my life to direct work for Christ.'

—The Southern Presbyterians are doing well for foreign missions. During the last ten years they have increased their contributions from $84,000 to $144,000 and their force from 54 to 150 workers. They gave more money from the churches last year than ever before, and sent out all the workers that applied.

—The Women's Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America has issued its balance sheet for the year. The income of the board was $85,445.81, and the expenses $34,557.72, leaving a balance of $888.00. At the annual meeting Dr. Scudder made an earnest appeal for consecrated workers, who as ladies would have access to the zenanas, from which male missionaries are excluded. He pointed out how many of India's millions might be reached in this way.

—The Moravians are endeavoring to secure a new ship for the service of their Labrador Mission, their old vessel, the Harmony, having been sold after thirty-six years of use as being too old for longer navigation in arctic waters. Ten vessels have been engaged in this service since 1770, or during 127 years, in unbroken succession. The very existence of the Mission is believed to depend on the continued use of a regular means of communication with the Labrador station, which can be had in no other way than through a special vessel.

Home Religious News.

—The Central Methodist church, Moncton, presented Rev. W. W. Brewer with $100 on the eve of his departure for his new circuit at Marysville.

—The N. B. Convention, (interdenominational) of Young Peoples Societies will meet in St. John from Wednesday evening, August 11th, to Friday evening, August 13th.

—The annual Convention of the York Co. Sabbath School Association will be held in the Free Baptist church at Marysville on Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 18-19.

—Messrs. Liscombe and Heckin, of the "Gospel Wagon Mission," in Nova Scotia, have done good work in Masstown and Folly Village. Their services were largely attended and very much appreciated.

—Preparations are being made for the camp meeting at Berwick, N. S., next month. The Wesleyan says many persons are already erecting tents and cottages on the grounds. Messrs. Crossley and Hunter will be present part of the time.

—The amount to be raised by the Presbyterian Synod of the Maritime Provinces for the current year is about $67,000. This includes $31,000 for Foreign Missions, $16,000 for Home Missions, $10,500 for Augmentation, etc.

—Rev. W. V. Higgins, a missionary of the Maritime Baptist Convention, who is now at home, has concluded that he cannot return to India. This decision has been reached entirely on account of his wife's health which continues so frail that it is doubtful if she will ever be able to go to India.

—The fiftieth annual session of the Eastern Baptist Association was held at Hopewell Hill, A. Co. last week. It was a largely attended and most interesting session. A digest of the reports from the churches shows the following :

Number of churches reported, 42; number of ordained ministers, 23; licentiates, 5; pastorless churches, 6; total church membership, 6,761; non resident members, 1,228; total addition to church membership, 501; addition by baptism, 402; cash contributed for home work, $15,166.10; average per member 2.24; contributed for benevolent objects, $2,962.07; average per member, .43; number of ministers ordained, 3; value of church property, $126,350.00; Sunday school membership, 3,814; average 25.16; church membership last year, 6,947.

C. T. ACT.—Capt. Brennan, of the Str. May Queen, was last week fined $50 for violation of the C. T. Act in Queens Co.