

TERMS AND NOTICES

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Religious Intelligencer.

REV. JOSEPH McLEOD, D. D., EDITOR

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14TH, 1897.

District Meeting sessions should not be allowed to crowd aside the Sunday School. The services can be arranged so as not to interfere with the school. Instead of being dispensed with, there should be an endeavour to help the school.

The Church Army, which awhile ago started work under the auspices of the Protestant Episcopal church in the United States, is to lose the endorsement of the Parochial missions society. It is not likely, however, that the work of the Army will cease. It has got along fairly well in the face of the disapproval of some bishops and other dignitaries.

There is a volume of truth in this single sentence from the "Religious Telescope": When the lovers of sobriety, good morals, and good government, irrespective of former partisan affiliations, unite to fill the offices of the country with men whom the liquor dealers and saloon keepers will not vote for, then, and not until then, will there be a reasonable prospect of the overthrow of the rum traffic.

Says Dr. Strong: It is said that Napoleon once stood before his guards and asked for a hundred men to lead a forlorn hope. And not a hundred men, but the whole regiment, as one man, sprang forward, and rang their muskets at his feet. The captain of our salvation summons His church militant to-day, not to a forlorn hope, but to a certain and glorious victory. O that every soldier of His cross might spring forward to offer the living sacrifice, until our country and the world are wholly won to His dominion!

The "Congregationalist" says something which both the professors and students in Theological Seminaries may consider with advantage:

One of our most cultivated laymen, who listened to the addresses of the theological professors at the Boston Club, while admitting the justice of their contentions in behalf of an educated ministry, says that in his opinion the seminaries sometimes have themselves to blame because of the apparent preference by the churches for partially trained men over those who have received a suitable education. The atmosphere of a divinity school, this layman thinks, is apt to be unfavorable to the development of the spiritual life. Theology is approached as a science would be, and so much strength being necessarily expended upon criticism and investigation, the men have little time and inclination left for real soul culture. Under these circumstances it is not surprising that some churches select for their leaders men of large, warm hearts, even though they may not have had the training of the schools. We commend the kindly criticism of the layman, which in our judgment also has much force, to the attention of our seminary professors.

The call to a conference for Bible study, to be held at Northfield, Mass., from July 29th to August 16th, has been issued. The invitation is broad, including not only Christian ministers and S. S. workers, but all believers in Christ. Mr. Moody makes an earnest plea. He mentions that forty years ago God called the people of this continent to repentance, and that there was a great awakening of churches throughout the land. Everywhere the church was united in aggressive evangelistic work, and an open sanctuary found a large attendance on week day evenings. Pentecostal power came upon ministers and laymen, and in a short season over half a million souls were brought to Christ.

Many of the conditions which then existed are now present," Mr. Moody says, and adds,—"The great need of

the hour is the preaching of Bible truths in the power of the Holy Ghost. Northfield stands for no theological hobby. As in former years the only standard will be the Bible, the divine revelation of God to His people. We believe the Bible as it has stood for ages. It is still the inexhaustible treasury of power to the church. "He that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the Lord." Let us then come together this season to gather wheat with which to feed a starving world. We have no doubt the Conference will prove most profitable."

Kept From Falling.

The most frequent source of danger to the Christian is trifling with conscience. This invariably "goes before a fall." No professed Christian can indulge in any practice or take any step which conscience condemns without straining the very fibre of character and without provoking God to let him tumble into the dust. A healthy conscience always keeps a safe margin between the pathway of conduct and the precipice of temptation. The moment that we venture to the dangerous edge in order to grasp some forbidden flower or fruit, the eye grows dizzy and we lose our balance; in that moment we have really no claim on God to keep us from falling—any more than David had when he leaned over the precipice of lust. That many a venturesome Christian who has discovered his danger and cried unto God for help has been rescued we do not doubt; but it is equally true that down at the base of every precipice of temptation lie multitudes of mangled forms.

Christ's sustaining, upholding power is infinite; but it is only secured to us "through faith." If that connection is cut, we are gone; and it is in our power to cut it. The same Peter who had been upheld once from sinking in the waves, afterward detached himself from Christ, and instantly fell. The spirit of boastful presumption, the reckless tampering with sin, and every willful disobedience of Christ's commandments, forfeit the protection of divine grace. There are paths and practices and pursuits in which the protecting arm of God is no more assured to us than it would be in the rapids of Niagara. How can a church member expect his Master to preserve him from drunkenness while he is tampering with the decanter? How can he expect to be saved from reproach or ruin while he is using trust-funds for his own benefit, or in speculations? How can any of our Christian daughters keep the heart pure while peopling it with unclean images from a licentious literature or an impure stage? So on through the whole category of sin. Grace never suspends law, never nullifies law. The Christian who asks God to keep him from falling must also keep his own heart with all diligence, and keep himself in the love of Christ, and keep a conscience void of offense. When we have done our best and utmost, we have been dependent on the divine help for that very doing. Without the indwelling grace, and without the enfolding arm, not one of us would be safe for a moment; without that, a whole church might slide away from the sacramental table into apostasy and perdition.

Here in this world none of us are "blameless;" but when the pierced hand has brought us into the presence of His glory, He will "present us faultless." The cleansing blood will then leave us without blemish. Acquitted for the past through Jesus, and perfected for the future! With united breath we shall ascribe all our conquests to the Lamb; and one of the joyful surprises of heaven will be to look back and see how close we often came to dizzy dangers and disgraceful discomfitures, and were only held back by the unseen hand! We shall then adore the grace that kept us from falling ten thousand times over. Paul will wonder at the grace that made such a saint out of such a sinner. John Calvin and John Wesley will join in singing "None but Christ." There will be no discords in that grateful hallelujah burst of praise, "Now unto Him who kept us from falling, and has presented us without blemish before the presence of His glory, to the only wise God our Saviour: be the majesty, the glory, dominion and power, both now and forevermore!" E.

Notes on Current Events.

The Victoria Hospital Jubilee fund is now considerably larger than was at first thought possible to secure. At the last meeting of the committee the returns footed up \$13,500. The sale conducted by the ladies on Dominion day netted about \$1000.

The heat during two or three days last week was very great. Reports

from various parts of Canada and the United States tell of much suffering and a considerable number of deaths caused by the intense heat. In some parts of Europe, also, last week the heat was unusual, and there were prostrations and death from sun-stroke in some places.

According to the latest blue book of the Fisheries Department, Canada's fisheries were worth in 1895 \$20,199,338. By provinces the yield was,—Nova Scotia \$6,213,131; New Brunswick, \$4,403,158; British Columbia, \$4,401,354; Quebec, \$1,867,920; Ontario, \$584,473; Prince Edward Island, \$976,836; Manitoba and the territories, \$752,466. The returns classify values thus,—Salmon, \$3,732,717; cod, \$3,638,519; herring, \$2,786,516; lobsters, \$2,210,096.

A recent statement shows that since the beginning of the present Cuban war, Spain has sent to Cuba 185,963 soldiers, 40 of them being generals. The Spanish losses in the last two years, in battle and from fevers, are estimated at 45,000. And yet Cuba is not subdued, nor very likely to be.

The plague in Bombay has greatly abated, so that the death rate now is only slightly above normal. There is still much suffering from famine, but there is promise of abundance next year.

A college for women is to be erected in Washington by Roman Catholics. It will be the first American Catholic college for women.

Of 122 honour pupils in the Grammar Schools of Chicago, only 25 were boys. The girls carried off most of the honours. Are the girls brighter than the boys? *

There are rumors of possible cabinet reconstruction soon. Among the changes suggested is the retirement of Sir Oliver Mowat to the Governorship of Ontario. While that would be a very fitting closing of his long and honorable public career, many will hope that he may not yet retire from the government. Others could be spared from it much better than he could.

It is good to notice that the movement for good roads has reached this Province. A meeting was held a few days ago in St. John, at which the matter was considered, and the preliminary steps taken towards the organization of a road improvement association. It is to be hoped the matter will receive general consideration and agitation. The roads of the Province are not nearly as good as they should be, even for the money and labour spent on them.

According to a late despatch from St. Petersburg, two women have been found in the forest of Zarevantsch, in the Taransk District, one dead and the other dying of starvation. They were members of a sect regarding suicide by starvation as the highest form of religious devotion. Other members of the sect had previously disappeared, and the police have instituted a thorough investigation.

Mgr. Merry del Val has issued a letter, addressed to Archbishop Langvin, but intended for all the bishops and priests, in which he says he has gathered for the Pope full information on the school question, and that when the Pope's decision is rendered it will be based on the most complete investigation. Meantime all Catholics are commanded to cease agitation in respect to the school question. Great emphasis is laid upon this injunction. The most important passage of the circular is as follows: "Affairs have entered upon a phase entirely new for Catholics by the mere fact that the Sovereign Pontiff has intervened himself, and it remains to him at present to finally determine their obligations in this matter from a Catholic standpoint, and it is not our business nor the business of anyone to do anything that would interfere beforehand with his judgment and his action. It ought to be evident to all enlightened Catholics that one cannot invoke nor obtain the authority of the Supreme Pastor against that of the bishops, and that on the other hand one would enfeeble the Episcopal authority by interfering even indirectly with the free exercise of the authority of the head of the church." *

The Sultan seems disposed to take his own time and way in settling with Greece. The powers suggest what they want done; the Sultan finds a reason for doing something else, or for delay. Lord Salisbury, speaking in the House of Lords, a few days ago, said the delay in the settlement of the peace terms between Turkey and Greece was entirely the fault of the former. There was no delay so far as

the powers were concerned, but Turkey had carried deliberation and circumspection to such an excess that the delay was not without danger. Though the danger was not immediate they were at present no nearer a solution of the question than before.

The vote on the question of the repeal of the Canada Temperance Act in Charlottetown, P. E. I. will take place on Thursday of next week. The campaign is now going on briskly. Dr. McLeod, having been sent for, is now giving the friends of the Act some assistance. Mr. F. S. Spence, of Toronto, is expected there the last of the week. There have, since the first adoption of the Act in Charlottetown, been several votes on it, and it was once repealed, by a majority of fourteen. Three years ago it was readopted by a majority of twenty-four. The majority in any case has been small. The struggle this time is made more difficult and uncertain by the fact that a general Provincial election takes place on the 21st inst, the day preceding the Scott Act voting. The friends of the Act are determined, however, to make the best fight possible in the circumstances.

Prohibition Plebiscite.

The Ottawa Liberal Convention wisely, as I think, took into consideration the question of prohibition. The action taken, viz. to have a plebiscite, was not wholly satisfactory to prohibitionists, because it was felt that we had passed that stage, as most of the provinces had, by popular vote, declared for prohibition. Still it was accepted as the definite policy of the party, and particularly so when the leader, the present Premier, had so often stated that he would carry out the wishes of the people as expressed in a plebiscite.

It appears that it was at first intended to submit to the people a complete prohibitory bill, which, if accepted by the people and endorsed by government in council, would at once come into force. But, that was cast aside. Then it was suggested that the question of "direct taxation" should be coupled with the question of prohibition, because the government claim that prohibition will involve a loss of at least \$8,000,000, which they say must be met by direct taxation.

The origin of the suggestion of direct taxation need not be considered, except to say that the liquor sellers heartily endorse it. Their doing so indicates their wishes and design, which of course mean the defeat of prohibition. Now, because of the opposition, by prohibitionists, to the handicapping of the question of prohibition with the question of direct taxation, no action was taken by Parliament at the session just closed.

The question of direct taxation is one worthy of serious and thoughtful consideration. But that it should be yoked with another question which does not of necessity involve direct taxation any more than a reduction of the tariff or the preferential clause of the tariff bill does, is something entirely different.

Personally, I am in favor of direct taxation as a general principle of taxation, believing it to be the wisest method. I am fully aware that before it can be adopted there must be a vast change in public opinion. And for that reason, if for no other, it does seem to be very unfair to load another and separate question with that which would surely defeat a far greater and more important principle.

But, it is said, the question, How can the liquor revenue be made up if prohibition becomes law? has to be considered. Yes! that is true! Let us look at it: (1) What would be the loss? The Premier puts it at \$8,000,000 yearly; Mr. F. S. Spence, puts it at \$5,000,000. The latter estimate is one dollar per head of the population of the Dominion. But whether \$5,000,000 or \$8,000,000, let this be understood, "a nation does not exist for raising a revenue." True we must have revenue, but other interests come first. Then (2) would the loss be temporary, or permanent? So far as revenue from liquor is concerned, it would be permanent; but so far as loss to the general revenue is concerned it would be temporary. The \$40,000,000 now spent in liquor would, under prohibition, in a considerable degree, find its way into more profitable channels, and, as a result, add to the revenue of the Nation. Said Mr. Gladstone: "Gentlemen, you need not give yourselves any trouble about the revenue. The question of revenue must never stand in the way of needed reforms. Besides, with a sober population, not wasting their earnings, I shall know where to obtain the revenue."

Then, there is the loss and cost to the nation on account of the liquor traffic, estimated at \$101,000,000. Some proportion of that amount must

be saved by prohibition. Take the cost of crime, pauperism, etc., that caused by the liquor traffic, has been estimated at \$3,149,097. Truly half the loss of revenue in this one item alone, so that the conclusion is beyond question that the loss of revenue would only be temporary.

That being so how is it to be met? Many are the plans suggested, "good, bad and indifferent." To go over them is not necessary in this already long letter. It must suffice to say that direct taxation is by no means a necessity. This session the railway subsidies will, doubtless, exceed \$10,000,000. Yet provision will be made for them without taxation. To borrow a given amount for a term of years, is not unknown. And, as alcohol for certain uses would be imported and manufactured, increased excise and custom duties could make up a good slice of the estimated loss.

It would seem to be clearly the duty of all active and really earnest prohibitionists to insist upon the immediate redemption of a well understood pledge, in the straightforward way worthy of honorable men. The difficulties of the position are not forgotten, neither are the moral obligations pressing upon a Christian nation. That the liquor traffic is an immoral traffic is self evident. To sanction it is to share the responsibility of its sad fruits. The success or failure of prohibition in suppressing intemperance is not the first question, but, rather, our attitude towards and responsibility for a prolific source of evil. If the liquor traffic is right, then to prohibit it is wrong; if it is wrong, then we have no moral right to sanction it. Being evil, as we believe, to outlaw it can never be a failure.

T. H. Siddall.

THE EMERGENCY FUND.—The following note was intended to be added to "The Emergency Fund" last week, but was received too late:

There will be a distinct album containing the Autographs of our ministers, to whom blanks have been forwarded and from whom we humbly solicit, in the name of the denomination we all love, the uniform Free Will gift of \$1.00. You may however, without offending, send \$2.00 or even \$5.00. Thanks to those who have already responded.

E. S. P.

General Religious News.

—The London Yearly Meeting of Friends reports 10,672 members at the close of 1896, an increase of 196 for the year. There were 344 "incomings by conviction."

—At Stockport, England, there is a Sunday school containing 4,834 pupils, with 238 men and 195 women teachers. It is the largest in the world.

—There are eight chapters of colored King's Daughters in New York city, all of them organized and managed by Afro-Americans, and all doing excellent work among people of their race.

—A Baptist church in Wilmington, Del., is to receive an exact reproduction of the chair used by John Bunyan when confined to Bedford jail, and a copy of the charges under which he was imprisoned.

—Greater New York will have a total of 1,115 places of worship, with a total seating capacity of 750,000. This is at the rate of one church to every 3,000 inhabitants. Of the above number 155 churches are Methodist.

—Four bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church have just celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of their Episcopal consecration. Two of them are retired, and two are active. These are the oldest bishops in service.

—The report of the Sabbath School Committee at the Presbyterian General Assembly of Canada showed 150,569 scholars and 17,636 teachers; 49,000 had memorized Scripture and 30,000 had learned the whole Catechism. There had been an increase of subscriptions. The work had grown so that it was now necessary to appoint some one to take charge of it, and in the opinion of the Committee the work could be most effectively done from Toronto as a centre.

—The Evangelical Alliance is preparing a memorial to the czar on behalf of the Stundists. The Alliance has learned that great barbarity has in some instances been shown towards those who have been sent into exile. The hopes that the young emperor and his wife would speedily put an end to this state of things has not yet been realized.

—The Jewish "Tribune" estimates that there are 1,000,000 Hebrews in this country, over a third of whom are

in New York city; of these latter there are nearly four hundred lawyers. Among the successful agencies is a Jewish Chautauqua Society, which provides a course in the Old Testament, a post Biblical course, a young folks' course, a general course, and several special courses.

—At the celebration in New York on May 23, of Bishop Andrew's twenty-fifth anniversary of his consecration, he quoted the following significant figures, showing the progress of the Methodist Episcopal Church during the last quarter of a century: "In 1872 there were about 9,000 effective ministers, now there are more than 14,000. In 1872 there were about 1,400,000 church members and probationers, now there are 2,800,000. The number of churches had increased from 13,000 to 26,000." The bishop expressed a wish that there had been a corresponding increase in spirituality, of which he had some doubt.

—"Hoffmann's Catholic Directory for 1897" gives lists of 14 archbishops and 74 bishops—88 in all—with 10,752 clergy, 9,670 churches, 5,189 stations and chapels, and a Catholic population of 9,596,427, showing an increase of 185,637. The other items, except that of archbishops, also show increase. The addition of 77 parochial schools brings the whole number up to 3,438, with 812,611 children in attendance, an increase of more than 16,000. The schools include 9 universities, 25 secular seminaries, 82 regular seminaries, 201 high schools for boys, and 651 for girls. The Church has 249 orphan asylums and 888 charitable institutions.

Home Religious News.

—The Women's Mission Society of the Presbyterian church in New Brunswick had its annual meeting in this city last week. There were between thirty and forty delegates present. The reports presented were encouraging. During the year four new auxiliaries had been organized; there was a gain of 171 members; and the receipts were \$1450.50.

Rev. Dr. Keirstead of Acadia University has been preaching in the Baptist church, Ottawa. The church is without a pastor, and would like to have Dr. Keirstead.

—The dissatisfaction in the Nashua and Stanley Presbyterian church continues. A meeting of the Presbytery is to be held in St. John on the 27th inst. to consider the matter. The congregation is required to appear by representatives, and state its case.

—The evangelistic meetings in Annapolis, N. S., led by Crossley and Hunter, resulted in a number of conversions. The evangelists are now at Liverpool, N. S.

Denominational News.

FIFTH DISTRICT MEETING.—The Fifth District was favoured with delightful weather for its annual meeting this year. The place of meeting was Brown's Flat, C. Co.; the time Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 2-4. The ministers present were: Revs. J. Noble, T. W. Carpenter, G. W. Foster, J. W. Clarke, O. N. Mott, H. A. Bonnell, C. B. Lewis, D. Long, J. B. Dagg, and J. McLeod, and licentiates Combs and Williams. The first meeting, at 10 a. m. Friday, was a conference; it was led by the pastor, bro. Bonnell, and was a good meeting. Reports from the churches were read in the Friday afternoon meeting. Rev. G. W. Foster, presiding. They were referred to a committee, composed of brethren McLeod, Clarke and Slipp, whose report was presented Saturday. Rev. John Nason pastor of the Free Baptist church in Houlton, Me., being present, was invited to a seat, as were the other visiting ministers. Bro. John A. Jones, from a committee appointed last year, presented a report on an Order of Business for the District Meeting. The report made fitting reference to the death of one of its members, Sheriff Perry, who had been long an interested member of the District. The report was adopted. Committees were appointed as follows: PUBLIC WORSHIP,—brethren Bonnell, Foster and Gorham; SABBATH SCHOOLS,—brethren Jones, Carpenter and Davis. At 8 p. m. there was public worship. Rev. J. W. Clarke preached. At 8 a. m. Saturday business was resumed. Prayer by Rev. J. Noble. After reading of minutes and roll call, the election of officers was proceeded with. Rev. H. A. Bonnell was elected Chairman, Rev. G. W. Foster Assistant Chairman. Prior to the election of officers there was some discussion about the eligibility of lay members to the Chairmanship; and it was thought better to make choice of one of the ordained ministers. The committee on church reports presented a report, which showed that fifteen churches had reported; the increase in reported churches was 24, the net gain being one; the number of members reported 752; fourteen of the churches had pastors; they all held monthly conference the communion had been administered in the

majority; less than mid-week prayer; ministers had been in pastoral care \$820.03 was raised for the minister's expenses, \$165.95; \$50.42, H. Mission \$8.80, W. improvement of church education \$4.65; pointed out that for missions and side church support much below the or to be paid bene was also stated the Soc. was reported paragon in the minute suggest to look after the not reported to also, that the first reports pointed careful consideration of the cause. The report elicited a question, participated of brethren. The support of all the church and earnestly pressed.

At 11 a. m. ing by licentiate 2 p. m. business After routine the condition of the taken up. After report was adopted to ask the H. M. missionary help be named by the. Delegates appointed as follows: E. Slipp and J. R. Van Wart. committee on S. presented by 9 showed that 9 that they have teachers that the that nine scholars the year. hold the next M. Executive for as follows: bre B. Lewis, J. A. and J. I. Davis to pastor and p hospitality was m. committee onlicentiate bro. R. McKin a church licentiate. Reassembled opening exercises taken charge of of the District, Slipp, in the ch away &c; Scri President; pray The President t. priate address; Carpenter, read adopted on mot seconded by Bro. from Miss Gaud. J. B. Lewis was m. deposed. Long it was a good it, and, also, of the W. M. S. appear in the of the W. M. w. Foster spoke o commending it. ace of every Fr its regular vis meeting was th. Sunday was services began at 9:30 a. m, le a meeting of qu during the ch a. m., by Dr. M. Rev. J. N. R. v. D. Long was administered was a deligh preaching in o was preaching in the morning, and an overflo dist church, bro and at Westfield Rev. O. N. meetings there ence of the gra day of good thi congregations w evening meeting deep interest. bro. Long—an tive sermon—n devoted to pre steadily increas with His pe in Him, and m pressed. Bro. was led by the and four person he had been la selves as candid Those who atte the people of munity who s the meeting, al we trust the go teachings and which were th more manifest been pastor o adjacent church He has been the people este sake, and may greater bless heart's desire m.

MONCTON.—C new appear of paint. We are looking for Some work is b is to be raised strength suffici

The new F house at Connale, C. Co., wi worship the 25th three services. will preach at Perry at 2:30 Downey at 7. ministers an invited.