TERMS AND NOTICES

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Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17TH 1897.

"The "Intelligencer" needs the earnest co-operation of the ministers, and appreciates it. Will they kindly remind their people of the importance of quick renewals, and urge those who do not take it to begin now? Many pastors, perhaps all, have already done so. We hope they will not think it too much to do it again. The canvass for subscribers—renewals and new—should go on vigorously just now.

Spiritual growth advances only so fast as sinful lusts are consumed in the fire of a fervent love for Christ.

Missionaries in India are proving themselves heroic men and women. Thousands including the better and wealthier classes and the foreign business men, are fleeing from plague-stricken Bombay; but the missionaries remain at their posts, and are the ministers of help and comfort to the suffering, dying and panic stricken.

Here is a paragraph which may encourage the ministers and others who labour in communities where the population is either stationary or diminishing: "The fact that a particular church has not a larger membership now than it had years ago does not prove that it has not been a blessing and a necessity to the community. Many a school has no larger attendance now than it had fifty years ago, and yet during all these years it has been educating the children of the community, and sending them out into the world fitted for their duties. What is required of a man, a school or a church is that there shall be faithfulness in the discharge of duty."

There are very few who have not, at some time, suffered more or less from the evil tongue The majority of people will, therefore, appreciate these truths, from a contemporary, about the bad thing which "carries" discord and strife into towns, cities and nations, severing the strongest bonds of friendship, stirring up hatred and vengeance, causing disturbance and confusion all along its path and marring comfort, peace and happiness. It is a deadly poison which blights and destroys. It is like an infectious disease. Venom lurks in its praise, malice in its applause peril in its silence and death in its stabs. It is horrible and discreditable in any form and by whomsoever exhibited, but especially in those who profess to be followers of the meek and holy Jesus.

There can no longer be any doubt that among earnest Jews there is a growing desire to repeople Palestine with the "chosen people." Since the persecution of the Jews in Russia and Roumania more than 25,000 Israelites have settled in Palestine, of whom about 20,000 are in the country districts, living in colonies and following agricultural pursuits. That the Jews in their own land show themselves ready to engage in cultivating the soil, while in other countries they evince a pronounced aversion to hard manual toil, is one of the most remarkable aspects of the movement. For the twenty colonies already existing, an interesting agricultural school has been established in the neighbourhood of Jaffa—the ancient Joppa—in which 200 pupils are already studying. Three years are devoted to theoretical and three to practical instruction, and a tract of good land adjoins the school on which experiments can be made. In Jaffa, which, more than Jerusalem, is the centre of the new movement, a high school for boys and another for girls has been erected. The development of this most interesting movement will be watched by Christian people with extreme interest.

What a poor idea of christian service many christians have. To go to church once or twice on Sunday, to attend a prayer meeting once a week, or perhaps less frequently, to contribute a few cents in the Sunday collection, and, perhaps, make a small contribution to the pastor's support, is the whole of their idea of serving God. Dr. Strong, secretary of the Evangelical Alliance, sends forth this ringing message to christians everywhere:

"One of the greatest Christian words is 'service.' The Master said he came to 'minister'; and as the Father sent him, so he sends us, to serve. We call going to church 'attending divine service.' But reading the Word, joining in the hymn, uniting in the prayer, and listening to the sermon—these are worship not service. I know of no way to serve God except to help him do what he is trying to do in the world—namely, to lift this poor, blundering, sorrowing, sinning race up into his light, and joy, and purity. That is, the way to serve God is to serve men. 'Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye did it unto me.' And love to God and man is the all-sufficient inspiration to service. To him that loves, service is its own reward."

That good preaching is important all agree. Less is thought and said about the importance of good hearing. Good hearers are a great help, if they do not almost compel good preaching. In an article on the art of hearing, Dr. Stalker says the hearers make or mar the preacher quite as truly as the preacher molds the hearers. "The sight of a thin, unsympathetic congregation, as the minister enters the pulpit, will sometimes chill the message on his lips, even tho he has come there with his heart on fire; and, on the contrary, the play of emotion on a single attentive face sometimes imparts warmth to the delivery of an entire discourse. The sense of two or three superior listeners, or even a single one, will often be with the minister in his study during the entire week, stirring him to diligence, and forbidding him to fall below their expectations. Unawares the preacher sways to the level of his average audience. If there are many hearing him who are abreast of the best knowledge of the day he must address himself frequently to the solution of the problems with which the age is struggling; but if his hearers are unintelligent, except in regard to the interests of their own occupations, he will unconsciously narrow the sweep of his ideas within the circumference of their comprehension.

"Go Forward."

In many cases, doubtless, the word revival may properly be used to express what churches need. The spiritual life they once had has waned; or has been entirely lost. To quicken that spiritual life "which is ready to die," to restore that which is dead, is truly, a revival. But there are churches which do not need so much to be revived as to make an advance. Their spiritual life is quite up to what it has ever been. They need to reach to higher things. In fact the great need of this time is for christian people to "go forward." That the churches of our times have more intelligence and more financial ability than in any previous time will not be questioned. It is true, also, that there is larger benevolence and more zeal for the extension of the kingdom of Christ than ever before. But has the increase of benevolence and zeal kept pace with the ncrease of knowledge and ability? If the churches are not doing their appointed work, up to the measure of their ability and opportunities, there is not much comfort in comparison of the present with former times. With all that we may find to felicitate ourselves upon, no thoughtful christian can escape the feeling that the churches, as a whole, are not doing all, nor nearly all, that their Lord requires of them. They do not witness for Christ with such clearness and power as is indispensable to win the world to Christ. They are not as strongly and uncompromisingly set against unrighteousness in every form as they should be; there is to much conformity to the spirit and customs of the world; wrong notions of policy and propriety prevent true devotion to God and zeal for sinning, suffering humanity. To rise higher—into completer sympathy with Christ and His gracious purposes; and to have a completer consecration to Him, more ardent love for each other, and a deeper concern for a world lying in wickedness,—these are the things which, the churches called Christ's need. "Go forward," always, steadily forward, is the divine command.

A Trustful Band.

An unusual community of christians exists in Kansas City. Fifty men and women who trust God to send them their daily bread have for the last few months devoted themselves to city missionary work and to the cultivation of personal religion. The 'Gospel Union,' as the institution is called, was started in a small way five years ago in a little village. It has since sent ten missionaries to Morocco and two to Ecuador. When the Union receives subscriptions the missionaries are provided with money, otherwise they get nothing from America. Money is never asked for—except in prayer—by the officers of the institution, but, they declare, God always sends it. Once a sum of $100 was needed to pay a rent bill. The community prayed all night for the money, and received from various sources no less than £60. The building occupied by the community is large and commodious, and all the inmates share in the household work. On washdays the men take a turn at the tub. The president of the Union gave up a salary of $1500 as Customs Officer to start the work, and an ex-bank cashier and a former Chicago grain broker are his colleagues in office. They are content with the barest necessities, food, shelter and clothing.

Notes on Current Events.

Germany is preparing to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of the first Emperor, Wilham I, grandfather of the young man who now sits on the throne. March 22 is the date of the event, and it is to be a great national holiday.

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From the Caucasus news comes of the continued immigration of poverty-stricken Armenians into Russian territory. Thousands of these wretched people are homeless, tramping over the highlands of Armenia from village to village, exposed to the severe cold, and without food or sufficient clothing. Since last summer, it is estimated that over 40,000 Armenians have entered Russian territory. Subscriptions were opened by Russians for these destitute people, but, unfortunately, they have been a complete failure, the Russian heart not being very deeply moved with sympathy for them. The mortality amongst the children of these poor people is said to be very large.

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President Cleveland, the press despatches say, contemplates a trip round the world very soon after his term of office expires.

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The Tariff Commission has concluded its investigations, the last sitting having been held in Winnipeg last week. They have heard a variety of opinions, out of which they may be able to frame satisfactory tariff changes—satisfactory to some of the people.

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There was a report a few days ago that a new settlement of the Manitoba schools question had been made, satisfactory to Archbishop Langevin. Later it was denied that there was any new deal. Mr. Greenway, being asked if there was any truth in the report that he had made new concessions to the Roman Catholics, answered, "Emphatically No."

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Lagrippe is very prevalent in Ottawa. Sir James Grant M. D. says the epidemic is more general than ever before, and many cases are very severe. Several deaths have occurred. The epidemic is in every part of the city, and seems to be increasing.

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The Czar, who has never had robust health, is evidently feeling the cares and burdens of governing. When a boy he was subject to occasional fits; these have, it is stated, become more frequent of late, and are of a more distinctly epileptic type.

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A bill providing for the closing public drinking houses on Sunday was, last Wednesday, rejected by the British House of Commons, by a vote of 206 to 149. Under the present law public houses are allowed to be open or a period during the middle of the day, and in the evening.

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The work of an Inspector under the Scott Act is not the most pleasant thing a man may do. Inspector Colpitts, speaking before the Carleton Co. Council, explained "the difficulty and sometimes danger to life and property which he faced in trying to enforce the act. He said he could not always serve the papers himself, as his white head was known from one end of the county to the other. So that for the efficient enforcement of the act it was necessary to employ some other officer to do most of this work. He had had to face fire, look into the muzzle of a gun and work in face of an uplifted axe to accomplish his work. But he would not shrink from it, nor would he give up the work if the Board determined to cut down his salary. When he saw the open rum shops in St. John he felt proud of what had been done in Woodstock."

The difficulties and dangers he has encountered show the character of the men of the rum traffic. They are equal to any desperate deed. And yet some reputable citizens give sympathy to such ruffians, and have only criticism for the faithful officer who courageously does his duty.

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It is stated by those who have made close investigation that every Presidential election increases considerably the number of lunatics in the United States. Among the exciting causes are "the protracted excitement, irregular habits, the loss of money in gambling bets, and, in a few instances, real heart sorrow at the defeat of a favored candidate, &c. These same people nearly all of them with a predisposition to insanity, would become lunatic by similar causes occuring in connection with any other event

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Mr. Thomas Sexton, formerly one of the Irish members of the British Parliament, has evidently sized up the party with which he has been identified and with whose objects he is still in full sympathy. He resigned his seat last year, and being urged lately to re-enter Parliament, he declined, saying: "I am still convinced that the Irish party must have better discipline before anything worth laboring for can be obtained from the House of Commons, even for the most palpable grievances of Ireland."

* *

A Convention of prohibitionists of the Province of Quebec is to be held in Montreal on the 25th inst. The chief object of the Convention is to consider the plebiscite, and to prepare to bring "Quebec in line" with the other Provinces on the question of prohibition.

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The prohibitionists of Ontario are pressing the government of that Province to carry out the promise of Sir Oliver Mowatt when Premier, and repeated by his successor, Mr. Hardy, to enact a law of prohibition to the extent to which the Legislature has jurisdiction, as determined by the Privy Council. There is a fear that the government will not go farther than to amend the license law in some respects.

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The Canadian India famine fund has passed the $50,000 mark, and contributions continue to be received. The readiness and liberality of Canada's response to the call for help has attracted attention in Great Britain and elsewhere, and is being referred to in most complimentary terms.

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Canadian cities, as the cities in other parts of the British Empire, are beginning to consider how they may most fittingly celebrate the Queen's jubilee. That they will all join in the celebration in appropriate form and with great heartiness is certain. The 'Witness' mentions a suggestion made by a Montrea' citizen, which may well be adopted in every part of the Empire, and which will not only not interfere with any other form of celebration, but would add greatly to the impressiveness of all forms of celebration. "It is practically the putting of Daniel Webster's sublime 'Drum-beat of England' into actuality by having all the Queen's subjects, wheresoever they are, at high noon on that day take off their hats and sing 'God Save the Queen' and having all organs and bands of music play it. Thus from Victoria, in Australia, round the world to Victoria, in British Columbia, there would flow for twenty-four hours a ceaseless song of praise, one meridian taking it up as another dropped it. What do our fellow subjects think of this for a grand idea?

* *

A St. Louis millionaire is to be hanged on Tuesday of this week, for the murder of his wife and child. The crimes for which he is to die were committed three years ago. The time since then has been spent in endeavours to save him from the gallows. Everything that lavish expenditure of money could do has been done, every influence that money could command has been used in his behalf, but all in vain. It is certainly to the credit of the courts and the executive authority of the state that, the man having been proved guilty of wife and child murder, the course of justice has not been allowed to be interfered with by the former social standing of the murderer nor by the many and powerful influences which money too often commands. The murderer's name is Arthur Deustrow, and he is only about thirty years of age. He inherited about two millions. He gave himself up to a life of drinking and kindred dissipations, and in a drunken frenzy shot his wife and only child, a three years old boy.

A question of what share of responsibility for this and many other crimes is fairly chargeable to the public, is suggested by one of the appeals for commutation of Deustrow's sentence. A few days ago, Mrs. Minor Meriweather, a distinguished leader amongst the women of the state, addressed a letter to the Governor of the state in favour of commutation. Her chief argument for executive clemency is that the man's crime is directly chargeable to the use of strong drink, and that as the state authorizes the sale of liquor, which drives men to crime, it is particeps criminis, and should not punish with extreme penalty one of its citizens for committing a crime to which it has, in morals if not in law, contributed. And who can deny that there is much force in this contention?

* *

The Republican party managers are losing no time in getting tariff changes ready. Immediately after the inauguration of President McKinley Congress will be convened, and tariff legislation will be ready when it meets. They have evidently determined not to make such a mistake as the Democrats were guilty of in 1892, and which had so disastrous effect on the business of the country, Being ready certainly the better way.

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There has been, first and last, a good deal of talk about lengthening the term of service of the President of the United States. The question, however, was never considered by a Congressional committee till last week. One of the representatives has given notice of a joint resolution proposing an amendment of the Constitution lengthening the terms of Senators and Representatives in Congress to eight and four years respectively, and the term of the President to eight years.

Arguing before a committee in favor of the change be urged that under the present system all business enterprises are practically paralyzed for at least one year out of every four. The commercial interests of the country demand fewer elections and the higher qualifications for office consequent upon longer service. Elections as now conducted are very expensive, and the people are groaning under the burden.

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The Mormon missionaries are located in Winnipeg. Three others are at different points in Manitoba.

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Great Britain's contributions to the India famine fund had reached £275,000 at the end of last week. Contributions continue to be received at the rate of £10,000 a day.

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To help build a hall at Memramcook, W. Co., in memory of the late Father Lefebvre, for some time connected with the Roman Catholic College there, a lottery has been carried on. On Thursday of last week the drawing of prizes took place. We notice that one of the judges of the Supreme Court presided over the prize drawing process.

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The Postmaster General has stated that the Government intends to restore newspaper postage, which was removed in 1882. He thinks the government needs the money, and, if he is correctly reported, thinks a quarter of a million dollars a year can be raised in this way. He must intend to establish a much higher rate than was paid under the old system, for the yearly receipts then were not $50,000. The circulation of papers has not increased five-fold since then. The Press Association of Ontario and Quebec has, by a large majority, declared against the imposition of newspaper postage. The press in other parts of the country is likely to take the same position. The reimposition of newspaper postage is a mistake.

Was It Generous?

A brewer in Dayton, Ohio, offered the city a loan of $10,000, to be used in giving work to the unemployed. This was at once heralded abroad as the act of a philanthropist, an unusual expression of sympathy with the struggling poor. The loan was accepted by the committee in charge of City Works, and the brewer is posing as the benefactor of the community. The 'Religious Telescope' published in the same city, is not willing that the citizens shall be fooled by the cunning act of a selfish man, whose business makes more poverty and wretchedness in one year than many times ten thousand dollars could compensate for. We have no doubt the 'Telescope's' course has been severely criticized, and probably some of the critics are a very good kind of people. But it would have been quite unworthy its high place as a teacher of morals and religion if it had for any reason refrained from speaking out. Christian faithfulness moves it to say some plain true things, which we reproduce because they apply to things nearer home:

None shall excel us in readiness to commend the generosity of our city and its well to do people as manifested in their noble effort to give employment to the needy, suffering unemployed. But we can but regret that the circumstances were such that in their efforts to do this the city authorities seem to have been under the necessity of accepting a voluntarily proffered loan of $10,000 from one of the city's wealthy brewers. We deplore this, not that we have any ill will against the brewer personally, but because it gives to the act of the lender the semblance of generosity, popularizes his business, and thus tends to increase the sale of one of the beverages the use of which many eminent judges have declared to be the cause of three-fourths of all the crime in the land. Is there any generosity in a man's lending $10,000 to a great city like ours when he knows, or has good reason to believe, that his doing so will prove one of the most effective methods of advertising his products and increasing his trade? We have been told that a certain man the other day approached some men who have been employed since the loan was secured and inquired of one of them whether there was any chance to get work. The answer of the laborer addressed, as reported to us, was as follows: "I do not know: but you will find that there is no prospect for you unless you are to become a patron of Mr.—— ——'s beer (naming the brewer who had loaned the $10,000.) I had almost to make a hog of myself in order to secure employment. I had to do it; for my family was suffering." We give this statement on its own merits as it came to us from good authority. We do not pretend to say that the rich brewer only "had an eye to business" when he made the loan, but we do say that, from a financial and beer-selling standpoint it was a capital stroke of business, and that, practically, there is very little generosity in it On the other hand, its effect will be to increase greatly the sale of the beverage that the brewer manufactures and add to the prosperity of his business, and by that much increase the poverty, crime, and misery of thousands in the city. We also deeply regret that the lending of the $10,000 has been mistaken by many as an act of generosity. The secular press of the city have spoken of the act in highest terms of praise, and by exactly that much, tho indirectly, and unintentionally, doubtless, commended the brewing, and the saloon, and the drunkard-making business. With more than three hundred saloons in the city already it is almost impossible to raise a family of boys in it without one or more of them falling victims to the rum curse. Must not the danger become greater in proportion as the business is popularized and those engaged in it lauded? We have also been astonished at hearing prominent business men and leading Christian workers laud the brewer as a broad-minded, whole-souled, generous-hearted, philanthropic man, because he loaned the money to the city. Of course we are glad to accord "honor to whom honor is due," but this laudation not only popularizes the man, but the beer-making, beer-selling business—a business which is to-day the chief enemy of God and man, and so largely renders impotent the effort of the churches, the Sunday schools, and the Y.M.C.A. to reach and save the boys and young men of our city. Especially does this laudation give us pain when the fact is, in its analysis, there is nothing generous in the act at all. It is only a shrewd business scheme for popularizing and increasing the consumption of the product of the brewery—a product the use of which has been largely the direct cause of much of the squalor, destitution, and suffering which now appeal in piteous tones for relief.

Mission News and Notes

—It is likely that henceforth special efforts will be put forth to evangelize Mohammedans. Their exceeding need is shown by the awful story of the poor Armenians.

—When the native converts of India go from home the only piece of luggage they carry is the New Testament; and every night upon the hillside, camping out, they will sit in groups reading the precious volume.

—A Hindu named Aaron was the first native Indian convert educated and ordained a Christian minister. This was in 1733, by Ziegenbalg. There are now one thousand natives ordained to the ministry of the Reformed Churches.

—The one hundred and fourth annual report of the Baptist Missionary Society, which has just been issued shows that the society has 1,016 stations, and sub-stations, with a membership of 53,789. 214 missionaries are now in the field. There are 812 evangelists. In the day schools 38,198 scholars, and 43,863 in Sunday Schools. Total income last year was £100,245.

Dean Farrar referring to the development of Christian enterprise during the present century, states that whilst in 1800 there were only seven missionary societies, there are now seventy, and that whilst then there were only seventy-nine mission schools, now there are twelve thousand. During the period named at least two million heathens have been converted to Christianity.