

TERMS AND NOTICES

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Religious Intelligencer.

REV. JOSEPH McLEOD, D. D., EDITOR

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 1st., 1897.

A sleeping church provokes no opposition.

If half the good things that are said were just done the world would be quickly and vastly better.

Many a sensitive man has been done to death by the persistent unkindness of those from whom he should have received nothing but good.

Mr. Moody did a wise and good thing recently when he checked a proposal to start an independent missionary movement. He took the ground that the various Missionary Boards furnish all the opportunities the church can use, and many more than are taken advantage of, for the prosecution of mission work. The thing needed is not any new organization, but more hearty support of present missionary undertakings, and their enlargement.

Do not judge your own, or any other boy, hastily as to his capabilities. President Gilman, who has had much to do with boys, well says that "neither precocity nor dullness is a certain index of the future of a boy. Only a wise man can tell the difference between the priggishness of conceit and the display of unusual talent, and it takes a superlatively wise man to devise right methods of exciting temperaments that are dull, or on the other hand, to guide a genius. Abnormal brilliancy and abnormal slowness are usually the result of abnormal physical conditions, and physiologists are only just beginning to show to ordinary parents how these unusual conditions may be discovered and treated. When we see a man we cannot tell what sort of a boy he came from, and when we see a boy we cannot tell what sort of a man he will make."

Temperance work in England is finding more support from dignitaries of the Established Church than ever before. This is, perhaps, due in part, at least, to the pronounced temperance attitude of the present Archbishop of Canterbury. A letter signed by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, has been addressed to every clergyman of the church, urging "the necessity of combating the sin of intemperance in every parish in England and Wales" by starting a parochial branch of the Church of England Temperance Society. Intemperance is described as "one of the greatest stumbling-blocks to the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and it is the experience of most parish priests who have tried it that organized Temperance work is the greatest possible help to a due discharge of the spiritual functions committed to them."

Much is said about the importance of heart purity—and not too much, if the teaching as to what it is and how secured be sound. But what about head purity? It, also, is important. 'Zion's Herald' suspects that "some have dwelt so absorbingly on the question of heart purity that they have quite overlooked the imperative need of head purity. Too many Christians have foolishly thought that if the heart were only right, it mattered but little whether the head was right or wrong. The truth is, no heart can be pure without a pure mind. Nor can one's heart be pure while the mind is largely filled with ignorant and gross ideas of God, of Christ, and His truth. The prime meaning of purity is clearness. Hence there must be clearness of head in order to clearness or purity of heart. It is folly to say that one may have a pure heart while his head is full of error."

The Roman Catholic church

is careful to give the impression that it is steadily gaining in numbers and influence. That its influence is very great there can be no doubt, but there is, we think, good reason to believe that it is waning. In spite of its own statements about numerical growth it is really declining. The London Methodist Times, which has given careful attention to the question declares that there are not only relatively but absolutely millions fewer Roman Catholics in the British Isles to-day than one hundred years ago. In the United States they only claim nine millions out of a population of sixty-three millions, and we have read in their own journals that if they had retained the children and grandchildren of the enormous number of Irish and Continental emigrants, they would have numbered at least twenty-five millions. Their most successful foreign missionary field is China, where they have still upward of a million of adherents. But their position there is not compatible with the position they occupied a century ago. There has been undoubtedly a revival of Romanism in Italy and France within the last twenty years, in consequence of the fact that the Liberal party in both countries is infidel, and advocates things which the human race will never accept. It is also partly due to the narrowness and internal divisions of Continental Protestantism. But after having made every allowance for the revival of Romanism, no one can contend for a moment that either in France or in Italy there is the least prospect of Rome ever again asserting the ascendancy which she enjoyed a hundred years ago in both of those countries. In every land under heaven Rome is shorn of her strength, and is dwindling year by year, while the great Protestant communities are increasing in numbers, in wealth, in influence and in every kind of prosperity.

Withholding.

The avarice that hoards is as contrary to the spirit of the gospel and as subversive of the benevolences of the church as is the extravagance that wastes. The miser, as the term indicates, is the miserable man. He is worse off than the rich fool, for he did get something out of his money while he lived. He was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But the miser cheats himself out of happiness in both worlds. He is Lazarus here and a Dives hereafter. What epithet could more fittingly designate the world's "lucres" than "filthy"? For my indeed are the ways through which many pass to obtain it, and foul is the pollution they get to their souls. Alas, for the professing Christian who is so engrossed with the world that he has no time to read his Bible; no time to instruct his children out of it; no time to attend to the prayer meeting; and when he does, it is in the most perfunctory manner, or only as an opiate to his already nearly strangled conscience. If he listen to the gospel on the Lord's day, it is with little spiritual profit, so preoccupied is his mind with the farm, or stocks, or trade. "The cares of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word and render it unprofitable."

It is a common remark of persons in humble circumstances that if they had wealth they would put it to much better use than many who are thus favored. Perhaps they would; but it is hardly proved by the use they make of what they have. The means to which many have resorted in gaining their smaller possessions, the selfish ends to which they are wont to appropriate them, and the reluctance with which they part with the smallest portion of them, even for the best purposes, pretty clearly indicate what would be their conduct under more affluent circumstances. Selfishness and niggardliness are by no means confined to the rich, nor benevolence and generosity to the poor. The truth is, neither the highest nor the lowest virtues are peculiar to any one class or condition of human kind. Each class of virtues, in whomsoever they dwell, become strong and marked as they are fostered and practiced. And because they are sure finally to dominate and permanently turn to good or evil channels the lives of those who yield themselves to their sway, hence the importance of every man's surrendering his heart and life to the right impulse at the start. If the heart is not kept open by the cultivation of the benevolent spirit, it will be sure to contract. We have known men who were commendably generous when poor; then it was a pleasure for them to give, and they gave according to their means; but as their worldly circumstances improved, and the notion of becoming rich took possession of them, their giving correspondingly diminished. What sadder sight than that of men on whom God has

profusely lavished his gifts appropriating these gifts solely to selfish ends. Instead of serving as a channel to diffuse the divine beneficence, becoming rather a sponge to absorb it,—cursed by the very means by which they might be blessed and become a blessing. How many and painful the exemplifications of the Scripture truth: "The prosperity of fools shall destroy them." Worldly prosperity, with the grace of God, is a great blessing, for it enables its possessor to multiply his gospel charities on every hand; but without the grace of God it can only be a curse.—B.

Hints To Young Preachers.

No. XI.

Preach naturally. Avoid affectations. Do not choose fantastic texts. Look into the eyes of the people to whom you are preaching.

Making a great noise is not necessarily great preaching.

There may be much perspiration without much inspiration. The simple gospel, out of a warm and true heart—no skyrockets out of an unbalanced head and a consuming conceit—is what the Lord sends His servants to preach.

Do not ever preach a sermon that you would be afraid to preach if Jesus Christ were one of the audience, for, indeed, "He is one of your hearers, and He notes how you discharge your duty as His ambassador, and if you are fooling with His commission."

Preach whenever there is an opportunity. Preach as earnestly and faithfully to the small congregation as to the large one. He who is unwilling to preach to a few shows himself unfit to preach to any. Our Lord preached oftentimes to a small number.

Notes on Current Events.

The separate schools established in Manitoba by Archbishop Langevin are being continued. According to a recent report 3,323 children are enrolled in these schools.

Mr. George U. Hay, who has for several years been Principal of the Girls' High School, St. John, has retired from the service, having declined to accept the subordinate position offered him in the rearrangement of the schools. Mr. Hay has certainly been a most successful teacher, and it seems unfortunate that his services have not been retained.

At the Sunday devotional meeting held during the meeting in Toronto of the British Association of Scientists, the following letter was read from Sir Wm. Dawson:

"Permit me most sincerely to thank you and other Christian friends who have invited me to take part in their devotional gathering in connection with the meeting of the British Association, on the occasion of its second visit to Canada."

I can assure you that a large element in my regret that the state of my health does not permit me to be present this year is my enforced absence from this delightful reunion of Christian friends.

I rejoice, however, in the confident belief that with God's blessing it may be large, enthusiastic and useful in the highest sense. I rejoice also in the belief that present indications warrant the hope that the clouds of an agnostic and merely mechanical view of the universe, which have for some time obscured the fair field of natural science are beginning to be dissipated, and that Christian students of nature will be able more fully to show that the history of the earth is that of the development, in many ways and by many subordinate agencies of His own appointment, of the plans of the Almighty Creator, our own Heavenly Father, and Redeemer, and to bear an ever increasing testimony to their own experience of divine love, as well as to the cogency of belief in God with the earnest and successful pursuit of science and especially with broad and enlightened views of the system of the universe, and of our own relations to it and to its Maker.

I shall earnestly pray that the spirit of God may guide all who take part in the meeting so that the Divine blessing may fully rest upon its exercises.

Sir Donald Smith's new title is not Lord Glenora, as at first announced, but Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal. Two or three more names would not have made much difference. People are likely to think and speak of him chiefly by the old and familiar name, Sir Donald.

The way the Countess of Carlisle has of promoting temperance is one which can be followed only by one of great wealth. She has, for some time past, been acquiring public houses in the vicinity of her home in Cumberland, England, whenever opportunity offered. In nearly every instance of such purchase she has turned the property into a temperance refreshment house.

Immigration into the United States was smaller last year than for many years.

The United States Consul General at Havana, reports that 1400 destitute American citizens in Cuba have had to be fed and otherwise provided for during the summer.

A week ago Prince Luigi di Savoia arrived at Victoria B. C., on his return from an expedition to the summit of Mt. St. Elias. The papers are saying that his expedition fixes finally the altitude of Mount St. Elias at 18,120 feet. There was not the slightest indication of volcanic origin anywhere. A new glacier was discovered by the explorers from the eminence of Mount St. Elias, between the Augusta Mountains and Great Logan and was named by the prince "Colombo." At the summit of Mount St. Elias there was neither wind nor fog and only 20 below freezing. The prince does not consider the ascent difficult, except for the last few hundred feet, which is a solid mass of ice.

The Maritime Provinces Baptist Convention declared itself in the usual strong way on the question of prohibition. The report of the committee on temperance stated that "the attitude of the Maritime convention on the liquor traffic remains unchanged. It is an attitude of no compromise with the evil until absolute and entire prohibition is realized. The tendency of many of the churches in regarding the question of prohibition as political is alarming, and it is clearly the duty of every church and every individual to give his whole energy to the bringing in of a better era of larger and cleaner citizenship. The denomination for years has demanded prohibition, and nothing short of that must be advocated." While not asking for a plebiscite the committee exhorts all Baptist voters to assist in making the vote most emphatic against the liquor traffic, and protests strongly against having any other question coupled, in the plebiscite, with the question of prohibition. The report embraced also, a resolution condemning the display in the Prohibition Exhibition of 1896, in St. John, of intoxicating liquors, and petitioning the management of the Exhibition to be held this month, and the management of like Exhibitions in Nova Scotia and P. E. Island, to exclude such exhibits.

The Behring Sea commission is now sitting in Halifax, to hear the final argument in the matter. The argument will occupy several days.

The President of France has been visiting the Czar of Russia. The hobnobbing of the most despotic ruler of Europe and the Chief Magistrate of the principal European democracy, is quite suggestive.

Says the Montreal 'Star': It is a satisfaction to reflect that if an attack is to be made on "the Empire to which we belong," no better time could be chosen. Britons the world round are in much closer touch with each other to-day than they were a year ago. The Jubilee of the Queen-Mother of us all has brought the family nearer together. If the Empire must ever fight for its life, it is readier now than it ever has been; and the inspiring "shoulder touch" is felt across the seas more firmly than at any time in the past. The Imperialistic spirit is at high water mark, and any men who are plotting mischief to Britain will do well to note that the boundaries of Britain are the boundaries of the Empire.

Stories of hardship and suffering do not seem to have any effect in checking the rush of gold-seekers towards the Klondyke. A story of some one getting a fortune in a few months more than outweighs all that can be said about difficulties and dangers.

Peace negotiations make slow progress. Turkey wants more from Greece than the powers are willing to permit.

The Transvaal people are not quite happy. Addressing the Volksraad last week President Kruger denied that Great Britain has a suzerainty over the Transvaal. Mr. Chamberlain, however, claims that Great Britain's right is indisputable. German suggestions and influence are regarded as responsible for President Kruger's new notion.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier arrived at Quebec Saturday. There were great demonstrations in his honour, addresses, salutes etc.

It is stated that Plymouth Congregational church, Chicago, is talking of getting Talmage to occupy its pulpit during the illness of its pastor.

The Board of Governors of Acadia College has decided to undertake a movement to raise a special fund of \$75,000. Of this sum \$25,000 is to be

applied to the Ladies' Seminary, \$10,000 to the Academy for the erection of a new building, and \$40,000 towards the College endowment fund. It is hoped the undertaking may succeed. Our Baptist brethren owe much—greatly more than many realize—to their educational institutions.

Voices and Echoes.

When the church makes it her business to down every saloon the liquor traffic will then be killed.

The church will not—cannot do its whole duty, and down the rumshop while any of its teachers and leaders hob-nob with the friends and defenders of the great curse, or so long as it pursues a policy of silence for the sake of support.

An Indiana editor was recently successful in a suit against a delinquent subscriber who said he had never ordered the paper (it), but who, it was found, had regularly called for it at and taken it out of the post office for two years. The court ordered that the subscriber pay the subscription account of \$3 and \$16 costs of suit.—Chatham World.

Which was simple justice. He is a thoroughly dishonest man who, having taken a paper regularly from the P. O. for years, repudiates responsibility on the plea—usually a false one—that he 'never ordered it.'

The Northfield Conference.

No. V.

STUDENT CONFERENCES.

The Student Conferences were led by John R. Mott. The first conference was upon Bible study. He said in brief:—"The place to acquire the habit of systematic and comprehensive devotional and practical Bible study is in college. It is the uniform testimony of graduates that student's make a great mistake when they fancy that better opportunities and more favorable conditions for laying the foundations of such study will be afforded them in business and professional life.

(1.) "How many ministers," says one of the foremost University presidents, "are at a standstill in their work, and in their spiritual and intellectual life, at the age of fifty, when they should be at their best—simply because they have no habit of progressive, personal Bible study."

(2.) "It is place as essential to a well round education demands that Bible study receive special emphasis from the college student," Froude says, "The Bible thoroughly known, is a literature of itself, the rarest and richest in all departments of thought and imagery which exists. In the Bible is to be found the best systems of law and political economy that have ever endured; it contains the most faultless history ever written, the history of a race that has influenced after history, more than the history of the Greeks and Romans, to which he justly pays so much attention; its philosophy is the most profound which the world has ever known, its system of ethics is absolutely unsurpassed, it contains the most truthful and inspiring biographies ever written, and notably that single biography which has influenced mankind, more powerfully than all others combined."

(3.) Without progressive Bible study the student will practically lose his reverence for the Bible; his respect for it; and, ultimately, his faith in it. Many a student spends from eight to fourteen hours of each day upon other subjects without spending as many minutes upon the Word of God. "Is it strange that he has nothing but a school boy's conception of it?"

(4.) Bible study is absolutely necessary in order to promote the student's spiritual life. The man is in danger of losing his spiritual life in the average college. Here, as elsewhere, the only safe-guard to become in daily contact with the source of spiritual life and power. To be a live disciple of Jesus Christ; to know the needs of the spiritual life; to know the marvelous possibilities of the life in Christ; to overcome temptation and besetting sin, whether in the realm of the body, of the mind, of the imagination; to develop full-orbed, resourceful, abundant, spiritual lives; to have real power with God in prayer,—the student must acquire and maintain, cost what it may, a right habit of Bible study.

(5.) Bible study furnishes the student: the best possible equipment for personal work. It alone shows him the work which God wants done in the world. The motives which should actuate him are revealed in such study. It surrounds him with a cloud of God-sent workers and master builders who ever invite him to more heroic and self-denying achievements. It fixes his attention upon the Matchless Worker, who should be at once the source, the pattern, the inspiration, the motive power, the life and the end of his endeavors. Was not Paul right in maintaining the scriptures furnish a man "completely unto every good work,"

The future teachers of the church home and abroad are being taught in the colleges. Will not the habit of personal Bible study "ensure a far stronger and more aggressive array of the Christian forces at home and on the mission field."

The purpose of this department is: (1.) To bring the Bible to the earnest attention of every man in college. (2.) To enlist as many students as possible in some form of Systematic Bible study.

(3.) To lead students to form the habit of personal Bible study which will remain with them after they have left college.

In the next Conference Mr. Mott took up the work among new students known as the Fall Campaign. The purpose is to lead christian students to identify themselves with their association and with the church of their choice and to lead the non-christian to identify themselves with the association, as associate members, and lead them to Christ.

This work is of special importance when we realize that these men are just entering their college and are impressionable. It is a time when they can be most easily reached and when the most lasting impressions can be made. It is a time when they are forming associations and if not reached by christian men and associated with christian work, they will be reached by the non-christian students and become interested in the other societies of the college. If they are not reached in the first days perhaps they will not be reached during the course. If colleges would capture the new men for a few years it would soon remove the prejudices against the association. Students often come to college recognizing that it is time to turn over a new leaf. The number of new students show the importance of this work. One third of the students of the 400 colleges of U. S. and Canada are new men.

The work for the new students should begin before they reach the Institution. There should be deputation work to preparatory schools. And each student should be sent a hand-book and invitation to the Freshman reception. The Y. M. C. A. president should be in correspondence with the best men and united in prayer. Also a boarding house list could be prepared by the Y. M. C. A. and help given to each student to secure a boarding place.

After the new men arrive they should be given a reception by the Y. M. C. A. made as interesting as possible. This should be held the first Saturday in the term.

Then for the first few days there should be delegated personal work. The christian men should keep in mind the immense influence of the first impressions and should meet each student in his own room and in social ways, form friendships with them, and find out where each student is in his attitude to Christ. This counts much. If this work is not done many students will go down. This work should be done for the student's sake, for their parent's sake, for the sake of the college, for Christ's sake.

After the personal work has been done and the reception held there should be a decision meeting. It need not be so known only among the christian men. Men come to college determined to keep quiet. Others come undecided. The purpose of this meeting is to get each new student to take his stand boldly for Christ. This meeting should be held after much prayer by the christian workers. Jesus Christ should be held up, and he will draw men unto him, and each student will see the responsibility, the duty, and the importance of taking a decided stand for Christ.

W. C. KEIRSTEAD.

General Religious News.

The "Watchman" says the Baptists of the United States gave last year to missions between \$1,000,000 and \$1,400,000.

—Mr. Moody says that the three great temptations assailing young men to-day are the bicycle, the trolley car, and the Sunday newspaper.

—During his twenty-seven years in the ministry, Rev. Dr. R. S. Mar- Arthur, of Calvary Baptist Church, New York, has received 3,000 persons into the church.

—Mme. Diaz, the wife of the Mexican president, has founded a home where girls can always find employment, a nursery where working women's children are cared for, and a Magdalen home for repentant sinners.

—The practice of keeping the churches open during the week is spreading. The latest change has been made in Berlin, on the initiative of the Emperor William. Hitherto the Roman Catholic churches are the only ones that have been open on week days; but now the Lutheran