TERMS AND NOTICES

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Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19TH, 1897.

**For a christian to hold on to** his money unt l death, and then leave it by will to benevolent objects, is, Dr. Gordon once said like a man offering his seat in the cars to a lady just as he is passing out, when he can use it no longer.

**This is anniversary week at** Cobb Divinity School (Free Baptist), Lewiston, Maine. The sermon before the school was preached on Sabbath by Rev. J. M. Lowden. The anniversary exercises close Wednesday evening.

**The new Chinese Minister** to the United States is a christian, and a member of the Church of England. He was educated in England, and is a member of the English bar. In his own country he is a man of much prominence and influence. In an address to his fellow countrymen in San Francisco lately, he told them they were quite free to become christians and to unite with any denomination they chose.

**Dr. Pentecost, in the first** service in his new pastorate, in Yonkers, N. Y., said what many pastors have felt in beginning their work in a new field, and gave a few words of advice which are often needed by congregations that have new pastors. He said: After to-day you will know me when you meet me on the street but I shall not know all of you. On such occasions stop me and introduce yourselves. I hope to visit you at your home and become acquainted with you. But it is in the weekly prayer-meeting that a pastor gets his best knowledge of his flock. I hope you all attend there. If not, I earnestly desire that you will. In the prayer-meetings our hearts open to each other, and we talk more freely than in the formal services of the sanctuary."

**Speaking of the Lord's** Supper, the 'Examiner' suggests that churches that observe it as a mere addendum to the Sunday morning service make a mistake. The arrangement is, of course, a matter of convenience; but that, surely, is not a sufficient justification for it if the importance and impressiveness of the Supper are thereby diminished in the minds of the participants. It compels, or at any rate induces a hurried, and often an undignified observance of the sacred ordinance. There is no time for the quiet, deliberate service which alone befits the occasion. Might it not be better, if that were necessary, to celebrate the Supper less often, and give more time and thought to it? The 'Examiner's' conviction, strengthened by years of observation, is that, when made a special service and partaken of in a manner befitting its sacredness as a memorial of the Lord Jesus, it, spiritual influence is very greatly enhanced.

**About a year ago mention** was made in these columns of the appointment of Frank Jones, a New Hampshire brewer, to the Board of Trustees of the Wesleyan Seminary and Female College, at Kent's Hill, Me. The idea of the appointment was to secure financial help fr m Mr Jones The Methodist papers at that time protested against the appointment as wholly inconsistent with the attitude of the body towards the liquor traffics and as unworthy one of its educational institutions.

The college does not actually belong to the church, but is under the auspices of the Maine Conference, which each year appoints a board of visitors for the school, thus giving it official recognition. Two or three we ks ago, the Conference being in session for the first time since the appointment of Brewer Jones to a trusteeship, the matter came up for consideration. It was moved that as a man whose business is condemned by the Methodist church has been appointed a trustee of the College, the Conference cannot consistently maintain any relation to the Institution, and that a board of visitors be not appointed by the Conference. The resolution caused a long and warm discussion, and was finally voted down by a large majority. It is, certainly, a most surprising thing that the Conference could do a thing so flagrantly inconsistent with all its utterances on the temperance question. The man Jones, whose appointment to the governing Board of a Wesleyan institution, contributes more, perhaps, to the violation of the prohibitory law in Maine than any other man, or score of men, in New Eng and. For a Methodist Conference to endorse his connection with a school under its auspices goes far towards confirming the belief held by many that every man, even every christian man, can be bought, and that even a whole religious organization can be secured for a considera tion. It is a sad thing, one that must have far-reaching bad effect. One cheering feature of the matter was the resignation of the President of the College. He said "he must confess to feeling his position as one of great embarrassment under the present conditions. He had already placed his resignation in the hands of the board of trustees. He could not close his eyes to the business Jones was engaged in, and for this reason and on account of the embarrassment of the position with him a member of the board of trustees, he felt called upon to resign." In closing he said, "You may act as your consciences may dictate. You live up to your highest convictions and so do I."

**At the Anglican Synod held** in Winnipeg last week the question of prohibition came up by the introduction of a resolution approving of the proposed Plebiscite and urging all the members to support prohibition. An amendment was moved setting forth "that, while the synod consider it advisable that the opinion of the Dominion electors should be sought by a plebiscite, and while, further, if as a result of the plebiscite prohibitive legislation should be enacted the synod would urge all churchmen to give a cordial and loyal support of the law, yet the synod does not see it to be advisable to pronounce in advance any opinion on the subject to be submitted to the judgment of the electorate."

The amendment was carried. There was an animated discussion, during which Archbishop Macbray — the Primate of the Church of England in Canada — took occasion to declare himself unqualifiedly against prohibition, and said he would vote against it. He talked about wine as "a good gift of God and the very emblem of joy," and urged following "the example of our blessed Lord;" he said "the Holy Scripture allows that which is a great joy to many, and very healthful when properly used;" he was sure "in practice prohibition would be a failure, and that in enacting it the country would be interfering with the free rights of the people and doing a grievous wrong to a large section of the community;" he would like "to see drunkenness made a criminal offence, the same as theft, and punished in the same way." but instead of prohibition he believes the proper thing is to have "the government of saloons."

The archbishop is evidently sincere enough in his opinions, and he states them with sufficient frankness. But if his whole view of the situation is stated —as doubtless it is—he is a veritable Rip Van Wrinkle. That the "old-timers" which the archbishop puts forth as "arguments" in favour of drinking and the drink traffic will make any converts to the anti prohibition ranks from among thoughtful people there is small danger; but that his speech has given his name to the rum crowd for use in the campaign there is no doubt. In the press, on the platform, in the grog shops and everywhere throughout the country where the rum men's cause is advocated the archbishop will be spoken of as "on our side." We cannot think that a man of his character and in his position will enjoy this, but he has nobody to blame for it but himself. It is a sad thing when a minister of God permits himself to be made the ally of the basest elements in society. We are sure that none of them can ever intend to do so. But surely they ought to be wise and brave enough to guard against such a possibility.

HOSPITAL FUND. — Last week the Jubilee Fund for the Victoria Hospital increased $1000, and is now nearly $8,000.

## Our Foreign Mission.

What are the churches doing for foreign missions? Perhaps as much as in former years, perhaps more. But, if so, they are hoarding the money It has not yet found its way to the treasurer. The receipts by the treasurer since the close of the last Conference year have been very small; we doubt if they have been enough to make good the small deficit in last year's account. If the churches have been gathering money for the foreign mission in the usual way, they should send it forward to the Treasurer without further delay. The money is needed, (1) to pay the treasurer what he advanced in settling last year's bills, and (2) to carry on the work of the present year.

It has been suggested that, except what the W. M. Society is doing, not much interest is being taken in the India work this year. The reason given for this lack of practical interest is that the Conference has no missionary now as its special representative in India. It is true that no one sent by the Conference Executive for foreign missions is there. But the work is there; and the need of money to carry it on efficiently is a constant and pressing demand. For more than thirty years our Conference has been identified with the India Free Baprist Mission, much of the time being represented in the field by those for whose support we were definitely pledged; all the time sending our money for such parts of the work as needed it most. In those years when we were without special representatives in the field our contributions fell below the usual amount. The fact was regretted by those who took the broad view of the church's obligation to do all in its power for the evangelization of the heathen. They could not see that the presence or absence of any person should make more or less the duty of the church. The work of winning the heathen to Christ is to be done; the Lord calls His people to do it; and their duty is not contingent on the living or dying, the coming or going, of any person or or persons who have been or may be connected with the work. Just now the Conferenee is not represented in India by any of its members. But the mission needs are even more pressing than when there were more missionaries. Darkness and sin are there, and the poor people are perishing for lack of what God calls us to do for them Shall we say that because some one from our own midst, our special representative, is not in the field, we will therefore refrain from doing our part towards their enlightenment and salvation—that unless some peculiar conditions of our own naming are met the heathen may perish for all we care? No thoughtful christian can easily persuade himself that anything, or the failure of anything, relieves him from the obligation to "lend a hand" in spreading the truth over the world, and helping on the kingdom of Christ. "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," is our Lord's command to His church, and to every disciple. No circumstances change the command, nor lessen the obligation to do up to the measure of our ability. Nothing excuses disobedience.

During the years since the Conference began organized participation in foreign mission work many of the churches have learned to do this, as well as other parts of their work, in an orderly way, and have felt the blessedness of it. It would be a pity if because, providentially, we are, for the time, without a Conference representative in the field the church should, by a mistaken idea of how their obligation is determined, lose the interest they have felt and enjoyed. The desire to have some from our own ranks in India is a worthy one. Are the churches praying the Lord to move some of our earnest young christians to devote themselves to this work? If so, there will not be any withholding what we may do for the support and success of the mission while we await the answer to our prayers.

Let us hope that the churches will do quite as much for the Lord's work among the heathen this year as in any previous year. Our prayers should, surely, be as frequent and as earnest; and if they are our support will not fall short.

## The Church and Criticism.

Mr. Moody freely criticises ministers and churches, and naturally enough they criticise him. He perhaps would admit, says the "Congregationalist," that he is as much open to criticism as they are. But no one can know Mr. Moody, or hear him speak or join with him in prayer, without the conviction that he loves the Church with all his heart, that he longs intensely for the salvation of men, that he lives near to God and wants to get nearer to Him. His impatience with Chrisdians for not living holier lives and working more earnestly to win others to Christ is just the feeling that he exercises towards himself. He has long had, and continues to have, wonderful evidence that he is used to bring men to repentance for sin and into new life in Christ. We say, God bless him for that and bless his work. For every sinner born anew by the Holy Spirit through Mr. Moody's preaching, and every Christian lifted to a higher plane of spiritual life, we thank God. The Church will survive unjust criticism from those who seek her prosperity, and will gain strength through every impulse towards holiness aroused by the trumpet calls of men who feel, as Mr. Moody does, the Word of God in their hearts as a fire shut up in their bones.

## Notes on Current Events.

Gaudeloupe and Montserrat, of the Leeward islands group, have been badly shaken by earthquakes. Late reports say that the shocks have been very severe, and that a number of people have been killed. In one case a brick church collapsed while two or three hundred people were in it, and about fifty were crushed to death.

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The managers of the Industrial school, St. John, are advertising for a superintendent and guard, the present officers having resigned.

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Hunger is the constant experience of a considerable proportion of the people of India. A missionary, writing in the Canada Baptist, says that full 40,000,000 live upon the ragged edge of want all the time. They subsist on no more than one good meal a day, and lie down each night on a mud floor and an empty stomach, seeking in dreams what they never know in reality, the satisfaction of appetite, and a sense of fulness. In famine times the condition of these people becomes extremely precarious. They fall an easy prey to the weakening effects of their reduced diet, and are swept off in hordes before the cholera and smallpox, the twin pestilences that follow hard and fast in the wake of every famine. Were it not for christian generosity and the Government interference the entire 40,000,000, or that part of them represented in the famine districts would be swept away.

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It is said that Mgr. Merry de Val', will come to New Brunswick to look into the administration of the Schools law. The St. John 'Record' says if he comes he will find here "a school law that is violated every day—violated by pupils, teachers, trustees, inspectors and Board of Education..... He will find in all the larger cities and towns of this province, the school law, so violated by regulations made by the board of education, that distinctly separate schools are had — schools where all the pupils are Catholics, where all the teachers are Catholic, and Catholic observances more or less common in them. These schools are classed as common schools; the trustees certify by oath that the school law was strictly carried out in their district, the teachers sign the oath attached to their returns and yet there is not a person in the vicinity of the school, but knows it is distinctly a separate school. If Merry DelVall comes here he willl find the school law a distinctly non sectarain one, but he will on slight investigation see that it is administered as a distinctly sectarian system. He may consider this a good system. If this is the system New Brunswick desires then let the present school law be destroyed, and the present school procedure be made the law then New Brunswick will not be passing under false colors. If sectarian or separate schools are good let us have them by law, not as a make shilt."

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A despatch from St. Petersburg says that a terrible crime, the result of gross superstition, has been committed at Tirespol, Russia, where are a number of hermitages inhabited by sectarians. Recently seventeen of the hermits disappeared; and it was believed that they had emigrated in fear of the impending day of judgment. But a hermit named Kowalind has confessed that he walled them up alive in response to their earnest entreaties that they might receive the martyr's crown. The police examined the spot and verified the confession.

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The work of widening the Victoria Bridge at Montreal, which is to be begun at once, will, it is estimated, cost over one and a half million dollars. It is now a railroad bridge only: the projected widening will provide for carriages and foot passengers.

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Even if Spain should succeed in subduing the Cuban insurgents, which does not seem at all certain, it is doubtful if she could long retain possession of the island. To pay the interest on the Cuban war debt, to maintain a military force sufficient to preserve peace, and to conduct the civil administration, would cost, it is estimated, $115,000,000 annually. In its present devastated condition, it would be hard for the island to raise $12,000,000: which would leave at least $100,000,000 to be raised by the home government. This would be a tremendous task for any European government. It is impossible for the bankrupt treasury of Spain. The country is in that wretched condition where it seems equally impossible to continue or to close the war. Worst of all, about half of this great outlay has gone into the pockets of thieving officers.

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The liquor traffic representatives had, as arranged, an interview with members of the Government at Ottawa last Thursday. The Premier and Sir Richard Cartwright represented the government. A Mr. Haversam was the spokesman of the liquer delegation. The things urged upon the government by the liquor men were,—

(1) That as the plebiscite vote is a Dominion measure, that the list to be used in placing that vote before the people of the Dominion should be the Dominion voters' list as it is at present with the repeating votes struck out. (2.) That an absolute majority of all the electors of the entire Dominion and Territories be required before the Government take any steps to introduce a measure in the direction of prohibition. (3) That when submitting the question to the people the Government also submit the following questions: Are you in favor of direct taxation, in order to make up the deficit, which will be caused if a prohibition law is brought into effect. (4.) That compensation be granted to those who will be effected by the introduction of prohibition.

Mr. Haversam dwelt upon the importance of the liquor traffic as a revenue producing business, the direct taxation which he claimed would be necessary to make up the loss of liquor revenue in the event of prohibition, and of the difficulties of enforcing prohibition.

Mr. Laurier, in replying, said the question was not the least difficult the government had to deal with, that it would not do to put a mere abstract question to the people, and that he did not see any way to make up the revenues that would be lost by prohibition but by direct taxation. He did not think compensation a question of immediate importance. He was not prepared to say whether the votes of one-half or more or less of the people would be a conclusive majority.

Sir Richard Cartwright told the delegation that the arguments presented would be properly weighed, and that whatever Mr. Laurier had promised to do would be done. The Plebiscite bill would be introduced soon, he said, and would, he thought, give satisfaction to moderate men on both sides of the question.

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It is intimated that the settlement of the Manitoba Schools question may, before it is completed, involve the transfer of Archbishop Langevin from Manitoba to another diocese. This, it is believed, was a feature of the arrangement made by the government representatives when they visited Rome; but Archbishop Begin's visit to the Vatican stopped it, at least for the time. It is hinted that the scheme may yet be carried out.

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The Toronto Globe is authority for the statement that the Government at Ottawa "has been bombarded in the last few months by applications for Government positions exceeding in number all the positions in all the departments put together. It is not a very nice thing for the government to be so besieged; nor does it indicate a very good state of things in the country that so many are clamouring for office.

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It is announced that the Plebiscite bill will be introduced this week. So much depends on the character of this bill that its introduction has been awaited with no little interest.

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The vote in Toronto on the question of Sunday cars, which took place on Saturday, resulted, we are sorry to have to announce, in favour of Sunday cars by a majority of about 400 votes, out of a total vote polled of over 32,000.

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The Sultan is not disposed to let go his hold on Greece as easily as the European powers seem to have thought he would. His success in fighting the Greeks, together with the ease with which he has hitherto fooled the powers, has made him feel even more than usually independent, and he says very plainly what he will and will not do. The latest dispatch at this writing says,—The porte has replied officially to the note of the powers, and declines to agree to an armistice until the following conditions are accepted: **The annexation of Thessaly**; an indemnity of £10,000,000 (Turkish) and the abolition of the capitulations. The note proposes that plenipotentiaries of the powers should meet at Pharsalos to discuss the terms of peace and declares that if these conditions are declined the Turkish army will continue to advance.

The ambassadors met Sunday to consider the porte's answer, which is regarded as raising an extremely grave issue. If the porte should prove obdurate a European conference is not implorable.

It is regarded as quite certain that the powers will not consent to a retrocession of Thessaly.

## Church Extension.

II.

(2.) I wish it understood that the general remarks in the letter of last week were only written to suggest the subject; and that which follows in this letter, is not written as a logical discussion of that subject, but to introduce a few considerations that, while they are related to the subject, but having a direct and practical bearing upon our work in Moncton, are used to increase the interest of the sister churches in this Province in it and to place before them our need, which is at present the most pressing. We recall the statement of last week, that Church Extension involves not the continuation of one line of christian work, but of all lines acting and reacting, cooperating and contributing, uniting and harmonizing, moralizing and spiritualizing, which only emphasizes the importance of each line being well sustained and each connection being well maintained. The tree is complete when all its parts are preserved and properly preform their functions. But does not that fact emphasize the vital importance of each of its parts? Leaf, branch, root and sap are indispensable to its life—all necessary each necessary. So does a church, in the process of its development, require all and every force. There needs no argument to prove the need of spirituality; none to prove the need of morality; or of sociability. Must we bring argument to prove its need of business method and of money? The cause of religion is suffering today, not for the lack of the "Grace of God," which is abundant and free, but for human channels through which that grace might be carried to the hearts of men. As individual churches and as a denomination it is ours to open up these channels and let circulate through human arteries the life blood of the Kingdom.

We have in Moncton a church that is now passing through its crucial period. Since the secession of a few years ago, it has been growing weaker, chiefly through removals. Where once the pastor was able to confine all his energy to the church, after the secession other churches had to be added to the Moncton pastorate in order for him to have financial support. This, too, had the result of weakening the cause, since the morning preaching service was dispensed with. Nor was a pastor able, after long and fatiguing drives, to do his best work where his best work was most needed, on Sunday evening. The weakness thus becoming more and more apparent had its dampening effects, in producing feelings of discouragement and lack of enthusiasm.

In the meantime a heavy debt was being carried, of about $1800.00, the interest for which took every cent of all collections, plus the rent of a small house owned by the church. For current expenses and for pastor's salary the faithful few have been obliged to directly draw from already severely tested purses. As for making repairs on the church building, that was out of the question, and the result was that the building inside and out grew old fast. One of my most attentive listeners told me his interest during service was divided between the sermon and the striking delapidation that drew attention through fascinating ugliness. The building during service is a counter influence. The same may be said of both inside and outside. The exterior suggests "change and decay." Clapboards are laughing with cracks and, at the same time, shedding knot tears. the paint has lost its color, and the building has lost its paint, and the weather is coming in through the roof to investigate the ceiling.

E. S. PARKER.

(To be continued.)

POLITICAL NEWS.—A. E. Killam, M. P. P., has been appointed inspector of bridges on the Intercolonial railway, a new office. Mr. Killam's appointment renders a vacancy in the representation of Westmorland county in the local house.

There is a general impression that Parliament will prorogue early in June, probably before the middle.

The election in the Province of Quebec last week resulted in the defeat of the Government. The returns show fifty-three Liberals and twenty-one Conservatives elected.

It is intimated there will be a general Provincial election in Ontario very soon.