TERMS AND NOTICES

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ALL COMMUNICATIONS, etc., should be addressed RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER, Box 375, Fredericton N. B.

March Payments.

A considerable number of subscriptions expire this month. We hope to have renewals for another year from them all. Will they do us the favour of sending them at the earliest possible date?

Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH, 10TH 1897.

The bishops of the Methodist Episcopal church in the United States bear heavy responsibilities, and do much and important work for their church. They are verywell paid, however. They receive $4,750 each, as salary, and their travelling expense are paid besides.

Those who are reaching out their hands, doing their best to lift up and establish the weak, are the christians who have growth in spiritual life. The unselfish love of those who have learned Christ, moves them to bind up wounds, to stand between the weak and their oppressors, and to do their utmost, under God, to bring back to the world the brightness and blessedness of which sin has robbed it.

All Free Baptists will, we are sure, be gratified by the announcement which the Treasurer of the Seminary Debt Fund is able to make in another column. It is pleasing that there has been so good a response to the call for contributions. The settlement of the remaining claims should, as suggested by bro. Hartley, engage our attention at an early date. From the first we have felt strongly that we should do our utmost to do our part towards satisfying every creditor of the institution. It can be done if our people will. We have believed, and to shall continue believe that they will God will surely bless us in such right doing.

If a Protestant said what follows he would be sure to be charged with slandering the Roman Catholic church. Mr. Beaugrand, lately editor of one of the leading French papers in Quebec, said lately,—The Province of Quebec occupies in America the place of Spain in Europe. There the religious oligarchy has flourished for years in its most absolute and narrowest manner. Mexico and San Salvador disputed with us the palm for this, but there at least they abandoned the holy inquisition and the right of the church to meddle in affairs of state. Schoolmasters without diplomas are charged with the instruction of our unhappy country, where it is a crime to read the paper that is not edited by the village sacristan or caretaker of the village church."

A writer in the 'Independent, thinks there are some ministers who require something done for them. As he is, himself, a minister, he probably knows something about it. At any rate whether right or wrong, let each minister judge from his own experience and observation—he says these things: How many of us are slaves to an irritable temper, or an unguarded tongue, or a covetous heart, or a jealous spirit! A kindly disposed Christian gentleman, not given to detraction and evil-speaking, said of a certain pastor, prominent in his locality, that he was the most selfish man he had ever met To think that it should be possible to say such a charge at the door of an ambassador of Him who "came not to be ministered unto, but to minister!" Is it any wonder that such as these have no spiritual power, and that the churches over which they preside are in a like state? "Turn ye at my reproof," saith the Lord; "behold, I will our out my Spirit upon you."

A Philadelphia man, recently deceased, made several bequests to the Central Presbyterian church of that city. We do not know whether he was in any way connected with the liquor traffic, but he certainly had strong objection to any form of prohibition of the traffic, and believed that the men of the traffic are of as good moral character as any other men. To his bequest to the church he attached this condition:

That the legatees should never, at any time, commit any act or in any manner whatever give any countenance to what the testator called "the pernicious fallacy of prohibition or its bantling, 'local option,' or any scheme for the total suppression by law of the manufacture, sale, or consumption of liquors that will intoxicate when abused or used to excess, or commit any act of proscription against any person of good moral character, by reason of being engaged in the manufacture or sale, owing to the rational and temperate use of such liquors."

To the honour of the church be it said that it refused to accept the several thousands of dollars offered to it.

Acceptance, the church rightly held, would constitute an implied approval of the liquor traffic. Doubtless, some people, who do not think very thoroughly, and whose moral sense is not very keen, members of churches too, and perhaps here and there a minister, may think the church foolishly overnice and short-sighted in refusing the money. Churches—not many, but some we are sorry to have to believe—could be found that for a much smaller sum, say the not very large contributions of two or three men, have sold themselves into bondage. It is sad—pitiably sad. God hasten the day when no church called by the name of Christ, and no man professing discipleship, shall, have in any degree, "fellowship with the works of darkness."

Seeking Incorporation.

Among the bills considered by the Legislature last week was one to incorporate a religious body with the name of "The Free Baptist Denomination of New Brunswick." There can, of course, be no objection to the incorporation of any properly organized religious body desiring it. So far as we know nobody objects to the incorporation of the body in question. There is, however, an objection, and a reasonable one, to its having a legal right to the name it has assumed. There is already in this Province a religious denomination known as the Free Baptist denomination. True, its corporate name is Free Christian Baptist, a name which is rarely used except in legal documents. Its common name is Free Baptist. The members speak of themselves, to each other and to others, as Free Baptists; and they are thought of and spoken of by other denominations and the people generally as Free Baptists. In this paper, which has been the recognized organ of the denomination for more than fourty-four years, the Conference, the District meetings, the churches, the various parts of its organization and the various forms of its work, are almost invariably spoken of as Free Baptist.

Against the body now seeking incorporation as the Free Baptist denomination of this Province, we have nothing to say, nor have we any feeling other than a kind one towards it. It is necessary, however, that the facts be stated. In 1872 Rev. G. W. Orser, then a minister of our denomination, having become dissatisfied with several things—among them Sabbath Schools, missions, &c, in which he thought the denomination was following other religious bodies rather than the word of God—was, at his own request, allowed to retire from the denomination. The body now seeking incorporation is the result of that secession. About its growth and size, or whether it is as large and promising now as at some earlier date, we have nothing to say, as such facts have nothing to do with the objection we make. Mr. Orser and those who gathered about him called themselves Free Baptists, claiming that the denomination from which he had retired had departed from the faith. Of course, the denomination had not done so, nor has it done so since that time. But now it is sought to legalize the charge made against us by giving the name under which we have lived and laboured and enlarged our borders, to the body making the charge.

In the United States is a large body known as Free Baptists. In Nova Scotia our brethren bear the name of Free Baptists. With both these bodies we have the closest relations; we are one people. These bodies of Free Baptists have no intercourse whatever with the body which now wishes to be incorporated with their name.

That the proposed incorporation is altogether unwarranted and misleading, and is manifestly unfair to the large well organized and progressive denomination which for sixty-five years has been known in this Province as the Free Baptist denomination, must be clear to any unprejudiced person who gives it more than superficial thought.

The editor of this paper was before the Corporations committee of the House. He explained the situation, and pointed out the unfairness of giving our common name to another body. Some members of the committee appreciated the force of the position taken. The members for Carleton Co., however, favoured the bill, and as the larger part of the body seeking the incorporation are in that County, a majority of the members of the committee were governed by their views, and the bill was recommended to the favourable consideration of the House Mr. Smith claimed that because there had been no petition presented against the bill, it must, therefore, be unobjectionable. It was pointed out that very few, if any, knew that such a bill was to be introduced; and that, probably, those who had seen the notice of it did not suppose the Legislature would seriously consider it.

The lack of petition against it was, however, quickly supplied. The editor of the INTELLIGENCER put himself immediately in communication with the members of the General Conference Executive, and received their protest against the bill. He then, in behalf of the Executive, had the following petition presented to the House.

The petition of the Executive Committee of the Free Christian Baptist General Conference of New Brunswick humbly sheweth,

That a bill entitled an Act to Incorporate the Free Baptist Denomination of New Brunswick is objectionable to them for the following among other reasons,—

1. That the name Free Baptist is the name by which our denomination has been known for more than sixty years, and by which it is now known to other denominations, and to the public generally.

2. That to incorporate another body as "The Free Baptist Denomination of New Brunswick" will be to give that body the name which, by long usage, belongs to us.

3. That the body seeking incorporation originated in a secession which declared that our denomination had departed from the faith—a charge which had not then, nor has it now, any foundation in truth.

4. Incorporation of a new body under our common name will be equivalent to a declaration by the Legislature that the charge against our denomination is correct.

5. That the body seeking incorporation is not affiliated in any way with the Free Baptist Conferences of these Provinces, nor with those in the United States or elsewhere.

6. That our Conference has the closest association with the Free Baptists of the continent, and is regarded by them and others, and really is, the Free Baptist denomination of New Brunswick.

7. To incorporate a new body under the proposed name will make an awkward and confusing state of things, will mislead many people and cause misunderstandings, and will be manifestly unfair to our denomination.

8. That our objection is not to the incorporation of the body seeking it, but to the giving it the name by which we have for so many years been known among ourselves, and by which we have been known to others.

Your petitioners therefore pray that a Bill "An Act to incorporate the Free Baptist Denomination of New Brunswick" do not, in its present form, pass and become law.

So soon as members began to give the matter thought they began to see the unfairness of the Bill to a large denomination. It came up for consideration on Friday. It was discussed for an hour or two, and then progress was reported. So far as we can judge, from the tone of the discussion and from conversation with members, it is not likely to pass in its present forme It really ought not to come before the House again.

Notes on Current Events.

One of the last acts of President Cleveland was to veto the Alien labour bill; and though Congress re-enacted it over his veto, the Ex-president's act will be remembered to his credit.

* *

The Nova Scotia Legislature was prorogued last week. Nothing was done with the Prohibition bill introduced. Some people think that unwillnginess to deal with that bill was one of the reasons for the sudden prorogation. Whether that is so we do not pretend to know. It does seem strange, however, that the bill did not get beyond the first stages. It is one of the things, though, which is sure to come again. It may be dodged and delayed, but it "will not down."

* *

The Chicago University, notwithstanding the many millions given to it by Mr. Rockerfeller and others, finds itself in financial distress, in the matter of current expenses. President Harper tendered his resignation recently. Mr. Rockerfeller has come to to the relief of the Institution promising to make another gift of $10,000,000 to it. He had previously given $8,000,000. He is the same man who the other day offered a quarter million to help pay off the indebtedness of the Baptist mission society.

The executive committee of the Patrons of Industry decided against making prohibition a plank in that party's platform. The executive did this notwithstanding about ninety per cent of the local organizations had declared in favour of a prohibition plank. There is much dissatisfaction amongst the patrons, and it is not improbable that the action of the executive will be reversed before long.

* *

The Pope is now in his eighty-eighth year having celebrated the eighty-seventh anniversary of his birth on Tuesday of last week. He has been nineteen years Pope. His health, according to frequent reports, is not strong, which is not strange at his age, and yet he seems able to discharge his duties with regularity.

* *

Ontario temperance people are pretty thoroughly aroused, and no wonder. The government of the Province had promised to carry out the will of the people, as expressed by the plebiscite. They expected in the government's measure dealing with the liquor traffic some progressive legislation. Instead. the measure proposes changes which, taken together, are largely in favour of the liquor traffic. Temperance men of all shades of politics, including prominent men who have been lifelong supporters of the party in power, are expressing their disappointment and indignation in no measured terms. The Prohibitory Alliance has issued a call for an emergency Convention to be held in Toronto on Thursday of this week. A series of indignation meetings is being held throughout the Province; and the Convention is expected to be large and emphatic in its declarations. It is probable that it will demand the fulfilment of the promises made by the government when Sir Oliver Mowatt was Premier, and repeated by his successor. And action will, doubtless, be taken to ensure the control of the next Legislature by the prohibitionists. It is very encouraging to notice the spirit which has been aroused, and the obliteration of party lines in the matter.

* *

The Senate of the United States, which expired on the 4th inst., spent its last Sunday in session. Business went on just as on other days of the week. It is not stated that any pressing emergency gave even the colour of an excuse for this violation of the Lord's day.

* *

They are having warm times in Quebec. Journeys to Rome are getting to be as common as were journeysto Ottawabefore the seat of authority was removed. The bishops go and come; and other men, also, go and come. Each is evidently trying to checkmate the other. One day it is declared that the Vatican has ordered the bishops to stop their crusade against the Manitoba settlement; the next it is declared with equal emphasis that the Vatican endorses the bishops. Just what is the truth as to the attitude of the Vatican towards the contending parties it is difficult to determine with accuracy. That a Papal ablegate is to be sent to settle Canada's affairs, is both affirmed and denied. Last week Archbishop Begin started hastily for Rome, and at once it was said that he had gone to persuade the Pope and those in authority about him that there is no need of an ablegateto again present the bishops' side of the story, and to undo any mischief which may have been done by Mr. Fitzpatrick, the government's messenger It was said that Mr. Fitzpatrick had, also, gone to Rome again, but that has been denied. We have to repeat what we said in previous issue, that it is most humiliating to have the affairs of the country referred to Rome for settlement.

* *

The inauguration of President McKinley, on Thursday, was the usual simple and impressive ceremony of taking the oath of office, accompanied by the usual large and loud display-proioncess, etc. The inaugural address was a plain and comprehensive statement, creditable to the good sense of the President His endorsement of the Arbitration Treaty is gratifying. It will, probably, be ratified by the Senate, at the approaching session. A special session of Congress is called to meet on the 15th inst. It will, probably, deal chiefly with tariff matters. For several weeks the Ways and Means committee have been busy preparing a new tariff bill. which is likely to be more protective than any previous tariff.

* *

Formosa is suffering from the plague—the same plague which is raging in Bombay and elsewhere in India. The lack of proper drainage and other sanitary necessities invites the destroyer.

* *

The Post-Master General of Canada is considering the question of inaugurating a system of postal notes for the transmission of small amounts of money through the mails. In the meantime he proposes to increase from July 1st the number of money order offices by eight hundred. At present there are only twelve hundred, but many requests have come to him from important points for facilities which such an office affords to the public.

* *

The closing session of the United States Senate, last week, was marked by scenes not at all creditable to that body. Several members were drunk, and acted as drunken men usually do.

* *

One of the late reports from the Quebec war is that the Papal Court, which is the voice of supreme authority to the politicians as well as the priests in that Rome-ruled province, "has issued instructions to the bishops of that province to stop agitating the Manitoba school question until the matter has been considered at Rome and a decision reached." If such an order has been received, it means that the politicians have, at least, succeeded in gaining time. Later some of the bishops denied that any such order had been received by them. Who is telling the truth in these matters will, probably, be known some day.

* *

The examination of Cecil Rhodes, of South African fame, continues. Among other things he has said that Mr. Chamberlain, the Colonial Secretary, had no knowledge whatever of the Jameson movement. He said that his main object in assisting an insurrection in the Transvaal was to secure free trade throughout South Africa, and a more tolerant attitude on the part of the Transvaal Republic toward the Cape Colony. In answer to questions relating to the expenses of the operations against the natives in South Africa, Mr. Rhodes said that he had sold 40,000 shares of the British South Africa Company's stock to pay the expenses of the war against the Matabele, and had expended £94,000 in defraying such expenses, from which outlay there had been no return.

* *

It is stated from Winnipeg that Archbishop Langevin has received an apostolic letter from Rome which he construes as practically an endorsement of his attitude on the school question. The "Peter's Pence" which the Roman Catholics of Manitoba have been in the habit of sending to Rome will not be exact, for the present at least, but will be devoted to maintaining the Catholic schools which the archbishop is establishing in that Province.

* *

The European situation is still threatening. Greece is not disposed to submit to the demand of the Powers. And whatever the governments of the countries concerned may think, the sympathy of the people generally is with plucky Greece against the Sultan and his allies. In England there is a very warm and growing popular feeling against war with Greece in behalf of the great assassin. It is not improbable that a peaceful solution of the trouble will be found.

Union Baptist Education Society Debt Fund.

Before acknowledged		$486 46
Rev. E. Crowell, N. S.		1 00
Church, St. John, North End.		5 00
John Puddington		2 00
Church, Coldstream		1 00
Cash		5 00
		$500 00
Less Discount on cheques		46
		500 00
F. C. B. General Conference		1000 00
		$1500 00

G. A. HARTLEY, Treasurer.

Here it is the last dollar of this large amount has been raised. Thank God. I feel pleasantly over it. If all that is noble, honourable and good in the souls of all the contributors, is as greatly stimulated as are these graces in my own soul, we will never regret what we have done. Honour is far above civil law. This was a debt of honour. We did right for right's sake.

This day Bro. Rev. J. W. Clark and the Treasurer of this fund paid M. McDonald Esq., the late President of the unfortunate U. Bap. Ed. Society, fifteen hundred dollars clean cash. There was not a bill of filthy lucre in the pile. Our people may be assured that Mr. McDonald greatly appreciates what he calls "a noble act" done towards him. His own Baptist brethren are working raising their amount, which it is hoped will be collected and paid over in the near future. Mr. McDonald was a good President, and a faithful friend to our school, and deserves to be well treated by all who wish well to the cause of education.

Now that this creditor is settled with so far as Free Baptists are concerned, what about all the others who have lost through our late Society? Are they not to be thought of? For one, I say yes they are. I would like to see every proper claim against that institution satisfactorily settled. Let me say this brethren: If you will place in my hands $800, I believe I could take to Conference next Fall a clear receipt for the Free Baptist share of the debt from every creditor who has a just claim against our late institution. One brother in this city has offered fifty dollars more, if the whole can be settled. It is worthy of serious thought. Of course, we will need a breathing spell before we undertake anything more, but I hope to live to see every claim against that Seminary honourably adjusted. Honour, like blood, is more precious than gold and silver.

G. A. H.

March 3, 1897.

India Letter from Miss Wile.

DEAR FRIENDS.—The year is about closing; the last hours are passing, and I feel a wave of sadness come over me as I stand on the brink of the New, saying "good-bye" to the months in which, blended and mingled, have been so much of light and shade, of mistakes and of heaven-blessed endeavour.

We have been wonderfully kept this year as to health, and famine will not be so severely felt in our vicinity as at a greater distance, as in the North West and Central Provinces.

Only last week in prayer-meeting we mentioned, with thankfulness, that death had taken none from our ranks. To-day the eldest son of our girls' matron was called, and in to-day's prayer-service, a small one—for the greater part of our usual number was absent preparing the last resting place for our dear young brother's form—we were thankful too, thankful that Pajkemar had learned the power of Christ's blood to cleanse altogether.

I was trying to translate a part of Byrant's "Thanatopsis"—

"So live that when thy summons comes to join,
The innumerable caravan, which moves
To that mysterious realm where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not like the quarry slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon, but sustain'd and soothed
By an unfaltering trust approach thy grave,
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him and lies down to pleasant dreams"—

to the children at evening prayers, and asked them if they could think of any portion of scripture setting forth the sustaining power in the flood, which, thank God, is "only a little brook after all," and almost with one consent, and with tear-stained faces, they broke into the 23rd Psalm.

And so our young brother sleeps, and the last of this year to us is the beginning of a new life to him.

Blessed assurance, though Christ holds the keys of the grave, that he never opens it for His favorites, save in the wisest season!

O, swift winged year, what dost thou bring to us? How often we would fain see the end, ere the beginning is fairly made!

To all of the dear home friends I send most cordial greetings and should like to express to you all, the gratitude of Dr. and Mrs. Burkholder and myself, for the aid rendered through the year. The Lord, himself reward you!

Our dear Father help you and me to be more faithful and loyal and helpful in 1897.

Yours sincerely

EDNA C. WILE.

Lalgarh P. O., Midnapore, India.
Dec. 31st., 1896.

Home Religious News.

—The interest in the Sackville meetings, led by Crossley and Hunter is said to be steadily increasing. Conversions are reported every day.

—Three Baptist churches in St. John—the Main St, Tabernacle and Carleton—are holding special meetings. Conversions are reported in them all

—Of the religious interest in the churches in St. John, the 'Daily Record' says,—"The religious wave that is passing over this city has made a deep impression on the people. There is greater activity in all the churches, there is an increase in the number of church going citizens, and strangers visiting St. John have carried the work home to their own locality spreading the good work all over the province."

HIS LAST HOURS.—A note from Rev. J. K. West says: "My dear father fell asleep in Jesus yesterday about one o'clock. I was privileged to be with him some two weeks, till the end came. Every day he failed visibly, but his trust in Jesus never faltered for a single moment. "This," he said, "is what I've always tried to preach; the grace of God is sufficient under all circumstances." During the time of my visit he did not suffer any pain, but always in answer to our enquiries, said that he was "resting." His peace was like the full, gentle flow of some mighty river, upon whose tranquil bosom he slowly floated out to the sea of eternity."