

TERMS AND NOTICES

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Religious Intelligencer.

Rev. JOSEPH MCLEOD, D. D., EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27TH, 1897.

We very heartily thank the pastors who have interested themselves in securing renewals from members of their congregations. They have helped the INTELLIGENCER more than they know. Those who have added personal solicitation to their public statements have had the largest success.

We wish again to urge that all pastors in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia—and they are all authorized agents of this paper—the necessity of continued activity in behalf of the paper. Many who might be careless about prompt payment, or who might be tempted to do without the paper, can by a judicious word from the pastor be moved to renew at once. There are, also, many non-subscribing families in many of the churches who may be induced to subscribe. We shall greatly appreciate the continued active interest of the pastors in behalf of the paper.

Religious papers in the United States are feeling the business depression very much. Within a few days two Presbyterian papers were compelled to sell their subscription lists to other papers. The patrons and friends of religious papers on this side the line will, perhaps, realize the importance of standing loyally by them.

Pastors are often burdened and discouraged by the absence from the church services of members who are absent because they lack interest in things religious. They have real heartaches on account of this class of people. But there is another class—the loyal and earnest men and women who can always be relied upon, who save pastors from utter despair. They do not know how much good they do. Pastors thank God for them. God smiles upon them. To which class do you belong, brother? Be among the helpers.

While in the United States there is a tendency to secularize the Sabbath; successful in large degree, in some European countries there is a movement in the opposite direction. In Paris, for instance, efforts are being made to close places of business, and in other respects to have a better observance of the Lord's day. An organization has been formed the aim of which is to bring about the cessation of all Sunday labour.

Of preaching, Dr. Cuyler, a veteran preacher and successful above most of his fellows, says,—"There is one style that is vastly more effective than any other, and that is the irresistible eloquence of a pure, manly, noble, and unselfish life. 'My pastor's discourses are not very brilliant,' said an intelligent lady, 'but his daily life is a sermon all the week.' The 'living epistle' of Paul was as sublime and convincing as any words that fell from his lips on the hill of Mars; for Jesus Christ lived in him."

Dean Partridge, of the Cath-edral, this city, in a recent sermon took occasion to warn his flock against certain influences, which he said were being used to induce some members of the congregation to withdraw themselves from "the true faith," that is, from the Episcopal church. He exhorted his hearers to stand fast in their belief and church relations, against all the wiles of false doctrines and heresies. He is understood to have had reference to a University Professor, formerly an Episcopalian, but now a Roman Catholic, who is said to be very zealous for his newly avowed faith, and diligent

and skilful in his endeavours to win others to follow him into the Roman communion.

Few ministers receive large salaries. None of our ministers do. The majority, indeed all of them have to go very carefully to make ends meet. They deserve more. Perhaps they sometimes wonder how they can get more—how the people can be got to understand that they should pay more. It is related of Dr. Lyman Beecher that he said,—"I needed an increase in my salary for my growing family. I knew that in the low state of the church it could not be increased. Therefore, I said nothing about salary but labored for a revival. It came, and the salary was raised without difficulty."

Is there a hint in this for some struggling brother? Of course, it is limited. You would be wrong, and would fail, if he should seek to promote revival merely to get an increase of salary. But labouring to improve the spiritual life of his people and the people generally, he is not likely to be neglected. It is worth remembering, too, that in all real building up of the church there is need of plain and affectionate teaching of the duty and blessedness of paying to the Lord as well as praying to Him.

The times are hard, you think. Your income, at most, is limited. You have to economize. In planning for the year's expenditure, you are looking sharply to discover every point at which you can make a saving. There are, probably, many things you and your family can do without, and not be particularly inconvenienced. Some things which you would like to have, and which under ordinary circumstances you might very properly have, you will this year do without. But in your economizing do not make the mistake, which some make, of beginning by reducing your contribution to God's cause. "Will a man rob God?" the prophet asked; and then charged that God had been robbed "in tithes and offerings." The Lord's work needs the hearty and liberal support of His people. They do not gain, even financially, by withholding from His treasury. "There is that withholdeth more than is meet, and it tendeth to poverty;" and "There is that giveth and yet increaseth." The right thing to do, and the safe thing, is to "honor the Lord with thy substance," whether it be much or little. Be sure to consider carefully the needs of the Lord's work, and your obligation to Him, in planning your expenditures.

"Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord."

There are signs of unusual spiritual quickening in some places, notably in some of the large cities, which it is hoped and prayed may become general. The article in these columns two weeks ago, from the pen of Dr. Cuyler, has, we trust, helped many preachers and others, and had good effect upon all who read it.

Genuine revivals of religion are the work of God. They are, also, the work of man. God and man unite to produce the gracious result. This is the divine plan. The following suggestions, based on the record of an old time revival (2 Chron. 15:1-15), may help to a better understanding of the divine and the human compliance with appointed conditions is sure to result in manifestations of divine power, the refreshing of Christians and the conversion of many souls.

1. At the very bottom of this ancient work of grace was the moving of the Holy Spirit upon the heart of a servant of God: "The Spirit of the Lord came upon Azariah, the son of Obed." Revivals to amount to anything must be born of the Spirit of the Lord. He is the source of spiritual life. Only his power can quicken the church, give power to the word, convict sinners, and renew dead souls. We must recognize the prerogative of the Holy Spirit as the very first and the absolutely essential condition of revival. When his influence is poured out it is like the showers upon the thirsty ground.

But may we have the presence and influence of the Holy Spirit? The answer is, yes, if we truly desire it. When God had made the promise positive of the gift of the Holy Spirit through Ezekiel, he added: "Yet for this will I be inquired of by the house of Israel to do it for them." And we know, from New Testament promise, that if we want the Holy Spirit he will not be withheld: "How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

2. The faithful deliverance of God's message. Taught and moved by the Holy Spirit, Azariah went to King Asa, and preached the truth of God to him with faithfulness. There is a lesson here for the ministers of the word. God's word is the appointed

means to reach men and save souls. It is by the word of truth that the people of God are made to know their sins, and are shown their duty. By the word sinners are convicted and led to repentance and faith. A sign of coming revival is to be sought in the character of the preaching. Sensational pulpit efforts, preaching about current events, furnishing entertainment from the pulpit, do not indicate great spiritual results. An essential condition of revival is the return to the simple word of God, the honoring of the divine word, the faithful presentation of the truth, however humbling and unpalatable, concerning man's sin and his duty. When ministers go to the pulpits, as Azariah went to the king, with the burden of a message from God upon their hearts, and when they faithfully proclaim, not their own opinions, but God's truth, then we may look for revival. The blessing is not far off.

3. Courage and action on the part of God's people are conditions of revival. "Be ye strong, therefore, and let not your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded."

There is much work for the people of God to do in promoting a revival. "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." "Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones." "Take ye away the stone." The difficulties and obstacles in the way of the Lord's work are always great; but never do they seem as great, never is their influence as disheartening, as when the people of God are awakened to a sense of the "desolations of Zion," and the necessity for a work of grace. When worldliness and unbelief, lusts of the flesh and pride of life, indifference and insensibility block the way; when the house of God is neglected and the voice of prayer is hushed, then we feel that revival and success in saving souls are almost hopeless, and the work of the church is useless, her efforts vain. Then comes the message, "Be strong!" Courage, faint heart! It is not you, but your God, who is to stir the bones, dry and dead, and make them live. Work, in God's name and in God's strength; for your work shall not be unrewarded.

4. Obedience to the divine message. A readiness on the part of God's people to do the things he commands, no matter how trying to the flesh, or at what cost and sacrifice, is one of the conditions of blessing. The trouble with us is that we know a great deal more duty than we are doing. We are not ready to sacrifice of self and self, or to accept the responsibility for personal labor that a revival involves.

5. In that ancient revival there was a putting away of sins. This is a characteristic of every true revival, rather than a condition of revival. When God's people pull down the idols from their hearts and put off the sins from their lives, and wash their hands from the filth of the world, the revival has already come. But this putting away of sin on the part of God's people is an essential condition of successful work, by God's people, for the conversion of the unsaved. Sinners will be converted when Christians are witnessing for Christ by holy lives. As long as church members are living in known sin, it is vain to ask, foolish to expect, the unconverted to forsake their sins. The Old Testament revivals were noted for the repentance and confessions preceding the showers of blessing. No less marked has this feature been in the history of revivals in modern times.

6. The union of God's people in worship and waiting upon God. They "gathered together." So must we. God's people must "get together," not merely in the sense of coming into the meetings, but in the higher sense of spiritual accord.

7. There was a payment to the Lord of that which was his due—a bringing of the tithes into the storehouse. See what God says by Malachi.

We trust the brethren in all the churches, if they have not already begun work, are preparing "the way of the Lord."

BOOTH ON GLADSTONE.—General Booth, commander of the Salvation Army, recently visited Gladstone at Hawarden. He says this of Mr. Gladstone: "The unaffected earnestness of the great statesman; the gentleness with which he instantly made his guest feel at home; his facility of going directly to the heart of a subject under consideration; his disinterestedness; his great fluency of speech, and his religious realizations, produced on my mind very forcibly the impression that among the many things carefully considered and experimentally known to W. E. Gladstone, were the governing influence of the Holy Spirit and the saving grace of God."

Notes on Current Events.

Every report from Bombay tells of the plague growing worse daily. The people, panic stricken, are fleeing from the city by thousands. It is estimated that fully two-thirds of the population have fled. In many cases, of course, they have carried the contagion with them. This bubonic plague has a fatality far surpassing that of cholera. It is supposed to be that scourge of humanity which has generally been called "Black Death." China, India, and Egypt have from time to time for centuries endured epidemics of this form, and whole districts have been depopulated. It is probably of bacterial origin, is marked by high fever, stupor, and coma, and in perhaps half the cases ends in death within forty-eight hours, often in twenty-four. As with most deadly epidemic, uncleanly conditions and tainted water spread the disease, and probably originally breed it. Probably famine conditions help the spread of the plague; certainly the two have appeared simultaneously again and again. For the last century European cities have been free from the plague, doubtless because of improved sanitary conditions. In India it has been thought by some that the very soil became poisoned, and it is said that even the rats die of the disease. Specific remedy there seems to be none; where a foothold has been obtained the plague runs its course. Municipal and personal cleanliness are the only preventives.

European governments are using every means to prevent the introduction of the plague through ships arriving from India ports. Strict quarantine is being enforced. Mr. John Lowe, until recently deputy minister of agriculture in Canada, and who for many years had charge of quarantine matters in this country, is reported as saying that he does not think there is any ground for fear that the plague will be introduced into this country.

Princeton is a Presbyterian College. A few weeks ago it celebrated its centennial. There was a great gathering of notable men, including the leading educationists of the country; the President of the United States and many other dignitaries were present. One feature of the celebration was a great banquet. At the banquet wines were so plentiful that it was practically a champagne supper. There is quite a stir about it, and the management is being sharply condemned for what must be regarded as a great deal worse than a blunder. The matter is likely to come up at the next meeting of the General Assembly. A rum supper as part of the celebration of a Christian College anniversary cannot have other than a very bad effect on its students. And how the sharp-eyed, critical world will laugh at the wretched exhibition.

The business revival in the United States which was expected to follow the Presidential election has not yet been realized. All branches of business there are still much depressed and the large cities there is much destitution because so many are out of employment. Many charity organizations report that there are more demands upon them than ever before.

The British Parliament is again in session. The Queen's speech referred to the Venezuela question, and expressed the expectation that the agreement made would "effect an adjustment of the existing controversies, without exposing to risk the interests of any colonists who have established rights in the disputed territory."

The treaty for general arbitration with the United States is mentioned as very gratifying, and the hope expressed that not only all differences which may arise between the two countries be peacefully adjusted, but that it "may have further value in commanding other powers the consideration of the principle by which the danger of war may be notably abated."

Reference is also made to a proposed bill for the relief of voluntary schools, employers liability, adding to the efficiency of the military defences, to establish an Irish board of agriculture and various commercial bills, including the exclusion of goods manufactured in foreign prisons, and a bill to establish reformatories for inebriates.

The Nova Scotia Legislature, which is now in session, is likely to be asked to pass a law prohibiting the manufacture and sale of liquors in that Province. The Grand Division, sons of temperance and other temperance organizations are intending to memorialize the legislature to do this. It is believed that temperance sentiment is so strong throughout the Province that no member outside of Halifax will dare oppose a prohibitory measure. If the government does not take the responsibility of introducing the bill, it will be given in charge of some private member. Success to the movement.

President elect McKinley is busy making up his cabinet. Senator Sherman, of Ohio, is understood to have consented to be secretary of state. He has past seventy and has been a foremost man in the public affairs of his country for many years. Definite announcements about the other members of the new administration have not yet been made.

The business men of Amherst, N. S. have been acting sensibly, lately. The Canada Temperance Act is the law of Cumberland Co. In Amherst there has been more or less violation of the law. Recently the business men of the town waked up to the fact that the traffic, even though carried on in a limited way, was injuring business. They could stand the effects so long as they only touched homes and mothers through the drinking of the husbands and sons; but when they came to see that trade, also, was being injured, they were ready to take the grip with the evil thing. So forty or fifty leading business men waited on the violators of the law, requested them to cease selling liquor, and warned them that if they continued to sell the law would be rigorously enforced against them. The warning was heeded, and the bars were closed. Now gentlemen, do not fail to carry out your threat against the first violator. They will all have to be watched and watched closely too, for every man of them will disregard his promise, defy your wish, and do the devil's work the first safe chance he gets. And the fellow whom the people are in the habit of regarding as a very nice, good hearted fellow—the hotel keeper who makes himself popular with so many people—is likely to be the first violator. Watch him, and as soon as you catch him, give him a dose that he won't forget. Prosecuting the first one, especially if he is one of "the big" and one of "the best" ones, will have a good effect on the others.

It is proposed to send a ship's load of corn from the United States to India for the famine sufferers. The secretaries of the several mission boards have the matter in charge. Contributions of corn are now being received; and it is expected that 100,000 bushels will be sent.

The Carleton County Council has reduced the salary of the Canada Temperance Act Inspector Colpitts to \$300. He was previously receiving the munificent sum of \$400. The usual plea of reducing the expenses, and so lessening the taxes of the people was put forward in justification of the reduction of the salary of a faithful and efficient official. Nobody pretended to charge unfaithfulness against Mr. Colpitts, nor to point to a single act of impropriety on his part. But some foolish fellow was found ready to offer to do the work for much less, and this served as excuse to some councillors for pretending to believe that Mr. C. was being over paid—that they ought not pay any man more than some other man said he would undertake the duties of the office for. Mr. Colpitts we presume will continue in the office, and we are sure that he will not slacken his efforts to make rum-selling an uncomfortable and unprofitable business in Carleton County. Every Christian man and woman and every good citizen in the County should stand by him, not only giving him sympathy but practical assistance in the important and difficult work he has in hand. A good way to show their interest would be to make up to him, at least, what the Council has taken from his well-earned salary, and then see that the next Council elected is more in sympathy with the temperance feeling of the County, and with the rigid enforcement of the law. The Inspector has not cost the tax-payers of the County anything; if all the facts were known it would doubtless, be seen that they have been saved considerable taxation, not to say anything of the good in other ways that has resulted to many homes in the County. But if the tax-payers had to pay the salary how much are they likely to be relieved by the \$100 reduction? Who of them all is going to notice any difference in his County-rates? The Councilors know full well that it will not make any difference; but they know also that the taxation bugbear frightens many full-grown men into fits, and they, therefore, use it to accomplish their purpose—which is not to save money to the County, but to get rid of, or at least hamper, an officer who gives some of their friends a hard time.

Kings Co. Council followed the bad example of Carleton Co. and reduced the Inspector's salary. Like the Carleton Co. Inspector, Inspector Weyman of Kings has been a most faithful officer. But because this year the fines of violators are not equal to his salary and other expenses of enforcement, the Inspector's salary is reduced. In

the years when the money taken from rum-sellers was a larger sum, the complaint of anti-temperance councillors, was that there must be just as much rum sold as ever, else how could there be so many fines paid. Now, when the violators of the law are fewer and have less money with which to pay, the same men cry out that the law is too expensive—it does not pay its own way. They, conveniently overlook the fact that there are fewer fines because rum-selling has been lessened, and what is done is less profitable; all of which is due to the faithfulness of the Inspector. If the County desires revenue from the rum traffic it will have to license it; if it desires the traffic hampered and finally abolished it must stand by the measure of prohibition provided in the Scott Act till something better is secured. What we have said in the preceding note about the duty of the temperance people to support the Carleton County Inspector applies equally to Inspector Weyman of Kings.

A British government blue book just issued contains the official correspondence between the European powers in regard to the proposed reforms in Turkey. This correspondence shows that Lord Salisbury some months ago proposed that the powers take measure to enforce reform measures. Austria at once assented; Germany later assented, but with the proviso that no coercive action be taken against Turkey unless all the powers agreed to it; Italy assented without qualification; Russia at first objected to any scheme involving coercion. Lord Salisbury continued the correspondence with Russia, showing that it would be useless for the powers to further remonstrate with Turkey unless they were prepared to enforce the reforms they proposed. After a while the Czar agreed to consider coercion if Turkey proved recalcitrant; and later France gave similar assent. The change in the Czar's view was probably brought about by his visit to the Queen; and the assent of France followed. The governments which have agreed upon a plan of action are Great Britain, Austria, Russia, Italy and France.

The Premier of Manitoba has, it is stated, offered to appoint a French Catholic Inspector for the French schools of that Province. He is willing, also, that the Inspector shall have the power to select the books to be used in such schools. Any one who closely watches school matters in Manitoba will discover that all that the French Roman Catholics have asked for will, by degrees, be given them. Given an inch, they want an ell—and they usually get it. Just watch.

The Dakota divorce law is likely to be amended, and improved. There is, certainly, need of a change. At present the state law affords the least possible difficulty to those who desire the dissolution of matrimonial bonds, and from everywhere this class of people have resorted to Dakota. The amendment proposed will make a year's residence in the state the lowest limit to those who apply for divorce. The lawyers and hotel keepers and perhaps some others will oppose the amendment, because the law, as it is now, gives them business.

The British Columbia gold fields fever does not abate. Hundreds from everywhere are hurrying to Rossland and vicinity. Young men especially, including lawyers, mechanics, clerks and those who have no business, looking with longing eyes towards the Rockies, and next Spring is likely to witness the departure of a good many. As everywhere else, among the many that go to the new Eldorado there will be the survival of the fittest. Those who have good health, industry, good habits, patience and pluck, &c will make their way, while the others will drop behind. The moral dangers of life in a frontier country are very great, and those who go there need to be well established in their moral principles.

The mandement of the Roman Catholic bishops has not yet been sent forth. It is believed, however, that it will be forthcoming soon, unless the attempts to get the Pope to approve of the settlement of the Manitoba schools question are successful. Hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick, a member of the Dominion government, has, it is said, gone to Rome to tell his holiness all about the matter.

Those who owe back subscriptions are asked to do themselves and us the justice of giving immediate attention to the matter.

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