

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

REV. JOSEPH McLEOD, D. D., EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6TH, 1898.

A large number of subscribers know that we are expecting to hear from them before the end of this week.

Any who have not yet started their remittances this way, must be intending to do it before Saturday night. Surely they will not disappoint us.

If any "Intelligencer" readers overlook the inside pages of the paper they miss many good things.

There is no field of human activity where common sense is so much needed as in religious matters. And sometimes it would seem that there is none in which it is so little used.

While it has much sturdy Protestantism, the Established Church in England is pretty well honeycombed with Romanism. There is not, however, the danger of the dominance of Rome, which sometimes has been feared. There are signs of a thorough arousing of Dissenters against the pretensions of Romanism. The English heart is soundly Protestant, because the bulk of the religious people of England are not of the Established Church.

Rev. Dr. Summerbell, pastor of the Main St. Free Baptist church, Lewiston, Me., has been delivering a series of Sunday evening lectures, the titles of which are unusually suggestive. The titles were as follows:

"The Church of Good Taste—Protestant Episcopal;" "The Martyr Church of Scotland—The Presbyterian;" "The Church of the Pilgrims—The Congregationalists;" "Loyalty to the Primitive Order—The Baptists;" "The Church of the Inner Light—The Friends;" "The Church of Spirit and Fire—The Methodists;" "The Church of New Testament Revival—The Free Baptists."

A minister writes thus: "I have stood for Prohibition, and much opposition has been stirred up against me in my pastorate, and I must leave, and have no other place to go to. I sometime say to myself, 'Does it, after all, pay to do right?' To him the Voice says: 'Listen, brother, to one who has sounded all depths and knew all heights. Verily I say unto you, there is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the Kingdom of God's sake, who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.' Do you believe that? If so, rejoice and be exceeding glad, for you are among the fortunates of the universe."

It is intimated that at the next meeting of the Canadian Methodist Conference one of the questions will that demand consideration is that of a radical change in pastoral term. The term has already been changed from a limit of three years to a limit of five years. Certain churches, and presumably, certain ministers, would like to have the opportunity to extend the term indefinitely. Such change is not likely to be made. To an onlooker, with Methodist history in mind, it would seem an unwise thing to do. We wonder whether it has yet begun to occur to the Methodist people that the change from the old three years' limit has failed to produce any marked benefits.

A queer lawsuit has just begun in Switzerland. It is connected with the famous battle of Sempach in 1386, when Swiss patriots routed the Austrians. During all the five hundred years since then a mass for the souls of

the Austrian slain has been said annually by the monks of Munster. In payment for the mass the Canton of Lucerne used to give the monks 520 fishes yearly out of the Sempach lake. But ever since 1875 economical Cantonal government has declined to provide the fishes. The monks have accordingly brought an action to recover their piscatorial arrears. If they win they will have ample provision for all their fast-days for many a month to come; but if they lose, what will be come of the souls of the Austrians? As the latter are the persons chiefly concerned in the arrangement, it is to be hoped that the judge who tries the suit will cite them to appear in court and plead their claims.

A case worthy of being recorded is that of honourable conduct of the relatives of a deceased Bengali Christian. When Dr. Chandra died he left a will in which he gave \$2500 to the Church of Scotland mission, and \$700 to the church in Calcutta of which he was a member. His will, however, had not been signed and properly witnessed, and the case going into the courts, the whole of the property passed to his Hindu relatives. Neither the Mission nor the church had the slightest expectation of getting a rupee and did not even apply to the heirs for anything. But the relatives of the deceased Christian gentleman, themselves Hindus, decided that a defect in the will should not interfere with his wishes being carried out, and they have paid over the money to the Mission Society and the church. To be sure, they have only done what was right to do; but there are so many, from whom more might be expected, who would not have done so well, that the fact deserves to be recorded to their honour.

Resurrection Thoughts.

"And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the seventh day according to the commandment." How hard it must have been for those loving, broken hearts to wait over that day, before they made use of the spices and ointments. Though the women would not break the Sabbath even in such a case, yet they came as early as possible the next morning—"when it was yet dark."

Some one has said that it was just like Jesus to reveal Himself first after the resurrection to women. But how was it possible for Him to do otherwise? They were the only ones who sought Him. It is always like Him to come to such, whether men or women.

"I believe in the resurrection of the body, says the Apostles' Creed. Our beliefs are precious things. Well for us it is that we do not need to understand them all. Faith goes far beyond that. It strikes one with a fresh surprise and pleasure now and then to remember that these words of the creed were spoken just as they are now in the earliest centuries.

The doctrine of the resurrection is the vital point of the Christian creed. 'If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain' (1 Cor. 15:17). His life and death alone would not have availed for us.

The resurrection seems a concession to the weakness of human nature, which, having a mighty instinct of immortality, can yet hardly believe in it until it sees the body rise from the dead. So Christ says on that far-off Easter morning, standing beside His own tomb, with the believing Mary at His feet—says to every trembling soul, looking out into the dim, mysterious shadows of the future: It is a real place, a real life there; My pierced hands and feet forever prove it.

A strange dignity and value belong to the body. There seems no call to disparage it, or speak lightly of it, as has been done, even by the Divine Man had not forever exalted it by taking its form Himself. St. Paul repeatedly calls it "the temple of God" in that epistle to the Corinthians whose main theme from first to last is the body—its sins and sorrows, its dignity and desecration, and its resurrection. Destroy that temple—or let it crumble to dust—yet it shall be built again.

M.

GOLDEN WEDDING.—The home of Samuel K. Vallis, New Jerusalem, Queens Co., was the scene of a pleasant event on the 23rd ult., the occasion being the golden anniversary of the wedding of Samuel K. and Elizabeth A. Vallis. There were present sixty-one guests, including eight children and twenty-four grandchildren. The total number of descendants if present would have been nine children, forty-two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. An enjoyable evening was spent, during which heartily congratulations were tendered the aged couple, with best wishes for continued life and happiness, also the tangible expressions in many valuable presents.

The Frightful Condition of Cuba.

United States Senator Proctor, who has made an unofficial and entirely voluntary visit to Cuba for the purpose of inquiring into the conditions of the people there, made a statement before the United States Senate a few days ago. Says the N. Y. Advocate: His observations were confined to the four western provinces, which constitute about one half of the island. Of Havana he says that things go on there about as usual, and that quiet prevails. But a different condition of things prevails outside the city. There "it is not peace, nor is it war; it is desolation and distress, misery and starvation. Every town and village is surrounded by a trocha." This is a sort of large rifle pit, the dirt being thrown up on the inside and a barbed wire fence put up on the other side. These trochas have little blockhouses on their corners, in which from two to ten soldiers are on guard. The reconcentrados have been gathered in from the surrounding country, and the fortified towns, in which they are compelled to subsist as best they can, are simply wretched prison yards. These reconcentrados were gathered together, in response to the following order by Captain General Weyler:

I order and command: First, all the inhabitants of a country outside of the line of fortifications of the towns shall within the period of eight days concentrate themselves in the towns occupied by the troops. Any individual who, after the expiration of this period; is found in the uninhabited parts will be considered a rebel, and tried as such.

Those who, for any reason, did not comprehend or immediately proceed to obey the order were dealt with by the guerrillas, and in many cases the torch was applied without notice, and their stock and other belongings were appropriated by the guerrillas. Once within the trocha, they were permitted to build huts of palm leaves and live as they could. These huts are small, and are crowded together very closely. "The commonest sanitary provisions are impossible. Torn from their homes, with foul earth, foul air, foul water, and foul food or none, what wonder that one half have died, and that one quarter of the living are so diseased that they cannot be saved? Deaths in the streets have not been uncommon." Senator Proctor said that the awful condition of the hospitals in Cuba has not been overdrawn. The work of Clara Barton in behalf of these wretched people received warm praise from him. He concluded his address, in which he endeavored to state in a dispassionate way what he saw and heard, with the following words:

To me the strongest appeal is not the barbarity practiced by Weyler nor the loss of the Maine, if our worst fears should prove true, terrible as are both of these incidents, but the spectacle of a million and a half of people, the entire native population of Cuba, struggling for freedom and deliverance from the worst misgovernment of which I ever had knowledge. But whether our action ought to be influenced by any one or all these things, and if so, how far, is another question. I am not in favor of annexation, not because I would apprehend any particular trouble from it, but because it is not wise policy to take in any people of foreign tongue and training and without any strong guiding American element. The fear that, if free, the people of Cuba would be revolutionary is not so well founded as has been supposed, and the conditions for good self-government are far more favorable. The large number of educated and patriotic men, the great sacrifices they have endured, the peaceable temperaments of the people, whites and blacks, the wonderful prosperity that would surely come with peace and good home rule, the large influx of American and English immigration and money, would all be strong factors for stable institutions.

WHAT ONE THINKS.—A good deacon writes: "I cannot understand how loyal Free Baptists can do without the INTELLIGENCER. They, surely, are not aware of how much they are losing in denominational and general religious news. The longer I take the paper the better I like it, and the more interest I have in the news of religious work."

PERSONAL.—Dawson Sanford Pond, of Marysville, went west on Tuesday. He intends going to Edmonton, Alberta, and will locate there if he is satisfied with the place and prospects. His will be much missed in the church and in the Sunday School, of which he has been Superintendent for several years. His many friends, while regretting his going away, wish him the best success.

POLITICAL NEWS.—By the vote of the returning officer the seat for West Huron goes to the Liberals, thus giving the Liberals in the Ontario Legislature fifty one votes.

The number of Ontario election protests entered now reach thirty-four, 21 against Liberals; 13 against Conservatives.

Notes on Current Events.

The rate of interest paid by the Dominion Government on Savings Bank Deposits will be only two and a half per cent after July 1st. Up to last year the rate was three and a half per cent. Last year it was reduced to three per cent, and now it is to go down another half.

Seventy-nine medical women of Great Britain and India have presented a memorial to Lord George Hamilton condemning, on numerous grounds, the Regulations recommended by him last year as to the Military Cantonments in India. The memorial suggests compulsory closing of disorderly resorts within the Cantonment bounds and it is recommended that 'every man on joining the Army should have it made clear to him that immorality will neither be countenanced nor excused,' also that moral character should be made an important element in the promotion of the individual.

Last week there was a report that President Kruger, of the South African Republic, had been assassinated. Happily, it turned out to be a false report. The old gentleman is quite bitter in his feeling against Great Britain, and without reason; but his death, by the hand of an assassin, would make more trouble than he can make alive.

In the introduction of a new vaccination bill in the British House of Commons, it was stated that recently there had been some quite remarkable scientific discoveries which would go very far to revolutionize the present system of vaccination. It has been found that when the lymph is mixed with glycerine all extraneous organisms are destroyed by it, while it remains perfectly good for vaccination purposes. It can be kept for a long time, and the necessity for arm-to-arm vaccination, and consequently all possibility of inoculation with other diseases, wholly disappears. The Bill provides that vaccination shall continue to be compulsory, but that instead of the child being taken to the public vaccinators, the vaccinators shall be required to attend the house of each child. The period within which vaccination must take place is to be extended from three months to twelve months.

A deputation of prohibitionists waited on the Manitoba Government on Thursday last, and pressed the importance of legislation prohibiting the sale of liquor in the Province. They reminded the government that in 1892 the Province by the large majority of eleven thousand declared in favour of prohibition, and suggested that it is time the will of the electorate was given effect to.

In the New England states there are many French Canadians. It is said that they are making preparations to return to Quebec in the event of war between the United States and Spain. If they have benefitted by their residence in the United States—and, presumably they have, else they would not be there—they should not be mean enough to run away now.

No more is conceded to the Roman Catholics because there is nothing more to concede. The whole Manitoba school system is, evidently, to be adapted to the demands of the Archbishop. Even the histories of England and Canada are to be made to suit Rome. If the people of Manitoba quietly submit to this surrender to the Papacy the people of other parts of the country will have to believe that they did not mean what they said when they made such an outcry two or three years ago, and appealed to their fellow Canadians to save them from being deprived of their rights.

Not Dawson city, as has generally been supposed, but Fort Selkirk is to be the capital of the Yukon country. An Ottawa despatch says that while Dawson city is just now the centre of attraction because of its contiguity to the Klondike, the Klondike River alone does not constitute the whole of the gold area of the district, and before long thousands of prospectors will be scattered all over that country. Dawson is located in a swamp and is therefore unhealthy. The government sees good reasons why some other point should be selected. And it has been decided to erect barracks for the military at Fort Selkirk, which is situated at the confluence of the Pelly and Lewis rivers and directly on the line of travel into the heart of the Yukon country.

The United States Congress has been in an excited state. But President McKinley has succeeded so far in preventing hasty declarations. The President's course throughout has been most judicious and dignified.

Mr. Gladstone patiently awaits the end, which, it is believed, cannot be far away. The physicians say that, owing to his advanced age, nothing can be done for him but to make his closing days as comfortable as possible. Every day the Queen inquires as to his condition, and from every part of the world expressions of concern and sympathy are received daily.

War between the United States and Spain may be averted, but at this writing it would appear to be almost inevitable. The proposals of the United States to Spain were, briefly stated, these—That Spain should arrange to except Gomez's offer of two hundred million dollars for Cuban independence; that Spain's troops should be withdrawn; that an armistice should be entered into for that purpose; that the reconcentrados should be immediately released and that the United States should furnish food and farming implements to the starving Cubans.

Spain's answer is not satisfactory. It is, in substance, as follows: "The independence of Cuba means the parting or cession of Spanish territory, which cannot be done without the consent of the Spanish cortes, which is not in session and will not be in session until April 24, and consequently no definite answer can be returned to the demands of the United States until the cortes assembles. A counter proposition is submitted that the Cuban matter shall be settled upon a basis equitable among nations. The United States is asked to give Spain time to treat with the insurgents and ascertain what can be done in the nature of a peaceful settlement."

The terms of the latest "settlement" of the Manitoba schools matter are said to be as follows:

1. Appointment of Mgr. Langevin or a representative of the Archbishop's choice as a member of the Advisory Board.

2. An inspector of French, and an assistant, in case of need, must be a Catholic and acceptable to His Grace, for the French schools of the province.

3. Permission to teach for two years from 1898 for the present teachers in the French schools and to other competent persons upon the recommendation of the French inspector.

4. Normal course for ten weeks for the preparation of teachers of French schools under the direction of teachers named by the Department of Public Instruction. These teachers are also to be acceptable to Mgr. Langevin. The French and Catholic inspector will be one of these teachers, and the name of Abbe Chertier has been suggested. This course will be given in an establishment fixed upon by common accord, St. Boniface College and St. Mary's Academy being suggested.

5. Representation accorded to the French school authorities on the Board of Examiners, and it is understood that these examiners will hold the examinations in the establishments where the normal course is given.

6. A member of the school board, commission of the consulting board, to which will be joined a representative of St. Boniface College, in the University Council, will examine the class books that are to be published by the consulting board and all that is objectionable to Catholics will be eliminated.

7. The same commission and the two representatives of the St. Boniface College will authorize a series of French and English reading books (Montpetit suggested), but it is understood that, in order to prepare the French scholars to follow the bilingual course, French books may be used for the study of French.

8. The same commission will examine the histories of Canada and England, as well as geographies, to adapt them in order to the use of the French schools. It is understood that no historical or geographical work will be approved if it is not acceptable to Catholics.

It is understood no book will be authorized if it contains anything offensive to Catholics, that the French language will be taught, and the French grammar used.

9. The three Catholic schools of Winnipeg will be leased by the Board and considered as public schools.

When to Fix Our Landmarks.

BY REV. C. F. FENNEY, D. D.

Transfiguration hours ought to be used to determine our duties and our courses. "What shall a man do is a question that is occurring every single day; and what a man shall do will be settled by a higher or lower court. The lower court of a man's nature, where pride and selfishness and avarice and vanity reside, almost always settles questions, and it almost always settles them wrong. What is generous? Is it best to act generously? What is liberal? How much ought a man to be liberal? What is self sacrifice? How far ought a man, in justice to himself and his family, be self sacrificing?—These questions are generally settled by the lower court of the human mind. It says "Take care of yourself: if every man would take care of one—the whole world would be taken care of."

A man's first impulse, if he be a man, is to do the best, the noblest, the highest thing; but he says,—"Let me have a second thought," and that second

thought always lowers the tone of manliness. A man says,—"I thought I could give fifty dollars; but I think I will give twenty-five." He thinks again, and says,—"There are so many here I do not think I need give more than ten dollars." Before the box comes round he thinks again, and does not give more than a dollar.

In those hours when our best nature is in the ascendancy; when reason is calm, and moral feelings are alive; when we are impelled by motives from the side that is farthest away from the beast—then is the best time to settle questions of doubt and procedure. In our best hours we are to take our highest thoughts and follow them.

There are hours in which men doubt whether there be any God. Some doubt whether there is any validity in the Bible. Some even doubt whether there is any good, except as circumstances favour. These doubts and skepticisms every man, whose mind is active, and who is observing, has, more or less, in his lower hours; and they dampen and hinder him. But at other times, he looks beyond the expanse of this life, and over the horizon, and he has a sense of certainty and of nearness to God; and his whole soul adjudicates—tries and settles the question. Then it is that a man should take his reckoning, fix his land-marks, and steer by them.

When a man goes over some untrodden mountain range, on some hill-top he looks forward and sees how the whole land lies. He then singles out some vast rock, some tall pine, some prominent point, as a land mark. Then he goes down into the plain and valley, and the way is no longer open like a map before him. He is lost; but still he keeps the general direction; and by and by, through a little opening, he sees yonder rock, or pine, or point; and he says, "Ah! that is what I saw," and travels on, and emerges again. Soon he disappears again in the valley; but keeping the direction, he soon rises again, so that his land-mark comes into view once more. It is when we are on the mountain-top that we should take our land-marks and steer toward them; and when we go down and lose sight of them, we are to keep straight across the valley until we rise so that they greet our vision again. Not when we are in the valley can we tell which way to travel, unless we have learned it on the top of the hill.

General Religious News.

A Free Baptist minister, Rev. J. D. Waldon, started last week for the Klondike. He goes with a company from Vermont, and will do missionary work.

Some of the wooden churches of Norway are fully 700 years old, and are still in an excellent state of preservation. Their timbers have successfully resisted the frost and almost Arctic winters, because they have been repeatedly coated with tar. Norway pine, thus treated, seems to best resist decay.

According to a recent census the population of France is now 38,228,939. Of this number 659,825 are Protestants, namely 572,625 Reformed and 87,000 Lutherans. Before the persecutions in the days of Louis XIV, the Protestant population in France was 2,000,000. In 1756 it had decreased to 400,000. At present there are in the entire country 582 Protestant parishes and 700 Protestant pastors.

A frequent assertion from both religious and secular quarters, that Christianity is losing its power over the people of the United States, is fully refuted by that volume of the United States census for 1890 which deals with the statistics of religion. Statistics for the year 1897 show that during the last seven years there has been a very decided advance over the figures of 1890. Last year the voluntary contributions to religious purposes in that country reached the enormous sum of \$150,000,000.

The two missionaries sent by the Presbyterian Home Mission Board to the Klondike on their arrival there opened services, after considerable difficulty in finding a house, were burnt out, and then removed to a public hall which was offered to them on Sundays. All denominations are represented in their congregations. The religious privileges of the place include besides a prosperous Christian Endeavor Society, a Bible class, a Sunday school, and a Young Men's Christian Association, with reading room.

The Australasian Christian Student Convention, held in Sydney early in the year, was attended by students from every university and college of higher learning in that quarter of the world. Of one aspect of the proceedings it is said in "The Australasian"

Christian World papers and speeches were given with the magnificence of students. They doubt and no more of their star as if they believed of the undertakings of their time in place of the enterprise. three from Australia for foreigners to be their life!

In Montreal fifteen Sabbath in some of which very large, as church, Presbytery average of several last year, and first six months are eight Chinese and one of these supper in countrymen. are under number of Christians turned to be the popular Canton, supported Montreal, and missionaries of the Christian Church.

The Free just published Council of Evangelists contains tables with special at issue between Anglican and number of other denominations of Established Churches through the world. monstrated in Review" that Churches of the provide more seminarians, and Sunday Established seems to pre- speaking people British Isles, and Missions the Anglican according to Yearbook" of municans, Churches (M byterians, according to c mates), 16,000 a number of American re- corresponding statistics of tables of "brng up the 000. As Churches in the English Churches, t communica and 21,043,5

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From I about tim glad to be ing better ings at V encourage Pleasant meetings, two came morning start for pointed for the Miral is grave taken aw home uni sides, the dition, s continue are at w and exp June