

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 30TH, 1898.

If you have not already done so, will you do us the kindness to send your payment for the 'Intelligencer' immediately?

Everybody who owes the Intelligencer anything should make an earnest endeavour to pay it now. The money is needed. We earnestly urge our friends to give this matter their prompt attention.

"Look into the face of God before you look into the face of man."

There is great need of revival that will move the Lord's people to give as faithful attention to duties that are peculiarly religious as they do to purely secular affairs.

Wherever there are revivals and accessions to the churches, there should, amongst other good things, be additions to the lists of subscribers to religious papers. Conversions among Free Baptists should increase the number of Intelligencer subscribers. Do not overlook this part of the work, brethren.

There is no excuse for being ignorant of the condition of the heathen world, and its needs. Our Lord's command to his disciples is, "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." To fail to look so make ourselves acquainted with the condition of the world, which is "the field," is to disregard the directions of our Lord.

The Zionist Movement is quite strong among the Jews in Russia. This is, probably, due to the hardships which Russian Jews have had to endure, and are still enduring in a large degree. Those who are promoting the Zionist movement tell that the Colonies of Jews already established in the Holy Land are prospering. It is certain that the number of Jews engaged in agriculture in Palestine is steadily increasing. There are now over forty thousand of them. Many more are likely to join them.

Dr. Cuyler is a veteran temperance reformer. For a half century he has been foremost in the great work. He thinks the time is at hand for a new crusade by the churches. He says: The time is ripe for a new campaign in opposition to the evil that is cursing more homes and destroying more souls than any other evil in our country. The cradle of the temperance reform was in the church of Christ, and all of its most effective triumphs have been wrought by moral power, whether that power was exerted in diminishing the drinking custom or in dealing blows for the suppression of the dram-shops. An appeal is now made to the churches to open a fresh warfare against the bottle, wherever it is found—in the social circle, on the household board, or upon the counter of the saloon.

Of the slight change in the corporate name of the Free Baptists of New Brunswick, Prof. Anthony, writing in the 'Morning Star,' says:

This change, while slight, is yet significant. It avoids the invidious suggestion that other Baptists are not Christian. It brings Free Baptists of New Brunswick into closer fellowship with the Free Baptists of Nova Scotia and the United States, through the possession of a common name. It adopts the name which has come into regular use among the churches of New Brunswick; and prevents another denomination, which last year in a spirit of antagonism sought incorporation under this name, from usurping it.

While the name is the least of denominational characteristics to lay stress upon, yet, as it is so often understood to stand for more important elements of denominational belief and practice, we extend with renewed heartiness fraternal greetings and congratulations to our brethren of New Brunswick for this added token of oneness among Free Baptists.

The editor of the 'Star' greets the change by uncovering: "We take off our hats to the Free Baptists of New Brunswick."

Various branches of the Church of Christ are beginning to make plans for the proper celebration of entrance upon the Twentieth century of the Christian Era. We have already mentioned that the Methodist of Great Britain propose to raise a million pounds for their church enterprises; and that the Methodist of Canada intend to raise a special fund of a million dollars for their work. The Presbyterian church in the United States, besides the large money offering it is sure to make, proposes to add one million pupils to its Sabbath Schools before the first day of 1901. The Roman Catholic church plans to greatly extend its mission work. It is certainly fitting that the completion of the nineteenth century—the greatest in the Christian era, should be celebrated. The gracious things which God has caused to be done demand grateful recognition on the part of His people. Every Christian body, small and large, may well give some definite and practical form to its thanksgiving. What shall we do?

Better Support Needed.

One of the things which many Christians have not yet learned, and are strangely slow to learn, is their duty towards the church in financial support. For the proper support of the church, and to make fully effective its various forms of activity, it is necessary that every Christian contribute to the Lord's treasury, and that the contributing should be according to his ability, and systematically. One of the defects in giving for religious purposes—the chief one, perhaps—is that so many contribute according to the degree in which their feelings are interested, for the time, by the appeals made. Their offerings are made impulsively, rather than from an intelligent conviction of duty.

The lack of funds for carrying on Christian work is not because Christians have not the money. There is, as a matter of fact, great wealth in the hands of members of the Church of Christ; and they control it, determining the purposes to which it shall be devoted. And yet, nearly every branch of Christian work suffers and is weakened for lack of money. If but a fair proportion of the money controlled by disciples of Christ were consecrated to Christian work new life and power would be felt by every undertaking of the church.

That there are many members of the church who do fully their part in supporting Christian interests and enterprises there is no doubt, pastors know them, and appreciate their faithfulness. God knows them, and they are not with us on the blessings that attend upon true devotion to Him. The great majority, however, of those who are faithful in this respect are not among the rich members of the church, nor even among those who are called "well off"; they are among those whose income affords them a living only by constant carefulness in expenditure for personal purposes. If those who have more were proportionately as liberal in their contributions to the Lord's cause there would be "enough and to spare." Intelligent, proportionate, systematic contributing is what is needed.

Systematic giving does not mean simply the adoption by everybody of the plan of giving a tenth. It means that much, we think, in nearly every case. But in many cases it must mean much more. It does not seem possible to make a given proportion equally binding on all, making it the limit in every case. Systematic giving is the devotion, at stated intervals, of a definite and suitable proportion to the support of the Lord's cause, which includes all Christian institutions and activities and all philanthropies.

The general adoption of systematic contributions to religious purposes is necessary for several reasons. First, because so large a number of members of Christian churches do not rightly recognize their responsibility to God, and do not therefore, contribute according to their ability. The contributions of Christian people to good purposes do not increase in proportion to the general increase of money and other values in the hands of professing Christians. Probably every one, or nearly every one, gives something, but just living.

The giving may be so utterly out of proportion to the ability of the giver—as it is in very many

cases, that it is as nothing. There, surely, must be a fair proportion between what a man has and what he gives, else he is failing to do what is in his power to do—which is always what he ought to do. He who fails to recognize God's claims on what he has, is not a faithful steward.

The lack of proportionate and systematic contributions is depriving the Christian Church of the means needed to carry on, energetically and successfully, the great work committed to the Church. Foreign missions languish, and the work at home is done in a poor, feeble way, moral reform creeps slowly along, and many benevolences cry out for help—all because the people who bear the name of Christ fail to honour the Lord with their substance.

Notes on Current Events.

Lady Aberdeen has made a recent appeal to the United States for contributions to the Victorian Order of Nurses fund. She asks this time especially in behalf of the Yukon district contingent.

Archbishop Langevin, of Manitoba, announces that he now has hopes of a settlement of the school question satisfactory to him. The School Law of Manitoba is, evidently, to be interpreted and administered to suit the Archbishop.

The war on the India frontier is ended. The revolting tribes have made the submission demanded. Owing to the nature of the country the hill tribes were able to make a strong stand, and to hold their own for a while. The British forces massed on the frontier numbered once 50,000 men.

Ottawa society circles are somewhat stirred up about sundry thefts which have taken place at some of the dinners, at homes, &c. Money and other valuables have been taken on several occasions, and taken from such places and under such circumstances that the assumption is that some one or more of the lady guests did the pilfering.

It is reported from Dyea that Governor Brady, of Alaska, has issued an order closing all the rumshops in that territory, and that he has authority from Washington to enforce the prohibition.

The Manitoba Prohibitory Alliance has resolved to petition the Legislature to amend the Liquor License Law by abolishing the issuing of all retail licenses within the Province.

Liberia is appealing to Great Britain and the United States Governments for closer relations with those countries. The President of Liberia fears that German and French encroachments are threatening the integrity of the republic. Germany and France are competitors for the ascendancy in Liberia. Closer relations with Great Britain and the United States will, it is believed, insure the independence and development of the country.

New Brunswick day at the Boston Sportsmen's Exhibition, Tuesday of last week, was a success. Speeches were made by Governor McClellan, and Messrs. Emmerson, Tweedie and Stockton. They were very cordially received. The exhibit made by the Province is said to have attracted much attention—more, it is stated, than any other section of the Exhibit on.

Mr. Gladstone is, evidently, quite ill. He is reported to be suffering severe pain. He bears it bravely, however, and desired the physician to say nothing about it.

Lord Salisbury's ill-health has caused much anxiety. There was a rumour last week that he had intimated his desire, acting upon medical advice, to resign the Premiership and the Foreign Secretaryship. Later, however, the report was authoritatively denied. The Premier's health was reported improved and it is hoped that the holiday he is having may benefit him much.

Mr. Charlton made a speech in the Commons, a few days ago, taking the House to task for hastily passing the bill prohibiting the importation of nursery stock from countries where the San Jose Scale prevails. He said the act did great injustice to many importers of such stock, who had sent their orders, and who would have to pay for goods which they could not bring into the country. Some members suggested that some compensation should be given the nursery men and others who would suffer loss by the prohibition.

Mr. L. P. Krebs died in Ottawa, Ontario, a few days ago. He was well-known in Ontario and the west as a 'bright newspaper man.' He became more widely known as the representa-

tive of the Brewers and Distillers, and of the Liquor sellers, generally, during the investigations carried on by the Royal Commission on the liquor traffic. He worked diligently for his employers, and did everything in his power to make a case for them. Later he published a paper in the liquor traffic interest. At the time of his death he was preparing, it is stated, to visit the Maritime Provinces to organize the liquor traffic's plebiscite campaign.

Lady Henry Somerset has become President of the World's W. C. T. U. in succession to the Miss Frances Willard. Lady Somerset was Vice President at large; she was asked by the Executive to take the vacant Presidency, and has cabled her acceptance.

On Friday, in the House of Commons, Mr. Craig asked when the Plebiscite Bill would be brought down. The Premier's reply was,—"As soon as the decks are cleared for it." It was rumoured a few days ago that it had been decided to postpone the bill another year. We cannot think, however, that that is true.

Dr. Carman, Dr. Potts and several others forming a delegation representing the Methodist Conference of Canada, waited on the Government at Ottawa last week, and urged that in the proposed prohibition plebiscite no question other than one as to whether liquor shall be prohibited by law should be submitted to the polls. The Premier and Messrs. Fielding and Fisher heard the delegation. In their reply they were quite noncommittal, as governments usually are. Mr. Fielding asked if prohibitionists want to conceal anything about the effects of prohibition. And the Premier is reported as saying that "everything incident to the issue must go in." If "everything" goes in nobody will complain. What many are fearing is that one-sided and misleading things may be made prominent. However, it is better to wait for the Plebiscite Bill before judging it.

The prohibitionists in Quebec are, evidently, having the same difficulty in organizing for the plebiscite which meets the workers in this Province,—an unwillingness to do anything that the character of the Plebiscite bill is known.

Whether there will be war between the United States and Spain is not known at this writing. The situation is very threatening, however. The United States seems determined that hostilities in Cuba shall cease. Spain is, of course, disposed to resent any interference with what she regards as her own affairs. Dispatches from Madrid give the impression that the people are greatly incensed against the United States, and that the feeling in favour of fighting is strong. It is not possible, however, to tell exactly the condition by the despatches. The United States has been making, and continues to make, great preparations for a possible conflict.

The Court of Inquiry appointed to investigate the destruction of the United States war ship Maine, at Havana, reported to President McKinley on Friday. The Associated Press sent out the following abstract indicating the character of the report. The report is made up of eight parts, as follows:

First.—The court finds that at the time of the explosion the battleship Maine was lying in five and one-half to six fathoms of water.

Second.—The discipline aboard the ship was excellent; everything stowed according to orders, ammunition, guns, stores, etc. The temperature of the magazines at 8 p. m. was normal, except in the after ten-inch magazine, and that did not explode.

Third.—The explosion occurred at 9 40 o'clock on the evening of February 15. There were two explosions, with a very short interval between them; the ship lifted on the first explosion.

Fourth.—The court can form no definite opinion of the condition of the wreck from the divers' evidence.

Fifth.—Technical details of wreckage from which the court deduces that "a mine was exploded under the ship on the port side."

Sixth.—The explosion was due to "no fault of those on board."

Seventh.—Opinion of the court states "that the explosion of the mine caused the explosion of two magazines."

Eighth.—The court declares that "it cannot find evidence to fix responsibility."

The opinion of the Court is that the wrecking of the ship was caused by the explosion of a floating mine under the ship; the explosion of the two magazines in the ship, being caused by the exterior explosion. The court does not attempt to fix responsibility, and the report is guarded with great carefulness in this respect.

PERSONAL.—Col. D. McLeod Vincent of Woodstock, was in the city about two weeks. He went home last Friday.

Transfiguration Hours.

BY REV. C. F. PENNEY D. D.
No. 1.

First or last everybody has his transfiguration hours. There is the opening heaven, and thoughts that lift him above the vulgar present. I believe that everybody has heroic hours, generous hours, in which the superiority of the true, the good, the beautiful is not a mere speculation, but a sensation, it might almost be said, a conviction. Everybody has his radiant hours of inspiration. But alas! Most men use these hours simply as hours of courtesy, or hours of luxury. And they say: "Oh, if we could always feel so! Oh, if we could always be just as we were at the end of that meeting, when the last hymn was sung, and the last stanza was rounded out gloriously! Oh, if we could always be as we were in the winding up of such a sermon, that taught and inspired us? Oh, if we could always live in such moods as we come into sometimes alone in meditation and prayer!"

But they are transient. Men do not see them perhaps for months, and sometimes for years. They are not linked together in any related way. They do not become our life at all; and transfiguration seven times a week, would become uninteresting. It is solitariness that makes a thing striking. Things we do over and over again, every day, are trite, and make no impression upon us. Those hours of illumination which God gives to men are precious hours; and we want to repeat them. We want to build tabernacles, and sit down in them.

Many men's ideas of being a Christian is to have a roaring good time; to sing hymns till they feel like angels. They want to be on the mountain top, out of the reach of turmoil, while at the bottom of the mountain the devil is at work destroying men. They do not want to be in the midst of sorrow and suffering, where they will see tears and hear groans. They want to enjoy themselves, and let this world go. Peter prayed for that; but it was not his business, and it is not yours, nor mine.

Thank God for the hours of brightness which come to us; and thank God for the hours that must come to us, one after another, of burdens and troubles. Being a Christian does not take a man out of social life, nor redeem him from the laws of this world, or from social disturbances, or from political exigencies. We are workers together with God, where tears fall, where breaking hearts are, and where sorrows gush like springs from mountains. Here is where we live, and where we should be; and if we are occasionally taken up into these higher experiences let us bless God for them, and make use of them to strengthen ourselves for lower ones.

Many and many a man is working out his salvation better in tears and under burdens, than when he seems to himself an angel about to fly to the kingdom of glory. It is not when a man feels best, that he is best; but when he suffers most and most patiently under trials and misfortunes. Not when God is lifting men up, but is pressing them down, is He blessing them most. Not when he rides into the city after a victory is the general most noble, but when he is in the wilderness, and everything is dark and lowering, and by his courage, and in domitable perseverance he overcomes obstacles. It is when a man rises above his circumstances and moods that true manhood shows itself in him. It is then that he is grandest and nearest to God.

The Religious Paper.

Zion's Advocate quotes from a pastor's letter this: "The presence of a religious paper in the home means a quickening of intellect, a stimulus to laudable ambition, a contribution to the heart-life, intelligence as to the higher movements in education and Christianity, with an increased love and loyalty to the church." This is very true, but it is also true as this pastor adds, "Many who have received a benefit almost life long, in person, in home, and in church, from the religious paper, however, feel no obligation to support what has so blessed them. The first reduction in expense cuts off the religious paper. Nor is there any sense of obligation to extend this benefit to others. Yet certainly the pastor who desires to serve best his church, and the members who desire to help those about them, as well as to aid in every good work, should seek to extend the circulation of the denominational paper. A faithful use of this opportunity of service on the part of pastor and people is all that is needed."

Every great and commanding movement in the annals of the world is the triumph of enthusiasm.—Emerson.

Mission News and Notes.

—Together the American and British Bible societies have published 265,000,000 copies of the Bible.

—One hundred and twenty missionaries are now supported by 120 different colleges in the United States.

—The native Christians in Smyrna contribute more than twice as much to the support of evangelical work as they receive from the missionary boards.

—Dean Vahl, the greatest missionary statistician, is seventy-two years old. He lives in Denmark, and possesses a missionary library of 11,000 volumes.

—The Chicago Training School for missionaries is twelve years old, and has sent out ninety-eight foreign missionaries, 935 deaconesses, and seventy home missionaries and evangelists.

—A missionary in China was surprised one day at the sight of some men approaching him with wheelbarrows. They were bringing petitions from 200 villages, urging the missionaries to come and teach them.

—Bishop Walsh, of the American church, says, "Fiji is not only a gem in the British crown, but a precious jewel in the missionary diadem; and John Hunt, above all other men, belongs the honor of having placed it there!"

—Let us remember that the blood of over fifty thousand heathen, dying daily without the knowledge of God, will rest upon this generation if we neglect to rise with a mighty purpose to the work he has given us the privilege and responsibility of doing.

—The linguists say that 438 languages and 153 dialects are found, so far, in Africa. Of these 591, only 81 have translations of the Bible, whole or in part; more than 500 even have no alphabet. There are 60,000,000 inhabitants in the Sudan alone, with out any missionary in their midst.

—The field is not the church; the church is simply the reapers thrust out into the field. God help us to keep before ourselves the map of his entire extended kingdom, and give us a heart that is willing to go anywhere. Unless we are willing to go anywhere we are fit to go nowhere.

—People of India have great confidence in medical missionaries, as is evinced in the fact that the native people in and about Madura City, most of them heathens, have contributed \$10,000 for the erection of a hospital in that city, to be the property of the American Board of Missions.

—When the Student Volunteer Missionary Union began its work there were about 300 students in the British colleges expecting to be missionaries. Its membership now includes over 1,200 student volunteers, of whom more than one-fourth have already reached the foreign field.

—Opposition to Christian missions has ceased in Hussin, and a proclamation has been issued recounting the services of the missionaries, the way representatives of China have been received in Western lands, and calls upon all to observe the laws and to extend courtesy to the missionaries, and warns them that violence will be followed by penalty of death.

—John Williams was only in his twentieth year when he offered his services to the London Missionary society. He and Robert Moffat stood side by side in Surrey chapel, Sept. 30, 1816, to receive their missionary designation. It is the deliberate opinion of his biographer that: "since the days of the apostles no one man was the means of winning so many thousands to the true faith of Christ by the preaching of the gospel as John Williams," the martyred hero of Erromanga.

Home Religious News.

—In St. John the following churches are having evangelistic meetings.—St. Marys Episcopal, the Christian, Carlton Baptist, Carmarthen St. Methodist, Main St. Baptist, Reformed Baptist, and Centenary Methodist.

—The Jewish congregation in St. John has a new pastor in the person of Rabbi Newman, who arrived last week. His last charge was in Hamilton, Ont.

—The "Witness" makes note of the fact that progress is being made in securing a house, a pleasant and comfortable home, for the Young Women's Christian Association of Halifax. The house taken for the purpose is an eligible one on Hollis Street. It will

be open to the city to ear have no home in any sense than is the Y. ed for reputa There will be number and meals served Means of intel provent wi is an instituti of the church

Denominations.

LOWER ARGYLE, with the ex when he fill own field. numerous as church has encouraged, reclaimed and among the w we rejoice t souls have be my privileg baptism to fi we have hop follow in the tized have u Shannon. and work du highly appre people very Wednesday, prayer-meet season inde prayer-servi Bro. John deacons of t

From L though this sent the Ine, I have this pastor Canterbury have oee preaching th ence and E began hol Campbell S 13th inst, a few days, f expect to re ing. We l good may b ing service the Endeav holding the place (Can tendance a man joined The same y turned to slider, bein Thee ligious mat pastorate t we hope t and believ and thoro the work o ran pray fo in the Bap times; I ha and invite establish in every I am abou appointme pastorate, the School next Sund 2nd of Fe former pas a flying vis us in our evening, a his home i ing the wi visited C Middle So latter plac ence with Sunday ev Elijah Gr Southamp service. A him.

From L.

Meductio March REVIVAL that the sp C. C., a Much goo them. Four o the church see that i regular ap may not