TERMS AND NOTICES.

The RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER issued is on Wednesday from the office of publication York St. Fredericton, N. B.

Terms $1.50 a year in advance,

If not paid in advance the price is $2.00 year.

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Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15TH, 1898.

Bishop Campbell, of the Reformed Episcopal Church, has applied for admission to the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. He was originally a Methodist minister. It is to be hoped that he will find a resting place soon.

The only paper, so far as we have seen the papers quoted, which indulged in ill tempered depreciation of Gladstone after his death was the 'Observatore,' the organ of the Vatican. It is just as well, for commendation om that quarter would be doubtful raise.

The 'Morning Star,' the eastern organ of the Free Baptists in the United States, has recently passed the seventy-second anniversary of its establishment. We congratulate our contemporary on having reached so good an old age. It was never more youthful in spirit nor more vigorous than now.

Some time ago the Pope founded a Society of Prayers for the conversion of Protestants, especially English Protestants. Very kind of him, certainly. The Archbishop of Montreal has recently established a branch of the Society in that city. Each member of it is required to recite one 'Hail Mary' every day; and once a month there is to be a general meeting of the members to make special prayers for the benighted Protestants. As usual, the faithful members of the society have a number of 'indulgences.'

It turns out that the pastoral which the Roman Catholic bishops in the United States were credited with issuing to their people on the war with Spain, and in which they were understood to urge their members to be very patriotic citizens, was never issued at all. One bishop did write for his own diocese a letter similar to the one published as the joint epistle of the hierarchy. Some enterprising newspaper man—of the yellow journal class, presumably—supplied all that was lacking, and sent it forth as a joint pastoral.

The German Emperor has decreed that court chaplains must so condense their sermons that they will not exceed fifteen minutes in delivery. There is no doubt that many sermons would be better for being condensed, and perhaps the sermons of the German Court chaplains are of that class. The preacher is a poor kind, however, who shortens or lengthens his sermon, or makes any change in it at the behest of any man. The sensible, true hearted preacher is a better judge than anybody else can be of what he should preach, and how long or how short the sermon should be.

Zionism, the movement of the Jews looking towards the repossession of Palestine, is said to be gaining. The idea is to buy or lease the Holy Land, and establish there a new Jewish State. Among wealthy Jews who are comfortably situated where they now are, especially those in England and those in America, the idea does not find much favor. But in Europe, where the conditions of Jewish life are so different, and in Russia especially, where conditions are so intolerable, the movement has awakened greater enthusiasm. Another Congress of Zionists is to be held this Summer, which will, it is thought, show that the movement has extraordinary strength.

The Archbishop of Canterbury was asked whether he would accord permission for communicants, whose conscientious scruples forbid them to partake of fermented wine to receive the bread merely. He replied that the bishops had considered the matter, and could not sanction the use of bread only, but would not object to the dilution of the wine to any extent thought necessary. The Archbishop goes much farther than some clergymen of his church, who believe that the use of any other than intoxicating wine in the communion invalidates the sacrament. He needs to go only a step farther than dilution, and substitute unfermented wine which will save the "table of the Lord" from being a menace to the weak.

Much is heard of the extreme poverty of the working classes in Belgium. There can be no doubt that the drink habits of the people are largely, if not wholly, responsible for the wretched condition. Some drink traffic statistics recently issued are quite startling. The places for the sale of alcoholic drink have increased during the last six years from 130,000 to 197,996. This is one for every thirty-three of the population, or for every eight adult males. The annual consumption of alcohol costs $80,000,000. Over thirty thousand Belgians die every year from intemperance. There has recently been formed amongst the workmen of Belgium a "Socialistic League against Alcohol," the members of which are pledged to drink no spirituous liquors and to be moderate in the use of fermented liquors. This is a movement in the right direction. Of course, they will later see that they must also abstain from malt liquors.

Family Religion.

The religious spirit in the family is the main thing. If there is not a genuine religious spirit the worship, if there be any at all, is formal, dull and almost as bad as none. Who has not known of homes in which the worship is only a formal observance of a daily routine, often so hurriedly done as to be a positive injury rather than a benefit. Nothing can be drearier than this sort of devotion. The unhappy man who conducts it dreads it. The patient mother endures it. The children shirk it if they can. It is not strange if, in such cases, human nature succumbs, and the "worship" is given up as a burden too heavy to bear.

The important thing is to get into the spirit of worship. This implies a reverent mind and grateful remembrance of God as the Creator and the father of all mercies; a living faith in Christ as Redeemer; a recognition of the divine providence in all things; and the conscious communion of the soul with God. An experience like this makes a religious atmosphere in the home, in the light and warmth of which heavenly thought, feelings and desires burst into life, and blossom forth into devotional expression as naturally as a rosebud blossoms under June sunshine. Family prayer and praise spring out of such conditions by the law of cause and effect. The duty of family worship will not be so much thought of as the blessed privilege of it.

The form of the household worship is sometimes a trouble. Christian common sense and a fair degree of moral courage will overcome whatever difficulties may be in the way. In some cases it is hardly possible, perhaps, to get the household together more than once a day; in such cases once a day may suffice. In one home the more convenient time is the morning; in another the evening is the more suitable time. In families that can sing, it is well to have the praises of God sung. A lesson from the Word of God will, of course, be read. But the selections should be judiciously made; and the lessons should not be so long as to weary the least interested. We have heard of a good, but not very wise, brother who read the whole of the twenty-sixth chapter of Matthew at late bed time. He, doubtless, meant well, but it was a mistake. It is such inconsiderate things that make the children regard family worship as a dreary exercise. A few verses understandingly read, will better serve to concentrate the devotions of a family than longer lessons. And in praying, it is well to avoid unnecessary length, stereotyped phrases, and vain repetitions. We are not heard for much speaking. A few warm sentences, natural and sincere, the utterances of a heart that is turned with desire and faith towards God, will be acceptable to the blessed father and bring answers of peace to each kneeling worshipper.

If God is worshipped in the home, simply and sincerely, the blessing of His presence will abide there, and the power of His grace will be manifest in the lives of parents and children.—M.

Sir Adolphe Chapleau, ex-Governor of Quebec, is seriously ill in Montreal.

Notes on Current Events.

The newspaper men who were imprisoned in a Cuban prison, on the suspicion of being spies, and who were recently exchanged, say that their Spanish captors treated them well; indeed they were shown attention that prisoners could not expect.

* *

A resolution asking the Methodist General Conference to make a rule prohibiting Methodist ministers from becoming candidates for seats in Parliament, was voted down by a large majority in the Montreal Conference. One reason, probably, why the negative vote was so large was that it was thought it might be understood to be a censure of Dr. Dewart who was a candidate in the last Ontario general election.

* *

President Kruger of the Transvaal appears to get more obstinate with advancing years. Ex. Chief Justice Kotze, whom Kruger dismissed from office because he would not, in violation of law and his oath, do the President's bidding, says, "Kruger is absolute. There is no other such autocrat in the world. So long as he lives there is no hope of material reform." Mr. Kotze is now in England, and has been stating the situation to Mr. Chamberlin.

* *

The Montreal Methodist Conference, in session last week, adopted a resolution concerning the "Order of Precedence" in state functions in Canada. The Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England are always given first places. Our Methodist brethren do not like this, and desire the removal of the order. The resolution requests the General Conference of the Methodist Church to memorialize the Secretary of State for the Colonies praying for the abolition of the present order. It is proposed, also, to ask the co operation of the Presbyterian General Assembly and the chief courts of other denominations in the movement to abolish "a procedure which is offensive in its unjust discrimination and is utterly opposed to the constitutional relations of Church and State in this Dominion."

* *

The official Bank examiner for the state of Maine has just issued his semi-annual statement, which is certainly a very satisfactory one. It shows that the Savings Banks of the state contain $63, 697, 827, a gain of $800,000 in the last six months. Trust companies and other institutions to which the people entrust their savings have about $10,000,000, and show an increase of nearly a half million for the half year. How is all this for a prohibition state. No other state in the union, population considered, can make a statement equal to Maine's.

* *

It is suggested that Mrs. Gladstone be made a Countess, and that another member of the family be made Viscount of Hawarden. It is not at all likely that Mrs. Gladstone will accept any title. One of the strongest and most admirable features of Mr. Gladstone's character was his refusal to accept a title. And his honoured widow will, doubtless, end her days as Mrs. Gladstone—than which she could bear no prouder title.

* *

The following is the letter said to have been written by Sir Wilfrid Laurier to Cardinal Rampolo, Secretary of state of the Roman court, and about which questions have been asked in the Senate and Commons without eliciting definite answers:

OTTAWA, 30th October, 1897.

Eminence—I made known to you, in the month of August last, when your eminence did me the honor to grant me an audience, the happy result which the mission of Monseigneur Merry del Val had accomplished among the Catholics of Canada, and the profound expression which his high Christian virtues and his talents as a statesman—I say statesman, and the impression is not too strong—had created in all classes of our population.

Having now returned to my country for several months, I wish to make known to your eminence that, if these happy results are to remain permanent and efficacious, it is desirable, if not necessary, that the mission of Monseigneur Merry del Val should be renewed, or rather continued, and that he should be present in the midst of us for a more or less prolonged time as the accredited representative of the Holy See.

I have established, since my return, that there is among a certain class of Catholics an underhand agitation against the work accomplished by Monseigneur Merry del Val, a work of pacification, concord and union.

The same reason of state which inspired his holiness in the affairs of France, and which caused him to prescribe to the Catholics of this country the duty of abandoning the old strifes of the past and to accept the state of things agreed upon, has quite as much force in Canada as in France.

Such is the opinion of a great number of the Catholics among us. I admit that it is not the unanimous opinion; this very divergence of opinion only renders more necessary among us the presence of a man at once firm and conciliatory like Monseigneur Merry del Val, and of one who above all would understand all the danger there is of exasperating the men who are sincere, convinced, and who wish to be faithful to their duty as Catholics, while remaining faithful to what they believe to be their duties as citizens.

May I be permitted to ask your eminence to be good enough to lay these considerations before his holiness, while assuring him at the same time of my profound respect and of my filial attachment.

Accept, eminence, the expression of the high consideration with which I remain, etc., etc.

* *

The churches are seeking to provide for the religious needs of the United States Army in the field. Mr. Moody is organizing a "Cuban Evangelistic Movement." He proposes to send with the Army a number of good evangelists and singers.

* *

Winnipeg papers state that the Dominion Government has given a block of six acres in the heart of that city for a site for the Manitoba University buildings; and, besides, has granted to the University one hundred and fifty thousand acres of valuable land. The Provincial Government has advanced $60,000 towards the erection of a building. Why should the Dominion Government make grants to such an institution?

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Lord Wolseley is mentioned as a probable successor of Lord Aberdeen, as the next Governor General of Canada.

* *

Great Britain has gained additional advantages in China. A London despatch of the 10th, inst, tells of the signing of the Anglo-Chinese arrangement which gives Great Britain an extension of the boundaries of Hong Kong, including Kan Tung, of altogether 200 square miles, under a lease, to which the greatest importance is attached, as the territory thus is regarded as being essential for the protection of Hong Kong. The lease comprises the island of Lanato, to the westward of Hong Kong and the mainland behind Kan Tung, south and east of a line drawn from Mirs Bay to Deep Bay. While the Chinese retain the northern shores of these bays, the lease covers their waters subject to the right of the Chinese to use them for their own ships.

When questioned in the House of Commons as to whether Russia contemplated sending troops to the Yang Tse Kiang valley, the parliamentary secretary for the Foreign Office made a statement to the effect that such a proceeding without the consent of China would be an act of war and the government would take the requisite steps to protect British interests. Obviously this is intended as a warning to Russia not to interfere in the Yang Tse Kiang valley.

Look out for the Littles.

BY REV. T. L. CUYLER, D. D.

Our Master puts His measurement of what we esteem little things in His familiar parable of the mustard seed. That tiniest of all seeds was the prophecy of a tree large enough to invite the birds to come and sing in its branches. Never despise the day of small things; the Holy Spirit does not do it, for He often uses the humblest means to effect results that reach out into eternity. Many of the best Christian lives have had their origin in a single text of Scripture, or a single sentence spoken, or a single letter written, or the reading of a brief tract. One sentence seems to have brought Peter and John to quit their nets and to follow the Christ. One sentence converted the jailor of Philippi.

As yonder Hudson is the outcome of a little spring up on an Adirondack mountain side, so a vast many rich and bountiful lives can be traced back to the influence of a few words spoken "in season." Lord Teignmouth, the President of the British and Foreign Bible Society used to say that he got his first impulse to a life of Christian philanthropy from the two words "Be useful," which were impressed on him in his youth. Certainly the wonderful career of Spurgeon grew out of that simple exhortation, "Look to Jesus Christ and be saved," which an humble Methodist preacher fairly hammered into him on a certain stormy Sunday morning in an obscure Chapel in Colchester.

The soul winning Christians are those who know how to drop mustard-seeds when the opportunity offers. I often cite Harlan Page as a master-workman in that line; for he had a fixed rule never to be with any one for a few minutes without saying something to do that person good. Probably many seeds of truth which he scattered came to nothing; but many others took root and sprouted. He came early to church one evening, and found a stranger sitting there waiting for the service. He politely spoke to him and in a few frank, kind words urged the stranger to accept the Saviour. That brief talk was the means of the man's conversion; he said that "Christians had always kept him at arm's length," before. Such statements ought to make us all ashamed of ourselves that we lose thousands of opportunities to reach and move those who may be in the very mood to be influenced. In my own very inadequate ministry I have found that single conversations, or single written letters have been owned of the Holy Spirit to the conversion of souls; nay I have known one sentence to do more than many a whole sermon. Lose no opportunity; never despise the day of small things! Revivals in churches often start with a single man or woman; the first one that gladdened my early ministry clearly began from the faithful talk of a young girl to the son of one of my church-elders. One live coal can kindle a great flame; a spark will suffice when blown upon by the Holy Spirit.

There is another side to this important matter. As the usefulness of a Christian grows out of many small deeds well done, and timely words well spoken, so the influence of a multitude of professors of religion is terribly poisoned by what are regarded as little sins. A false measurement is put on that word sin. It does not mean only huge offences like drunkenness or profanity, theft, adultery, perjury, or manslaughter; it means anything that violates conscience, mars the beauty of character, or weakens spiritual influence. The foxes that nibble the grape vines may be small animals, but the damage is great. The word in the Bible which is translated "sin," signifies to miss your mark or miss your aim. If you fail to hit the mark of absolute right, a miss is as good as a mile. And then, what if you miss heaven?

We cannot remember too often those pungent words of Dr. Alexander Maclaren that "The worst and most fatal sins may be the small continuous vices which root underground, and honeycomb the soul. Many a man who thinks himself a Christian is in more danger from the daily commission—for example—of small pieces of sharp practice in his business than ever David was at his worst. White ants pick a carcass clean sooner than a lion will." Alas! what great sinners we may be in small things! Little irritations of heart and speech, little meannesses in dealings, little tricks and insincerities, little jealousies and spites, little neglects of kind acts that we ought to do—all these are the little foxes that make wretched havoc with the vines. Instead, therefore, of trying to whitewash faults by calling them "weaknesses" and "infirmities," we ought to label them by their true name, of vices and sins. Everything that is not right is wrong; and a Christian's sins are doubly mischievous.

If I write thus plainly to fellow-Christians, let me say to the unconverted that no wilful sin is a trifle. If you are lost, my friend, it is not likely that one huge crime like that of Judas, or Pilate or Herod will sink you to perdition. It will be the total aggregate of thousands of offences against God's holy law, and God's wondrous love. All sin works death. In a certain English park a naturalist saw a small worm boring into the bark of a stately sycamore tree. "If that worm is let alone,' said he, "it will kill that tree." The experiment was tried. The next year the leaves turned yellow, and the year after, the tree was a skeleton. Now if one sin is so dangerous, what must a life time of violating God's commandments, and rejecting Christ's love be? Stop short, and take one step towards Jesus! It may seem a small step, but if it be an honest step towards Him, He will help you to the next one, and you are on the straight road heavenward. In aiming to follow Jesus, despise not the day of small things.

Philanthropy In Japan.

One of the most noticeable features in the development of Christian work in Japan is manifest in the philanthropic movements. Two institutions, the Independent says, are specially worthy of note, the leper hospital at Kumamoto and the orphanage at Okayama. The former was established under the influence of Miss H. Riddell, an English lady connected with the Church Missionary Society. After years of opposition, disappointment and delay she succeeded about two years ago in establishing a hospital and home as one step toward the relief and salvation of the 200,000 lepers in the Empire. The buildings are convenient; medical attention of a superior grade is given, and the instruction is of excellent quality. Mrs. Bird Bishop said of it that it was the only leper hospital she had ever seen in which she heard the happy laugh and saw happy faces.

The Orphanage, last Fall, passed through a very severe trial, its three hundred inmates being exposed to an epidemic, which resulted in the death of six of the younger children and the temporary demoralization of some of the industries. The Orphanage, however, has come out of this in the best of form. Industries are again under full swing, and the trial has had the effect of deepening the spiritual teaching. The value of the orphanage is manifest in the fact that the Japanese of that region, which is one of the poorest in the whole Empire, have contributed a considerable sum toward its support. Mr. Ishii and his associates are strong in the faith that their work is one needed by the country, and are giving themselves to it with single hearted devotion.

War Notes.

Since last week's war notes, the United States fleet bombarded and seriously damaged the fortifications at Santiago. Spanish reports differ from the American reports, but there is no doubt that the latter are substantially correct.

In Cuba the insurgents are reported to have defeated the Spaniards in a recent engagement. In the Phillipines the insurgents are flushed with success. Manila is at their mercy.

United States troops have been landed on Cuba soil. A despatch from the Association Press Boat, Saturday afternoon says: 'The American flag is flying on shore and in the harbour of Guantanamo, where a battalion of marines landed on Friday." A Sunday despatch says—"The battalion of marines which landed Friday has engaged in beating off an attack by Spanish soldiers since Saturday afternoon. The fighting was almost continuous for thirteen hours."

No details of the fight had reached Washington on Monday.

Mission News and Notes.

—A Foreign Missionary Society, composed of German Baptists, has been organized in Berlin. A field of labor is to be selected in one of the German African colonies.

—The Christian Alliance has 8 missionaries in Palestine, 60 in India, 30 in the Congo, 7 in the Soudan, 130 in China, 5 in Japan, and 26 in South America.

—The Jungle Tribes Mission in India in connection with the Irish Presbyterian church is, after seven or eight years of outwardly fruitless toil, rejoicing in the first baptism of a heathen Bheel.

—The Foreign Missionary Boards of the various denominations who have mission stations in Japan are meeting with some difficulty with the recent law passed by that government forbidding foreigners from holding real estate.

—In 1850 a man could be bought in the Fiji Islands for $7.00, butchered and eaten without public remonstrance. To day nine-tenths of the people are found in the church on Sunday.

—The Religious Tract Society of England issued during its 99 h year nearly 60,000,000 books and other publications. The combined trade and missionary income was $666,135. The centenary fund of $250,000 is approaching completion, $170.000 having been raised. The number of languages and dialects in which the Society has publications is 220.

—Koolsoombai, a Hindu from Sutarchawl, India, recently said: 'I often wish to come to the mission bungalow to hear more about Jesus. My people are annoyed and say, 'You will get converted by these women.' but I answer them, 'If I am, it will be my own free will.' I read the gospels in Urdu.' The plague and troublesome times occasioned this from the same lips: 'Jesus' coming must be very near, for many of the things you read have come to pass.' Surely His Spirit blesses the work of the missionaries!

—The United Presbyterian Church is doing a grand work in India. Rev. Samuel Martin, D. D., says of it: "The Mission in India comprises eleven stations, fifteen organized congregations, composed of natives, and 500 villages in which more or less work is being carried on. In these there is a membership of 6,728. There are nine native ordained ministers, thirteen native licentiates and theological students, and 249 native laborers, making a total of native workers of 296. These are in addition to the force of American missionaries who labor in the same territory."