

TERMS AND NOTICES

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Let yours be one of the renewals that shall reach us within a week. Send it by next mail.

Religious Intelligencer.

Rev. JOSEPH McLEOD, D. D., Editor.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 9TH, 1898.

The great majority of those whose subscriptions expired at the end of 1897 have not yet been heard from.

Their renewals now will do us great good. Please attend to yours this week.

We do not enjoy having to glean news of denominational matters from secular papers, but some of our brethren make it necessary for us to do it occasionally.

Men are made by work-hard work. Prof. Drummond says "a man has no character except what is built up through the medium of the things which he does from day to day."

The four hundredth anniversary of the burning of Savonarola as a heretic will be celebrated in Florence, Italy, in May next. The strangest thing in connection with it will be a religious service in his honour by the Roman Catholic clergy.

A layman who has carefully observed church life, is quoted as saying: "I do not see how a man can keep in touch with his denomination or understand its work, or how he can be intelligent as to the questions and movements of the religious world today, without an attentive reading of at least one good religious weekly."

Rev. E. N. Fernald, for several years the publisher of the *Morning Star*, (Free Baptist), died on the 15th ult. In another column is a sketch of his life and a tribute to his worth by Prof. Hayes, of Cobb Divinity School. Bro. Fernald attended a session of the New Brunswick Conference, a few years ago, in company with the late Dr. J. L. Phillips. He was known to a number of our brethren in both Provinces.

Says Dr. Joseph Parker: Here is the broad distinction between Christianity and every other religion. Other religions are seeking God; the Christian religion is seeking man. Do not listen to people who are making Christ's religion one of a thousand others. The religion of Jesus will not sit down with other religions and say, Fellow religions, let us confer. Christianity never confers; it rules. My Lord did not bring in a conference; he brought in a kingdom.

One of the encouraging signs in the temperance reform is the growing opposition of the Roman Catholic church to the liquor traffic. The Catholic total abstinence societies of Chicago have just taken action which will strike a severe blow at one class of drink shops. The resolution they passed calls upon the friends of temperance to refuse to patronize groceries where liquor is sold. The Catholic Abstinence societies are steadily increasing in numbers and influence.

Another Church federation is likely to take place. The Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Methodist Episcopal church, South, have been separate bodies for many years. The slavery question rent the Church more than fifty years ago. For many years there was a bitter feeling between the two bodies. In late years that has become less and less, until now there is a cordial fraternal feeling. The proposal for federation comes from the

Southern Church, the body which went off from the mother church. A joint commission was appointed more than a year ago, which commission has agreed upon a basis to be submitted to the two Conferences.

The thing proposed is not organic union, but federation, under which the bodies would have, (1) a common catechism, hymn-book and order of public worship; (2) ecclesiastical recognition and regulation of the present biennial international conferences of the Epworth League; (3) a joint administration of publishing interests in China and Japan; (4) a law that new work shall not be organized in places where the other Church is well established, without the consent of the bishop of that Church having jurisdiction; (5) co-operation in making more efficient and satisfactory the higher institutions of learning.

If the proposed plan is adopted it will be a step towards organic union, which is the desirable thing for bodies which are essentially one.

Principal Grant's Inaccuracies.

Principal Grant has caused it to be made known through the newspapers that he will not consider any more challenges to debate the prohibition question. This is not because he has become convinced that his anti-prohibition position is wrong, but because, as he says, "he thinks he has done his duty as a citizen by ventilating his views in the press and giving two nights to a public debate of the issues."

As intimated in a previous reference to Dr. Grant's position on this question, we have no disposition to question his motives; and we have no right now to doubt that he thinks he has done his duty in raising his voice in warning against the great evils which he believes would result from the delegatization of the liquor traffic. But we have a right to object to the inaccuracies of which he was guilty in presenting his case against prohibition.

Dr. Grant is regarded a clever debater. We expected him to make as strong a case as could be made for anti prohibition, and to argue skillfully and effectively. But we did not expect him, either from carelessness or for any reason, to make statements so grossly inaccurate as some which he made. People who do not investigate for themselves—many of them because they have not the facilities easily at hand, may accept Dr. Grant's statements as sent abroad through the newspapers, and be misled by them. We are not charging Dr. Grant with wilful misstatements, but, really, we have to wonder how he came to make some of the statements which occur in the reports of his addresses. We will point out some of them.

Kansas is a prohibition state. The friends of prohibition refer to it as proving the effectiveness of prohibition, and showing that benefits result from the outlawry of the liquor traffic. In the Kingston debate I was, of course, mentioned. Dr. Grant undertook to say that prohibition is a failure in Kansas. He is reported as saying: "Regarding Kansas, the Royal Commissioners found fifty eight (58) witnesses against six (6) that the act was not being enforced."

Now, as a matter of fact, sixty five witnesses were examined in Kansas. Of these fifty-five witnesses, eighteen expressed opposition to the Prohibitory law. Of eighteen, sixteen had always opposed it; two of them had voted for prohibition, but when they gave evidence were opposed to it. On the other hand, five witnesses who had opposed the adoption of prohibition had become favourable to it, having been led to change their views by the satisfactory working and the good effects of the prohibitory law.

There is abundant evidence that the prohibitory law has greatly decreased the quantity of liquors consumed in the State, that crime has lessened considerably, that business has been helped.

There is abundant evidence that in every part of the state except in the border towns, and perhaps a few places in the interior where the people have been strongly opposed to it, the prohibitory law has been efficiently enforced; and that even in the excepted places referred to are times when the prohibition is absolute, and that at all times the illicit traffic has been seriously hampered and reduced, with corresponding benefits to the communities. The effects of the degree of enforced prohibition which the state has had have been such as to commend the law to the favour of a large majority of thoughtful citizens, including not a few who were originally opposed to it.

Fredericton received Principal Grant's attention, and was made out to be a very bad place, with a crime record greater than that of any of the largest cities in Canada. Of course his object is to make it appear that this

is a city of much and increasing crime because the Scott Act is in force here. We are bound to assume that Dr. Grant believes what he says; and yet we are bound, also, to say that if he had examined carefully the documents from which he quotes he could not have made the statements which he does about this city. And, since it is evident that he had all the facts about the city at hand, there is no excuse for his making unfair, not to say dishonest, statements and comparisons.

Dr. Grant compared Berlin, Ont., and this city. Berlin is a license town. For the purposes of comparison he quotes from the Berlin evidence given before the Royal Commission. He is careful, however, to quote only that given by men in sympathy with the liquor traffic. He refers to the arrests in Berlin and in Fredericton, showing that there are more arrests in the latter, due, of course, to the Scott Act. He tells about the Berlin policeman "getting quite fat" because he has so little to do. The light police duty is attributed to the fact that there are ten licensed grog shops.

Now the record of arrests in this city was greater than in Berlin. But there is a reason, and it is stated in the very book from which Dr. Grant quotes. But it did not suit his purpose to mention it; if he had done so he could not have had his fling at the Scott Act.

Much depends on the system of arrests in vogue in a community. The Berlin policeman, the man who is "getting quite fat," gave evidence which Dr. Grant might have quoted. Here is some of it:

"When you see a man on the streets under the influence of liquor but going quietly towards home do you interfere with him?" To which he replied, "Not if he goes home quietly, but if he is not able to do so I take him and put him in the lock-up, and keep him till he gets sober and then let him go home. If he is disorderly I take him before the magistrate and fine him."

A man who is locked up, and then sobered off, and you let him go, does he appear in your report?"

No.

Are their names put down as having been arrested?"

No. They are merely taken off the streets.

Then he should have turned to the evidence given about arrests in Fredericton. He would have found, that Mr. Dow Vandine, for ten years the head of the police force of the city, being asked about arrests for drunkenness said—

"Every man seen staggering is arrested whether he is disorderly or not."

Under the license system two out of ten drunken men might be arrested, but now eight out of ten are arrested, we arrest every one of them whom we see."

He also said,—"There has been a steady decrease, during late years, of petty offences, thefts, disorderly conduct &c., and this he attributed to the enforcement of the Scott Act."

Mr. John L. Marsh, who has been Police Court Judge for a quarter of a century, corroborated the statement of Mr. Vandine about arrests, saying,—"They are made for less cause than before; we arrest three now where we would not arrest one before; if a man is staggering now he is arrested." Judge Marsh added: "There is much less drunkenness than formerly which he attributed to the great extent to the fact that liquor selling is illegal." The Scott Act, he said, has been a success to a large extent; its effects have been good."

If Dr. Grant had stated the facts about the two systems of dealing with drunkenness on the streets his hearers would have understood why the arrests in Fredericton were more than those in Berlin. But then he would not have been able to make a point in favour of licensed grog shops.

Dr. Grant in his attempt to show that prohibition under the Scott Act is "farical," made large use of an incident in the history of the law's enforcement in this city—an incident which has been greatly exaggerated by the liquor traffic people for their own purposes, but which has never, so far as we know, been more unworthily used than by Dr. Grant. The incident was the imprisonment of some of the hotel keepers of the city for violation of the Scott Act. This is what Dr. Grant said of it:

Even in Fredericton where they once tried imprisonment, the consequences were so farical that it has never been resorted to since. The hotelkeepers there were sentenced to sixty days imprisonment. They promptly rented rooms from the gaoler in the gaol residence, furnished these with cigars, liquors, a telephone, and all the luxuries of civilization, and closed their hotels so that the farmers and others could get no accommodation."

During the sixty days a thousand to two thousand visitors waited on them to pay their respects, duly recording their name on the visitors' book. On Sundays the coadjutor Bishop and other clergy ministered to them, and their friends sat up with them on weeknights to such late hours that the gaoler at last handed over the keys to them, so that they might get out their guests when they liked,

and then lock the gates and retire to sleep the sleep of the just. At the end of the sixty days a great crowd of sympathizers, comprising ecclesiastics, officials, and other respectable persons, met them at the gates of the gaol with a brass band, etc., and escorted them back to their hotels, with all the honor that could be paid to martyrs in the sacred cause of personal liberty."

In the foregoing these things are true. (1) three hotel keepers were imprisoned; (2) they were visited in jail by a considerable number of people, (3) they probably had to eat and drink whatever their friends brought them—as is the case with all prisoners.

It is not true (1) that the gaoler gave them the keys, (2) that they were escorted home by a crowd of sympathizers comprising ecclesiastics, officials and other respectable persons, (3) that they were treated as martyrs in the sacred cause of personal liberty.

It may also be remarked that outside their own special circle there was no agitation in Fredericton over their imprisonment. The prevailing feeling was that persistent offenders were getting some of the punishment they deserved. The people who called on them were such as had always been in sympathy with them and their business. Having sympathized with them when behind their hotel bars, it was natural that they should express their sympathy with them when behind another kind of bars. There were, probably, not a dozen men who voted for the Scott Act who called on the imprisoned men. The friends of the Scott Act were not misled nor disturbed by the attempted demonstration in favour of the rum-sellers, for the promoters of it were the men whom the temperance people had always had against them.

If Dr. Grant had desired to know the opinion of Fredericton's best citizens about the Scott Act he could have found it in the book before him. Indeed, he must have seen what they said; but he seems to have thought it fair debating to ignore them and to magnify the story told by the men of the traffic for their own bad purposes. Nothing the men of the traffic do is a surprise; but for Dr. Grant to follow their example, and even out do them is a most grievous thing.

If Dr. Grant had desired to set forth the facts, instead of saying something against the Scott Act, he would have told his audience that some of Fredericton's best citizens declared, on oath, that—

"The Act has been beneficial to Fredericton."

"There is not one-fourth the liquor sold in Fredericton there was twenty years ago."

"It does decrease the drinking habits of the people, and the sale of intoxicating liquors, by at least two thirds."

"There is not anything like the drunkenness now there was previous to the passage of the Act."

Much similar testimony was given, testimony that should impress a man in Dr. Grant's position, and that if not convincing him, should, at least, cause him to hesitate to utter such sweeping and unwarranted condemnation of a system of which he has no personal knowledge.

Dr. Grant's attempt to make it appear that crime flourishes under the Scott Act and is diminished under the license deserves a word or two.

Mr. George Johnson is the Dominion Statistician. He has no interest in the Scott Act; at least, he is not anxious to make it appear to advantage. He was asked to prepare for the Royal Commission statistics of crime in those parts of the Dominion in which prohibitory laws were in operation; and, also, to prepare similar information relating to places not under prohibitory laws. He made a very elaborate statement. He finds in New Brunswick the conditions which make a comparison most accurate. And this is what he discovers:

In the years 1882-91, inclusive, there were in the counties in New Brunswick under the Canada Temperance Act 8,738 convictions for offences of every kind, the population of these counties being 196,422. In the other counties, under license, there were 14,102 convictions, the population of those counties being 124,841. Or, put in another way, 61 per cent of the population of this Province, being under the Canada Temperance Act, had 38½ per cent of the criminal convictions of the Province; and 39 per cent of the population, being under license, had 61½ per cent of the criminal convictions.

This is quite a striking statement, and we commend it to Dr. Grant and all others who are deluding themselves with the belief that the Scott Act is the great crime producer, and that the only salvation of the country from utter ruin, financial and moral, is to reject every form and degree of prohibition of the liquor traffic.

FOR THE KLONDIKE.—The Methodist Mission Board has appointed Rev. Jas. Turner, of Nelson, B. C., as missionary to the Klondike.

Notes on Current Events.

The cash receipts of the Grant Lucas debate in Kingston, Ont., were, exclusive of expenses, \$285.60. The amount was divided between a Protestant and a Roman Catholic Benevolent Society, the former getting \$185.60, and the latter \$100.

The Chignecto Ship Railway Co., has failed to secure an extension of time to finish the work and so earn the Government subsidy of \$150,000 a year for twenty-five years. A representative of the English directors of the Company has urged the matter upon the Canadian Government, but the Government has decided not to give any further extension. The undertaking is, therefore, practically dead.

The Legislation Committee of the Dominion Alliance for the promotion of prohibition meets in Ottawa on Tuesday of this week. The committee will determine the course to be pursued in Parliament by the prohibitionists the present session. There will, also, perhaps, be a conference with the Government about the Plebiscite Bill.

An unusual thing has occurred, Gen. Booth, of the Salvation Army, is to visit St. Louis, Mo., on the 18th, inst. The Roman Catholic Archbishop of St. Louis has intimated his willingness to serve as a vice-president of the meeting of welcome which is to be given the head of the Army. In a letter to the officer in charge of the welcome arrangements he says,—"I take this occasion to wish a godspeed to the efforts of your Army in relieving and uplifting the fallen and distressed of our common humanity."

The convicts of the State of Georgia are to be sold at auction. A lease system has been in vogue for a number of years. Under the leadership of the Governor of the state a strong feeling was aroused against the system. When the Legislature met it was supposed there would be legislation making an end forever of the traffic in human beings. But the cost of providing a Penitentiary was held up as very great, and the members turned to the auction plan.

President McKinley has not been in office quite a year, and yet he has already pardoned thirteen bank officers who were in prison. It is not surprising that it should cause remark. Poor fellows who, pressed by necessity, yielded to temptation and were found guilty of petty thefts, must languish in prison; but the large criminals, infinitely more guilty than the others, manage to get "a pull" on the authorities, and are pardoned.

The judgment of the Supreme Court of this Province in several *Moncton Scott Act* cases has made the law breaking rum-sellers of that town very uncomfortable. The jurisdiction of the convicting magistrates was questioned on the ground that he was a ratepayer of the town into whose treasury the fines collected under the act are payable. The judgment of the court is that the magistrate was not disqualified and the convictions in all the fourteen cases therefore stand. Nearly \$2000 in fines were standing against the men whose convictions are confirmed by this judgment. They must pay up or go to jail.

The great snow storm of last week was the heaviest for many years. It was of great extent also, making itself felt as far west as Wisconsin. Railroads in this Province were seriously blocked for a few days. Along the Atlantic coast there was considerable damage to coasting vessels, and some loss of life.

Fishing For Souls.

BY REV. THEODORE L. CUYLER, D. D.

Jesus Christ commissions his servants to be "fishers of men." As ministers and Christian people are now commencing another year's labors a good motto for them is in Christ's command to Peter on the shore of Galilee—"Launch out into the deep!" Peter's reply to his Master was that they had been toiling all night and had caught no fish: "nevertheless, Lord," he says, "at thy word I will let down the net." He was despondent, but not despairing. The command of his Lord is enough to rally his faith. To the eye of faith many things are clear that to the eye of sense are exceedingly dark. Faith sets the bow of Peter's little smack towards the deep water; the fish are there, and not in the shoal water near the shore. So out into the deep they pull; down goes the net, and lo! such a multitude of fishes are enclosed that two boats are required to bring the abundant haul to land.

Here is a lesson for pastor, Sunday-school teachers, parents, and all who long for the salvation of souls. Perhaps last year was not a year of success.

Failure in any good undertaking is a calamity; it often breaks the back of a weak Christian's courage. Failure ought to provoke a true Christian to fresh ardor, and new attempts to retrieve the losses of the past. Spiritual failures commonly have a good reason for them; for God does not work blindly with his people. A scanty crop of spiritual results is apt to mean poor ploughing, stingy sowing, and careless cultivation. No crop at all may mean indolence or unbelief, or both combined. Failure has a reason for it; and it ought to stir every honest heart to the solemn inquiry—whose fault was it? God does not break his promises; his injunction is—be not weary in your good work, for in due season ye shall reap, if ye faint not.

At the beginning of a new year's work the first duty of faith is to make a new venture. Christ's command is to "launch out," and make the effort. I would not make too much of a word which originally had only a local and temporary intention; but that word "deep" has a great spiritual significance. There must be a deep down faith in our hearts, and a deep insatiable desire for the salvation of the souls with whom we labor. God grants to a fervent desire what he denies to a faint and feeble desire. "I will not let thee go unless thou bless me"; that is the temper of a Christian who is in dead earnest for a revival in his church, or for the conversion of the friend he or she is laboring with. Shallow interest, shallow feeling, shallow praying, catch no fish for the Master.

The minister who longs to convert souls must lay hold of the deep truths of God, and strive to penetrate the depths of the hearts before him. Down in the bottom of the unconverted heart is the lurking depravity, the besetting sin, or the unbelief that keeps the sinner from Christ; and the truth must go deep to reach the roots. It must uproot the sin to make conversion thorough. My brother, you will need strong doctrine to do this. Phillips Brooks well said that "no exhortation to a good life that does not put behind it some truth as deep as eternity can seize and hold the conscience." Preach all the doctrine your Bible gives you, and in love to the sinner's soul.

Fishing for souls is a personal work. It is not confined to the pulpit; every man or woman who possesses faith and an ardent love of Jesus should engage in it. It is not a "professional" business, restricted to a few, and to be done in a set fashion. Nor is it to be accomplished only by a whole church employing a huge net to bring in a multitude of converts at a single draught. Sometimes a powerful and general revival does this. But commonly conversions follow individual effort with individual hearts. A pastor often accomplishes as much by an hour of close friendly conversation as by an hour of public preaching. The Sunday-school teacher can reach his or her scholars most effectually by a private visit, and a faithful talk with each member of the class. Personal work does the business; each fisher must drop his own hook, baited with love. No one is scolded to Christ, yet an unconverted person will hear a tremendously searching talk if it is conducted in a frank, tender spirit and unmistakably prompted by affection. The real aim must be persuasion, that is, to persuade the sinner to let go his sin and to lay hold of Jesus. He is wise that winneth souls.

Pastors, teacher, and church members are too often reluctant to take hold of the "hard cases." Sometimes they are dismissed as past saving. The fish that bite readily are easily caught, but that inveterate Sabbath-breaker or that hard drinker, or that open scoffer are too often passed by as hopeless. That was not the fashion of Peter and his fellow-fishermen, nor should it be ours. The Almighty Spirit which subdued Saul of Tarsus will attend us, if, with strong faith, we grapple with the most chronic cases of open impenitence. Sometimes these "hopeless cases" yield the soonest, far sooner than some decorous church-goers who have become hardened under a thousand sermons, and through many seasons of revival, and when a conspicuously irreligious person is converted, the effect upon the community is all the more powerful. One thing is certain, and that is that those Christians who, in their daily conduct, live nearest to Christ, will win the most converts to him. Let us launch out into the deep, good friends, this year, and let us remember that the secret of success on Galilee was that Jesus was on board of the vessel.

JOURNALISTIC.—The *Christian Advocate*, New York, is a really great paper. At the beginning of the year it appeared in a new form—the size of its pages smaller, and the number increased. It is the leading Methodist paper in the United States. Its editor, Dr. J. M. Buckley, is a master journalist.