

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13TH, 1889.

Spain has ninety four thousand and priests. The monks number 68,000, the nuns 32,000. The monks are understood to have great political influence, which they exercise to the grave detriment of the country. The Jesuits are, apparently, omnipotent in the counsels of Spain, which is sufficient to account for that unhappy country's present low condition, and its still darker outlook.

The acknowledgements made, through the press, by Mrs. Gladstone and family of the great number of messages received from every part of the world, speak of the respect and sympathy expressed by multitudes in "Great Britain, the United States and foreign countries." The expression is suggestive of the growing feeling that Great Britain and the United States are not foreign to each other, but stand as one people in relation to the foreign world.

Bates' College (Free Baptist) Lewiston, Me. has conferred the honorary degree of D. D. on Rev. G. A. Hartley, of Carleton, St. John. This recognition of bro. Hartley came at a particularly happy time—just as he had completed his fortieth year as pastor of the Carleton church, which event is being celebrated by his congregation this week. We congratulate Dr. Hartley on the completion of a pastorate of extraordinary length and, also, on the fitting recognition of his worth and work in the bestowment of the doctorate. His many friends will extend hearty felicitations, and wish him many more years in which to serve in the Lord's work.

A statistical work recently published in Florence bears sad testimony to the slow progress of Italy in education and morals. There are thirteen illiterates in every one hundred of the population even in Piedmont, which is one of the most advanced districts. Elsewhere there are as many as 41 or 73. After more than thirty years of national government and a free press there are still parts of the country in which 90 per cent. of the women who get married cannot write their names in the register. A still more distressing fact is the appalling number of illegitimate births. In two districts, which were both included in the states of the Church before the dissolution of the temporal power, more than 200 children in every 1,000 are born out of wedlock. For the whole of Italy the proportion is 65, for Lombardy only 26.53. The lowest state of morals, therefore, is found in the regions which were long under the direct control of the Vatican. The Papal rule has come to an end, but not, it would seem, the social corruption generated beneath its shadow.

The Black Knight, Rev. J. H. Hector, whose lectures in these Provinces, two or three years ago, will be remembered by many, is now in England on a lecturing tour. Recently he subjected himself to considerable censure for refusing to take subscription for a colored school in North Carolina from a "wine and spirit merchant" (rumrunner we would call him here) who was, also, the Superintendent of a Wesleyan Sabbath School. He, also, made so hot for a brewer that he ceased attending the Methodist church, which he had presented with a grand organ, and went to an Episcopal church. The enraged brewer will probably feel more at home in the Episcopal church, which was the gift of another brewer. We are glad to hear that Mr. Hector is making a straight fight against the awful traffic, which has such a grip even on the Church that it often commands silence where there

ought to be the voice of sternest condemnation. To "cry aloud, spare not" is the duty of every true servant of God.

Bishop Hartzell, who in succession to Bishop Taylor, has charge of the missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Africa, is now in America. He tells of being called upon by a Baptist minister, who asked many questions about christian work in Africa—how it was progressing, what was needed &c. &c. He had with him a map of Africa, and showed remarkable familiarity with the dark continent and its later history. After they had talked a while, the bishop, impressed by his great interest in everything pertaining to christian work in Africa, asked him,—"Have you friends there? or, have you thought of becoming a missionary? or, what? Quick as a flash, says the bishop, came this stirring and significant reply:

"No! But I am interested in what the Almighty is doing in the world, and I am trying to keep track of his amazing providences and providential openings in the Dark Continent."

If all ministers had like intelligence and interest what a mighty impetus would be given to God's work among the heathen.

Maine's Prohibitory Law.

"In Maine prohibition was an utter and absolute failure, and they were asking the people of this country to adopt similar legislation."

The foregoing is from the newspaper report of the speech of Mr. L. W. Johnston, in the General Assembly—a speech from which, last week, we quoted the references to the Scott Act, and commented on them.

It is no unusual thing to hear or read that the Maine law is a failure, though it is not always said that the failure is "utter and absolute." Those who are connected with the liquor traffic are, of course, anxious to have believed that "prohibition does not prohibit." Those who think the liquor traffic a right traffic find it easy to believe that prohibitory laws are no good. And some who have no sympathy with the traffic accept, without investigation, the statement so persistently made by the opponents of prohibition. The gentleman whom we have quoted does not belong to the first class. In which, if either, of the other two classes he would place himself we do not venture to say, though we are sure he would resent any intimation being charged that he would either accept or make statements without having satisfied himself of their correctness.

We are not intending to put our mere opinion against his. We prefer to deal with ascertained facts.

The people of Maine may fairly be regarded the best judges of the prohibitory law and its effects. They have on several occasions declared their judgment of the law, their approval of it being with increased emphasis on each succeeding occasion. Enacted first in 1851, the law was repealed in 1856. After another short experience of license, the prohibitory law was re-enacted and then ratified by a vote of the electorate, the majority being 22,952. It came into operation in 1858. For several years there was more or less agitation for its repeal, one of the chief political parties favoring repeal. But several years ago repeal ceased to be a part of the avowed policy of that party, it having become apparent that legal prohibition of the liquor traffic was the fixed policy of the State, regardless of what either of the great political parties might desire. After having had a statutory prohibition from 1858 to 1884, the people were asked, in 1884, to vote on the question of making prohibition constitutional. The vote polled on this question was the largest ever given in the state on a constitutional amendment, and the majority in favor of constitutional prohibition was 47,075. In the 1895 session of the State Legislature a Bill to provide for the resubmission of the question of constitutional prohibition to the people was introduced. The friends and advocates of a license system used all their influence in favour of the bill, but it was defeated by a vote of 114 to 13.

These facts show that the people who know most about the law, who are thoroughly acquainted with its merits and its defects, have become satisfied, from long experience, that the most satisfactory way to deal with the liquor traffic is to legally prohibit it.

The Canadian Royal Commission on the liquor traffic made an examination in Maine. They visited the chief centres of population, and heard much testimony. The preponderance of evidence heard was strongly in favour of the prohibitory law.

Of eighty-eight witnesses heard in the State, 66 declared themselves in favour of the law, and 22 expressed opinions more or less unfavourable to prohibition. Nineteen of the twenty-two said they had never regarded the

law with favour, and had always voted against it when opportunity offered. The other three expressed opposition to prohibition to the extent that they favoured a system of rigid license for large cities, with a local option proviso. But nearly every one of the twenty-two opponents of prohibition stated that it had done good in the state at large, and not one favoured the repeal of the law as applied to the whole state.

One of the marked effects of the law is the changed status of the liquor traffic in the State. The outlawry of the traffic has so degraded it that no one with any pretensions to respectability no one who is not willing to take the risk of being sent to jail, will have anything to do with it. Those engaged in illicit liquor selling are of the class found everywhere, whose instincts, associations and habits are criminal, and who, wherever they are, are as ready to violate laws as good citizens are to observe them. "The liquor traffic," says an ex-Governor of the State, "which once flouted itself in the public gaze, has been driven into dark corners. Popular sentiment and constitutional law are alike arrayed against it."

Mr. Johnston, the report of his speech says,—

"Made comparisons of the city of Bangor, Me., under prohibition, and St. John N. B., under license, showing that, although the latter is much the smaller city, the street arrests were almost twice as great."

We presume the reporter mixed what Mr. Johnston said, as he, evidently, did not intend to make the comparison of the cities witness in favour of prohibition, but against it. It is a favourite method of the opponents of prohibition to make it appear that it increases drunkenness and disorders, and that license diminishes these things.

In dealing with criminal statistics it has been found that those relating to the higher crimes are more trustworthy. Most communities are in substantial agreement that felonies should be punished by long terms of imprisonment. It is easy to ascertain the number of convicts in a state, a province or a whole country. The reports of States' Prisons and Penitentiaries may, therefore, be taken as indicating, with a good degree of accuracy, the actual prevalence of serious crime, and may, generally, be safely used for purposes of comparison.

Maine's convict record is so low that, compared with the like record in any other state, it is a strong witness to the benefits of prohibition.

Police statistics, for purposes of comparison, are often almost valueless, because of the difference in police administration and in keeping court records. Comparing the police records of any city in Maine with those of St. John, or any other license city, is a comparison of records that are very different. Men are arrested for drunkenness in Maine who would scarcely be noticed in cities where the liquor traffic is licensed. The police there are instructed to arrest every man who shows signs of intoxication. In license cities drunken men are not arrested unless helpless and likely to be injured, or creating disturbance. Even in such cases, if they have friends they are, generally, permitted to take them home. Only a few weeks ago the Police Magistrate of St. John spoke to the policemen and cautioned them against arresting every drunken man they saw.

Bangor, whose police records were cited in the General Assembly has the undeniable distinction of being the place in Maine where the prohibitory law is most violated. And it is worthy of note that the effects of the lax enforcement of the law are manifest in that the ratio of drunkenness and offences and crimes of all kinds is larger in Bangor than in any other part of the state. And yet, if its system of arrests and police administration generally were similar to that of St. John and other license cities it would, doubtless, be shown clearly enough that even where prohibition is poorly enforced it produces better effects than are possible under a license system.

That enforcement of the prohibitory law is more or less difficult in some places is not denied. But the same is true of all other laws for the prevention and punishment of wrong doing. It is declared by those who know, including those highest in authority, and not denied by any, that in three fourths of the state the prohibitory law is as well enforced as any other law, and that the effects are most beneficial. It is, also, clear, that in the few places where there are difficulties of enforcement, the same causes make other laws difficult of enforcement: and that there are not more infractions of the prohibitory law than of other laws. And it may be added that there is no license law in existence the restrictive features of which are nearly so well observed as is the poorest prohibitory law known.

Pay Your Pastor.

Pay your pastor, and pay him regularly and promptly. The "Religious Telescope," dealing with this subject, says some things that many churches and church members need to think about: The custom in vogue on many circuits of waiting till the end of the year to pay the pastor is a bad one. It cannot be too much condemned. It is wrong in custom and worse in theory. It impoverishes and embarrasses the pastor, often destroying the very best of his powers, and it inculcates a spirit of thriftlessness and happy-go-easy methods in church work that would paralyze a Jonah or a Paul. Too frequently, indeed, such sacrifices are compelled to be made on account of the lack of funds, is to cripple the pastor's effectiveness in the pulpit, and sometimes to occasion actual suffering in his family. And it should be remembered that when sacrifices are to be made it is in the family where the keenest pinching is felt.

There are some charges where the church finances are run on business principles, a different result is happiness to both pastor and people. If this worldly wisdom was applied in all our church affairs how much more successful he would be. A preacher must pay his bills promptly or his credit will suffer worse than would the credit of a business man. Is it right for the membership, by withholding the salary, to virtually compel the pastor to loan them the deficiency without interest? The conference year ends the relation of pastor and people, and this is sometimes taken advantage of to cancel the unpaid obligation. There is scarcely one pastor in a hundred who can afford to be thus robbed of what is justly due him. In a large part of our Church the year is now in its last quarter. Two or three months remain until conference meets. A good plan is to pay the salary monthly, as almost all might do if they only thought so and tried. Diligence here would obviate the necessity of the herculean efforts at the last. But better late than never. Where the salary is now in arrears the stewards should bestir themselves and put forth extra efforts at once to secure what is yet due in full. Don't wait until the last day, when some little accident of change in the weather may ruin your efforts and leave the pastor in the lurch. Be active, be in earnest. Gather the money and pay the preacher.

Notes on Current Events.

The British flag received such recognition in the Fourth of July celebrations in many parts of the United States, as never before in that country.

Besides the horrors of the drought in West Victoria, there have been an earthquake, a tornado of such violence as to uproot trees, destroy iron tanks, and blow horses about like logs.

The recent German elections have so strengthened the Centrists that they are understood to have formulated a list of demands of the government for the coming session of the Reichstag, among the demands being the recall of the Jesuits. If such demands are pressed there will be trouble.

It has, it appears, been the custom to have the Halifax Post Office open for an hour every Sunday. The Postmaster has recently decided to keep the Office closed on Sundays, and has given public notice to that effect. The best part of the community will, certainly, thank the Postmaster for this contribution to the proper observance of the Lord's day.

A missionary in Mexico, writing of the feeling of the people about the Spanish American war, says that while all the Governments south of the Rio Grande have taken a position of neutrality, the sympathies of the people are really with Spain. One of the chief reasons for their sympathy with Spain is that they are Roman Catholics; and their priests tell them that the cause of Spain is the cause of the Holy Church.

The Mayor of Halifax was applied to recently by two Mormons for permission to preach on the streets. The Mayor questioned them about their belief in the plurality of wives. Their reply was that they were not just now preaching about that. The Mayor, very properly, intimated to them that he did not think that public morality called for their work, and declined to give them the permission they sought. "N't just now" to say anything about polygamy is their policy nearly everywhere.

The Senate of the United States receded from its position of opposition to the appropriation for the commission to adjust certain unsettled matters between that country and Canada. It is intimated by some United States papers that the Alaska Commercial

Company was really at the bottom of the Senate's opposition to the appropriation. Interested in the seal fisheries, the Company thought to secure through the Senate some advantage—for instance the surrender, unconditionally, by Canada of the right of pelagic sealing—as the condition of consent to the appropriation.

It has been proposed to take a census of the whole world in time to make the result known in 1901, the first year of the new century. All statements about the world's population have been, largely, estimates, for the people in large sections of the world have never yet been counted. It is to be hoped that such a census as is mentioned will be taken, and though it may be impossible to make an accurate count everywhere, the result will be practically reliable.

The Premier of Newfoundland, Sir James Winter, and Receiver General Morine, delegates from that colony to London, are understood to feel hopeful that their representations to the British Government will result favourably to Newfoundland. It is stated that Mr. Chamberlain, the Colonial Secretary, concedes the right of Newfoundland to insist upon a revision of French claims on the west coast of the island, and upon enforcing a strict observance by the French of their treaty agreements. Mr. Chamberlain also agrees that Newfoundland is entitled to membership in the commission appointed to adjust the differences between the United States and Canada. The British Government will insist upon the presence of a British consul at St. Pierre.

A huge lottery scheme has received the endorsement of the German Emperor. The proceeds, which it is expected will be more than a million dollars a year, are to be expended in the colonizing schemes of the German Government. The comment of the "Montreal Witness" is very much to the point: "The first thing it makes very plain is that the German colonies are a failure, and that the German people have to be taxed to keep them up. The German colonies, different from the British, are carried on as national monopolies, the whole benefit of whose trade is to go to Germany alone, but it turns out that, far from benefiting Germany, they are a burden to her well-taxed people. In the second place, it proves that the Emperor despairs of getting the money needed for his forward policy out of the wise men of his empire, and feels that he must resort to the fools. It is a sad thing, however, when the ruler of a land deliberately sets to work to deprive his people that he may get money out of them. It is noticed all through nature, animal and vegetable, that parasites and disease germs settle down on decaying life, while healthy life resists them. A people that without resistance adopts and even welcomes a gambling scheme as part of its public machinery is putting itself out of the path of progress and inviting national decay."

A shocking accident occurred off Cape Sable Island on the morning of July the fourth. The French liner La Bourgoyne having on board 725 persons collided, during the early morning in a dense fog, with the British ship Cromartyshire. The French vessel sank shortly after she struck 500 hundred of those on board being drowned. The remainder of her passengers were taken on board the British ship. Among those saved there was but one woman out of three hundred women on the vessel. The survivors who were brought to Halifax say that many were lost in the struggle to get into the life boats, some of the more desperate using knives and oars to beat off those who tried to save themselves.

Last weeks rumour concerning the destruction of Cervera's fleet has proved true. The engagement occurred while the Spaniards were attempting to escape from Santiago harbour. All of the Spanish ships were either blown up or burned and Admiral Cervera himself with thirteen hundred others taken prisoners. Matters with the land force are unchanged. A truce has existed between the two armies for some days in order to allow Santiago to surrender as demanded. It appears the Gen. Toral, who is in command has agreed to surrender but not on terms acceptable to the American commander. Gen. Shafter telegraphed to Washington Sunday that the bombardment of the city had begun. Since the removal of the Spanish fleet it is unlikely that Santiago will hold out long against the assault of both the American army and navy.

Lieut. Hobson and his crew concerning the safety of whom there has been much speculation are now safe within the American lines, having been exchanged for some Spanish prisoners.

Plebiscite Campaign Notes.

The date of the Plebiscite is not yet announced. It has been set by some of the papers which have been giving probable dates; some saying it will be in August or September, others that it will be in October or November. All statements about it are simply conjecture.

The thing for prohibitionists to do is to be ready. The vote will be some time this year. Even if it be put off till the latest date named, the time for work is short enough.

In Ontario organization is about completed, and the canvass is proceeding with a good deal of earnestness.

There was a great Convention in Toronto last Wednesday. Twelve hundred delegates attended. It was resolved to raise a fund of, at least, \$5,000 to prosecute the campaign, holding meetings in every part of the Province and distributing literature freely. Among the resolutions passed were these:

That while considering all legislation restricting the liquor traffic of great importance your committee desires to again affirm its adherence to the total prohibition of the liquor traffic as the paramount legislation required by the Dominion of Canada, and urges upon the electors of Ontario, not only the necessity of polling a very large majority in favor of prohibition, but of bringing every possible legitimate pressure to bear upon our members of parliament to secure the enactment of such a prohibitory law.

That we strongly urge all friends of temperance to cast their votes and to see that their neighbors cast their votes in favor of prohibition in the coming plebiscite.

That in view of the vital and far-reaching issues involved in the prohibition plebiscite that it be a recommendation from this convention to the council of the Dominion Alliance that a manifesto be issued calling upon all religious denominations, irrespective of creed, all temperance and benevolent organizations, the political parties of our Dominion, and the loyal provinces, to unite in one grand decisive effort to convince the world that this country is ready for the total prohibition of the liquor traffic.

Quebec prohibitionists are bestirring themselves. Local organization is being effected, meetings are being held, and the work is fairly well begun. The friends of prohibition in that Province hope to make a better showing than is generally expected.

In this Province the work is slower than in the West. The wheels are beginning to move now though. York County holds a meeting for organization on Thursday of this week. Carleton, Charlotte and St. John Counties, and St. John city are getting ready. It is hoped that in every County there will be immediate organization for the work of canvassing. If prohibitionists expect to win they must bestir themselves without another day's delay.

We have not heard what is being done in Nova Scotia, but presume there is activity in the prohibition ranks all over the Province.

The enemy is, of course, busy. One day last week there was a meeting in Toronto of the chief distillers to discuss the Plebiscite, and to consider ways and means. They avoid, as far as possible, making public any of their doings, or even the fact that they meet. The "still hunt" is their plan of campaign. They have an abundance of money, and they are using it freely to circulate, in the quietest way, all sorts of "scare" statements about the increase of taxation, and the serious things generally which they allege will have to be endured by the people in the event of prohibition. To meet and defeat these men is the duty of good citizens.

It is announced from Ottawa that, the officials in the Secretary of State's Department are busy making preparations for the Plebiscite.

Mr. Buchanan, of Hamilton, Ont., the well known prohibitionist advocate, is making a tour of the Maritime Provinces in the interests of prohibition. He was in St. Stephen Saturday and Monday evenings last, and in Woodstock Tuesday and Wednesday evenings of this week. He is to be in this city on Thursday and Friday evenings of this week. Arrangements are being made for time in St. John and other places in the Province, and also in Nova Scotia. He is accompanied by two excellent singers, who add much to the interest of the evenings spent with Mr. Buchanan. Mr. B's reputation as a speaker and as a stalwart prohibitionist is such that friends of the cause everywhere will, certainly, give him an enthusiastic reception. We have no doubt that his addresses will give a needed stimulus to the prohibition movement, and help to set the people to work for a victory in the Plebiscite.

General.

Rev. B. has been returned the First, Washington, of forty-five

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