

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

Rev. JOSEPH McLEOD D. D., Editor.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19TH, 1899.

If your subscription to the INTELLIGENCER is due it will greatly oblige us if you can send it now.

It is no charity, said Gladstone for a man to leave in his will what he must leave anyhow.

The Canadian Presbyterian Church has just closed its financial year with all the departments of its general work practically free from debt. A few weeks ago it seemed that there would be a considerable deficit. An appeal was made for \$92,000; the amount received was slightly in excess of the amount asked for.

Protests against the government's refusal to respect the mandates of the people in the Prohibition Plebiscite continue to be made by churches and moral organizations in every part of the country. And there will be more of them. It is the duty of the people everywhere to let it be known in the clearest and strongest terms that they indignantly resent the treatment given them and the great moral principle for which they stand, and which won a signal victory at the polls.

Professing Christians need to keep in mind the fact that the world is getting its idea of Christianity from them, and judging Christ by them. The avowed opponents of Christ cannot thus hinder His kingdom, but, as the Telescope well says, "the atheistic lives lived and the atheistic business methods practiced by so many prominent members of the leading Christian churches" do hinder greatly. It is Christ crucified in the house of his pretended friends that hurts him and his cause.

The newest church is one founded on the vegetarian idea. It is in London. The members must be vegetarians, whatever else they are—either in belief or practice. The minister, of course, is a vegetarian, and, probably, makes the teaching of vegetarianism a speciality. Does some one suggest that vegetarianism is a small thing upon which to base a new sect? It is well to remember that quite as unimportant things make some existing divisions of the Church of Christ into denominations.

Protestantism is, evidently, making considerable progress in Rome. One evidence of this is that a leading paper devotes much space to Protestant work and the measures that have been taken to check it. The Methodists seem to be very obnoxious to the Vatican. They have as many as twenty institutions of various kinds, all of them spreading Protestant teaching. Besides the troublesome Methodists are the Baptists, the Waldensians, the Evangelical Italian Church and the Young Men's Christian Association. Anglicans are not alluded to, possibly because they are regarded as harmless. To counteract these Protestant efforts a special society has been established with the full approval of the Pope. It is called "Work of the Preservation of the Faith."

Last week we had a note on the end of the world in November next, as predicted by a German astronomer. We hope nobody has any unhappiness because of thoughts of a possible soon winding up of the earth's affairs. It isn't worth while. No man knows, nor can know. And nobody need care. The thing for each to do is to be faithful to day and everyday. We are strongly in agreement with Dr. Walckon, who says: "People talk about this world coming to an end. Coming to an end! It is coming to a begin-

ning. We have scarcely shaken the mud from us yet. The very best thing in this world to-day is but a barbarism. We are only at the introductory age. God has got uncounted years for this world. It is a delight to live. The world began with a paradise, and ends with one. It began with one in a corner, and ends with one which shall stretch from where the sun rises in the morning to where he ends on the rocky deep. It began with two tenants, and ends with countless millions.

A few men have read their own obituaries. Hon. John Sherman, ex-Secretary of State of the United States, is one of them. But he has had another experience, even stranger than hearing one's funeral sermon—he has had the opportunity of reading a message from himself when he was supposed to be in the spirit world. He was reported dead in the West Indies. The evening the report reached Washington a spiritualistic seance was being held. The managers thought it a good opportunity to make a strong point in favour of their claims. And so, among the messages received from the spirit world they had one from the spirit of Mr. Sherman. The excitement of the people present was great, for the handwriting of the ex-Secretary was recognized; the faithful were overjoyed, the doubting were established in the faith, and unbelievers were silenced; spiritualism had received a great lift, the leaders believed. But next morning it became known that Mr. Sherman had not died. He has since then been well enough to return to Washington. Of course the spiritualistic leaders have some explanation for their follovers—small explanation for some people. Though exposed a thousand times, the stupid fraud will continue to find dupes.

They Do Nothing.

Somebody has said that nine-tenths of all that is done in Christian work is done by one-tenth of the members of the church, and that the same proportions apply to contributions to religious purposes. Anyone who closely observes what is going on in the churches, the kind of life the members live, and what they do, will be compelled to say that the estimate is a pretty accurate one. What a pity it is that so many members of the church count for nothing in spiritual life and activities; they are never reckoned except in the statistical reports of membership. The church is sadly handicapped by such members. Failing to do their part, they make more difficult the undertakings of the smaller percentage of members, who, realizing that they are "created anew in Christ Jesus for good works," endeavor to faithfully serve their Lord and advance His Kingdom. What prodigious things would be done, and with what bounds the kingdom of Christ would advance if the host of do-nothings in the church should awake to an appreciation of what is involved in the profession they have made, and set themselves to serve with purpose of heart.

To change this deplorable condition of things is of the utmost importance. The rapid expansion of the kingdom of Christ necessitates the change. What will do it? We might say much about the necessity of teaching—plain, faithful teaching of the duties, as well as the privileges, of the Christian life. And this, certainly, is an imperative need. But the present, pressing need is a baptism of the Holy Spirit, such a baptism as will be like a flood.

Standing on the wharves one sees boats and vessels of all sizes lying in the mud. "All the king's horses and all the king's men" cannot tug them out to sea. There they lie, dead, as motionless as the mud itself. What can be done with them? There is no one who can devise a scheme for lifting them and bearing them out to the sea. There is just one thing can do it—the tide. When that comes in what a change! Each boat and ship walks the water like a thing of life. Oh for a flood of grace in all the churches. Then the indolent will be active, and the half-dead will be filled with energy. Those who now do nothing—who neither give their presence at prayer meetings, nor their money to support the church, nor do anything to spread the gospel abroad in the earth, would have new life and abound in every good word and work. For this let us all pray.

Many Christians who pride themselves on being "discreet" and "charitable" are really standing on one foot and waiting to see which way the tide goes (in church or state) before putting the other foot down. And then, whatever happens, they can say, with some pretence of truthfulness, "O, we knew all the time just how things were coming out!" The times need men who are not standing on one leg but have both feet firmly placed on a sure standing. "Four square to every wind that blows,"—Morning Star.

The Plebiscite Again.

Hon Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, is the only member of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Government who has been known as a prohibitionist. He has for a good many years taken a quite prominent part in Dominion Alliance meetings, and has been somewhat active in prohibition work in his own section of Quebec. He has been regarded as the special representative of the prohibitionists, in the government. When the Premier announced that it had been decided to disregard the will of the majority as expressed in the prohibition plebiscite, a good deal of sympathy was felt for Mr. Fisher. He was believed to have striven hard to induce his colleagues to adopt a different policy—a juster and wiser policy than they did adopt. It has been suggested that he would, probably, soon retire from the government. But all conjecture as to his position is at an end. He spoke on the subject in the Commons last Thursday, and declared himself fully in accord with the policy announced by his leader. The substance of what he said is in the Parliamentary report in another part of this paper. Like the Premier and some others, he applies to the vote on prohibition a rule not applied to any other vote. He seems to believe that every voter in the country who favours prohibition went to the polls in September last, and he concludes that all the rest—the non-voting as well as the negative voters—are against prohibition. This view is not worthy of Mr. Fisher. Many prohibitionists, especially in Quebec and Ontario, will feel much disappointed in the position Mr. Fisher has taken. They may not be disposed to say that he is less a prohibitionist than he has been, but they will greatly regret the mistaken position he has taken. But whatever position this or that politician, government or opposition, may take, the duty of prohibitionists is to push the battle—and just now to push it in Parliament, by bringing the most and strongest pressure possible to bear on members to give effect to the will of the people as expressed in the plebiscite. If prohibitionists weaken now their cause will suffer more than it can recover in a long time.

The sub-committee appointed by the Legislative committee of the Dominion Alliance, in view of the government's refusal to further consider the question, to determine upon a plan by which the prohibition question could be brought before Parliament, had a meeting on Wednesday. The members of the committee are Senator Vidal and Messrs Fint, McClure, Christie, McMillan, Moore and Ganong. After two or three hours discussion they found themselves unable to agree upon the form in which the matter should be introduced. Some contended that the people having declared at the polls in favour of prohibition, prohibition should be given; others suggested enlarged local option. They adjourned for a week. Perhaps when they meet again they may be nearer agreement. Have you written your member about this matter? If not, write him at once, saying how you feel about it, and telling him that you are more anxious to have him fairly and courageously represent your convictions on this great moral question, than you are about your tariff views.

Sudden Death.—Mr. Oliver Burden, of this city, died very suddenly on Thursday morning last. He was about his business the day before. During the night his wife noticed his breathing heavily and awakened him. When after day break she went to wake him he was dead. He had evidently died without a struggle. He had been aware for some time of a weakness of the heart. He was in his 70th year. He was well known in the city, and was elected Alderman last month. He was a deacon of the Free Baptist church, and was strongly attached to his church, and his pastor will miss him. Mrs. Burden, one daughter, and seven sons survive him.

Political News.—Mr. W. R. Reynolds, a defeated candidate in the recent Provincial elections, has been appointed to an office on the I. C. R. He is to have charge of the advertising department. His salary is \$1200 and travelling expenses.

Senator Wark, of Fredericton, went to Ottawa last week to take up his Parliamentary duties. He is 95 years old, probably the oldest legislator in the world.

The Manitoba Legislature adjourned last Thursday, to meet again June 15th. Premier Greenway stated the long adjournment is to permit agricultural members to attend to their seeding and to enable the government to proceed to Ottawa at once.

Notes On Current Events.

We mentioned last week an instance of the violent expression or anti-ritualistic feeling in England. We learn from English papers that there is a marked rowdy element among the supporters of Ritualism, which finds frequent expression. Mr. Kensit, the leader of the anti-ritualistic crusade, meets with rough treatment sometimes. A recent meeting addressed by him was nearly broken up. On leaving the Hall he was roughly hustled; a mob followed his cab to the station, and when he left the cab he was tossed about by the mob.

Judging from recent official statements, India is recovering from the worst effects of the famine and the plague. The financial statement for 1897-98 showed a deficit of £3,750,000; but for 1898-99 there is an estimated surplus of £3,000,000, and for 1899-1900 a surplus of £2,650,000. There is a marked improvement in the land revenue, and the railways are yielding more. All these are sure signs of improvement.

A Chicago paper makes the statement that "Standard Oil interest forced the resignation of the professor of sociology and political economy at Syracuse University, because the professor had used no mild terms in denouncing trusts." And this is not, by any means, the first case of a President or Professor in a United States College being compelled to give up his position because his teachings did not suit the men who control the great trusts in that country. It is not surprising that the question is asked, Are the rapidly multiplying trusts to destroy free speech, the freedom of the press, and dictate what may and what may not be taught in the schools of the country?

The Governor of Kentucky the other day pardoned a thirteen year old boy who had been sentenced to the Penitentiary. He said "the Penitentiary is a den of iniquity, and declared that he would pardon every child sent there. And he was right. The Penitentiary is no place for a boy, and no judge who will sentence a boy to a Penitentiary is fit for the place he occupies.

There has for some time been a movement looking to the union of the several temperance organizations in Ontario—the Templars, Sons of Temperance and I. O. G. Templars. The movement has progressed so far that each body is to appoint a committee and the committees are to confer and arrange a plan of amalgamation if possible. We wish all the temperance bodies in all the Provinces could be made one. Why not?

Drunkenness and the other evils of the drink habit and traffic have become so great in Russia that there is a movement to check them if possible. The St. Petersburg authorities have taken control of the drink traffic, closing 25,000 dram shops, and establishing in their place 5000 under civic control. It will be attempted in the newly established places to control the sale, both as to the kinds of liquors and the quantity sold.

Roman Catholics are accused of burning Protestant chapels in China, and torturing Protestants. The charge is said to have been made by an American Protestant missionary, who gives the name of at least one priest concerned, and tells of a reign of terror in some districts. It is to be hoped the report will turn out to be without foundation.

Another party of about one thousand of Doukhobors is to start for Canada this week. They are to sail on the S.S. Lake Superior, and will probably land at Quebec, about the middle of May.

The Czar is credited with being more humane than his heads of departments in the government of the country. The recent repeal of laws which prohibited Jews from engaging in any kind of business in Siberia is credited to the Czar. A Jewish banker of Warsaw is said to be highly regarded by him, and to have considerable influence with him.

Woman's Suffrage has not many friends in the New Brunswick Legislature—not nearly so many as was expected by the promoters of the movement. The small number voting for the resolution—seven in a House of over forty—was, probably, a surprise to everybody, even to those who are opposed to the enfranchisement of women. Of course the women who have the matter at heart, are feeling badly, but they will continue the agitation. And sometime—well, who can tell what may happen sometime.

A gentleman recently returned from the British West Indies says there is a feeling there in favour of annexation to Canada, and that it is a growing feeling.

Parliament.

MONDAY.—Mr. Patterson, Minister of Customs, continuing the debate on the address, dealt chiefly with tariff customs. He admitted that the general rate of duty had been increased before the preferential reduction had been made, and that there had been a large reduction on goods imported from the United States, and not from Great Britain, but claimed that on the whole schedule taken together the reduction on British goods was the greater. He contended that the reductions in the tariff to all countries saved the taxpayers two millions, and that the amount would be larger during the current year.

Mr. Bergeron followed. Regarding the tariff he reminded the Minister of Customs that the price of cotton and the price of oil was higher under the new tariff than it was under the old, and that importations from the United States were increasing, while that from Great Britain was stationary. One result of it all was that the United States had been given the strongest inducements to refuse reciprocity.

Referring to the Manitoba school question he pointed out that Mr. Laurier never spoke without trying to make capital out of it; but he knew that Mr. Laurier had made pledges to ecclesiastical personages, with the will to hold to his bargain. Regarding the franchise act he said its operations could be judged by the fact that Quebec was voting on the plebiscite and rolling up an additional majority against it for a week after the polling day.

Mr. Laurier interrupted to say that he had not been asked to investigate this election.

Mr. Bergeron declared that the Dominion Alliance at Montreal had announced its intention of starting an investigation, but Mr. Fisher begged them to let the government do it. The government had not done anything, but Mr. Bergeron guaranteed that if the government would open an honest investigation they would have documentary evidence within three days. Mr. De la Roche followed.

TUESDAY.—Mr. McDonald of P. E. I. resumed the debate yesterday afternoon, dwelling on the plebiscite. He assured the government that there was in the country a large body of serious people who would hold the government responsible for their duplicity. His own county had voted strongly in favor of prohibition, and the reply made to them by the government was to establish a private bonded liquor warehouse, a thing that had never existed there before. The warehouse license was given to a notorious violator of the Scott Act.

WEDNESDAY.—When the orders of the day were called Sir Charles Tupper rose to congratulate the premier on the Pacific cable policy announced.

Mr. Laurier said it was gratifying to him to receive this acknowledgment from the opposition leader, though he could have expected nothing else in view of the interest Sir Charles had always taken on the question.

Mr. McDougall of Cape Breton, resumed the debate on the address. He called upon Sir Wilfrid to say whether he had not been recently asked by friends of the Manitoba minority to fulfil his promise to give them relief, and if he had not paid a sum of money to get an extension of time. Mr. McDougall wanted to know where this money came from.

The debate was continued by Frost and McLellan.

THURSDAY.—The minister of agriculture, Mr. Fisher, was the first speaker on the address today. He denied that there was any disagreement between himself and his colleagues on the subject of prohibition. He thought the prohibitionists were trying to get the government in a hole. The purpose of the plebiscite was to give the electorate of Canada an opportunity of expressing their desire. How did the people act? In round figures about one third voted for prohibition, one third against it, and one third did not vote at all. The plebiscite did not clearly state what public opinion was. He took it for granted that every temperance man who could get to the poll voted for the plebiscite. They had their opportunity. He claimed that the Liberal party had received 34 per cent. of the registered vote at the last election, and therefore had a stronger mandate than the mandate for prohibition. He was now forced to a different conclusion. He thought the vote pointed to local option as the best solution. He hoped the prohibition question would be kept clear of party politics.

E. F. Clarke of Toronto, followed. After criticism of the tariff and financial issues, Mr. Clarke took up Mr. Fisher's defence of the government respecting prohibition. Mr. Clarke was a member of the royal commission on prohibition, and he defended the members of the board from the attack made on them. He said the commissioners had reported according to their best judgment. He accused the ministers of bringing in new conditions not mentioned or thought of when the plebiscite bill was before the house.

He called attention to the fact that Sir Oliver Mowat accepted the provincial plebiscite vote of Ontario as indicating the will of the people. It remained for this government to discover a new method of computing a vote. Taking up the Yukon question Mr. Clarke said that maladministration began with almost the first acts of the government in that country. The press of this country and the United States London and Paris teemed with statements from residents and visitors in the Yukon, calculated to bring discredit on the good name of this country. If these statements are true the criminals ought to be punished. If they can be shown to be unfounded he

would be delighted. The good name of the country would be established. Mr. Clarke moved, seconded by Hale, that the following words be added to the address:

"This house deems it expedient to inform its excellency that in view of the widespread charges of incompetency, misconduct, and corruption in the administration of public affairs connected with the Yukon, it is the duty of the government to appoint without delay an independent judicial commission to make a thorough investigation into that subject and report the result."

Mr. Bertram followed, expressing the opinion that the Yukon office appointed by Mr. Sifton was a class men, and that the attacks upon them were slanders. He moved amendment to the amendment that principal words of the amendment struck out, and it be declared that house observed with pleasure that government, on report of complaint had ordered William Ogilvie to be an investigation.

Mr. Bell, Pictou, hoped the charges were not true, there ought to be investigation, and the government should not use its majority to check off a judicial tribunal.

Rum Traffic Notes.

IT MUST GO.

The liquor traffic must go. Governments must not be allowed to stand the way. Right will beat party at the polls and in Parliament someday.

HIS PHOTOGRAPH.

New Zealand has a law in force compelling every intoxicated man have his photograph taken. The picture is then distributed among barkeepers and innkeepers and must refuse to sell him liquor.

MORE GOSPEL, LESS RUM.

The Archbishop of Canterbury received a letter from a Congolese who has learned to write. It runs: "Great and good Chief of the tribe Jesus Christ, greeting; the humble of your servant kisses the hem of your garments, and begs you to send his fellow servants more Gospel and less rum."

THE CHILDREN.

Temperance reformers in England have determined to make the present year notable by a vigorous attempt to obtain legislation against the sale of drink to children. To aid the movement, Lady Henry Somerset has addressed a circular letter to the branches of the British Women's Temperance Union, asking for help in dealing with the great drink evil which affects childhood.

IT LETS NONE ALONE.

How often we hear the remark that if we leave intoxicating liquors alone they will not harm us! There is never a greater mistake. Drink does not let us alone. As long as saloons exist every one is in danger, in one way or another, from their influence. One day a man was cutting through the thistles, remarking, "They are not on your lot." "No," replied the other, "they are not on my lot now, but if left, the seed will ripen, and the wind will blow it to my lot, and then I will have a crop of thistles." So with the cause of intemperance. So long as saloons exist there is danger of this thing entering our home, or of our loved ones in some way being injured by them. We are not to wait until our own has been injured, but to do it times all that we can to save it from falling, and to make the way safe for those who shall follow.

"GOOD" AND "BAD" Grog Shops.

Rev. Dr. Rainsford, of New York, thinks we can't drive out the bad saloons, and that "the only thing to do is to make them better; the way is to put good saloons in competition with the bad ones." That makes the saloon bad is the drink that is sold there, and it makes difference as to its effects upon a drinker whether it is sold in a dive or in a gilded palace. The New York Sun very well says: "If swallowed enough of it they would as tipsy in a saloon of Dr. Rainsford as in one of the sort now provided. Some of the worst examples of alcoholic excess occur in these private houses, places which are doubtably 'good' in the sense in which the term is used by Dr. Rainsford."

WHAT RUM DOES.

A woman went to a rum shop ragged and wretched, her thin body hanging to her body with the draggled with dirt; two children followed her, holding her ragged dress. She stood at the public-house door, and a man came out. She said, "Tell my John I want to see him." "Tell him I want to see him," came out. "What do you want?" "I want you to come home; we have no candle, we have no bit of bread, and the children are hungry because they are hungry." "Did he do?" "Shut his fist and the poor man creature a fearful in the mouth, and sent her staggering in the gutter; and, shaking his head in his pocket, went into the public house to "enjoy himself" again.