

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

Rev. JOSEPH McLEOD, D. D., EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY MAR. 7TH, 1900.

The Pope of Rome is now ninety-one years old, having celebrated his ninety-first birthday on the 2nd inst. A report from Rome says he still has a remarkable degree of vitality. His physician is credited with the statement that he may live to be a hundred.

An old minister, counselling a young one, gave him this wise advice, which we pass on to the young preachers of today: "Study to preach in such a manner that your hearers will not only understand you if they try, but also in such a way that they will not be able to misunderstand you if they try."

The readiness of the British colonies to send thousands of volunteers to share in the Empire's battles in South Africa is one of the most impressive things of all history. The Congregationalist, of Boston, speaks of it as the most wonderful political fact of our time. The unconquerable strength of the Empire, it suggests, lies in the underlying sense of all its citizens that it represents their collective idea of justice and righteousness, while it is the guardian of their highest interests.

A combined and determined attack is to be made upon the forces of immorality in London, so far as they can be publicly dealt with. For this purpose organization is being effected, under the direction of what is called the Council for the Promotion of Public Morality. The membership of the Council is widely representative; it has as Chairman the Bishop of London, and amongst its members a Roman Catholic bishop and ministers of all denominations. The principal aim is to cope with the organized temptations to immorality. It has undertaken a large work, but will doubtless do much good by arousing and organizing public opinion against the various forms of public evil.

The "Peculiar People," an English sect, have been peculiar chiefly for their opposition to any use whatever of medicines, or the employment of physicians, in sickness, depending entirely on the laying on of hands and anointing with oil. There has been a split in the body recently on the healing question. One party, known as "the common sense section," can see nothing contrary to Scripture in availing themselves of scientific help in sickness, though they still believe that health and strength may be secured by the laying on of hands, anointing &c. At a meeting of the Council governing the body these heretics were allowed to go their own way, and so they have set up as a distinct body, holding the faith-healing theory with qualifications. The two sections are about equal numerically.

The editor of the Canadian Baptist tells a bit of one kind of experience, all editors have more or less. He says:

"A brother in sending a communication wrote: 'Will you please put the accompanying communication in next number of the Baptist, without any curtailment or alteration, etc.'"

The editor's comment on the request is very pleasant and quite to the point, thus:

"Now this is not pretty. It means that the brother does not intend the editors to have any ordinary editorial rights over his communications. Now we are quite meek—perhaps; but any communications with accompanying notices that we must have the editorial chair when they appear, may possibly reach the waste-basket, unread. At least, we cannot print them."

least do not tempt us too often this way. If all correspondents insisted that their productions should be exempted from editing, we should have a paper which few would care to read." So say we all.

The testimony of christian men who, from living in the country, know the conditions that prevail in the Transvaal, is wholly in favour of Great Britain in the present war. A Swiss missionary, who long lived and labored in the Transvaal, says "it is at bottom a conflict between institutions of the Middle Ages and the modern spirit. Europe underwent this conflict a century ago. When in 1835 the breath of the modern spirit reached the South African colonies the Boers rather than allow themselves to be influenced by it or to have to fight against it, preferred to withdraw themselves into the vast open spaces of the north to create there institutions conformable to their conservative and reactionary ideas. In Europe a great revival was the result of the downfall of the ancient regime; the Boers not having experienced the shaking of the revolution have not had either the revival which was its consequence. Such an anachronism cannot survive in the nineteenth century, and the Boers are about to experience at the end of it the shock which other people had at its beginning. And they will either have to profit by the lesson and reform, or be annihilated as a community."

DECLINING MEMBERSHIP.

More than one denomination in the United States is face to face with the fact of either a lessened membership in its churches, or of an increase not at all proportioned to the forces it seems to have engaged in the work. The great Methodist Episcopal Church, with nearly three millions of communicants and a vast army of Sunday-school scholars, last year added less than seven thousand to its membership. In the same year it had a decline of over twenty-eight thousand in those avowed and accepted candidates known as probationers. These facts the chief organs of the body, the N. Y. Christian Advocate, well regards as "startling" and "ominous." What is true of religious bodies in the United States is true, in some degree at least, of denominations in this country. Probably if church statistics were more carefully kept and more accurately compiled there would be revealed a state of things far from desirable. The Advocate dealing with the matter, sweeps away the general suggestions of hobbyists who say if this or that thing had not been neglected the decline would not have occurred, and goes direct to what seems to be the root of the trouble. We reproduce some of the points made, as applicable to any and every branch of the church of God.

No reverent person can charge the decline to God the Father Almighty, to Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, or to the Holy Ghost, in whom the Church ceaselessly declares its belief. It must therefore lie at the doors of every church. The only remedy is concentration upon the conviction and conversion of those whom the churches can reach through the preaching of the word, meetings for prayer, praise and testimony, the Sabbath school, and direct and intense personal effort.

The reason there have not been so many conversions and accessions to the Church as heretofore is that many pastors and people have not wrought so intelligently and earnestly as they might have done. Whether from apathy, diversion of thought to other enterprises, or failure to preach the truth with force, or whether the truth has not been attended by the words, the words, and the spirit of those who mingle in all life's relations, since the effect of real concentration and genuine Christian testimony has not followed, the demonstration is complete that in a degree proportionate to the decline these things have not existed. Many indeed have been converted, but these are not as many as have died, withdrawn, been expelled, or have disappeared. Many churches have prospered, but more have languished.

The remedy is for each and every church to devote itself—not next year, but now—to earnest work. Those who have been blest should strive to add to the number of the saved; those who have been thus far inactive should arouse themselves. For when a denomination declines local churches are declining. And when this occurs their members are losing their first love or are bent to backsliding. In the most fruitful churches there may be some who are doing all that man can do to build up the waste places, but the majority are indifferent; hence the decay.

Debate about the origin of sin has never contributed to its removal. Discussion of the causes of financial straggling can help no situation so much as the people generally are ne-

glecting economy, frugality, industry, enterprise. These alone will usually effect a cure. Every minister should at once begin or reinforce aggressive movements to bring young men and maidens, old men and children into the kingdom of God. Every child of God should see and feel that nothing is or can be so important as to place the Church—that is, himself—in condition to co-operate. Especially in the Spring Conferences, where the largest decline is seen, is this necessary. There is not a day nor an hour to be lost. Let not the last year of a century of blessing be marked and marred in the history of the Church as pre-eminently the year of spiritual dearth.

PATRIOTIC FUNDS.

There are several Patriotic funds. That inaugurated by the Governor General and which is known as the Canadian Patriotic Fund, has received many and large contributions, and already amounts to nearly \$150,000. It is intended to make some provision for the wives and other dependents of Canadian soldiers who may be killed or wounded. The Red Cross Fund is to provide help for the sick and wounded in war. It is receiving considerable contributions. Then there is what is known as the New Brunswick Contingent Fund. When the first contingent was about departing at a meeting in St. John it was resolved to pay the New Brunswick members of the contingent fifty cents a day for six months, in addition to the regular soldier's pay. On the departure of the second contingent it was decided that the New Brunswick members of it should be put on the same footing as those of the first contingent. There is enough money on hand to carry out the undertaking with the first contingent, but not yet enough to do the same for the members of the second contingent. Contributions have been received from various parts of the Province, though there are yet sections not heard from. All the funds mentioned are worthy the support of the people. It would seem, though, that the first duty of New Brunswick people is to their own sons, and that the fund which has, at least, the first claim on their generosity is that which will enable those having the matter in charge to carry out their promise to the New Brunswick soldiers. After that, or in connection with it, contributions to the other funds are in order. Mr. J. R. Ruel, St. John, is the Treasurer of the New Brunswick Contingent Fund.

From reports in the papers, we learn that in some churches collections have been taken for one or another Patriotic fund. We do not get the impression, however, that in the churches generally throughout the Province this has been done, or any other method adopted of contributing. This is, certainly, a matter which may well engage the attention of every congregation; and we beg to suggest that pastor and church officers put in motion at the earliest time convenient some plan by which the people may express practically their sympathy with the sons of Canada who represent them at the front, and by the same act declare their loyalty to the great Empire of which we are all proud.

SPREADING.—The horrid plague is spreading in India, Japan and China, and the N. Y. Advocate says really threatens the world. The government of the countries affected, in the hope of annihilating the agencies by which the plague is said to be spread, have been buying up rats by wholesale at so much a head; but of the thousands examined, according to recent mail advices from China, not one rat's body contained germs of the plague.

GENTEEL TRAMPS IN OUR CHURCHES.

The famous author of "The Bonnie Briar-Bush" has discovered that the modern church is infested with "genteel tramps," and he is going to make them the subject of an article in the April Ladies' Home Journal. It may be said in advance that "Jan MacLaren's" tramps are not what we know in every day parlance as "hoboes," but seemingly most estimable persons who are attentive to their church duties, as they see them, but who are, nevertheless, a drawback to the advancement of the church. "The Genteel Tramps in Our Churches" gives the Scotch clergymen some exceptional opportunities for forcible and direct words to the church goers—words that would probably create much consternation in a congregation if uttered from the pulpit.

SUNDRIES.—There are thirty two miles of book shelves in the British Museum. . . . Many of the students at Russian universities are mendicants who solicit alms and wear cast off garments. . . . Welsh is spoken by 800,000 people. . . . Of Lord Roberts it can be said that he has never lost a battle yet. . . . More herrings are eaten than any other kind of fish. . . . One day of sickness will do more to convince a young man that his mother is his best friend than seventeen volumes of proverbs.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

Great Britain's Naval programme is on a large scale. The First Lord of the Admiralty, in introducing the naval estimates said the Admiralty is considering the organization of a naval reserve in conjunction with the colonies. The negotiations are well advanced, and it is expected to get a valuable contingent from Canada and Australia. It is, he said, proposed to spend eight and a half millions pounds in new ironclads this year. Other nations are largely increasing their naval forces, and Great Britain will keep her place as the great naval power.

Mr. Tarte is going to Paris next week. He is to be honorary Commissioner to the Paris Exhibition. The government proposes to vote \$50,000 for his use while away. He retains his portfolio as a member of the government, Mr. Sutherland to act for him while absent. Two French ladies sail for Paris on the same steamer, under appointment by the government as lady Commissioners at the Exhibition.

The Farmers' and Dairymen's Association held its annual meeting in this city last week, from Tuesday to Friday. There was a large attendance, representing nearly every part of the Province. Various subjects of interest to the farmers were discussed, and the session is pronounced one of the best ever held.

The bill introduced by Mr. Hazen, to abolish the office of Solicitor General, was adversely passed upon by the Law Committee of the Legislature, and will not, therefore, come before the House. Mr. Hazen has intimated that he will bring the matter up in another form.

The rebellion in the Philippines is really a revolt against the tyrannical authority and gross immoralities of the Roman priests who have long, under the Spanish flag, ruled the people with a rod of iron. The United States government could quickly have satisfied the insurgents by making an end of priest rule in the Islands. The fact that the following petition to President McKinley is being largely signed by prominent Filipinos in Manila shows what the real trouble is:

The Filipinos request that you will immediately decree that the friars and the archbishops shall be expelled from this country. The Filipinos hope to obtain prompt and quick justice from the American people and their President.

The only reason why this has not been done is, evidently, the influence of the Roman church in the United States in the politics of the country.

The introduction of reindeer into Alaska, which was proposed and carried out by Dr. Sheldon Jackson, and which was at the outset said to be a failure, has proven a fine success. The reindeer have flourished there, and there are now 3,500 belonging to the United States, which are leased to the natives in the vicinity of the mission stations. Their killing is prohibited, and will be till the herds number 10,000. After that it is thought the natives may be permitted, under certain restrictions, to use them as food. A recent report by a government official says the introduction of the animals was a most important and beneficent movement. They are the only animals that can flourish there. They furnish milk for the natives, are used to draw their sledges, and as soon as the herd becomes sufficiently numerous will furnish meat and fur.

By a law, which is to come into force next month, Japan forbids the use of tobacco, in any form, by minors. The prohibited persons found violating the law will be arrested, and the parents and those who sold tobacco to the young people are liable to a fine.

The "Chain letter" business is being much worked just now. People hesitate to refuse to respond to the appeals made in this way, because they are in behalf of endry patriotic funds, and against their better judgment many are helping circulate the letters. It is really better to put all such letters in the waste basket. It is less expensive, and far more satisfactory, to make contributions direct to the funds.

M. Menier, the Frenchman who owns the absolute ownership of Anticosti Island, and who has been attempting by every means to drive off the Island a few simple and honest Protestant fishermen, has won his case against them in the Quebec court of review. He had won the case in a lower court; appeal from the judgment was taken to the Superior Court, which has sustained the judgment, and the fishermen are to remain.

poor fellows who have incurred the ill-will must leave their homes. One of the Judges—the English speaking one, the other two being French—made some plain remarks following the judgment. He said that while their eviction is legal, it is an inhuman act. "We must," he added, "award the pound of flesh, even though blood must flow with it. But we may, and I feel ought to, direct public attention to the results of such a judgment. It is just such scenes as must necessarily accompany its execution, as, in countries less happily situated than ours, have caused murders and crimes of all kinds and have created anarchists and haters of the rich. My hope is that, by the justifiable charity of our government and the generous aid of these private individuals who have the means to do so, the hard fate of those poor settlers may be softened, that our country may be spared the pain and the shame and the evil of seeing them forcibly evicted and left to beg on our streets, and thus that our poor may not be tempted to say that society is organized for their oppression in the interest of the rich."

Sir Chas. Tupper read a telegram in Parliament on Thursday relating to the insurance he had effected on the soldiers of the first Canadian Contingent. It was from the London Directors of the Insurance Company, authorizing the Canadian Branch of the Company to pay the insurance at once. It said: "The directors authorize you to pay the sum insured in each fatal claim of the Canadian contingent, expressing at the same time their admiration of the loyal and gallant conduct of the Canadians. This prompt settlement will cover the twenty-eight deaths by \$28,000, leaving the wounded to be settled with according to the policy of insurance when the claims are received."

The number of deaths has since been increased, all of which will be at once paid as directed in the telegram.

The Montreal Witness said a few weeks ago,—

"It is useless to say that the French Canadian masses are not pro Boer. They cannot very easily think differently from their press, which is also generally pro-Boer and in some instances bitterly anti-British in sentiment."

It is this fact which accounts for much that is unpleasant which occurs in the Province of Quebec these days. The almost riotous occurrences in Montreal last week are due to the manifest lack of patriotism which prevails amongst certain classes of the people. Laval University (French) failed to fly a flag in celebration of the surrender of Cronje and the relief of Ladysmith. The McGill students, while celebrating the happy events, on Thursday, accompanied by several hundreds of citizens, visited Laval and requested that a flag be raised.

For answer they were deluged with water from several lines of hose from the windows of the College. They retaliated by breaking windows. The next day the Laval students paraded the streets. Finding a British flag floating over the office of La Patrie, they ordered it down and hoisted a French flag above it. At the Star office they tore down a big British flag, trampled on it and then carried it to a square and burned it. They tried to get into a drill shed to hoist a French flag over it, but the hose was turned on them and they had to leave. It was thought by some that they also wanted to get the rifles which are kept in the Drill Hall, and two hundred volunteers were quickly assembled to protect the place. It was stated that they intended to attack McGill University, but a thousand McGill students assembled, and the Lavalists kept away.

La Patrie, commenting on the incident, said "it will take but little more of this kind of word to rend federation asunder." "Well, let the people whom La Patrie represents remember that they are in a British country, and act accordingly. They have been acting like a lot of seditious ingrates."

POLITICAL NEWS.—The Governor of British Columbia dismissed the Semlin ministry on Tuesday last week. Immediately there after the House met, and passed a resolution condemning the action of the Governor. The Governor called on Mr. Joseph Martin to form a government. When the Governor came to prorogue the Legislature, all the members but Mr. Martin left the Chamber, and the crowd in the galleries hissed.

PERSONAL.—Hon. G. E. Foster has accepted an invitation to deliver the anniversary address at McMaster University, Toronto, at convocation.

Lieut. Neville, Vince, son of Col. D. McLeod Vince, has been offered a commission in the Imperial Army, and has accepted. He is awaiting further orders.

WAR NOTES.

These are the days when making. The events of the day have passed since last this page to its readers have been proclaimed trumpet tones all round the world. To the Empire's enemies, seen in the reverses of the scale of this war, the downfall of the news was a rude awakening. Illusive cup of hate was snatched from the lips of the jealous nations; it seemed to come to them at the brim.

The last INTELLIGENCER General Cronje's force surrounded a strong position in the bad Modder river. The defence there by the Boers was that of men, and gained for them the plause of a glorious foe.

Many attempts were made to Crorje, but the relieving party every case met disaster. G. Roberts steadily closed in on the enemy, more and more till his progress was hopeless. Yielding to the able Boer General's surrender occurring on the 27th, the nineteenth anniversary of the British disaster at Majuba Hill. What a touch of irony of fate, that this anniversary, the day celebrated about others as the day of national enthusiasm, should be the day within the great humiliation. Even knows the story of Majuba Hill. 554 British soldiers were engaged, but the sting of that disaster, and worse blunder that followed it, ranked in the British hearts for twenty years. Britain may be sometimes, but her very losses shows her strength, and, also, she does not forget. Sooner or she squares the account. The Bo people feel easier now that they avenged the haunting memory of sacrifice of the brave men who, in 1881, gave up their lives for a flag.

And our Canadian boys led last charge, which compelled the surrender. It is really the wonderful thing after twenty years waiting, there went over the years from the farm, from the lumber woods, from the shop and the and from the wide prairie, to a student's desk, a corps of Canadian whom General Lord Roberts gave honour to lead even the Highlanders in the last victory charge, and whose praises are being sung wherever the drum-beat of Britain is heard. What a demonstration of the imperial idea.

Amongst the killed and wounded were several of the Canadians, the New Brunswick Company suffering most severely. Corp. Withers, Pte. Johnston, of St. John, amongst the slain; Pte. Connel Sprague, Simpson, Pelkey, Donald Fradsham and Leavitt, of this Province, being amongst the wounded. Up to the present time the Canadian Regiment has had killed or wounded one-eighth of its number—killed, died of disease, 5, wounded 97.

Thursday morning word came that the night before, Lord Dundonald of General Buller's force, had entered Ladysmith with his flying squadron horse. The next day General Buller was pushing supplies into the town of General White and his gallant force, the Empire is proud. No one can imagine the frightful hardships that four months' investment, bombardment of shot and shell, was nothing to the fearful sanitary conditions and the disease entailed there. The only water to be had was full of the sewerage of the Boer camp. Yet through all the trying days the was in the heart of that beleaguered people an abiding confidence in the Empire that reaches out her hands, her own, even though it be to the ends of the earth. And Buller, the Empire's agent in the relief of Buller the abused, the criticized, the condemned. But in the face of almost impregnable Boer positions, he left others to catch the popular favor, in view his object, aimed to accomplish it with the least possible loss of life and succeeded. All honor to him and his brave men.

The rejoicing throughout the Empire over the achievements of the last week has been very great. In every part of Canada there was a magnificent outburst of gladness. The patriotic feeling found expression in manifold ways, and was shared in by all the people.

On Sunday in two of the St. John churches there were services in memory of the dead soldiers of that city, and in all the churches suitable references were made to them and to the important events of the week.

The despatch of General Roberts to the War Department announcing the surrender of Cronje, was as follows: "PAARDEBERG, Feb. 27, 7.45 a.m.—General Cronje and all of his force capitulated unconditionally at daybreak and is now a prisoner in my camp."

length of his force. I have government not satisfactory. the anniversary prisoners taken over 4000. indicated to the cable from the Majesty the Queen's message her admiration of her Canadian engagement and he so many brave Chamberlain's party congratulatory noble part taken of Roberts' achievement. Princess Louise's desire to express Canadian aid. Canadians' losses. lived among them. Smith was suffering. The soldiers on short rest—a half pound of with horse and much sickness, and deaths were being. But as "Thank God, others as the day of national enthusiasm, should be the day within the great humiliation. Even knows the story of Majuba Hill. 554 British soldiers were engaged, but the sting of that disaster, and worse blunder that followed it, ranked in the British hearts for twenty years. Britain may be sometimes, but her very losses shows her strength, and, also, she does not forget. Sooner or she squares the account. The Bo people feel easier now that they avenged the haunting memory of sacrifice of the brave men who, in 1881, gave up their lives for a flag.

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