

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9TH, 1900.

The world expects the Church of Christ to rebuke sin, without respect of persons. And when the church fails to do so, the world regards it with contempt.

It is not always—indeed, we might safely say, not often, recognized that it takes two to make an effective sermon—a good listener as well as a good preacher. "Take heed how ye hear."

A Roman Catholic tea plant-er in Assam, India, compliments the Baptist missionaries in his region by proposing to build a church for them. The reason he gives is that he finds that the converts of the mission make the best and most trustworthy laborers.

Two of the India Free Bapt-ist missionaries—Mrs. Burkholder and Miss Bachele—arrived in New York last week. They are reported in fairly good health. They are at home for needed rest, after many years of faithful work in their difficult field.

The absence of a single figure makes a great difference sometimes. It did in the mention of missionary receipts in our last issue. The omission of the little figure one diminished the contributions in 1898 by ten millions. Instead of \$9,126,120, read \$19,126,120.

The Methodist Episcopal Conference (quadrennial) is now in session in Chicago, having begun on Tuesday of last week. It will continue about a month. There are delegates from all countries in which the denomination carries on work. The annual conferences of the body had since the last meeting of the General Conference declared in favour of having the laity equally represented with the ministry, and one of the first acts of the Conference was to ratify this action.

A Roman Catholic priest in Pennsylvania has been censured by his bishop and suspended because of his open condemnation to a liquor making establishment carried on by some order of priests for the benefit of "the church." The priest was strong enough to be true to his convictions though brought into conflict with the ecclesiastical authorities. Protestant ministers have suffered for practically the same reason—for daring to oppose men connected with the liquor traffic, and who contributed something to the church.

Don Miraglia, the eloquent Sicilian priest, who, having renounced the Papacy, is working with great success as a Reformer in Italy, in a recent sermon at Geneva made the following striking strong and startling affirmation:

"There is to-day no religion in Italy. The fault is not with the Italians but with the priests."

He wrote recently in a friend's album, "Either the Vatican must perish, or Italy will perish." He is an ardent worker, and aims at rescuing the Italian people from the grip of the Papacy.

During a twenty years pas-torate, the pastor of the Calvary Baptist church in Washington has baptized twenty-four hundred persons—an average of one hundred and twenty a year. That is a good record, though many a man who has not received one tenth the number has worked as intelligently and as faithfully; he simply did not have the constituency from which to gather so many. But the most suggestive fact of the twenty years pastorate referred to is that

there were not in all that time any special revival services, nor any help from evangelist; the work was done in the regular services of the church. The health of the church was evidently good.

A writer in the New York Observer says that scores, even hundreds of pastors in New England are moved by an unwonted concern for themselves and their congregations. They are feeling deeply a sense of unspirituality and lack of power. He tells that on a recent Monday morning more than three hundred of them crowded into Park St. church, Boston, to attend a service in the interest of a better state of things. The most hearty 'amens' greeted assertions of the need of reprecaching with directness and power the deity of Christ, the necessity of the atonement, the sinfulness of men, the need of regeneration and the work of the Spirit. It seemed to be generally realized that nothing short of this kind of preaching could possess the power to awaken men from the spiritual lethargy which was seen in the growing dearth of spiritual results. That such an awakening should centre in Boston, where the tendencies are so strong toward New Theology and mere intellectualism, makes it all the more significant. As in the days of the Wesleys, so may it be to-day, that a wave of spiritual revival may give men such a realization of the truth of spiritual things as shall sweep away mental difficulties by the ever-living facts of heart experiences.

In the address of General Harrison, ex-President of the United States, on assuming the presidency of the Ecumenical Missionary Conference, he touched wisely and strongly a matter which demands the attention of christian people and the governments of christian countries. He said: "The men who, like Paul, have gone to heathen lands with the message, we 'seek not yours but you,' have been hindered by these who coming after, have reversed the message. Rum and other corrupting agencies come in with our boasted civilization, and the feeble races wither before the hot breath of the white man's vices. The great nations have combined to suppress the slave trade. Is it to much to ask that they shall combine to prevent the sale of spirits to men who, less than our children, have acquired the habits of self-restraint?"

Later there was a meeting to consider the subject, and suggestions were made which, it is hoped, may move Great Britain and the United States to combine for the suppression of the liquor traffic in the New Hebrides, the Philippines, in Central Africa, and in all semi-civilized regions.

Has France forgotten?

"The government which thinks it can get along without God, will soon find that God will get along without it," is a French paper's comment on the studied rejection of every thing religious from the opening ceremonies of the Paris Exposition. Referring to the fact, to which we make allusion in another column, the Christian Intelligencer asks,—"Is history to repeat itself in France? Have the people forgotten the days of Robespierre, and the reign of terror? The Government fell into the hands of atheists who sought to demonstrate that man needed neither God, nor Bible, nor Sabbath, nor Church, nor religion by destroying every vestige of Christianity, abolishing the Sabbath, altering the calendar and changing into warehouses the churches. The triumph of atheism seemed complete; but it resulted in a reign of terror. The God they denied withdrew, and left them to themselves, France was converted into a prison, and its inhabitants into criminals. Day by day the sword and the guillotine demanded fresh victims to satisfy the popular frenzy, until, in the brief space of ten years, three millions of Frenchmen perished by these means. France was literally baptized with the blood of her own inhabitants, and the people at last recoiled in horror and dismay from the infamous system. The experiment was complete. It was proved that where God is disowned, the bulwarks of virtue are destroyed, the checks of vice removed, and the most awful crimes perpetrated in the name of liberty. Since then only a century has elapsed, and well may France of to-day pause and pay heed to the warning voice of history."

HONORED.—Rev. C. H. Paisley, of Mount Allison University, Sackville, N. B., had conferred upon him last week, by Victoria University, Toronto, the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. We congratulate Dr. Paisley. He will modestly and worthily wear the deserved distinction.

A PRESENTATION.—On the eve of his departure to join his regiment in Dublin, Lieutenant Neville Vince was given a complimentary dinner by a number of his friends in Woodstock, and was presented with a sword.

SPIRITUAL DECLINE.

In the May number of the Homiletic Review, Dr. Gregory has a paper on "Some Causes of the Present Spiritual Crisis," which may well challenge the attention of all thoughtful christians. The recent appeal of the bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with which we dealt at the time, is the text of the paper. He shows that the symptoms of spiritual famine or decline enumerated in that appeal as existing in the Methodist Church are to be found in the various branches of the church of Christ.

The points he makes are such as should have the careful and prayerful consideration all who are concerned for the true life and the real prosperity of Zion, and we reproduce portions of some of them. It seems quite clear, he says, that there has been a wide departure, on the part of churches and ministers, from apostolic teachings, aims, and methods. This may easily account for the present failure and spiritual dearth. The essential teachings of the Word of God, that constitute the preacher's message to men, are summed up in sin and salvation. In the last analysis these are the only essential and fundamental factors in preaching, the life-and-death truths.

This graphic illustration of how these great essential truths are left out, and the condition resulting in given:

"Said a friend not long since: 'We had a peculiar experience in our church committee lately. A man who had long been an open and flagrant sinner was converted, and his life completely transformed. After a time he came before the committee for examination for membership. There was the humblest and fullest confession of sin, the deepest sense of his guilt and lost condition, the firmest laying hold of Christ and His atonement, and sincere and complete consecration to the service of his Lord. After he had gone out I said: 'Pastor and brethren, this is a peculiar experience. I have been a member of this committee for thirteen years, and this is the first sinner I have known to come before our body for admission to membership.' That was a very large and wealthy church, and it meant that it had probably been largely made up by the ingathering of the unregenerate. A little later the pastor of that church said: 'I have the kindest people in the world. They are rich and cultured, and always ready to increase my salary or send me away for a rest; but somehow I can't reach them with the great Scriptural teachings. I sometimes feel that I must go and preach to the people in the slums, so as to get some response to my preaching!'"

It naturally follows that the preacher and the church, once under such deleterious influences, direct their efforts at the classes rather than at the masses. Such churches become gatherings of the elect according to purse, culture and station.

And so there has manifestly been a wide departure from the apostolic methods of seeking and saving lost men. The Scriptural idea is that every man is a personal worker for lost men and a co-worker with Christ in His work of bringing men into His kingdom. Christ is intensely anxious, as Peter shows us, that those saved by His grace should be neither worthless nor fruitless in the knowledge of Himself. Churches are useful and successful as they approximate this ideal, or as all the membership hears and heeds Christ's command to the Church, "Go preach."

But how often has the Church become, in place of a soul-saving society consecrated to Christian service, a selfish drawing-room clique employing a preacher, trained professionally rather than sent of God, to do all its preaching, and holding him by the powerful bribe of a large salary to do his preaching exclusively for themselves and according to their notions!

Referring to the "bondage of the pulpit" to the pews, as one of the deadly evils of the day, preventing the preaching the plain gospel, he goes on to say that professionalism in the pulpit has come in like a desolating flood. The prospect of a good salary and position has undoubtedly turned the attention of many a one in that direction who has absolutely no qualifications for the sacred office. The increasingly worldly demand has been responded to by an increasingly worldly supply, until the secularizing tendency has become almost irresistible. And when the failure of the ministry to do the work belonging to it is fully demonstrated by the ceasing of the church to grow in membership, then the professional evangelist, with his superficial emotionalism and his abounding mechanism, is brought in to stimulate the process of ingathering.

In the end, lowered or leveled preaching of Gospel truth has led to

aims and methods on the same low plane, and it is not a matter of wonder that wise observers remark that at present we are at an extreme low tide of the half-century in spiritual things.

Against all the force of secularized religion it is hard—perhaps was never before so hard—for any one to "stand fast in the faith delivered once for all to the saints." Unless God interpose, who will be able to stand the test? Meanwhile the world for which Christ died is perishing. Surely it is high time for every Christian who has any interest in Christ's work of redemption to heed to the call to repentance and reformation.

CHRIST AND AGRIPPA.

Last week two or three of the New York dailies had a bit of "news" which made their sales reach large proportions—which, presumably, was what they chiefly desired. They printed special cables from London and Rome, which said that two letters, one from King Agrippa to Christ, and the other from Christ to the king in reply, had been discovered after having been lost for 1803 years. These "letters," it was announced, had been "discovered carved in stone over the gateway of the old palace of the kings of Ephesus, and that they were undoubtedly the letters referred to by Eusebius and other early writers, according to whom they were written in Syro-Chaldaic characters and originally discovered under a stone eighty-four miles from the city of Iconium in the year 97 and then lost."

Of course, somebody has to be quoted as certifying, or seeming to certify, the genuineness of the "letters," and so Prof. Murray of the British Museum is made to say that they are of great interest, &c. There are certain legends of some such correspondence as this "discovery" claims to reveal and establish, but that it actually occurred is not believed by anybody whose opinion is worth anything. The pretended "letters," especially the one which our Lord is said to have written, is so unlike anything that we have learned about Him in the inspired record of His life, are such an awkward jumble that sensible christians, not to say anything of the scholars who give special attention to such things, must instantly reject the poor and ignorant attempt.

Merely as a matter of curiosity we append the "alleged letters." That from Agrippa to Christ is made to read:

"I have heard of thee and the cures wrought by thee without herb or medicine, for it is reported that thou restorest sight to the blind and maketh the lame to walk, cleanse the leper, raisest the dead, chasest out devils and unclean spirits and health those that are tormented of diseases of a long continuance. Hearing all this of thee, I was fully persuaded that thou art the very God come down from heaven to do such miracles, or that thou art the Son of God and performest them. Wherefore I have sent thee a few lines entreating thee to come hither and cure my diseases; besides, hearing that the Jews murmur against thee and continue to do thee mischief, I invite thee to my city, which is but a little one, but is beautiful and sufficient to entertain us both."

Christ is made to reply to the foregoing thus:

"Blessed art thou for believing me, whom thou hast not seen, for it is written of me that they that have seen me shall not believe and they that have not seen me shall believe and be saved. But, concerning the matter thou hast written about, this is to acquaint thee that all things for which I was sent hither must be fulfilled and then I shall be taken up and returned to Him that sent me. But after my ascension I will send one of my disciples that shall cure thee of thy distemper and give life to all them that are with thee."

No wonder Dr. Joseph Parker, referring to these alleged manuscripts, declared it impossible to believe that Christ had ever written "such inconceivable nonsense."

Home Religious News.

—Mr. Chas. Stirling, a Baptist licentiate, is to occupy the Tobique field for that body.

—The Centreville, C. Co., Baptist church is to be rebuilt inside and out.

—Rev. J. M. McLeod, Presbyterian minister at New Mills, Restigouche Co., has gone to England and Scotland on a visit.

—Rev. E. J. Grant has become pastor of the Baptist church at Arcadia, Yarmouth Co., N. S.

—The Methodist church at Bellisle, R. Co., was burned to the ground Wednesday afternoon. The organ and S. S. library were saved. The fire is supposed to have been started in the dry grass by a spark from the Central Railway engine.

—Four converts were baptized by Rev. O. P. Brown, at Manguerville, S. Co., on Sunday, 29th ult. They and two others were received into the Baptist church.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS

PLAYING WITH THE EVIL.

A deputation of Toronto citizens waited on the Ontario government a few days ago asking assistance in caring for the victims of the drink habit. Among the things they suggested was the making provision for the treatment of inebriates with a view to curing them of the drink habit. Much was said about the ruined homes of the slaves of drink; and it was urged strongly that it is the duty of the government to endeavour to save these men and restore peace to the wrecked homes. Not too much was said about the evil effects of the drink habit; it is simply impossible to tell all. But isn't it strange that good men should be pleading for a measure to take care of and try to cure a few of the victims of the traffic, while consenting to the continuance instead of demanding the destruction of the abominable thing which ruins a thousand times as many people and homes as ever can be saved by all the little cures that may be attempted? The scheme is about as sensible as establishing a few small-pox hospitals while encouraging, for a consideration, the introduction and spread of the disease; and it is less humane.

THE JAPANESE.

Japanese immigrants into the United States are in so large numbers that there is now a strong movement to apply to them the same prohibitory rule which is applied to the Chinese. They are at all points along the Pacific Coast. As many as ten thousand of them are said to be employed in railroad work, seriously interfering with American labourers. It is reported that as many as fifty thousand young Japanese will reach this continent this season. From our own Pacific Province there comes a cry that there are too many Japanese; and those who lead the anti-Chinese movement are objecting quite as strongly to the Japs. The treatment of Asiatics which some classes clamour for is not quite worthy two christian countries.

A POPULAR KING.

King Oscar is idolized by his Swedish subjects. An incident on his recent arrival in England throws light on the relations between himself and his people and explains his great popularity. At the station were some Swedish workmen, and they cheered him. Leaving the prominent attendants about him, he pushed through the crowd to shake hands and speak with his fellow countrymen at their work. He is great in size, and he is, also, evidently great in heart and good sense, and deserves the enthusiastic love which his people give him.

A BOER RESOLUTION.

Last week the United States Senate had to deal with another resolution of sympathy with the Boers. It was introduced by a Mr. Pettigrews, one of the men who seeks votes by playing to the anti-British section of the electorate. The motion was defeated by a vote of twenty-nine to twenty.

DUTY OF PROHIBITIONISTS.

Assuming that there will be a general Dominion election during the present year, the Camp Fire of Toronto urges prohibitionists to be getting ready for it. It says: "In the Plebiscite of 1898, prohibition majorities were recorded in the constituencies of 120 members of the House of Commons, out of a total of 213. Outside the Province of Quebec there are 121 members out of a total of 148 whose constituencies voted for prohibition by average majorities of over 1,000. It ought to be easy for the friends of temperance to unite in these constituencies in such action as would secure the nomination and return of a representative in harmony with the public opinion thus strongly expressed. Again we urge upon our workers to lose no time. Let county conventions be speedily held. Let politicians of both parties understand that they must nominate prohibitionists or lose the support of those who voted against the liquor traffic. Wise and energetic action on this line may now ensure us a Parliament that will give us the legislation for which we voted."

NO RELIGION.

There were no religious observances at the opening of the Paris Exposition. In keeping with this ostentatious disregard of God, is the purpose of the French government to enforce Sunday opening of all the exhibits.

CUBAN RAILWAYS.

A great company has been organized to purchase, extend and operate the railways of Cuba. The Company's capital is \$8,000,000. Sir William Van Horne is a leading member of the

Company, and is the chairman of board of control.

MEXICO.

Industrial progress in Mexico is marked. One of the signs is the recent organization of a great company to carry on meat-packing at various points in the country. It has a capital of \$2,000,000. Three establishments are already projected. Cattle raising is extensively carried on, and increased as the meat packing company's facilities extend. The company expects to supply Mexico, all of Central America and South America with canned meats; and may compete with United States packers in their own territory.

CAPT. MAHAN.

McGill University last week conferred the honorary degree of Doctor upon Capt. Mahan, of the United States Navy. Capt. Mahan is the best most widely known naval expert, author in his country, and stands in all countries. In a speech following he declared his strong conviction of the rightness of the British position in the present war, and urged that of the two great English speaking nations.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Again the question of union between Canada and Newfoundland is being agitated. Twice before some English there was developed strong opposition. But now some of the leaders who previously opposed to confederation are, evidently, favourable to it. A new Premier of the island government, Mr. Bond, who was formerly opposed to union, is understood to encourage it. The organ of his government recently had an article on the question pointing out the mistakes of former proposals, and intimating now an acceptable scheme may be arranged. The union of the "new colony" with the Canadian confederation is only a question of time, perhaps a not very long time.

WHAT DEWEY SAYS.

Admiral Dewey, replying to a question of Canadians who a few days ago invited him to visit Port St. John, said he was very much touched by the invitation—that he had not been touched by any of the evidence of good will shown him since he had been in New York last fall, and he said: "I want to say that the men who stood at my back during trying days at Manila was an American. But for his support and moral courage he inspired me, and I don't know who would have happened to Sir Charles Seymour."

It would be well for our States friends to remember this sentiment of their much honoured Admiral. Nor is it the only instance in which they were indebted to Great Britain in their war with Spain. It was Britain's attitude and her word that Europe from actively espousing the cause of Spain.

RELIEF FUND.

The fund for the relief of the hands of sufferers by the Ottawa Hull fire has grown rapidly, and amounts to about a half million. The Queen contributed five hundred guineas and the Prince of Wales contributed fifty guineas to the fund. The English contributions amount to forty thousand pounds. Messrs. Golds and Everett, of St. John, had the management of the relief there, are in Ottawa assisting the committees.

MANY UNEDUCATED.

At the annual meeting of the Educational Association, held in Toronto last month, and which was attended by delegates to the meeting of seven hundred from all parts of the Province, the reports and discussions revealed the fact that thousands of children in that Province are growing up in ignorance, notwithstanding abundant provision made for the public schools system. This is largely with the parents, trustees and other school officials. A good deal neglectful of their duty. A large number of children of age are never enrolled, and of those enrolled a large percentage are very small portion of the time.

HE IS TROUBLED.

The Archbishop of Rupert's has been complaining to the Minister of the Interior that the illicit sale of liquors in the Peace district, and that the half-breed Indians are being demoralized. He wants the department to take the laws prohibiting the sale of liquor in those unorganized portions of Northwest. We recall the fact that this same Archbishop took part