

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligence.

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 23RD, 1900.

This is Empire Day, and is being duly celebrated by the public schools.

To-morrow (Thursday) is the Queen's birthday. In every part of the British Empire she will be thought of with thankfulness and joy. Unnumbered hearts and voices will sing the prayer:

God bless our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save our Queen.

The Argentine Republic is gradually freeing itself from Roman Catholic domination. The process is, necessarily, slow, but progress is being made.

The net gain for all religious bodies in the United States last year was only about one and one-third per cent—a not very encouraging showing.

The Twentieth century Thanksgiving Fund being raised by the Methodist Church in Canada, has reached \$800,000. They will probably reach the million mark.

It is a great thing for the christian pulpit to have a man in it—a real man, who thinks for himself and says what he thinks; who believes something and is not afraid to declare it; who fears God and seeks to please Him, rather than bow to men for the sake of their favour.

The "Rams Horn" continues to make war on Dowie, whom it calls "the prince of charlatans." His income has been very large, but is now believed to have fallen off considerably since he has been shown up. It is strange that so many people allow themselves to be duped by such fellows.

Because the South African States, now in rebellion, choose to call themselves republics, many United States people think they must regard them as struggling for liberty against a powerful tyrant. A little investigation, such as may be made by a careful and unbiased reading of fairly conducted newspapers, would show any of them who want to know the truth that Britain, not Kruger, stands in this case, as always, for liberty.

The use of clap-net methods in the endeavour to secure attendance at churches deserves the severest condemnation. The advertising of sensational topics, says Dr. Parkhurst, does not hold the people, but it does cheapen the pulpit and sets the house of God in the same row with the dry goods stores, millinery shops and other institutions that put big headlines in the newspapers and flaming placards in the front windows. Ninety people out of a hundred would respect God's house if they were sure that it is God's house more than it is man's.

The reason for the small increase in the membership of several christian bodies, according to Dr. Carroll, the Church statistician, is that "the pulpit does not put sufficient emphasis on the necessity and conditions of a religious life." He explains that he does not mean that the modern pulpit does not exhort men to be saved, but that not enough emphasis is laid on the necessity of repentance, faith, regeneration, "Ye must be born again." Almost nothing is said as to the fate of those who are not born again. How seldom do we hear the warning "Flee from the wrath to come." It is the dread and dreadful background of the Gospel picture and cannot be neglected.

Not only more grace, but more courage, is a pressing need of the

church, the 'Interior' thinks. And this because, as it says, while drink and gambling and licentiousness abound many a congregation practically forbids its pastor to attack the dominant sins. To say anything about "that woman Jezebel" by name would not be tolerated for an instant. One may preach temperance sermons—and in no way may one fire offener in the air than in preaching a "temperance sermon," but woe unto the pastor who speaks plainly upon the conduct of the wrong-doers, and those who abet them, in his own community. It is not easy for a preacher to blaze away at corruption in the community without hitting somebody in the pews; and then, he knows right well, his deacons or other leading members, as they are called, will be down on him, and probably want to put him out. And because he does not want to go out, he steers clear of speaking the truth that may offend, even though every interest of the community and the welfare of many endangered souls cry out for faithful preaching. It never hurts anybody to fire at sin at long range; but the moment a preacher hits the grog-shop and the other iniquitous concerns in his own community he must look out for severe criticism and even more serious trouble, for the keepers of these places have friends in the pews who resent any reflection on them. Be gentle; keep the peace; do not offend anybody, seems to be the policy of not a few churches, especially in cities, where great evils most abound. It is a wicked policy.

DISTRICT MEETINGS.

The first of the District Meetings of 1900 is near at hand—that of the Second District which will be held on Saturday, June 16th. The others will follow in quick succession, as announced on another page. Two or three things need, perhaps, to be said lest they be forgotten. The District Meeting is an important part of the denominational system. To it the churches send reports and representatives. The reports are expected to set forth information as to the condition of the churches in every respect, to show the gains or losses, as the case may be, and to reveal whatever need may exist. The delegates are expected to be able to give any additional information about their churches that may be needed, and to help to an understanding of anything in the reports, or lacking in them, which may not be clear. The report form has blanks for nearly everything which a District meeting may desire to know. The brethren having charge of the preparation of the reports should endeavour to not only answer every question asked, but to supply other facts which the District meetings should know.

Every church should report. And where there is a pastorless church likely to neglect making report, the pastor of some nearby church will be doing a good service if he will visit that church and encourage the brethren to report and, also, be represented by delegates at the District meeting.

As to delegates, they are quite as important as the reports. Besides doing what is suggested above in supplementing or explaining reports, they are to give careful consideration to the state of the cause as shown by the reports, and to determine upon what is necessary to remedy defects, remove weaknesses, and to give strength and efficiency to the work generally. Brethren who can and will do these things should be chosen. And those chosen should attend and remain to the end, devoting themselves to the important work entrusted to them.

The conference fund should be gathered in each church in time to be forwarded to the Treasurer of the District at the annual meeting. Home and Foreign mission money, too, and contributions to the Ministers' Relief Fund and the Students' Fund, should be reported to District Meeting. If the brethren will give attention to these and like things the reports will present a much more satisfactory state of things than has been sometimes. There have been marked improvements, but let us make still other improvements.

We would not forget to suggest that in all the churches prayer be offered for District Meetings—that they may be blessed with the Divine presence, and be seasons of quickening and saving power. However well conducted a meeting may be in every other respect, if it be not an occasion of spiritual influence, and a centre from which such influence shall go out to all the churches, it has failed of its chief purpose. Let us all pray that in the meetings of this year there be refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

SEVENTEEN.—Since the last general election seventeen members of the Canadian House of Commons have died.

THE FAMINE.

The condition of the famine-stricken region has not improved. The need is not only quite as great as it ever has been, but is, apparently, increasing. Lord Curzon, replying a few days ago to an inquiry, said,—"So far from no more funds being needed, every dollar is of service in saving life. We have five and three-quarter millions in relief. Many in extreme destitution. All help gladly received."

All accounts agree that it is the most wide-spread and distressing famine that has visited the country during the century. A member of the Viceroyal Council, Mr. Smeaton, who has recently travelled, as special commissioner, through Central and Western India, which are the parts most affected, reports that the condition of the country is much worse than he had anticipated. For hundreds of miles not a single stalk of corn or even dry stubble is to be seen, nor yet a blade of green pasture. There is no water except in the larger rivers and streams. The deepest tanks and reservoirs which have never before been known to run dry, are now as dry as a rock. The whole country is one vast, bare, brown, lonely desert. The cattle are dying by thousands. The Government officials are doing great things, but cannot achieve impossibilities. There are five millions and a-half of human beings working on relief works for a wage that barely sustains life. There are thousands who prefer to stay in their homes and die. He says he has witnessed two famines, but this is by far the most severe of the century. The missionaries' reports are fuller in details, but tell the same horrible story of death and desolation. Help is needed on the largest scale for those whose case prevents them from seeking Government relief, for the sick, for clothing the destitute, for housing orphans &c.

The contributions to the relief fund are generous and general—many lands sharing in the good work. It has been intimated in some quarters that the British mind being so much occupied with the South African affair, and the British pocket being so much taxed by the war and the things incident to it, that India is not receiving so much attention as it should have. No government ever did, nor ever can, put forth more stupendous efforts in behalf of a suffering people than the British is putting forth in behalf of the famine-stricken in India. The New York Tribune gives an idea of the task in hand.

In the old days, before British rule was set up in India, the problem would have been much more easily solved than now. The people would have been permitted to die like so many flies in a frost. That was what used to happen periodically under native rule. Thus, in the famine of 1769, fully three million people perished, and that was by no means a record-breaking famine. But the let-alone policy is not approved by the present government. It is considered now a reproach to the rulers of India that any of its people should die of famine, and so whenever unfavorable weather makes food scarce, and the inhabitants begin to starve, the treasury is opened for their relief, at risk of a deficit in the next budget. It is, however, not the policy of the government to give alms. Instead it undertakes vast public works, and thus gives the famine-stricken people employment at fair wages and enables them to buy food. Obviously that is the better way, for it does not pauperize the people, and it gives the government some return for its money—generally a return which in itself is calculated to diminish future dangers of famine. Road-building and canal-building are the staple occupation in famine years. Tens of thousands of miles of fine roads have been constructed as relief works. So far as possible, these are metalled, and thus made permanent. But if metal be not available, the roads are still built in temporary form, on the principle that even half-useless work is better than alms. Even better than roads are the canals, perhaps the greatest material blessings that have been bestowed upon India. A few years ago the whole vast region between the Ravi and the Chenab Rivers from Lahore to Multan, was a desert, the few wretched inhabitants of which maintained a precarious existence by feeding upon rats, insects and offal. To-day its large population is prosperous among some of the finest wheat fields in the world. The change has been effected by the construction of canals for irrigation. And what has been done there has been done in a hundred other districts. Within the last three months the Indian government has spent more than \$10,000,000 upon relief works, and it will doubtless have to spend millions more before the famine is past. Despite that, many natives are perishing, but that is through their own fault or folly.

Work at living wages is offered to all. But there are those who refuse it, and with the blind fatalism of their race, lie down in the dust and die. To combat and to overcome that spirit is by no means the least part of the 'white man's burden' which is borne by the rulers of India. When famine came to our fathers they died. How are we better than they that we should do likewise? So says the ryot in his blindness. But even he is learning, little by little. At worst he is now passive, not violently resistant to progress, while at best he appreciates the value of civilization and actually puts himself in line with it.

But, we repeat, with all the government has done and can, and in addition to the large contributions already made much, very much, more is needed, and will be for a long time, to save tens of thousands of our fellow creatures from starvation. "Freely ye have received, freely give."

POLITICAL NEWS.—The election campaign in British Columbia was warm.

W. W. B. McInnes, M. P. for Nanaimo, B. C., sent his formal resignation to Ottawa on Tuesday (1st) last week, to take effect as soon as received. He is to run for the local Legislature of the Pacific Province, as a supporter of Mr. Martin. He is a son of the Governor of the Province.

Mr. Chas. Hibbert Tapper, A. C. Bell, M. P., and Hon. N. Clark Wallace will speak at Westville, N. S. on Thursday of this week.

In Yarmouth.—F. Stoneman, mayor of Yarmouth was elected by acclamation last Tuesday for the vacant seat in the local legislature.

It is reported from Charlottetown. P. E. I. that Mr. Wise, who was removed from his seat in the Legislature has had written issued against Mr. Cumiskey, Speaker of the legislature; Mr. Hooper, Sergeant-at-arms, and Mr. Elliott, doorkeeper, for removing him from his seat and confining him in the speaker's room.

The party papers are exhorting their people to get ready for the general election, which is probably not far off.

THE U. N. B.—The centennial of the University will be celebrated next week. A three days (May 29-31) programme has been arranged, which promises many things of interest. A number of prominent educationists have signified their intention of being present. There will be addresses, a procession if the weather is favorable, the conferring of honorary degrees, a reception, an "At Home," a dinner &c., &c. The convocation exercises of the college will be on Monday evening. There is a graduating class of twelve. The oration on behalf of the Alumni Society will be delivered by Hon. G. E. Foster.

GENEROUS.—Among the contributors to the fund for the relief of the Ottawa-Hull fire sufferers was a convict in the Kingston Penitentiary. He sent \$5.00, and expressed regret that he could not send more.

IN PARIS.—Evangelical services are to be held during the Paris Exhibition in two leading centres. The work has been promoted by the Society of Friends and the M. A. Mission, and will be conducted on the lines of the Evangelical Alliance.

GENERAL RELIGIOUS NEWS

—There are something over 2,000 members connected with the twenty-five Baptist mission churches in France. Over 200 have been baptized in connection with the work in these churches during the past year.

—The monster convention of the Society of Christian Endeavour is to be held at the Alexandra Palace from July 14th to July 20th. Preparations are being made for an attendance of 40,000, of whom at least 5,000 are expected from America. Australia will also be largely represented.

—The Presbyterian Church of Canada has a very prosperous work among the French Canadians. There are 36 mission fields with 95 preaching stations, occupied by 29 ordained missionaries and licentiates, 17 co-pastors and 18 teachers. The average Sabbath attendance last year was 2,314, from over 1,000 families.

A religious census of Philadelphia has been taken by Christian workers. Among 253,168 visited, there were 62 Christian Scientists, 93 Spiritualists, and 22 Atheists and Agnostics. The following are the only denominations that have more than 10,000 members: Episcopal Methodists, 38,451; Episcopal, 25,953; Presbyterian, 26,595; Baptists, 25,187; Lutheran, 17,827. There were 67,045 Catholics.

—The natives of the Samoan island of Tutuila, which has fallen to the United States in the partition with Germany, are all said to be devout Christians. When visited by the American ship, not one of them would be induced to come on board on Sunday, but all went to church. They might well send missionaries to America to teach the people Sabbath observance.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

SIBERIA.

For several generations Siberia has been the home of Russian exiles. There are now about 300,000 of them there. Many of those sent there were real criminals; but many others who were guilty of no crime, and who were not even given a chance to show their innocence of the things of which they were suspected, have marched their weary journey into Siberian exile. But now Siberian exile is to be abolished. Perhaps a humane sentiment has something to do with the new order; but business is, probably, the chief consideration. The trans-Siberian railway is nearing completion. It cannot be maintained solely for strategic purposes. There must be traffic to keep it up. To have sufficient business there must be population—industrious, enterprising population. With Siberia still a penal region, the right kind of men could not be induced to settle there.

PRICE OF PAPER.

The price of news paper has gone up fifty to sixty per cent. The destruction of the great paper making establishments made the Canadian supply unequal to the demand. The United States paper combine at once advanced their prices. Already some Canadian papers—three Ottawa ones, for instance—have increased their prices sufficiently to meet the increased cost of production. The competition is so sharp, and the margin so small, that a very slight increase in the cost of material and work subjects publishers to loss.

HE NEEDS TO INVESTIGATE.

Lord Salisbury is not in favor of strict temperance legislation. Like many another who knows a great many things, he has, evidently, neglected giving careful consideration to the liquor traffic problem, and, therefore, speaks foolishly when he essays to deal with the subject. Speaking on the report of a Commission which had been investigating the question, and which made a number of recommendations with a view to restrict the traffic, the Premier declared himself against the proposed restrictions. He believes in Sunday beer selling, saying, "I don't drink beer myself, but if I did I should want it as much on Sunday as on any other day." He thought it would be a cruel thing to interfere with liquor selling on steamers, lest sea-sick people might be deprived of the relief which he thinks a glass of grog affords. These are samples of his "arguments." They show that he has given little or no thought to the question. On the motion to which he was speaking, in the House of Lords, the government had only three majority, which may set Lord Salisbury wondering why so many men take a view so different from his, and move him to investigate the subject a little. Temperance sentiment is growing in Britain, and neither Lords nor Commons can prevent its still more rapid growth.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.—The advocates of the abolition of the death penalty are making headway in Massachusetts. Last year the vote in the Legislature was strongly against abolition. Last week a bill favouring abolition came near dividing the Legislature equally—84 for the bill, 86 against it. The promoters of the measure think that by another year they will have a majority.

THEY SWORE FALSELY.—Miss Barton, head of the United States Red Cross organization, having been asked by Secretary of State Hay for an explanation of how men came to be permitted to go to Africa as Red Cross men who became soldiers in the Boer army as soon as they landed, says: "These men have practiced gross deception; broken a pledge and violated a confidence which they sought. The humane world will not hold them guiltless." Miss Barton added that her connection with this corps had been to give a letter, at the solicitation of a Mr. Judd, Holyoke, Mass., in whom she seems to have placed confidence, granting the corps the use of the Red Cross flag and emblem, and asking right of way and good treatment for the expedition and for the men as long as the members lived up to the rules of the Geneva Convention. Before giving the letter, Miss Barton ascertained that each member of the corps had made oath separately that he was going to South Africa to work under the Red Cross and in the ambulance service. It does not seem to have troubled these Fenians to perjure themselves. Nobody will want to blame Miss Barton very severely, and yet she and those who co-operate with her in the management of Red Cross work should surely be wide-enough awake to avoid being deceived by such

men as the Fenian gang who require her certificate.

BURIALS AT SEA.

So far as ships sailing to and from the United States are concerned, burials at sea will, probably, soon be a thing of the past, except in cases where the death is caused by a malignant or contagious disease. A bill has been introduced into the House. Representatives at Washington require all steamships and vessels sailing to or from United States ports to be equipped with appliances for transporting to the port of destination bodies of persons dying on the voyage. If the dying person requests a burial the request may be granted. Heavy penalties for non-observance of the law are provided. The proposed law is a sensible one.

"BOSS" CROKER.

Richard Croker is the Tammany "boss." What he says is law in New York. He has fallen into the habit of last three or four years of spending part of each year in England, where he races horses and the like. He now some of the English papers advising that Mr. Croker be ostracized by Englishmen because of Tammany's violent anti-British attitude. Since war began Tammany has lost no opportunity of showing its sympathy with Britain's enemy. And as Croker is the head of the concern, some Englishmen begin to think it might be as well to let him know that they know. Wonder is that the fellow has ever received any recognition.

THEY ARE WAKING.

The world moves. The Minister of War in France has issued an order prohibiting the sale of strong drink in the barracks and camps of the French army. Wine, beer and spirits are still allowed, but brandy and the stronger spirituous liquors are ruled out. This is certainly a great step in advance. It has come because the effects of the drink habit have been so terribly apparent in France within a few years. They have not yet realized—they do not want to—that the alcoholism which is so prevalent and which is destroying the people is the result of the free use of wine which has so long been encouraged.

FIRST GOVERNOR GENERAL.—The Duke of Argyll (till recently the Marquis of Lorne) is said to have the offer of being the first Governor General of the Australian Confederation. Should he accept, his experience as Governor General of Canada would probably be an advantage to him, and the newly confederated country.

A TEMPERATE ARMY.

The British Army Temperance Association had its annual meeting in London last week. General White, of Ladysmith fame, was present, and read a letter from Lord Roberts, in which he commends the temperance of his army thus:

"There never was a more temperate army than that which marched under my command from Modder River to Bloemfontein. Nothing but good resulted from so many soldiers being brought together in an arduous campaign, when they see how splendidly our temperance men have borne up against the hardships and dangers they have had to face."

NOT PATRICK.

He is not named Patrick after all. When the Queen was in Ireland, a story was born to the Duke of York. It was reported that Her Majesty telegraphed that this latest great-grandson of the named Patrick. A few days ago the ceremony of naming the young prince took place, and amongst the seven names given him Patrick does not occur; he is simply Henry William Frederick Albert. He could, doubtless, have stood another name or two, and Patrick or Dennis would have been as good as any. But perhaps the Queen and others are beginning to think that the playing to Ireland has gone too far, enough—and doesn't have any good effect.

ANTICOSTI.

The troubles of the Fox Bay settlers are not yet ended. They have not yet left their island homes. The French lord of Anticosti is impatient of the delay, and seeks to hasten their going. The French papers say hard things about the poor people, accusing them of attempting to black-mail their lord, and threaten them with forcible removal.

COURT OF APPEAL.

One clause in the Australian Commonwealth bill, agreed upon by the colonies about to be confederated, did not