

TERMS AND NOTICES.

The RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER is issued on Wednesday, from the office of publication, York St. Fredericton, N. B.

\$1.50 a year in advance.

If not paid in advance the price is \$2.00 year.

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Religious Intelligencer.

Rev. Joseph McLeod, D.D., Editor.

WEDNESDAY, Aug. 29th, 1900.

This is the Free Baptist's pithy sentence of advice: If you can't preach, pray; but if you can't pray, don't preach.

Educational work in France is largely in the hands of priests, monks, christian brothers and like ecclesiastics. And therein is one of the principal dangers of the country.

This, from the Free Baptist, is worth remembering: "It is far more essential to pray for the leading of God on the way to the polls than on the way to the church."

For twenty-six years Dr. Joseph Parker, of London, has preached in his church, City Temple, every Thursday at noon. The mid-week noon congregation has always been large, made up of business men of the city. The good done by such a service cannot be estimated.

It is told of a little girl that rummaging in a trunk, she found her mother's letter of transfer of membership. "Oh mother," she exclaimed, "here is your religion in this trunk." There are, perhaps, many certificates of church membership hidden away in trunks and drawers, and perhaps, in some cases the religious life is smothered with their hiding.

"The eccentric parson," is what some of the papers call Rev. C. M. Sheldon, because he thinks righteousness should characterize the actions of men in every relation of life. It is a pity there were not more preachers "eccentric" in the same sense. If there were, there would be more people owing righteousness, and walking therein.

Protestant ministers are frequently expelled from Austria. The German Foreign Office has promised the Protestant League to make representations to the Austrian government against such expulsions. The government will do whatever "the church" tells it. And "the church" is equal to the expulsion of Protestants and like things wherever it has the power.

A United States statesman is quoted as saying that that country could well afford to pay salaries to christian missionaries for the secular advantages they have secured, and are constantly securing, to that country in increased trade. It is claimed that for every missionary that goes to a savage country, a trade worth \$50,000 a year is created with the home country.

Dr. Joseph Parker believes in preaching the gospel in the simplest words. So does every really good preacher. He characterizes sermons that are interlarded with such words as "analysis," "philosophy," "evolution," "hypothesis," "metaphysical," "relative and absolute" by the expressive designation, "The gospel made difficult." He pronounces such preaching as "often the most pitiable nonsense."

A thoughtful article, on "The Goal of the Church of Christ in India," is contributed to a recent number of the Baptist Missionary Review, by Rev. G. H. Hamlen, of the Free Baptist Mission at Balasore. He takes the ground that, making due allowance for the difference in age, circumstances and location, the India churches should be doing what the churches in England and America are doing. These things he specifies thus:—They should support their own poor deserving members; build and repair their own places of worship; support their pastors without any sort of foreign aid; continue

ally be gaining converts without the necessary aid of foreigners; support their own missionaries to the unevangelized; pay all expenses connected with training their ministers; provide for the education of their children; build, equip and support their own hospitals, dispensaries, asylums, rescue homes and the like; voluntarily prosecute temperance and purity work; edit and print their own papers; prepare and publish their own literature; and lastly, furnish their own religious leaders, their Moodys and Spurgeons, their Whitefields and Wesleys, their Judsons and Careys. This is the ideal which should be kept before the Native Church. It looks formidable, and some will say—as we have heard some say recently in respect to a much more modest ideal than this—that it is impossible of attainment within the next five hundred years. God forbid!

Dr. Carman, the General Superintendent of the Methodist church in Canada, returned last week from an extended tour in Great Britain, on the continent and in Egypt and Palestine. He had been absent since early in the year. In an interview with a Toronto newspaper man he hastily sketched his tour and gave some of his impressions. Speaking of Jerusalem he said priests are the ruin and the curse of the grand old city. Everywhere you turned you met nothing but priests. You fell over them on the streets, and ran against them in every building you entered. Roman Catholic priests, Greek priests, Coptic and Armenian priests, and nothing else but priests.

He met in Jerusalem many fanatics and cranks who are waiting there for the coming of the Saviour, believing that the Lord would not land anywhere on this earth except at Jerusalem.

In Rome Dr. Carman was considered somewhat eccentric because he was not filled with the overwhelming desire to see the Pope which is almost invariably displayed by visitors to that city. Many Protestants make fools of themselves when they get to Rome.

He was at the Paris Exposition, which, he thinks, cannot be a financial success, chiefly because the British have not been sufficiently interested in the affair. Of Canada's exhibit he says it is fairly good, but in a very poor position; proper preparations were not made for it. It has cost enough to have been properly placed, and to be an exhibit worthy the country.

Dr. Carman visited five Methodist Conferences in Great Britain, at all of which he was warmly received. Canadians were never so heartily greeted in Britain as in these days. The mother land appreciates the readiness with which Canada's sons offered themselves in defence of the flag, and the heroic service they have done in South Africa.

SECURE PASTORS.

The suggestion of Rev. D. Long, in another column, that churches that have to secure pastors for next year should take early action, should be heeded by those interested. In a number of cases where we have made inquiry as to what steps have been taken towards engaging pastors, we have learned that nothing is being done. The pastors who are to retire at the end of the year should help the pastorates in securing successors to themselves. We do not mean that they should say who should succeed them, but that they should impress on the churches the importance of early and united action, and see that the pastoral committees are appointed and meet. Where pastors fail in this respect, the officers of the churches, and other interested members, should take the initiative. But a few weeks remain till Conference. What action is to be taken needs to be taken very promptly, else some churches will find themselves beginning a new Conference year without pastors.

THE MISSION TREASURIES.

In conversation with the Treasurer for Home Missions, a few days ago, we learned that the treasury is practically empty. There will be some appropriations to pay very soon. The Foreign mission treasury is in much the same condition. Yet remittances for the support of the work have to be made regularly. Other denominational funds are, probably, in a like condition. Some of the churches have, as usual, made their contributions with promptness and regularity. But, it is to be feared, that a considerable number have been neglectful. As is true of other matters, attention to these important interests, too, is delayed till the last hour; then, being hastily done, they are poorly done. There is no doubt that the lack of system and promptness in contributing to missions and other funds is responsible for the too small support given these various

interests. We have to continue to exhort churches that have failed in this respect to systematize their work. They will then do it more easily, and with much better effect.

For the present year, those churches that have delayed their contributions have only one thing to do to give immediate attention to the matter. It is hoped they will not longer delay.

MORE MANLY CHRISTIANITY.

Fewer men than women are professing christians. Why? is a question much discussed. The answer is not easy. Probably the explanation most frequently offered is that men hesitate to take upon themselves the obligations involved in the avowal of christian discipleship, lest, in the keen competition of business and professional life, their success may be interfered with. While this may be a reason—even a chief reason with many, it scarcely accounts for the wide, and, it is to be feared, growing indifference to Christ, as manifest in the disregard of His claims. "Men are preoccupied, absorbed in the world's business or pleasure, and life is passing without their really waking up to a sense of responsibility, or to a consciousness of guilt. The 'present world' bulks out so largely, so overwhelmingly, in their eye and in their aim—and they think and plan and live for no other. It is for those who know better to arouse them from their apathy, and to change their point of view, so that their life may be seen in its true relations. The cure for worldliness is not 'other worldliness,' but recognition of the fact that there is something better worth while now and here than either business or pleasure pursued as an end. Persuade men of that fact and they will become real christians."

The question about the comparatively small number of men who are professing christians, suggested to the Christian Guardian another question, viz.: Why do not more Christians become men? And the question is as pertinent and, fully understood, quite as important as the other. In fact the answer to the first question hinges a good deal on the answer to the second. For, as the Guardian says, Christianity is not a method of saving one's soul in some indefinite way, and in some future state; it is not a method of merely keeping one from sinning in the present life. It is certainly not a method for the cultivation of emotional experiences, and for the attainment of devout diligence in attendance at divine service, in use of means of grace, and in carrying into practice a routine of church work. It is a great deal more than these. It is a method of cultivating manhood. It is God's method of developing utter and unmistakable manliness in men. It redeems from the petty, the ignoble, the impure, the unworthy things that militate against manliness of character. One cannot be a man—a full-orbed man—without positive Christianity; one cannot be a positive Christian without being more of a man.

Christ said to his disciples, Ye are the light of the world, ye are the salt of the earth. Light and salt are intensely positive in their influence. They affect immediately and strongly the things brought into relation to them. It was the "holiness" of Peter and John that made the Jews take knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus. There was no mistaking the attitude or the influence of the men. Their illuminating and pungent power made itself felt wherever they were. They were men, and even those who hated them, and sought to hound them to their death, were compelled to do unwilling homage to their strength of character.

Perhaps the great lack of the church to-day is this positiveness of character and influence. More men would become Christians, if more Christians would become men. Too many people remain in the infancy and childhood of the Christian life. They do not grow up. Some need to be suckled and dandled all their days. Others develop a little beyond these, but never reach a stage where they strike out independently, where they realize and assume individual responsibility. There is a sad lack of virility, of fibre, of moral and spiritual backbone, about thousands who call themselves by the holy name of Christ. They cannot be said to give light. They cannot be said to taste salt. The positive quality is entirely absent. The manly character is wanting.

What is the remedy? Clearly a better apprehension of what vital religion means, a deeper conviction of the sinfulness of sin, and a deeper consciousness of responsibility for personal influence. Unless a young man's whole manhood, spiritual, mental, eye, and physical, is stimulated, strengthened, and developed by his religion, depend upon it he has in some way overlooked its essential outcome, and is dwarfed and damaged in proportion.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

CHINA.

The Chinese situation is difficult to understand. Perhaps the diplomats understand it, possibly the military commanders have some idea of it; but the newspaper reader, and the newspaper maker who is dependent on the despatches for information, know precious little about the real condition of things in China.

Monday's London despatches say that the latest from Peking indicates that the situation there is unchanged. The imperial city is still invested, but has not yet been occupied. The allies, when the last message left, were still refraining from aggressive action, pending instructions from their governments.

Shanghai advices say that the report of the capture of Emperor of Kwang Su by the Japanese was erroneous. It was a case of mistaken identity.

The Peking correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, reasserts that the empress dowager fled westward, and adds:

"She has a body guard of 1,500, and as the mountainous character of the country would prevent artillery following, it is believed that she will not be pursued."

It was reported that Russia had, independently of the other powers, declared war against China; but later this report was denied. There is no telling, however, what Russia may do at any time.

CUBA.

By degrees the United States government is relinquishing its hold in Cuba. The latest and most marked step is the call, issued by the U. S. Secretary of War, for a constitutional Convention to meet in Havana in November. The approaching election of delegates to the Convention is exciting much interest. The several districts of the island will be represented in the Convention, which will agree upon and adopt a constitution for the island.

NEGRO IMPROVEMENT.

The negroes of the United States are steadily improving their condition. It is stated that they have reduced their illiteracy forty-five per cent. in a few years. Considering their generations of bondage, their progress has been nothing short of marvellous. They deserve a change, and all the help that can be given them.

"MISTAKEN LENIENCY."

The "mistaken leniency of modern society," Lord Salisbury said in a speech concerning the assassination of King Humbert, is responsible for such crimes. The assassin of the Italian king will not be executed, for capital punishment has been abolished in Italy. There ought, surely, to be some punishment other than being kept at the country's expense, for such wretched creatures.

BRITAIN ALONE.

Julian Ralph, in his correspondence to the London Daily Mail, says Russia is vigorously trying to break the harmony existing between Great Britain and the United States. Russia's plan, he says, is to strip Great Britain of the support of any nation, and then—a great war in which Britain shall be alone. Julian Ralph says a diplomat of high standing is his authority for these statements.

CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION.

Bishop McPaul, Roman Catholic, of Trenton, New Jersey, has begun a movement for the organization of all Catholic societies for political purposes. He thinks that with such a combine as he proposes "the Church" can control legislation in the states and at Washington. He is a very short-sighted bishop; the Roman Church is doing now just what he claims could be done by his proposed organization, and doing it more effectually than by open organization.

CENSUS FACTS.

There is an impression abroad, the Witness says, that the returns of this year's United States census are likely to be disappointing in regard to population. This impression is based on statements of the census takers. It is said, on the same authority, that the vital statistics show that the increase in population during the decade has come from immigration, either directly or in the surplus of births over deaths among immigrants and their immediate offspring. What has long been feared is now said to be an actuality, that the natural increase of the native United States population is far below normal. From an ethnical point of view, looking to the future character of the people, this is a fact of the deepest significance. So long as the great

bulk of the immigration came from the British Isles, Germany and Scandinavia; the infusion of new blood was not of a sort to cause misgiving, but of late years the immigration from these countries has fallen off greatly, while the influx from south-eastern Europe, Asia and Italy has assumed proportions so large as to produce a modifying effect in the population of cities and in many employments. Another fact which it is said the census will disclose is that the country has passed the climax of increase in the rate of population and has become assimilated in many respects to the conditions prevailing in Europe.

A GREEDY TRUST.

Speaking of the immense dividends, millions annually, which Mr. Rockefeller and his fellows in the Standard Oil Company are dividing amongst themselves, the Montreal Witness says this is taken from the earnings of the poor—the users of coal oil in the United States and Canada. The greedy trust taxes as no monarch would dare to tax, and increases the taxes without the consent of the taxed. King Charles lost his head, King James his crown, and King George the thirteen colonies for attempting far less than this trust tyrant accomplishes every day.

THE COST OF WAR.

About \$40,000,000 a month has been the cost of the South African war to Great Britain. The people who have to pay this are not showing any signs of dissatisfaction, and are likely to vote a hearty approval of the administration which has carried on the war. Not many know just how this vast sum has been expended. An article in the Edinburgh Review gives an array of figures from which an idea may be got of the vastness of the undertaking of a war like that now drawing to a close. First, it is stated that over 170 million rounds of small-arm ammunition have been sent out, and about 900,000 rounds for the use of the various artillery weapons. Clothing has been sent as follows:

Drab suits, much over 200,000; khaki suits, about 80,000; boots (pairs), over 370,000; woollen drawers, over 400,000; jerseys, over 200,000; worsted socks, over 850,000; cotton socks, over 170,000; flannel belts, over 400,000; flannel shirts, over 500,000.

Then, besides those taken with men or horses, there have been sent, as general stores:

Circular tents, about 18,000; blankets, over 420,000; waterproof sheets, over 300,000; camp kettles, over 37,000; horse rugs, about 100,000; sets of ten or six span mule harness, nearly 6,000.

Of food the quantities have been similarly impressive. There are 58 different items in the list, and the weight of the shipments, exclusive of forage, has exceeded 80,000,000 pounds there being in the assortment no fewer than 622,000 bottles of various kinds.

The preserved meat alone from home and foreign ports weighed 20,500,000 pounds, the jam and marmalade 10,000,000 pounds, the biscuit 27,000,000 pounds, tobacco 1,500,000 pounds. The forage—hay, oats, bran, and compressed forage—sent in addition to the above weighed nearly 79,000 tons from English ports and 154,000 tons from foreign and colonial ports. Britain has shown that she has resources in men, money, and material far in excess of the calculations of many of the best foreign observers, some of whom insisted that the Empire had not the means of ever bringing the struggle to a successful conclusion.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Not all women want to vote. Perhaps the majority do not care to have the duty. The women of Victoria, Australia, to the number of fifteen thousand, have petitioned against the Woman Suffrage bill.

GOLD AND COAL.

Figures furnished by an official at Victoria, B. C., regarding the mineral output of British Columbia give a comparison of the relative values of precious metals and those of a more ordinary kind, quite surprising. The figures show that the total gold production of the province since the settlement in 1830 has been \$60,665,198. This includes the returns both from placer mines and lodes. During the same time the production of coal in the province has amounted to \$43,953,152, or more than two-thirds of the output of the gold mines, yet no one ever hears of a Klondike rush to a coal mine, although, when the enormous percentage of failures is considered, the black diamonds are a more lucrative find than the yellow metal.

WAR NOTES.

The news from South Africa last week has been meagre. DeWet has, evidently, been pressed.

A Sunday Capetown despatch says Lord Roberts arrived yesterday at Belfast, a few miles west of Mafeking, where he met Sir Redvers Buller, General French and Gen. Buller. Everything is now in readiness for advance.

More Canadians have reached Pretoria. They were given a hearty welcome. They were principally from the north.

Lieutenant Cordua, formerly of Transvaal Artillery, tried on charge of being a leader in the Pretoria to abduct Lord Roberts kill British officers, was found guilty and sentenced to be shot. He was shot Friday afternoon.

Col. Otter, of the first Canadian contingent, telegraphed from Johannesburg, Aug. 24th: "Battalion near Krugersdorp on 22nd after 2 weeks' marching, only 450 strong. Ordered to Pretoria. Macdonald released."

A Saturday despatch says: "Lord Roberts has left Pretoria and has his headquarters at Wonderfontein, the second station west of Mafeking, where the bulk of the Boer arms are supposed to be." Wiring there, Friday, Lord Roberts says:

"Buller reports the Boers in trap for his cavalry Aug. 23, opening several guns at fairly short range. The English guns silenced the Boers but when the firing ceased and pickets were being placed for the night by some mistake two companies of Liverpool regiment advanced five hundred yards into a hollow out of sight of the main body, where they were surrounded by the Boers, suffered severely."

Lord Roberts also wires that Gen. Buller occupied Mafeking, Aug. 24, without opposition. Gen. French, with four gades of cavalry, is moving east towards Mafeking.

The commander-in-chief also says: "There is a welcome green overland which I hope means that riding and transport animals will be grazing shortly. They have been badly of late."

Baden-Powell rescued 100 British prisoners at Warm Baths August 21, and captured 25 Boers and a German artillery officer.

Buller's casualties, August 21, seven men killed, 22 wounded and missing.

Kitchener, August 22, had 40 casualties. While reconnoitering in the Komati valley. Rundle found 140,000 rounds of ammunition buried. The column pursuing DeWet made wonderful marches. Colonel McKinnon covered 224 miles in 14 days.

The Boers Aug. 21, blew up a portion of the railway at Koetjesdrif, five miles north of Newcastle, and damaged the rails at a point thirty miles south of Newcastle.

It is stated, Wednesday, that Steyn with a small bodyguard, has crossed Pinar's river on his way to Kruger at Mafekingdorp.

President Kruger, according to despatch from Lourenço Marques, has issued a proclamation counter to the latest proclamation issued by Lord Roberts. The Transvaal president says: "It will help you nothing lay down your arms or leave your commandoes. Every step homeward means a step nearer St. Helena."

The Boers have suffered heavily since the first of the year. From some official papers recently found it appears that the Transvaal Boers suffered loss between January 2 and June 20, over 7,000.

In the Fouriesburg district neighborhood the British found a thousand horses and cattle hidden in a gorge. They have captured now six thousand horses, two thousand of which are in the pink of condition and are being used against their former owners.

In Brighton, England, a lad of seven years, seeing a cartoon of Kruger in a shop window, seized a stone and flung it at the picture, smashing the plate window. At the police station the little fellow sobbed out his explanation: "Cause that man killed my father. The latter had been killed in action at the front."

A Swiss law compels every newly married couple to plant trees shortly after the ceremony of marriage. The pine and the weeping willow alone are prescribed. It is estimated that the annual income of the 40,000,000 Protestant church members in the world is about \$15,000,000,000. The United States have about 900,000 telephones in use; Germany, 140,000; England, 75,000; France, 35,000; Switzerland, 30,000. While the wedding is proceeding in Japan, the bride kindles a torch, and the bridegroom lights a fire from it and burns the wife's playthings.