TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

REV. JOSEPH MCLEOD, D.D ..... EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 6TH. 1901.

Every pastor an evangelist in his own field is a pressing need of the times.

A few genuine converts are worth infinitely more to the church than a crowd of professors.

The Presbyterians have more money invested in Theological Seminaries than any other three denominations in America.

It is telegraphed from the Capital that archbishop Duhamel of Ottawa has issued a pastoral to the priests in his arch-diocese instructing them to assist the census enumerators in every way. So good of him!

Think of people between thirty-five and forty years of age, in London, who had never seen a Bible, nor ever entered a place of worship, nor offered a prayer. It is almost incredible. Yet Rev. Hugh Price Hughes says he has found such people in the great city during the recent mission movement.

The Methodists of Canada have not only contributed the million dollars asked for as a twentieth century offering to the work of the church, but have exceeded it by $60,000. Contributions continue to be received. The lists will be closed in a few days. Our brethren have done grandly. We congratulate them, and trust they may receive a great spiritual blessing.

It is not well for the minister in charge of revival work to tell the people that this is, or may be, the last week of the special meetings. Do not say that "the revival will close" at a given time. Let the change to the ordinary services be as gradual and imperceptible as possible, thus carrying the revival spirit into the regular services. Should not the invitations of grace and offers of mercy be presented at every service so that any unsaved person present might find Christ through the sermon? Do we not limit the Holy One by our man made methods?

A deputation of the British Evangelical Alliance had an interview with the King of Portugal during his visit to London, at the time of the Queen's funeral. They represented to him certain injustices which were being done Protestant congregations in his country. Protestant congregations in Lisbon had been ordered to stop the meetings during the week of prayer. The deputation asked the King to extend full liberty of worship to all christians in Portugal. He told the deputation that as soon as he received their letter, calling attention to the action of the authorities, he at once ordered them to cease undue interference. It was his distinct wish that religious liberty should be granted to all Protestant Christians throughout his dominions, and it was his determination to enforce his rule. He had now given the necessary orders to ensure this.

The Roman Catholic archbishop of New Zealand, in a recent sermon, declared that the morality of Roman Catholics in that part of the world is very much higher and more general than that of Protestants. Perhaps he thought he was stating a fact, but he evidently had not looked into the matter at all. The President of the Methodist Conference of New Zealand accepted the archbishop's statement as a challenge, and looked up the official statistics bearing on the matter. He found that while the Roman Catholics number fourteen per cent. of the population, they contribute thirty-three per cent. to the number of prisoners in the jails; and that his own denomination (the Methodist) includes about ten and a half per cent. of the people, and is responsible for three and a half per cent of the criminal population.

Something similar as to the criminal population is found wherever there are accurate statistics.

REVIVAL AND INGATHERING.

In line with some things we wrote about revivals last week is an article in a recent number of the Canadian Baptist, some of which we reproduce here. After pointing out that churches should always have a very solemn sense of their responsibility to the lost, the fear is expressed that we do not always distinguish between revival and ingathering. We often speak as if revival services were services to save the lost. But these are evangelistic rather than revival services. It is the saved man or the church which is revived. It is true that when the church is revived, ingatherings generally follow. But one is with a view to the other, and not the same as the other. We may have revival and not ingathering, immediately. But we cannot have ingathering to any large extent without revival.

We believe this is becoming more and more true. It is character which tells more and more, and everything else is telling less and less. People are not swept away by the emotional so much as in the past. Where the general life of a church is high and pure and earnest, God manifests his power in the greatest measure, when its moral and religious forces are rallied in connection with evangelistic preaching and earnest general effort. The effort of our pastors and the best element in our churches should be directed, more and more, to the permanent exaltation of the life and character of the general membership. It ought to be so that special services should not be so much for the reviving of church members as for the massing of the power of a permanently revived church upon the unsaved to bring them to Christ. It is only the revived church which is in a position to have power with men, but much more it is only such a church which has power with God, upon whose blessing alone any effort can be effective.

Another consideration should powerfully affect thoughtful pastors and church members to lead them to a higher abiding church life. God does not usually give tender babes in Christ to the keeping of churches that are cold and dead and low in life. The general life of the church in nineteen cases out of twenty, if not in ninety-nine out of a hundred, determines what that of these babes shall be, and that within a few months after their conversion. Churches must prepare the most helpful atmospheres for converts, if they are to have committed to them these tender lives for nurture and growth. It would be as reasonable to expect a loving father to put his babe into a pest house as for God to put his children into the keeping of a church infected with moral inertia and disease.

Every church is not only shaping its own life but that of the future. Our churches, especially the non-spiritual element of them, should be deeply affected by considerations such as these. In all that is done by pastors, let there be planning for a permanent condition, as well as for present growth in numbers. It may need more patience, but it is the work which, in the end, will tell most on the life of the world. To exalt the life of a church one degree for the future, is more than to have a large ingathering, for it will lead to larger accessories in the end, through the higher culture and development of the life continuously coming in.

PRAYER FOR CLEANSING.

In the fifty-first Psalm there occurs this clause in David's penitent prayer: "Cleanse me from my sin." He had in mind his sin in causing the death of Uriah. This was not the only time that David prayed to be cleansed from his sins. As a thoughtful believer he must have often prayed for such a cleansing. Does there ever come a time in a Christian's life when he has no need of praying to be cleansed from sin? There are christians who tell us that they have reached a point where they have no such need.

They say that there was a time when they were completely cleansed from all manner of sin, and they assert that this full cleansing leaves them in such a state that they are entirely free from any sin-principle or sin-tendency, and of course they do not need to continue praying for cleansing. But suppose that a christian prays to-day for a cleansing from all of his sins, and he instantly receives such a cleansing, so that there is no sin in him and no tendency to commit sin; how can he determine that he will not need to repeat such a prayer to-morrow or next week? When the next day comes, has he the ability to judge that he does not commit any sin, and therefore that he does not need to pray for cleansing? He may say that he knows that he does not commit any sin to-day because he was entirely cleansed from sin yesterday. But this is not a safe judgment. The day before Adam committed any sin he was perfectly free from sin, but the fact that he was sinless on the previous day did not prevent him from committing sin on the day that he did yield to temptation and commit sin. So I ask, how does any Christian know that in answer to his prayer for cleansing he is so cleansed that there remains in him no sinful elements or sinful tendencies? I say that he does not know. He may believe that it is so, but his believing cannot make it true Those who say that there is no sinful tendency in them declare that the Holy Spirit gives witness to them that they are perfectly free from such tendency, but this is a mere fancy, for the Bible does not say that the Spirit thus witnesses. Nor did David intimate that the Spirit witnessed to him that he was so cleansed from sin that he did not need further cleansing. He was doubtless thankful that God daily answered his prayer for his daily cleansing, and so should we be. We still need to pray for cleansing.

C. H. WETHERBE.

WHAT THE DEACON SAID.

IV.

ABOUT ATTENDING CHURCH.

"What church do you attend?" was the question the deacon asked me, before he was seated, when he came into my room the other day. I was just a little embarrassed by his brusque manner and pointed question; and, to gain time, I asked him if he had been appointed church statistician.

"No," said the deacon, "I am no church statisker - whatever that is, - I am just plain deacon, and I want to know if you attend any particular church."

"Oh yes," I answered, "I attend all the churches I can; I am not particular about my church I like them all, and help to support all of them," I am neither bigot nor sectarian," I added with some complaceny.

"Are you big enough to go round? is there enough of you to be divided up among all the churches?" asked the deacon, with a quizzical smile." I suppose you clerk in all the stores, and work in all the factories in the city? he asked; but the question was so simple I made no reply. "I think if you did, or tried to, you would accomplish as much, and be worth as much to store and factory, as you are to the churches. It has been said on good authority that 'No man can serve two masters,' and no man can serve two denominations, and serve them faithfully. Most of us find it taxes us to be a faithful servant to one."

"But deacon," I said, "you are narrow and bigoted. All the churches are good, and are doing good work; we certainly ought to help them,'

Assuredly we ought to help them," said the deacon," and the best way to help then—for their work is our work - is to cultivate our own farms well, and not waste our time and energy in walking from one farm to the other. The farms belong to the Master, and the harvests are his. We serve each other best, and the Lord of the harvest best, by sticking faithfully to our own farms, and making them as productive as possible. At the same time we lend a hand, and give a word of cheer to our neighbour, whose work is behind."

Just then my wife came in to say that the flour was out; and my youngest boy (little Thad) put his curly head in at the door and shouted, "Pa, and my boots and pants are out too, and I want some more."

I put them out with the promise that I would attend to their wants, if my money was not like the flour and the other things—"out"

That reminds me, said the deacon, "that there are a great many little boys in the city who need clothes, and a great many homes are without flour and fuel. I wish you would attend to it today, and see that they are all supplied."

"Do you think, deacon," I asked in amusement "that I am a millionaire? All the money I have, if distributed among the poor of the city would not give them a farthing a piece. I give my proportion to the poor. But my home and family have the first claim upon me. I would be worse than an infidel if I did not provide for them.

"I am afraid," said the deacon, "that you are a bigot, and a sectarian;" and then he added, "when you are divided up among the churches, they don't get a farthing a piece."

"Strange!" he mused, what different motives take people to church. I have known lawyers to go to the church where they thought they could find the most clients; and if, as sometimes happened, their clients did not attend any church at all, why the lawyers went with them. And I have known doctors to select the church where they thought they could find the best paying patients. And grocers, and dry goods men have gone to the church that would give them the most trade. And would-be fashionable people have selected their church as they do their milliners and tailors - because they are fashionable. Such people would be Protestants in Protestant countries, and Romanists in Roman countries, Mohammedans in the Sultan's domain, Confucians in China, and Mormons at Salt Lake."

"Why don't you attend the little church around the corner?" asked the deacon. "That is the sister of the church you attended before you came here; and it is the church of your fathers."

"Oh," I said, rather gruffly, for I was getting annoyed with the deacon's cross-questioning -, "that church is small and not very strong, and there are not many rich or fashionable people attending it, and the church building is old, and" but the deacon interrupted me, saying "Well let us change the subject, I see that it does not agree with you, and I will tell you a story."

"I was going down—slipping and sliding down Jeffries Hill the other day,—you know how steep and slippery it is?" I nodded, and he went on; "I met a stalwart, handsome young man coming up the hill, and leaning on his arm was a tailor-made girl, strong and breezy she was, and pretty. Not far behind them was an old lady, and she was not 'tailor-made,' neither was she strong nor pretty, and she had hard work to keep her feet, and if I had—I mean if some one had not gone to her help she would not have got up the hill. I found out afterward that the old lady was the young man's mother."

"The contemptible cad," I cried out indignantly. "Why did he not help his mother, who needed help, instead of the young woman who could have easily climbed the hill without him? Who was he?"

"Do you remember what Nathan said to David?" queried the deacon, as he went out And I have been wondering ever since if he did change the subject. Whether he did or not, his story has not agreed with me any better than his sermon did.

THADDEUS.

SOUTH AFRICAN NOTES.

Gen. DeWett's inscursion into Cape Colony did not profit him anything. He lost heavily in men and stores.

A Colesburg, Cape Colony, despatch, Friday, says: Fifteen hundred Boers with whom, it is alleged, were General DeWet, and former President Steyn, found a spot at Lilliefontein, near Colesburg bridge, where the Orange River widens and the current is slow and they crossed with horses and men, by swimming.

There is still talk of negotiations between Lord Kitchener and Gen. Louis Botha looking to Botha's surrender. Kitchener demands unconditional surrender.

A NEW YORK MINISTER writes:—"I am much pleased with the INTELLIGENCER. It covers a wide field of thought and information."

WHAT HE THINKS.—A gentleman who for a number of years has paid five or six, or sometimes more, subscriptions besides his own, and who every year adds one or more new names, says of a new home to which he is sending the INTELLIGENCER this year,—

"There are three young boys in the family, and who can tell how much good the paper may do them? I do know that if I had been blessed with such a paper when I was a boy it would have made a better boy of me."

He adds: "We cannot get along without the INTELLIGENCER now; it is like an old friend talking to us every week. God bless it, and send it into many homes."

SELF-IMMOLATORS.—News from St. Petersburg says that a search at Tenaspol revealed the bodies of twenty-eight persons who had been buried alive. They apparently belonged to the self-immolating sect. the discoveries in connection with which caused a sensation throughout the civilized world in 1897. Kovaleff, the chief of the sect, who was then sentenced to perpetual confinement in a monastery, will be re arraigned in connection with the present discovery. It is understood that writings and sacred pictures of the sect that were found with the bodies have been turned over to the religious authorities for investigation. The sect, which was generally called Raskolniki, in 1897, is now referred to as the Bjoguny.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

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THE DEATH PENALTY.

A bill before the Connecticut Legislature last week proposed to abolish the death penalty, substituting life imprisonment. After a long debate the proposed change was rejected.

* *

THE DUKE OF YORK.

The Duke of York and Cornwall, son of King Edward, will start for Australia soon. It is understood that he will reach Canada about the middle of September, landing on our Pacific Coast. About a month will be spent in Canada. He will visit Newfoundland on his way home. The Duchess of York will accompany him.

* *

NEWFOUNDLAND.

The bill continuing the modus vivendi in the "French Shore" matter, passed the Newfoundland Legislature last week. The arrangement is not at all satisfactory to the peoples of Newfoundland, as was clearly enough expressed by their representatives. Only a patriotic desire to avoid embarrassing the Imperial Government just at this time influenced the Legislature to pass the bill. Some members said, what probably all of them felt, that at the expiration of the year provided for in the bill just passed, a definite settlement of the matter will be expected.

* *

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES.

Germany has 21 universities, with 34,389 students and 2,777 teachers. The largest is the University of Berlin, with more than 5,000 students and a staff of 414 teachers, and the smallest is the University of Rostock, with less than 500 students. The four Austrian universities have 7,346 students and 698 teachers. More than half of these belong to the University of Vienna with 4,669 students and 413 teachers. Little Switzerland has not fewer than seven universities with nearly 4,000 students and 708 teachers. In the University of Neuchatel there are not three students for each teacher. Swiss professors and tutors can hardly grow rich on college fees.

* *

ANTICOSTI.

Some time ago a writer in the Montreal Witness made a very clear and comprehensive statement of the history and position of the island of Anticosti. The writer urged that there are national interests connected with so vast a domain, in so prominent and strategic a position, that are in no wise wiped out by the mere fact of private ownership. Nor is the fact that that ownership is foreign, and, under possible circumstances, anti-British, entirely without significance. The letter said no one in Canada desires to dispossess Mr. Menier without compensation; but urged that the Imperial Government should instruct, or at least encourage, the Dominion Government to expropriate the island, place it in a condition of strong and ample defence, both from a naval and military standpoint, and so restore British soil to British possessors, who will see that its colonists live in peace and contentment. All these things were set forth in a clear and forcible way in the letter which was forwarded to the Colonial Secretary. Mr. Chamberlain communicated the matter to the Governor General, who has referred it to the Dominion Government. The promoters of the movement say they will press for action. We hope they will.

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THE LAST PROPOSAL.

The Guardian tells us that it is probable a bill will be introduced into the Ontario Legislature, during the present session, for promoting what is called "the scientific treatment of dipsomaniacs" by municipalities, the benevolent societies and individuals. The purpose of the proposed legislation is to encourage the establishment of a cottage hospital in each of the larger cities of the Province for the treatment of inebriates, the Government contributing a certain portion of the cost of building, equipment, and maintenance. It is a good thing to cure inebriates. But there is no sense in giving legal sanction and protection and encouragement to the traffic that creates them, and then tax the people to cure a few of them.

* *

AUSTRALIA.

Figures relating to the growth of Australia show remarkable progress, and, regarded as a prophecy of the future, point to great things for the new-born Commonwealth. The population is now about 5,000,000, against 1,250,000 forty years ago. The revenue amounts to thirty millions, and trade to 130 millions sterling; and last year there were in the whole of Australia more than eight and a half millions of acres under cultivation. Since 1861 the output of wool has grown from 85,000,000 lbs. to 700,000,000 lbs. The total tonnage cleared and entered at Australian ports has increased from 2,800,000 tons to 20,000,000. Kindred facts appear in Harmsworth Magazine. Each person in the country has, on the average, $150.00 in the savings bank (the highest average in the world.) There is plenty room for the expected increase of population, as for every square mile of Australia there are only one and a half inhabitants.

* *

FAMINE IN RUSSIA.

It is at last admitted by the Russian Department of the Interior that there is widespread distress in large sections of the country, due to the failure of the crops. The government has sent a million and a half roubles for the relief of the sufferers. It is believed that five and a half millions will be necessary to meet the requirements.

An appeal has been made by the authorities for private contributions in aid of the sufferers.

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TO BE ABOLISHED.

The Nova Scotia Legislature still has two branches. Premier Murray stated to the House the other day that it is the intention of the government to introduce a measure during the present session for the abolition of the Legislative Council.

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ANTI-JESUIT RIOTS.

In Madrid and other cities of Spain the feeling which has been long brewing against the Jesuits has found somewhat violent expression, in riotous attacks on Jesuit colleges, churches and convents, and cries of "Down with the Jesuits!" "Long live liberty" &c. &c. The public opposition to the recent marriage of the sister of the young king to a Bourbon Prince was because the Prince's father, Count Caserta, is obnoxious to the reform elements in Spain.

* *

THE GAMBLERS.

Police Magistrate Richey, of St. John, fined the gambling Chinamen $5.00 each—the lowest penalty he could impose. He intimated that the Chinamen were not the only breakers of the law against gambling - which implied a deserved rebuke of the police who evidently thought they were doing a particularly virtuous and brave thing in gathering in the friendless Chinamen. He suggested that he would like to have an equal number of Christian gamblers before him the next week, adding, "You will see how I will fine them." The police are not likely to arrest the christian gamblers.

* *

RUM PERMITS.

A Parliamentary return presented to the House Thursday, in answer to an inquiry, shows that during the last year the Dominion government issued forty-eight permits to take intoxicating liquors into the Yukon Territory, the permits covering 74,685 gallons.

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ROME SCORES.

Mr. Costigan's coronation oath resolutions passed the House of Commons with a very large majority. The names of those who voted against it deserve to be recorded: Messrs Wallace, Sproule, Taylor, Wilmot, Carscallen, Reid, Clarke, Roche, Alcorn, Robinson, Sherritt, Johnson (Cardwell), Tolton, Lavell, Kidd, Blain, Lennox and Oliver.

It seems that about anything Roman Catholics desire—and just because they desire it, without respect to the right or wrong of the thing desired, can get through Parliament in this country. Members are always courting the Roman vote. There may be a revolt some day.

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THE STEEL SYNDICATE.

Last week there was considerable excitement caused by a statement that the big Steel Syndicate in the United States, recently formed, had purchased the Dominion Iron and Steel works at Sydney, C. B. The President of the Dominion Company, Mr. Whitney, denies explicitly that any sale has been made, or is contemplated. He says the Company has a fine property in Nova Scotia, and they propose to develop it themselves. The denial of the sale has given a feeling of relief to the people generally. But it is as well to keep in mind the fact that just such a deal as was reported is quite within possibility sometime, and that, should it take place, it would be a decided disadvantage to Canada.

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THE ROTHESAY LISTS.

The Attorney General has not yet moved to discover and punish those guilty of the crime of fraudulently adding hundreds of names to the Kings Co., list of voters. A civil action has been begun by G. W. Fowler, M. P. for Kings Co., against Thos. Gillis