

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

REV. JOSEPH McLEOD, D.D., EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6TH, 1901.

Those who have sent their

renewals for 1901 have our thanks.

Some from whom we hoped to have payments in January have not yet been heard from. Will they and all others whose subscriptions are still due do us the favour of forwarding them now? Let February make up for any lack there may have been in January. And to make sure of this make your payment early—this very week.

In Australia the Presbyterian bodies have united. They may now confidently expect a degree of prosperity not possible while separated.

Christians should not waste their strength in conflicts with each other. The Devil likes them to do that. They should combine their forces against the strongholds of sin.

The Universalist Church in the United States does not grow. It has been losing for the last five years steadily, as recent statistics show. There has been a decrease in the number of church organizations, of church buildings, and of preachers.

Of the dangers confronting in the twentieth century, the chief ones, according to General Booth of the Salvation Army, are "religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, and heaven without hell."

Rev. Lewis Jack, for many years an active and successful Presbyterian minister in this Province, passed to his reward last week. He died at Buctouche, and was 86 years of age. About eight years ago he retired from the regular work. His ministry was largely in Kings Co., and his life was a useful one. One son—Rev. T. C. Jack is pastor at North Sydney.

In another part of this paper is a statement of the philanthropic work being done by the King's Daughters in St. John. It is a most worthy work, and deserves the practical sympathy of christian people. To help poor people clothe their children during these cold winter months is a part of the work to which much attention is given. Contributions in money, clothing or provisions are always welcome by the guild.

Now that the so-called "Holy Year" in the Roman Catholic Church has ended, it is possible to estimate the results. The two things which the faithful were expected to do in a large way were to visit Rome and to contribute Peter's pence. The latter part has been quite satisfactory, the Vatican treasury having gained \$1,500,000 but the pilgrimage record shows that the attractive power of Rome is not what it was. It is thought that the total number of pilgrims for the year falls short of a quarter of a million, and the complete absence of Catholic rulers, which has already been noticed in these columns, is not less significant. The Roman Church is still a force to be reckoned with, but it enters on the twentieth century with unmistakable symptoms of decline and decay.

Perhaps many people in this country, if asked concerning the relative strength, numerically, in Great Britain, of the Established Church and the Nonconformists—might off-hand answer that the Established Church is larger. But the opposite is the fact.

In England and Wales alone the Protestant Nonconformists outnumber the Anglicans nearly 700,000 communicants. In Scotland, leaving out the Presbyterians, the other Protestant bodies outnumber the Anglicans. In Ireland they are nearly equally divided. Isn't it strange that the majority of the people allow themselves to be taxed to support the church institutions of the minority, while they voluntarily support their own churches and all the religious interests and activities which centre in their churches. The establishment will be disestablished some day.

The sins of the fathers are visited upon the children. It is true, also, that the sins of the children are visited upon the fathers. Here is a recent case. A few days ago, as reported in our news columns, four young men were sent to the New Jersey Penitentiary for long terms for having caused the death of a young woman. The father of one of the young men died in less than a week after his son's conviction. When the son was arrested the father was a strong and robust man. He began at once to fail in health, and when his son was convicted of the crime he could not bear up any longer, he sank into the grave, heart-broken. If sons and daughters knew the heart-ache and heart-break their wrong-doing causes those who love them best, they would surely refrain from evil ways.

Readers who have heard that Rev. Jos. Noble was ill, will be glad to read the letter from him which appears in another column. He will, we trust, continue to gain strength, and soon be able again, as he desires, to visit the churches and his long-time friends. For several years since he ceased to be a pastor, he has gone amongst the churches as an independent missionary, the Lord's messenger of encouragement and help. A great many of our people have an affectionate interest in Father Noble, as they like to call him, and we are sure they will be anxious now for his recovery, and that he may again give them the benefit of his presence and counsels. It comes to us to suggest a practical expression of interest in him. He has no salary. Just what he has received in voluntary offerings has been his support. Now that he is not able to go among the people, it is more than probable that his treasury is low. But whether that be so or not, it would be a good thing for those amongst whom he has been going for several years to send him offerings expressive of their love. His address is Woodstock, N. B. The contents of your letter will tell him your love.

The passing of centuries makes no difference, brings no new light and gives no wider horizon to the Roman Catholic Church; it has nothing to learn, nothing to change. What it was and what it believed in the twelfth century it believes and it is in the twentieth. So Cardinal Vaughan and his bishops declare in a pastoral letter lately issued. They show how anxious they are to keep their people from modern enlightenment. In their judgment it is better that corruptions, iniquities and errors in the life of the Church should remain concealed than that the light of day should be let in upon them. The laity must not think for themselves, they must keep their place, "think what the Church thinks and obey her voice," and avoid "indiscriminate reading" as they would poison. The great evil in their opinion, is that for three hundred years Englishmen have been learning to think for themselves, to use their own intelligence and judgment, and to listen to their own conscience. The Cardinal and his bishops, and their fellow ecclesiastics everywhere, would like to re-establish ecclesiastical dominion, and to put the people back into the fourteenth century.

RELIGION AMONGST STUDENTS.

In a paper on the College man's religion at the beginning of the twentieth century, Mr. John R. Mott, the General Secretary of the Christian Federation of the students of the world, writing in the Sunday School Times, brings out some very gratifying facts concerning the religious character of the students of this time. It is shown that the colleges constitute the most religious communities in America. Taking the young men of America as a whole, not more than one in twelve are members of evangelical churches. Among students, however, nearly one half of the young men are members of evangelical churches. The proportion among the young women students is even larger. And among professors and instructors the percentage of professed christians far larger even than it is among the students. This is true not only of colleges and other institutions under the control of religious

bodies, but it is equally true in state and other undenominational institutions. What is a still more striking fact is that the proportion of christian students in colleges is larger than it ever was. And the number of students who are being led into the christian life continues to grow. Last year more students accepted Christ as their Saviour and Lord than in any other year of which there is record. Mr. Moody evidently had knowledge of such facts as the foregoing, for he said but a few months before his death that he regarded the colleges as the most hopeful field in all the world. The Archbishop of Canterbury has said that few things inspired him with such hope as the uprising among college men and women for the evangelization of the world—the student volunteer movement. Under the influence of this movement several thousands of college men and women have volunteered to extend the kingdom of Christ in non-Christian lands. Over sixteen hundred of them have finished their preparation, and are now on the mission fields working under the direction of the regular mission boards. About five thousand students are in classes making a thorough study of missions; ten years ago the number was less than five hundred. This means a more intelligent leadership of the missionary enterprise at home as well as abroad. The day of prayer for students observed by the Christian Federation of students, is the Second Sunday in February—next Sunday. All christians should remember in their prayers the thousands of students in the country.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.

Those who watch the growth of religious liberty will be interested in some changes that are taking place in Russia, and which may be regarded as clear indications of increasing religious toleration. At a recent meeting of the bishops of Southern Russia, a quite unusual spirit of toleration marked the proceedings. While, of course, there were members of the Conference who were as harshly intolerant as ever, the general tone of the deliberations was one of desire to do justice, and to let justice be tempered with mercy. There was no strong voice in favour of persecution. In former years all cases of secession from the Orthodox Church were followed by persecution, banishment and imprisonment; but at the meeting we refer to there was a manifest purpose to use milder measures. Judging by the spirit of the conference, it seems safe to say that the persecuting spirit and practice of even recent years are, in a considerable degree, things of the past.

One of the questions engaging the attention of the meeting was as to the status of the Stundists. Hitherto Stundists were roughly classed as those who declined to attend the sacraments of the Orthodox Church. Without any inquiry, such people were stigmatized as disloyal to the throne and enemies of the country. As a matter of fact the Czar had no more loyal subjects than the Stundists, but it did not suit the priests to admit it. The recent conference decided that only those persons who decline to yield obedience to the Czar or to acknowledge his supreme authority, or who object to universal military service, or who openly inveigh against the Church and her rites, shall be considered as Stundists and proceeded against as such. While there is, to us who live amidst different conditions, much narrowness and hardships about the modified exactions, the decision is a tremendous step in advance. It is, practically, permission to every man to worship God as he thinks fit. As another proof of the milder spirit which is at present manifest by the Russian authorities, it may be mentioned that the banishment of Stundists to remote part of the empire has ceased. Some who had suffered banishment have been allowed to return to their homes. Whether this tolerant spirit will continue remains to be seen. Let us hope. It is due to the humane feeling and purpose which the Czar has brought to bear on the affairs of the country; and the character of his government is in a large degree due to the gentle influence and wise counsels of his good English wife.

—Apropos of the twentieth anniversary of the Christian Endeavor Society, Mr. Amos R. Wells summarizes the wonderful progress of that movement for the readers of the Review of Reviews. The organization, in these two decades, has grown from one society to 60,000, and from 40 members to nearly 4,000,000, reaching into every corner of the globe. The anniversary was celebrated at Portland, Maine, where the parent society was born on February 2.

THE QUEEN'S FUNERAL.

Saturday was the funeral day of Queen Victoria. In every part of the British Empire it was observed. Business was suspended, mourning draperies were on and in public buildings, places of business and private residences. Funeral services were held in churches every where. And all these things were the signs of sincere mourning of millions of people for a sovereign greatly beloved.

Not only throughout the British Empire, but throughout the world there were solemn observances of the day when all that was mortal of England's great Queen was borne to the burial. Never before in the history of the world did all nations, kindreds and tongues gather in sincere mourning at the bier of any human being. She was worthy who called out these demonstrations of sorrowing affection.

The reports of the funeral say that it was a most wonderful pageant. The most touching part of the funeral, because the most simple and natural, was the removal of the body on Friday from Osborne House to the Royal yacht which was to bear it to Portsmouth, enroute to London. The spectacle of the monarchs of the great countries—the dead Queen's son and grandson, and followed by the women of the royal family and the most noble princes of Europe, walking along the country road behind the bier of the greatest sovereign the world has known, must have been impressive. The most truly pathetic sight was the little band of women, looking like the members of the simplest family in the community and all evidently feeling deep grief. Some were distinguishable from the others. They all wore plain black dresses with long crepe veils, and they followed meekly and with down-cast heads. Yet the first was the Queen of England and with her was the woman who, if she lives will also hold the proud title, and behind them walked the women of the royal house to whom every knee in England is bowed in courtesy. The funeral service was held in St. George's Chapel late in the afternoon of Saturday. The interment took place Monday afternoon at Frogmore beside the husband who she mourned so deeply and so long.

POLITICAL NEWS.—The Kent Co. election is to be held—nomination Feb. 8th, polling Feb. 15th.

The Manitoba Legislature is to meet Feb. 21st.

Mr. A. B. Copp, barrister, of Sackville, was elected by acclamation to fill the Westmoreland vacancy caused by the death of Mr. W. W. Wells.

Mr. Michael Welsh is mentioned in connection with the Carleton Co. seat.

The Ontario elections are expected not later than June and there is a belief in some quarters that they will be on as early as March.

The New Brunswick Legislature is to meet Feb. 28th.

Mr. Lount, a former M. P. for Toronto, has been appointed Judge in place of the late Judge Rose.

It is announced that Mr. J. K. Pinder, a former M. P. will be the opposition candidate in York Co.

McKinnon (Liberal) of East Queens. P. E. I., has been unseated. The Judge in giving judgement spoke in terms of the corruption and debauchery that had been carried on.

Home Religious News.

—Rev J. M. Robinson, of Moncton, has been called to the Presbyterian church in Rossland, B. C.

—Evangelist Gale is to begin a series of special meetings in Wolfville church about the 20th inst.

—The Baptist Church in St. John West has been undergoing extensive repairs and improvements.

A CENTURY AGO.—Letters were written with quill pens. Sand was used to dry the ink; there was no blotting paper.

Rum was furnished at baptisms, funerals, dedications of churches, ordinations of ministers and like occasions.

Stoves were unknown. All cooking was done at open fireplaces.

REIGNS.—Twenty-three years is the average reign of English Kings and Queens in the last nine hundred years. Queen Victoria's reign of over sixty-three years is the longest in the history of the country. George III. reigned over fifty-nine years, Henry III. fifty-six years, and Edward III. forty-nine years.

Attachment to Christ is the only secret of detachment from the world.—A. J. Gordon.

Great men are they who see that spiritual is stronger than any material force.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Premier Bond, of Newfoundland, has gone to England, at the request of the Colonial Secretary, to discuss with him the French shore question. The Newfoundland Legislature will meet during Mr. Bond's absence, with Mr. Harwood as acting Premier. Premier Bond says the affairs of Newfoundland are in a good condition, that there is no poverty amongst the people, and that the government will have a surplus of \$250,000 at the end of the fiscal year. This surplus, he added, will enable the government to reduce the duty on pork, flour, molasses and some other articles. He says confederation is not a live question in the island just now.

A PENSION ROLL.

The pension appropriation for this year, now before the United States Congress, amounts to \$145,245,230. The war of the rebellion closed thirty-six years ago. Then number of pensioners now on the roll is 993,529, nearly double the number of ten years ago, and nearly four times as many as there were twenty years ago. The new claims allowed within the last year numbered 40,645. And there are, doubtless, more to follow.

THE BRITISH CENSUS.

Arrangements are being made to take the census of Great Britain on Monday, April 1st. During the last week in March, 40,000 men and women will leave printed forms at every house in the land. Ten million such forms have been issued. On April 1st these will be collected and sent to London, and the local census-takers, having finished their task, will receive about £3 each. Two hundred clerks, of whom fifty will be women, will then begin to tabulate the returns; women, by the way, have never before been allowed to participate in this branch of the undertaking. An attempt is to be made to secure more information as to 'occupations.' The number of uninhabited houses in the country is for the first time to be counted by the enumerators.

CHINA.

The news from China is not very satisfactory. Russia is, evidently, determined to look after her own interests without respect to what any other power may wish; and without reference to the right or wrong of her action. Li Hung Chang is said to be dying. The Emperor is understood to want peace. What the Dowager Empress wants nobody is sure of. The Boxers are not doing damage just now.

THAT "INVESTIGATION."

The Globe suggests, and very properly we think, that the next police investigation held in St. John be conducted on different lines, and that common sense methods be used. "Not proven" does not seem to be as satisfactory a verdict as is desirable in a case where so grave charges are made. And there might be some effort to prevent witnesses walking out of town till the trial is over. Police matters in more places than St. John might be better for a little investigation.

THEIR "SORROW."

The Toronto rum-sellers decided to shew their mourning for the Queen by closing their groggeries on the day of the funeral. Perhaps they kept the agreement they made amongst themselves, and perhaps they did a side-door business, such as they do on Sundays. But whatever they did last Saturday they will go gleefully on with their funeral-making traffic every other day in the year. If they only made funerals it would not be so bad, but they curse the living with burdens and sorrows that graves cannot hide.

FOR CONSCIENCE' SAKE.

The Presbyterian Witness has information to the effect that in one part of Nova Scotia a number of "industrious and sober men" have been dismissed from work because they would not work on the Lord's Day. They refused to be Sabbath-breakers like certain foreigners who have no stake in this country and little knowledge of the law of God or men; they refused, and they were dismissed. There surely is a remedy for tyrannical and unjust treatment of this sort. These men have been brought up to love and honor the Lord's Day. They would not for any wages give up the day to needless toil. They are the best workers that any contractor ever engaged on any public work. And they are to be punished by dismissal and starvation because of their conscientious convictions. It is a shame. A remedy must be found, and happily a remedy is not beyond our reach. Subsidies ought in future

to be withheld from all Railways where contractors compel workmen to labor on Sundays. This much at least the Governments of the Provinces and of the Dominion can do without dealing unjustly with any man or company. But there is law on the statute-book that makes needless Sunday work a penal offence, and if magistrates are true to their duty they will take measures to teach contractors that they are not above the law of the land. The Witness does not say at what place in Nova Scotia this occurred, nor what concern discharged them. The matter should, certainly, be looked into.

MRS. NATION'S HATCHET.

Mrs. Nation keeps on wrecking illicit rum shops in certain Kansas towns. She has many sympathizers, and there are, also, many to criticize her course. The latter include, of course, all whose sympathies are with rum-selling, and those who for political or business reasons desire the favour of the rum-selling gang. Some, too, who pose as temperance people join the outcry against the woman who made desperate by the unfaithfulness of those whose sworn duty it is to enforce the prohibitory law, has undertaken extreme measures with a view to awaken the public conscience. These milk-and-water temperance people have never been shocked by the flagrant law violations of the groggeries gang, but they can join in the cry against a mother who seeks to arouse the people to action against the cold-blooded destroyers of the sons of the country. Such people are everywhere, and a poor lot they are, too. Mrs. Nation's methods may, or may not be, the wisest. At this distance we cannot say off hand. But the professed christians and temperance people who have never made an effort to prevent the rum-sellers' deadly work, have no right to cry out against her. Let them do something themselves—something better and more effective than Mrs. Nation is doing, and then they may be justified in criticizing her action.

TO BE ABOLISHED.

The Chaplain of the Senate of Canada died since last session of Parliament. On his death it was intimated that Rev. Mr. O'Leary, one of the South African Chaplains, would, probably, be appointed. Now it is announced that the government has decided to abolish the office. Is the latter decision because it was found that Father O'Leary's appointment could not be made?

"MUST FIGHT," HE SAYS.

Dr. Armstrong Black, of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Toronto, preached to the Highlanders (Volunteers) last Sunday. He is reported as having said, in the course of his sermon: "There will come, sooner or later, a day of trouble in the history of this land. Unless history of every kind is to be falsified by the record of this we cannot attain to true and full life until we shall have passed through some great crisis—until, I say, we shall have had experience of war in the life of this fair land."

"History tells us we must prepare for this. Before we come into the full and true and noble work of life we must be baptized and consecrated to that work in blood. I know not whence it may come and I do not desire it to come. But come it will, and come it must."

"It may be the result of racial questions; it may be a war of religion; we may fight on these Canadian plains on account of some old world quarrel. But come the day will. Come it must. When that day comes Canada will have in fuller measure that baptism in blood, some of the drops of which have been sprinkled on some of your gallant and noble heads."

Senator Wark, of this city, now ninety-seven years old, has lived under the reign of five sovereigns. He was sixteen years old when George III. died in 1820, and remembers the accession and death of George IV. and the accession of Victoria.

Rev. W. B. Hinson, formerly pastor of the Moncton Baptist church, and more recently a pastor in Los Angeles, California, is now in charge of a new paper in the California town, having had to abandon the pulpit on account of throat trouble.

Newfoundland is to have a new Governor. Sir Cavendish Boyle has been appointed to succeed Sir H. McCallum, who was recently Governor of Natal.

Mgr. Merry Del Val, who represented the Pope in Canada for a time, will, it is said, be the Papal delegate to the United States in place of Mr. Martinelli.