

TERMS AND NOTICES.

The RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER is issued on Wednesday, from the office of publication, 107 St. Frederick St. N. B.

\$1.50 a year in advance.

If not paid in advance the price is \$2.00. New subscriptions may begin at any time.

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Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25TH, 1901.

To the ministers we venture to repeat the request that they will endeavour to bring to Conference lists of renewals and new subscriptions for the INTELLIGENCER. We hope they will mention the matter to their congregations again next Sunday, and secure as large lists of subscriptions as they can.

Thursday, Nov. 28th has been fixed by the government as Thanksgiving Day.

When a man's opinions are always those of the majority there is reason to fear that he has no very strong convictions.

The question of the union of Presbyterianism and Congregationalism in Australia is being agitated. It will, probably, be accomplished within a few years.

Amongst the Presbyterians in the Southern States the practice of infant baptism has steadily declined during the last quarter of a century. The decrease in that time is more than one-half.

A preacher recently said that after surveying the cross, and thinking of all it revealed and implied, he felt moved to pray "God be merciful to me a Christian." Many Christians need to make such prayer.

The rum traffic will get a death-blow as soon as Christians unite in action against it. As long as Christians are satisfied to talk, and excuse themselves, for any reason, from doing anything practical against it, the men of the traffic will be happy in the safety of their craft. And they quietly laugh at the Christians who help them.

Rev. S. E. Sprague, a minister of the Primitive Baptist denomination, died at his home, Beechwood, C. Co., on Wednesday of last week. He was fifty-four years of age, had been in the ministry about twenty years. His work had been principally in Carleton and Victoria Counties, where he had many friends, and was regarded as an earnest and faithful preacher.

Speaking of the Roman Catholic Church in politics, Dr. Parkhurst, of New York, says that Tammany is "the secular side of the Roman church." There is, he declares no use in blinking at these matters. Facts are facts. Roman Catholicism as at present administered is an incubator upon the body, mind and conscience of every nation and every institution that comes in any measure under its influence and despotism.

About the prayer-meeting, how to conduct, and what constitutes a good one, the Christian Advocate seems to think there should be some teaching. "Provided a young man has gifts, graces and usefulness, the colleges and seminaries may help in his preaching. But who will teach him how to conduct a prayer meeting? And how many kinds of prayer meetings there are? Some are like the report of the spies—ten grumblers, and only two with grapes; others are of such deadly dullness as to suggest infinite vacuity. But perhaps the popular prayer meeting is the most popular and, at the same time, the least valuable of any. When a meeting is gauged by the number of those who take part—"twenty-seven testimonies

sixteen hymns, and eleven prayers, all inside of an hour"—we may be certain that the service has not been on a high level. Then, on the other hand, when the meeting falls into the hands of the long-winded folk, they generally leave it as the robbers did the traveler on his way to Jericho—stripped, wounded, and half dead. No more tactful, delicate service falls to the pastors lot than that involved in the church prayer meeting.

The University of Chicago is making a new departure in the line of "personally conducted tours." One of the courses of its Divinity School is to be taken next winter in Palestine, under the direction of Professor Shailer Matthews, the junior dean. A class, limited to twenty, will sail from New York in December, returning in April. The time spent in Palestine will be devoted to illustrative interpretation of the Land and the Book, with special courses in Biblical geography and the life of Christ. The tours planned for cover Judea, Samaria and Galilee, with the Decapolis, extending as far north as Damascus and Baalbek. It will hardly be a holiday tour. Original work in research and interpretation will be required, and credit given at the University the same as for the work of students in residence. The whole expense to each person is about \$700. This announcement, following closely on the statement that the University is to establish its own branch schools in Europe for Americans residing there, the first of which, for girls, opens next autumn in Paris, puts this institution in the lead of others of its rank in America.

THE CONFERENCE.

Next week the sixty-ninth annual session of the Free Baptist General Conference of New Brunswick will convene. The Ministers' Conference will be held on Friday. The General Conference, which is composed of ministers and lay delegates, will begin on Saturday. The first meeting Saturday is a social conference, beginning at 10 a. m. At 2 p. m. the Conference will be called to order for business.

The session is to be held at Marysville. It was to have been held at Waterville, C. Co., but the existence of smallpox in the vicinity of Waterville prevented, much to the disappointment of the good people who had invited the Conference to meet with them, and also, of the members of Conference. Marysville, on very short notice, was good enough to invite the Conference there, and will repeat the warm hospitality which marked its entertainment of the annual session ten years ago.

A Conference is a meeting of large importance. According to our system, there assemble all the ministers of the body in this Province. Besides the ministers there are laymen, representing the seven Districts into which the denomination in New Brunswick is divided. If all are present who are entitled to seats there will be something over one hundred members of Conference in attendance. The annual meeting of the Women's Mission Society is held at the same time and place, and adds somewhat to the attendance, as well as to the interest.

It is important always, and this year quite as much as in any preceding year, that every member of Conference be in his place—and be there from the beginning to the end of the session. No member should permit any trifling cause to prevent his attendance. But the importance of a Conference is not wholly, or even chiefly, in the size of the meeting, desirable as full attendance is. It is, rather, in the spirit of the meeting—shown in the faithfulness with which the things that concern the cause are dealt with, and in the wisdom and courage with which plans for better work and enlarged work are made.

Reports will be presented showing what has been done in the various departments of work—the additions to the churches, the increase, and improvement of church property, the home mission activities and the results, the contributions to Christian work amongst the heathen, Sabbath school work, &c., &c.

The measure of the Conference's interest in the Kingdom of Christ will be very fairly indicated by its feeling about these reports, and its treatment of the conditions they reveal. They will, doubtless, contain facts which will call for joy. They may, also, contain facts which should provoke heart-searching. They will, in any case, afford a test of the real interest of the Conference in Christian work.

All the members of Conference are, of course, hoping for a good session. In all the churches and homes of the denomination let there be prayer for the presence of the Lord in the Conference, and His guidance in all that is done.

THE REVIVAL IN JAPAN.

The latest news of the revival in Japan is to the effect that the work goes forward encouragingly. Several thousands have confessed Christ since the work began. The co-operation of all bodies of Christians, the simplicity of the message, the earnestness of the leaders, and the use of the open Bible have made a profound impression and prepared the way for larger harvests. Able native pastors, prominent educators, and members of Parliament and reformers are leaders in the work, pressing home the guilt of sin, redemption from sin through Jesus Christ, and the call for pure lives. It was a novel thing in Japan for women to take part in these efforts, distributing invitations and laboring with bands of workers in the street meetings. The campaign has extended to several cities and promises to become a national movement with far-reaching results.

From an account of the work in Tokyo, written by one of the missionaries engaged in it, we make some extracts:

I wish I could give you a picture of the union prayer-meeting yesterday. The church where we meet can accommodate about three hundred persons by crowding. Yesterday there were over seven hundred and thirty counted. By opening windows a large number who were standing in the court outside were able to hear. Perhaps half the audience were outside and crowded into the front hall and a little side room near the pulpit. The reports and the prayers showed how mightily the Spirit is at work. It is not mere enthusiasm. Among the converts are many elderly people. At the meeting yesterday fourteen stood up for prayer. One of these is an historic character, being one of the generals who fought against the government in the War of the Restoration, one of the three or four famous men in that war. His wife is a member of Mr. Tamura's church. When Tamura saw the old warrior stand up for prayer he was filled with delight. He asked the leader to let him pray. I wish you could have heard that prayer. Many wonderful conversions are reported. In the collection yesterday were found two rings, one gold and one silver. A touching incident was told of a Yokohama youth who having heard of the meetings, wanted to come. His parents being anti-Christian refused him carriage. He asked for a lunch, and they refused this also. Then he started off on foot, moneyless and without food, walked all the way to Tokyo, nearly twenty miles, and found what he sought, the pardon of his sins. He has since been working with the volunteer band distributing tracts and gathering the people to the meetings. Christians who heard of his case pitied and wanted to help him, but he refused all gifts of food or money, having his wants sufficiently supplied by some Christian. Other cases of profound interest are reported daily. Hard characters, gamblers, drunkards, keepers of houses of ill fame, pawn brokers, and the like, are among the new converts.

One remarkable element of this revival is the prominence given in it to work for children. For the first two or three nights the leaders were annoyed by the large number of children who crowded into the meetings and filled up all the front benches. In order to get rid of them the leaders began to invite the children to come a half hour earlier and hear addresses specially intended for them and then go away. In Mr. Tamura's church there are separate rooms where the children can be assembled without interfering with the main audience. It was soon found that there was a real interest among the children. The children's meetings have become a permanent feature. The daily reports show a constant increase in the numbers of children in attendance in the several churches. They listen with the most perfect attention, many of them have confessed Christ, numbers of them are working to bring out their parents and other relatives, and with splendid success.

Another interesting thing is the zeal with which the church members and the new converts are giving themselves to the work of bringing in others. Every afternoon, when the prayer-meeting is over, bands of Christians go about the streets all over the ward, distributing notices of the evening services, inviting people to come, and preaching the Word as they go. You will often see a large group of people in the street gathered around four or five young men; perhaps there will be a drum and a life to aid in the music; a Christian hymn will be sung to the tune "Marching Through Georgia," or some other rousing air, when the crowd is gathered the music stops and one of the young men

preaches a five minute sermon on man's need of salvation and Christ as the Saviour, closing with the announcement for the evening services. Then the band moves on to the next bridge or corner. Then an hour before service on the street corners near each church, another band of young men with a big lantern on a high pole showing the name of their particular church, will watch for all the passers and give them circulars and urge them to the meetings. As a result we have full houses every night.

We have also advertised by means of an attractive poster in all bath houses, barber shops, stations and prominent centres, so that go where one will in this ward one is met by something calling his attention to the Christian religion.

Already the Christians of other parts are getting together to organize. Yokohama, too, seems to be catching fire, and I expect to see similar revivals reported in every part of Japan.

A very interesting feature has recently developed in the shape of a large student volunteer band. Some of the native papers have been calling attention to the fearful depravity which prevails among the students of the higher schools in Tokyo. If half what they write is true the moral atmosphere in which the students of the Imperial University, the higher, middle, normal, medical and other advanced institutions are being nurtured is simply appalling. Over against these evils we have now, called forth by our meetings, a band of Christian students who have set themselves to the rescue of their comrades. They, too, go out on the streets and preach the Gospel and arrest the courses of heedless youth whose feet are hastening to perdition. Pray for these few faithful men among their 50,000 comrades.

FINDS IT GOOD.—A subscriber writes: "We believe in supporting our denominational paper. And we find it good."

S. S. CONVENTION.—The Sunbury County Sunday School Association will convene with the Free Baptist church at Fenton Junction on Tuesday, Oct. 1st. Sessions as follows: 10 o'clock a. m.; 2 p. m.; 7 p. m.

DORA B. MERRERAU, County Sec'y.

ACADIA.—Acadia College, Wolfville, opens for the fall and winter term the first Wednesday in October.

POLITICAL NEWS.—The protest against Mr. Blair came before the Elections Court in St. John on Tuesday of last week. The case was dismissed by arrangement between the parties concerned. The Globe says:

"The ending of the proceedings is in accordance with the agreement reached between representatives of the two parties to drop all petitions each side paying its own costs, and the petitioner in each case paying the costs of court. As each of the pending cases is called the petitioner or his counsel will announce that he has no evidence to offer. Besides St. John there are cases pending in Queens, Sunbury, Kings, Restigouche and Westmorland counties."

This is the "saw-off" that has been talked of so much.

A by-election in New Westminster B. C. last week, resulted in the defeat of J. C. Brown, recently appointed finance minister in the Dunsmuir government.

Since the list of candidates published last week other nominations for the Nova Scotia legislature have been made, as follows: The Liberal Conservatives have nominated, in Digby, J. K. Tobin and A. P. Melanson; in Cape Breton, C. McKinnon and Vincent Mullin; in Cumberland, C. R. Smith and D. McLeod; in Hants, C. S. Wilcox and A. S. Sanford; in Pictou, Wm. Cameron, Geo. E. Munroe and C. E. Turner.

Sir Louis Davies has been appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in place of Judge King, deceased.

It is said that Dr. Borden has become, or will become, Minister of Marine and Fisheries in place of Sir Louis Davies, and that Hon. Jas. Sutherland, of Ontario, is to succeed Dr. Borden as Minister of Militia.

According to the editor of The Methodist Times, of London, Hugh Price Hughes, the traditional sites of Mount Calvary and of the Holy Sepulchre are now owned by English Christians, having been purchased by them a few years ago.

Figures recently published in Vienna show that during the six months ending June 30 there were 6148 conversions to Protestantism in Austria. This undermining of Catholicism in the Austrian empire is said to be due in the main to clerical interference with racial aspirations.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

THE ROYAL VISITORS.

The Royal visitors are receiving a most enthusiastic welcome at every point. Quebec, Montreal and Ottawa were running over with warmth of feeling. They reached the capital Friday, and will be there till Tuesday of this week, when they start west. What they have already witnessed is a sample of the heartiness of the greeting which the people in every part of Canada are ready to extend to them.

PERSIA.

In Persia, according to recent reports, a widespread revolutionary movement is going on. Recent loan negotiations with Russia have increased the discontent. The Grand Vizier is accused of selling the country and failing to make reforms. Martial law has been proclaimed in the capital and environs. The Shah frequently finds threatening letters upon his table. The trouble, whatever it is, is probably fostered by Russia.

COTTON CROP.

This year's cotton crop is the largest ever produced in the Southern States. The price of cotton is higher than in any late year, so that the value of the crop is away ahead of any previous year. The 1899 yield was the largest previous to this year; but the value this year is \$200,000,000 more than in that year. The whole yield is 10,383,492 bales, valued at \$494,567,549.

A LANGUAGE PROBLEM.

The language question was a thorny one in the Boer states before the war. Now that those states have become part of the British possessions the language problem will be scarcely less difficult. The Diamond Field's Teachers' Association, in a series of resolutions, urges that in the future educational system there should be no suppression of Dutch, but a strong and consistent encouragement to use English. It is in the back-country districts, where very little English is spoken, that tact will most be needed. Unless the people in these districts learn English they will be hopelessly stranded, yet it is from these that the greatest opposition to learning English will come. It is asserted that the number of people in South Africa who speak pure Dutch is really very small. The ministers of the Dutch Reformed Church are supposed to preach in Dutch, but they seldom do, and if they did their congregations would not understand them. The debased taal which is spoken has no literature and hardly any grammar, and has been kept alive mainly for political reasons. The teachers say Dutch should still be taught as a foreign language, but every child should have a competent knowledge of English, and so be fitted to take a fair share in the business of his country.

BRITAIN IN INDIA.

\$75,000,000 is the amount spent by the India Government for famine relief in the last three years. Yet our United States neighbors are fond of saying that Britain neglects her India subjects. Unprejudiced people readily admit that British rule has been the largest kind of a blessing to India.

HOUSE-CLEANING.

The Royal Palaces of Great Britain are being overhauled since the new King came to the throne. Cellars and garrets which have been closed for many years, some of them more than a century, are being opened and their contents examined. Many interesting things are coming to light, among them some handsome paintings. In a stable at St. James's paddled van, which has not been used for 150 years, has been found, and this is filled with splendid silver and silver gilt plate. It is supposed that it belonged to Queen Anne and was used by her when giving her dinner parties, the van carrying it from St. James to the other palaces in the neighborhood of London. The silver is black, and is thought to have been in the van since the death of Queen Anne.

PROHIBITION.

Massachusetts prohibitionists seemed disposed to make a straight fight in the next state election. At a recent well attended convention, held in Boston, a platform of principles, unanimously adopted, declares "that the supreme issue before the American people is the liquor traffic and its attendant evils; that the attitude of the state towards the liquor traffic affects favorably or adversely every interest of the people; that an independent political party, with prohibition of the liquor traffic as its paramount issue, is an inevitable necessity; that as a political party the first work is to place

the state in unequivocal opposition to the liquor traffic, and until this object is secured they will not be diverted therefrom by other issues."

NOVA SCOTIA ELECTORS.

The Halifax Evangelical Alliance has issued an appeal to the electors of Nova Scotia in regard to two questions which "deeply involve the future welfare of the country." The appeal says:

1. "We respectfully ask you to be in mind, as you give your vote, to claim of the Christian Sabbath. Is the man of your choice one who can be trusted to respect the law of God and the laws of the land and shall be ready to defend the Christian Sabbath from encroachments seriously threaten its existence. In the face of the greatest possible importance are at stake and you can now make your influence felt on the side of right."

2. The liquor traffic is an enormous evil, a standing menace to the safety and happiness of our homes all over the land. What are you willing to do with regard to it? Any measures that are reasonable and right for its suppression are surely entitled to your generous support and to the support of the men for whom you vote.

In view of these matters that vitally concern you and your children, appeal to you to elect men who will be trusted to conserve and protect the material and moral interests of people of this province—men who stand for the right in every emergency and in dealing with all moral questions."

THE FUNERAL.

The funeral of the late President McKinley took place on Thursday, Canton, Ohio, his old home. Thousands of people gathered at stations in the cities and towns and villages through which the funeral train passed on the way from Canton to Canton, to get a glimpse of the funeral car, and to express their presence their sense of bereavement in the death of the nation's honored chief. President Cleveland, the only Ex-President, was at the funeral ceremonies at Washington.

The day of the burial was solemnly observed not only throughout the United States but in many parts of the British Empire also. The British flag was at half-mast everywhere as a sign of our nation's sympathy with the sister nation.

SOUTH AFRICA.

The militia department has received a cable from Sec. Chamberlain to form A. Mather of Newcastle, N. S. W., that his son, Nelson Mather, is dead wounded in the foot at Bush Kop, Sept. 8.

The trial of Dr. Broeckman was public prosecutor under the Transvaal government) at Johannesburg the charge of treason, in addition bringing to light some alleged treason correspondence exchanged between Dr. Kraus and others with Boers of the Transvaal, under cover to Gordon, the American consul at Johannesburg, has also developed fact that correspondence with Boers was exchanged through American consul at The Hague.

A despatch from Lord Kitchener dated Pretoria, Sept. 18, announced that the Boers on Sept. 17 and three companies of mounted men with three guns, commanded by Gough, in the vicinity of Schalk Nek. After severe fighting the Boers were overpowered and lost their sights and breech locks of their first destroyed. Two officers and 14 men were killed and 14 officers and 150 men were wounded. Major Gough, who escaped during the night, reports that the numbered a thousand men and they were commanded by G. Botha.

Of 12,637 British officers and soldiers wounded in South Africa only 732 have died. So much modern surgery.

The Czar of Russia is in France and is very happy.

At Coffeyville, Kan., a woman brought suit against five joint owners for \$10,000 damages on the ground that they sold liquor to her 30-year-old son against her protest. She alleges that during the past years her son was drunk on 81 occasions so drunk that she had to take him. On the remaining 285 days he was only partly sober. The damages \$4,050—or \$5 a day for services in caring for her son 81 days, and the remainder of the