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## Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 25th, 1901.

If the other members of the church attended prayer meeting just as often and as regularly as you do, how much of a prayer meeting would there be?

Amidst to-day's exchanging of gifts, we should be careful to remember the "unspeakable gift." How it deepens in meaning and in power as time goes on!

A Politician, a member of President Roosevelt's party, is reported as saying, "The only fault he (the President) has is that he cannot lie." Like many another politician, that man thinks lying necessary to success in political life.

It is not so very long since total abstinence was regarded unfavorably by life insurance companies. It is told that in 1840 a British Company required an extra premium of an applicant for insurance because he was a total abstainer from intoxicants. All companies to-day know that the abstainer is a much safer risk than even the moderate drinker; and some companies give better rates to abstainers.

What Christ is to us let us in our human measure endeavour to be to others. Christmas tells of love— infinite love, for the helpless and unworthy. Christ came to the world to pour divine kindness on needy and perishing lives. The Christmas spirit in our hearts will send us out on the same gracious errand. There is need everywhere for love's ministry. Let us do well, and with joy, our part of the blessed ministry of help and christian cheer.

An illustration of the cruel intolerance of many Roman Catholic priests, and of its deadly effect on some of its victims, is reported from Italy. A young man, whose family rented a room to Protestants for worship, was told by the priest of the place that all the members of the family were eternally damned and cursed of God for having given that much encouragement to the heretics. The young man, being in poor health and weak, was so shocked and alarmed by the priests word that he became insane and took his own life within a day or two. The tragedy, however, has been overruled for good, for it has called attention to the difference between the gospel of love and the gospel of Rome.

## Referring to the tribute

which wealth is paying to religion in these days, in the large contributions made to religious work, the Christian Register points out that while all this is admirable, there goes with it a danger that needs to be guarded against. The strength of a church must be in the mutual interest and the active co-operation of all the members. In illustration of the danger which attends upon relieving the people of financial responsibility. A church, which for thirty years had no anxiety about its finances because, whatever the income and expenditure, the treasurer always brought in the bills receipted at the end of the year, is now closed. When the man upon whom the church leaned was taken away they could not go on, for they had not learned self-support. Whatever takes away from a congregation the sense of responsibility for the support and welfare of the church is, generally, a hurt and not a blessing. While it is right and desirable that those to whom wealth has been given should pay grateful tribute to God in the generous support of all religious institutions and all benevolences, it is a calamity if such generosity takes away from the many small givers the blessed impulse to pay their share in maintaining religious institutions and enterprises.

## CHRISTMAS GREETING.

To all our readers we offer Christmas greeting. We wish them a good Christmas—one filled with the pure joy which should be in the hearts of those who recognize the greatness and preciousness of the gift of God in the babe of Bethlehem.

## THE GIFT OF LOVE.

This is the great gift making time of the year. It is well to remember that the worth of a gift is not denoted by its pecuniary value. It can only be interpreted by the love and consideration which thus expresses itself as a living impulse. The very essence of Christmas giving lies in this gift of oneself in the spontaneous love-inspired manner of the One whose great birthday gift of himself to the world we thus celebrate. There are some golden offerings, which can be made only at a cost of toil and pain and struggle, and often heartache and tears, such as only great natures are capable of making. Then there are the smaller gifts of kind words and unselfish acts of helpfulness, within hourly reach of us all, and which cost only the trouble of a little thoughtfulness. Do you think these are mere trifles, which are neither needed nor noticed? Does the earth not need the rays of the sun? Kind words give an atmosphere of warmth and brightness in the soul. There are so many weary men and women who need the encouragement of our cheery words and helpful kindness. Don't wait to offer the incense of appreciation at their funerals. Do it now, when it is needed so much. Have you realized that the world's great heart is hungering for the sympathy that springs from real, unaffected love? Remember that a heart much the same as your own, with its hidden joys and sorrows, and that marvellous greatness which nothing less than the infinite can satisfy, beats in every breast. Give generously of yourself, then. It not only brings sunshine to others, but it will broaden and deepen your own nature and your own capacity for enjoyment. How hard we work to gain happiness, quite blind to the fact that even from a purely selfish standpoint, the best investment to secure such an income is in the giving of willing service to others. The man whose interests are with those around him, has no time nor opportunity for selfish misery. The tendency which is always drawing him into sympathy of purpose with other men gives breadth of life and vision. Let us make a special effort at this season of the year to touch the lives around us with such wise, tender ministry that they shall be not only brightened, but sweetened and strengthened. Through human hands Christ passes his gifts of love and grace to humanity.

A CHRISTMAS PRESENT.—A mother, sending a subscription for her son, writes: "I would like it to be sent so as to reach him Christmas, as I am making him a present of it. We have taken the INTELLIGENCER about 30 years, and we prize it, and wish it was in every home. It is good for old and young. We hope the coming year will be a prosperous one for the paper."

The majority of men are lost, not because they are criminals, but fool; not because they sought wickedness, but drifted into it; not because they purposed folly, but simply because they never had a wise and enduring purpose.—W. J. Dawson.

## PASSING AWAY.

The year is dying. It was but a little while ago that we took a stranger by the hand and gave him hearty welcome at the threshold, as a parting guest left us who should not return our way again. And now the sometime stranger has become a familiar, and he, too, passes out, and we shall see him no more. It carries with it nothing of sentimentality, but of a true and lofty sentiment instead, that we should take account of these years as they pass, and consider where they found us, and where they have left us. Astronomy would not perhaps be thought to hold close relation to the moral or to the religious life; but it is the astronomical feature of the year that gives it its most marked characteristic, and enables us to appropriate a wholesome lesson. For as it is to the position which the Creator has given this whirling world of ours in its orbit that we owe the charms and the changes of the seasons, which serve to mark the movement of the hands on the dial face of the year, now from sunlight to shadow, and again from withered leaves and cold and snow to the bloom, the radiance and warmth of summer. So it is, by these ever-varying changes we mark the progress of the year; and it is by the recurrence of a particular one, as that of the winter solstice, that we note the completion of another cycle. We look out during the day, and we see snow and sleet and barrenness on wood and field, which but a few weeks ago were clothed in verdure or decked with the beauty of the lilies. We look up to the heavens at night, and we miss the familiar constellations that greeted our eyes but a little while ago, and instead we see Orion, who comes with the cold and goes with it, puncturing the west with his spear, while Sirius flashes upon the glistening earth the light of a blazing sun a thousandfold brighter than our own. As we note these and other changes we are also made to realize, as otherwise we should not, that another year has passed, and that we are brought so much nearer the gates of eternity. It is but natural, too, at this time that tender memories of other days should come before us, and that we should think how one by one our friends have passed away—it seems so long ago!—and left us desolate. But to those of advanced years there is great compensation in the thought that every recurring year brings us nearer to them, brings us nearer the end of our journey. The way has been hard and weary at times, and as the loved ones had fallen by the way it has become lonely traveling. But it will not be long now; some day not distant the gate will swing open for us, and then what a meeting that will be! Nor should we lament the swift flying years. Well has the poet said:

"Heaven gives our years of fading strength  
Indemnifying fleetness,  
And those of youth a seeming length  
Proportioned to their sweetness."

The young may well rejoice at the passing away of the old year and the ushering in of the new with all its possibilities; but the Christian of mature years is content, if he does not as spontaneously rejoice, that it brings him out of the storm into the calm, from out the shadows of earth into the radiance of eternity.—C. W.

## THE POWER OF CHRISTIANITY.

For almost two thousand years Christianity has been placed before mankind in its best aspects. Had the same amount of labor and talent been devoted to the exploitation of Judaism, the world would be peopled with Jews.—American Israelite.

Upon which the Christian Standard comments thus:

There is a great unconscious confession of the power of Christianity in the foregoing paragraph. We can not agree with our distinguished Jewish contemporary, however, in saying that Christianity has been placed before mankind in its best aspects for two thousand years. For many weary centuries true Christianity was obscured and misrepresented by the superstition and corruption of a degenerate church. In all the ages a handful of noble men have represented Christianity in its pure doctrine and life, while the great mass of professed adherents to Christ in Europe and Asia were under the dominion of an ambitious and unspiritual priesthood. That Christianity has been so widely disseminated in the world is due to its own intrinsic power, and in spite of the exploitations of an ambitious hierarchy whose whole profession is condemned by the teaching of Christ. Then why so much labor and talent have been devoted to the extension of Christianity rather than to that of Judaism would be an interesting and profitable inquiry to pursue. The truth is that Christianity itself is the inspiration of the devotion and self-sacrifice which it has called

forth. It has been, and still remains, a missionary religion; its great doctrine of Christ, his death, burial, resurrection and glorification, is true, and at its heart is the infinite and expansive force of divine love.

## THE STAYERS-AT-HOME.

An absent man in the day of battle (says the Baptist Union) is worthless, no matter how splendid his fighting qualities may be. An absent church-member in the hour of need in public testimony is worthless. An absent Sunday-school teacher at the hour of study is utterly worthless, no matter how fine a teacher she may be. A church prayer-meeting of fifty persons is only fifty persons strong, no matter whether it has a thousand names on its membership roll. Their are only fifty persons holding up the standard in that one place at that time,—unless the others are in service elsewhere. A church service on a Sunday night, in which fifty members out of five hundred are to be found, is fifty strong in that hour of holding out a helping hand to the world to come to Christ. Barring the fact that their money may help to keep an empty church-building open on a Sunday night, for all practical purposes the home sitting church-members might as well be dead—

## NOTES OF A SEPTEMBER JAUNT.

There were two of us left St. John on the Quebec Express at 7.30 p. m., arriving at Point Levis the next day about noon. Crossing the Ferry from Point Levis to Quebec, we passed by the beautiful ship that brought the Royal party. There were also a number of war ships lying in the harbour which had escorted the Royal party. They gave the harbour a very warlike appearance. As one looks for the first time upon Quebec, he thinks of the saying of Henry Ward Beecher, "Curious old Quebec. It is a populated cliff. There is the Lower Town, with its ancient-looking buildings and very narrow streets; and the Upper Town with its magnificent buildings. We visited the plains of Abraham, one of the chief points of interest. Here was the battle field where Gen. Wolf, with his soldiers, under the darkness of the night, climbed the steep and rugged cliff, which to look upon one would think impossible, and surprised Montcalm and fought the memorable battle on Sept. 13th, 1759 which decided the fate of Canada. A high monument is erected to Wolf's memory where he fell. Passing a place on the field where some of the sod had been removed we found two old percussion caps used on the old musket of by-gone days. We kept them as souvenirs. We were shown through the Citadel. Although, still a fortress its present chief use is as a Barracks, and in it are kept military stores. A little way from the Citadel and overlooking the St. Lawrence valley is the large hotel known as the Chateau Frontenac built by the C. P. R. at a cost of a million dollars. We rode on the electric cars to Montmorency Falls, seven miles below Quebec. There is not a very large volume of water but the Falls are nearly one hundred feet higher than the great Niagara. From it is gotten the power used by the city of Quebec in lighting and driving the electric cars. We next visited St. Anne de Beaupre, twenty-one miles from Quebec. There is the famous shrine which for over two hundred and fifty years pilgrims have visited in search of health. Tradition relates that in the early part of the seventeenth century some Breton mariners who were overtaken in a storm while navigating the St. Lawrence solemnly avowed to St. Ann that if delivered from the dangers which compassed them they would erect a sanctuary in her honor on the spot on which they should land. Here they built a small wooden chapel in fulfilment of their vows, which has since become famous. It is said the primitive little church was replaced by a larger structure in 1660. It has been rebuilt several times since then, and is still occupying its original site near the "sacred springs" whose waters they claim have miraculous properties. Near by it the magnificent edifice which has been raised to the dignity of a Basilica. A colossal statue of St. Anne surmounts the facade between twin towers rising to a great height. It is said that the interior of this edifice rivals the most famous cathedrals in the world in beauty, painting and statuary, representing different scenes in the life of Christ. On each side of the entrance are large pyramids of crucifixes and canes and trusses and splints and wooden legs. As there was no one to explain to us what substitutes were given for the wooden legs, we came away a little sceptical. In another part of the building we saw strung along the wall second hand pipes, spectacles, snuff boxes. Near the altar is another

statue of St. Anne resting on a column of onyx, and in the sanctuary is a piece of a finger bone, said to be that of the Saint, and a part of the saint's wrist, and a portion of the rock from the grotto in which St. Anne gave birth to the Virgin Mary. The statue of St. Anne represents her holding a little child in her arms, which is the Virgin Mary, she being the mother. We were in another building which is built in imitation of Pilate's Palace at Jerusalem, each step containing relics of the Holy Land. We saw a number of the pilgrims ascend these sacred stairs on their knees, and kissing the steps. It is said that pilgrimages are made to St. Anne from all quarters of the globe. As one sees those persons bowing and saying prayers before pictures which are so real, so life-like you can readily see how easy it is to become realistic. God calls upon his rational creatures to worship Him. True worship is not ritual, it is life; it is not service, it is spirit. How far ahead of the poor benighted heathen is the one who will kiss the dirty steps of a stairway? Who is accountable for such teaching in Christian Canada?

Leaving Quebec we went to Montreal—Canada's largest city. We spent a little time seeing McGill College buildings and grounds, and were shown through the museum. We went to the top of Mount Royal by the incline railway, or, as we thought going up, the perpendicular railway. It is five hundred feet to the top. From the summit you can view the beautiful valley of the St. Lawrence, the Victoria bridge, the Lachine Rapids and many other places, as well as get a good view of the whole city.

We were shown through the St. James Methodist church—a magnificent building in a very central part of the city. Their weakness in building is the weakness of many congregations—their ideal was greater than their means and now they are struggling with an enormous debt. On the opposite corner is the First Baptist church, now in charge of the Rev. J. A. Gordon, formerly of Main St., St. John. Since going to Montreal he has been very successful in building up the church both temporarily and spiritually. We also visited the old church of Notre Dame, with its famous bell. In this church we saw the alleged chain, hammer, nails and pinches used in the crucifixion of our Lord. Probably there are several sets of these things in the Roman Church, distributed where they will be most profitable.

Arriving at Ottawa on Saturday we found the streets blockaded with people. The Parliament Buildings were beautifully decorated and brilliantly illuminated, as were many other public gardens, in honour of the Duke and Duchess who were then visiting the capital. Sunday morning we attended the Baptist church, the pastor being Rev. Ira Smith, formerly of Leicester Street church, in the evening we went to the church of which the late Rev. Dr. Carey was pastor years ago. Monday morning Mr. A. Sherwood came to the hotel for us, and spent the day in showing us the many places of interest in and about the city. We were taken through the Parliament buildings, the National Art Gallery, the Geological Museum, the Fisheries exhibit, etc. We visited the Rideau Falls, and saw the Duke and Duchess passing through the Chaudiere slides or raft of timber. They are not likely to forget that trip. We took tea and spent the evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood, both of whom are from Kings Co., N. B. Mr. Sherwood has been some years in the civil service. They have a beautiful home, and made our visit to Ottawa very pleasant.

The next city we visited was Toronto. Its wide, clean streets and beautiful residences, colleges and public buildings make it in many respects the finest city in Canada. When we were there they were sparing no pains in beautifying the city for the Duke and Duchess who were to visit them in a few days. The arch built by the city was said to cost ten thousand dollars. We were shown through the Parliament buildings. From the balcony we had a good view of the city. The I. O. Foresters building, in which are the head offices of the Order, is a magnificent structure. We called at the office of Dr. Oronhyeteka, the Supreme Chief Ranger, but he was absent from the city. Close by the building was the Foresters' arch in course of construction.

Going from Toronto to Niagara we passed through a beautiful farming country; there were extensive large grape fields, the vines laden with fruit. We enjoyed the day we spent at Niagara Falls. Until recently the Falls were known only as a great resort on account of the wonderful character of late it has become famous, also, as a manufacturing town on account of its superior water power.

Niagara Falls, evidently, has a great future before it. The new steel arch bridge, extending from Prospect Park on the American side to Victoria Park on the Canadian side, a distance of 1200 feet, and 190 feet above the surface of the water, is the longest arch bridge in the world. In crossing this bridge one has a good view of the Falls and Rapids. The Canadian Falls, extending from the Canadian side to Goat Island a distance of 2376 feet and 160 feet high, the American Falls is 1100 feet wide and 163 feet high. From the Falls a distance of seven miles to Lewiston, the ages have worn their way to present place, and are still wearing back. The seven miles from Niagara to Lewiston the water rushes through a narrow gorge causing rapids and whirlpools. We took a trip by gorge route. Any one visiting Niagara should not fail to take this trip. Going down the Canadian side we kept the high ground far above the rapids, passing Queenstown Heights and a beautiful monument erected to memory of Sir Isaac Brock, commanding General of the British forces, who was killed on the 13th of October, 1812. Crossing the river to Lewiston we return by the American side, where we keep down under the running along the edge of the rapids which gives one a good view of rapids and whirlpools. As one stands for a time viewing the Great Niagara Falls he thinks of the Great Creator and as he turns away, possibly not see them again, there lingers in memory the roll and leap and that are continually going on, till sunshine and in the darkness.

Arriving at Buffalo, the only of interest thought of is the American. To fully realize what was you would have to see it with camera, no writer, no words could describe the great show. The display was no doubt superior to anything of the kind ever shown before. As we stood on the Triumphant Arch and looked toward the Electric Tower in the dusk of the evening, and the light being turned on, the first seconds it appeared like the light of the moon on a Summer evening becoming brighter and brighter, the whole place was made to look descriptively grand. I said to my friend, "can Heaven be much more beautiful than this?" The architecture of the building is magnificent. I mention only a few of the many beautiful buildings: Electric, the Graphic Art, the Ethnology, the Architecture, the Machinery, United States Government, Horticulture Temples, Music, and the Bazaar, the Cubes Towers, the Court of Fountains; then the waterways, the beautiful gardens with flower plants of all kinds all added to the beauty of the Exhibition. A fir log used as the state of Washington office was thirteen and a half feet in diameter; it made quite a nice being about eleven feet high, and of usual size and windows. A man in charge said the tree was about a hundred feet high.

Products from all the States exhibited. Canada's exhibit, although small, compared favorably with the states in the same kind of products. It was impossible to get an idea of the greatness of the Pan American and Midway days. The Midway was where the greatest noise and excitement presided. It would appear to the passer-by, the one who could shout the loudest attract attention was the most successful one. One could see a great number of the world in the Midway. Japanese village, the streets of the streets of Venice, the Philadelphia, the Indian Congress, as Dark Africa and the six nations.

Leaving Buffalo we went to where we only spent a short time. There we took the steamer New York, by the famous Hudson River, the distance to New York being 140 miles. The scenery along the river is beautiful. There were one hundred passengers on the steamer in the Summer they often have a hundred.

Spending Sunday in New York we attended service twice, and went to the Rev. Dr. Parkhurst's eloquent sermon on the Cross, President McKinley. We called at the office of Dr. Oronhyeteka, the Supreme Chief Ranger, but he was absent from the city. Close by the building was the Foresters' arch in course of construction.

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