

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligencer.

Rev. Joseph McLeod, D.D., EDITOR.

WEDNESDAY, JULY, 3TH, 1901.

Among the graduates at Bates College, (Free Baptist) Lewiston Me., last week were of our young preachers—E. S. Parker, of the New Brunswick Conference, and Joseph E. Wilson, of the Nova Scotia Conference.

Both the Presbyterians and the Methodists are realizing more than formerly the unwisdom of establishing congregations in communities where the religious needs are already well provided for. The Church of England, too, is expressing a hope that there may be less unnecessary multiplication of congregations. This better feeling found expression in the General Assembly and in late meetings of the other bodies. If the energy which is wasted in denominational competitions in many places were used in providing gospel privileges in wholly destitute places great good would surely be done.

Rev. James Bennett, D. D. died at his home in St. John, Saturday morning. He was 85 years of age. For some months he had been failing, and his going away was not unexpected. Dr. Bennett was born in Ireland, and was a pastor there from 1843, the year of his ordination, till 1854. In the latter year he came to St. John, having been called to the pastorate of the St. John Presbyterian church, of which he remained pastor till advancing years caused him to retire. He was a man of marked intellectuality. He was associated with the late Dr. Elder in the editorship of the Colonial Presbyterian. He did a good deal of magazine writing, and was the author of two or three books. He was a strong man, and did his full share in moulding Presbyterianism in his time.

Of the several Northfield Conferences, the one called the Students Conference is now in Session. It began June 28th, and will close July 7th. The Young Women's Conference will be held July 12-22; and the Conference of Christian Workers August 1-18. All these meetings are important, and will, doubtless, this year, as in former years, be greatly blessed. The Christian Workers Conference was especially dear to Mr. Moody. It first assembled, in response to his call, in 1880, and the session of this Summer will be the nineteenth meeting since that time. The purpose which he had in view in the conference was the deepening of christian life and service through prayer, Bible study and the consideration of various lines of christian work, and this purpose will be kept in view by those now entrusted with the leadership. It will be a good meeting for ministers and other christian workers to attend.

While it is too early to meas- ure the moral effect of the India famine, it is pointed out that "it is proving a telling blow at idolatry. The offerings that have been experienced have convinced great numbers of the vanity of the gods they used to worship. The kindness of Christians, who aside from the government, have been almost the only recognized agency for relief, has deeply impressed the people. The number now seeking baptism is large. Missionaries have generally adopted the policy of refusing to baptize until the famine is entirely over, and no worldly assistance is needed, lest those attracted merely by the loaves and fishes come into the church. And, speaking generally, there is a closer sympathetic relation between the missionaries and the people; both

the ignorant and the educated. This kinder relation must bear fruit in no small measure.

Regarding the Austrian movement "away from Rome," and the number of persons who have severed their connection with the Church of Rome and formally joined the Lutheran Church during the movement of the last year or two, the Austrian Lutheran authorities have just published some interesting particulars, which, being official, must be accepted as reliable. The figures given refute the opinion of those who have treated the movement as insignificant. Last year 4,699 persons within the Austrian dominions left the Church of Rome and inscribed their names to the Protestant confession of faith. The total number of declared conversions since the movement began is 11,084. But, as a matter of fact, the figures are much higher than the official report places them. A large number of former Romanists have not yet subscribed their names in the registers of the Protestant churches. The movement is only beginning; the tide which began to flow two years ago shows no sign of weakening.

The trustees of the Metho- dist church at North East Harbour, N. S. locked the doors against the minister in charge, Rev. J. A. Smith. They sent word of what they had done to the Conference, recently in session, and demand another minister, intimating that if the Conference did not comply with their demand they would get a minister of another denomination. The offending pastor, Mr. Smith, being asked what serious misconduct he had been guilty of, explained that at a tea-meeting held under the direction of the trustees they had introduced dancing at the close of the tea. The pastor took strong ground against the action of the trustees, and they punished him by locking the church against him, and demanding another minister in his place. The Conference commended the pastor, and condemned the trustees. The Conference did well to be very emphatic in the matter. It is to be hoped that the rebuke administered will have an effect on other foolish and ugly trustees. How such men got to be trustees in a Methodist church is not quite clear. But, then, strange—and worse than strange, things happen in churches of all denominations. Conferences do not always stand by ministers whose faithfulness to the moral and religious standards of the Church brings them into conflict with influential members.

Rev. Dr. Williams, pastor of St. James Methodist Church, Montreal, was at the Methodist Conference of N. B. and P. E. I., during the recent session. He was solicited aid to remove the great debt on St. James church. In his plea he set forth the central position occupied by the church, and how important it is, not only to the denomination but to Protestantism, in resisting the encroachments of Romanism. In illustration of the methods of the Romanists in Quebec Province, and wherever they can assert themselves, he cited this case:

"The counties of Beauharnois and Huntingdon, the one French and under ecclesiastical laws, the other English and under municipal control; lie alongside each other. A number of the French crossed over to the English county, when the Roman Catholic bishop sought and obtained permission to extend the parish so as to include these, for ecclesiastical purposes. He next demanded their taxes for the French school on the French side of the line, and managed to secure them. His next step was to establish a French school, which reduced the taxes to such an extent that the Protestants were unable to support a school, and then according to Quebec law, where the Protestants are unable to support a school of their own they have to support a Roman Catholic one." Such things, said Dr. Williams, are being done all the time and there is a persistent endeavour to squeeze the Protestants out of the country.

—A considerable amount of missionary work is being done among the Chinese in America. It is estimated that there are 100,000 Chinese on this Continent, and that there are about 6,000 converts. These are good figures. During the last fourteen years, about 500 resident Chinese members in Congregationalist churches in America have contributed \$19,000 for work among their own countrymen in America and in China. For the labor done among the Chinese in this country, the fruits are much larger in proportion than for that done in China. We wonder whether work done among the Romanists scattered among us would not be correspondingly fruitful? But how little of it is done. Thousands of them live and die, touching elbows all around with Protestants, and are never spoken to. How unfaithful we are!

THE GOTHENBERG SYSTEM.

VI.

Those who would have the Gothenberg system well thought of claim that it is a promoter of temperance. This fiction has been diligently circulated in England and the United States, and is beginning to be circulated in Canada.

A Gothenberg brewer is the largest stockholder in the liquor-selling company. He went to Edinburgh, a few years ago, and offered that city five thousand pounds if they would adopt the system. He could afford to offer a much larger sum, for he was making money out of the grog monopoly scheme. The same is true of them all.

In the local option elections held throughout the country the liquor selling companies invariably fight bitterly against the adoption of prohibition.

All the organized temperance forces of the country are openly and energetically arrayed against the system, and are steadily agitating for unadulterated prohibition.

In considering the character of this system these facts concerning Gothenberg—the city whose name the system bears, and where it may be expected to be at its best, should be kept in mind.

In Gothenberg city the number of convictions for drunkenness per thousand of the population has nearly doubled.

The cases of delirium tremens per thousand of the population have more than trebled in twelve years.

The arrests for drunkenness number as many as, and some years more than, in the most drunken American city of the same population, and under the usual free and easy license system.

Since the introduction of the system the number of paupers per thousand of the population has increased fifty per cent., and the cost of maintaining them has nearly doubled.

Considering Sweden as a whole the following are facts:

Under the fostering care of the Company drink-shops the consumption of malt liquors is doubling every ten years. And the brewers have considerably increased the percentage of alcohol in their beer.

The number of persons sent to the prisons has been increasing faster than the population for ten years.

More than one-half the convicts annually sent to the penitentiaries committed their crimes while drunk.

Suicides have increased fifty per cent.

The per capita expenditure for brandy has increased twenty-five per cent during the last ten years; the per capita expenditure for wine has increased three hundred per cent in the same time; while the expenditure for tea, coffee and chocolate has declined.

In the districts where Local prohibition is an operation the ratio of pauperism has decreased. In the places where liquor selling under the Gothenberg plan is carried on there has been a great increase of pauperism as to make the ratio for the whole country a general increase. The expenditure of Sweden in support of paupers is nearly as much as for the support of the public schools.

The foregoing facts and similar ones, which are revealed by investigation of the much-lauded Gothenberg system, compel these conclusions:

1. The system originated in a desire to reform the character of the liquor traffic, and reduce the evils resulting from it.

2. In the earlier years of the system there was a reduction in the number of persons arrested for drunkenness.

3. Such benefits as resulted from the system were such as result from lessening the facilities for getting intoxicating liquors.

4. Such benefits as appeared at first are now apparent. Drunkenness and the other evils of the liquor traffic have steadily increased in late years.

5. Whatever permanent improvement has taken place in the last thirty years has been in spite of, rather than because of, the Gothenberg system, and is due to the strong temperance agitation and to the prohibition of the liquor traffic which prevails over large areas of the country.

6. The original purpose of the system has, largely, been lost sight of. Intended to save the liquor traffic from the greed of individual licensees, it has degenerated into a system to encourage and satisfy the greed of shareholders scattered all over the country. It also appeals to the cupidity of municipal authorities and to that class found in every community who think the revenues derived from the liquor traffic lessen taxation.

7 The respectability and fiscal importance given the liquor traffic by the system, make the traffic greatly more

dangerous to the moral sense of the community, and seriously interfere with moral reform.

8. The Gothenberg system teaches most sympathetically, whatever attempt at regulation has taught, viz., that no system of license, by whatever name called, or under whatever auspices conducted, checks permanently the volume of the liquor traffic, or diminishes its horrible evils.

9. This country, in which, by reason of the large areas under prohibition in some form the consumption of liquors and the record of drunkenness and crimes resulting from the drink traffic are much lower than in Sweden and Norway, would be taking a long step backward by adopting the Gothenberg system.

PRAYER IN CRITICAL TIMES.

It has seemed that God had especially arranged the affairs of his people in such a way as to produce a serious crisis in their business, either in regard to some temporal matter or to some purely religious measures, for the express purpose of inducing those Christians to arouse themselves to an unwonted praying spirit and practice. It is certainly true that many Christians would not have prayed so profoundly as they did on certain occasions had it not been for some sort of a critical condition of their situation. Rev. Dr. F. H. Kerfoot, in an article in the Baptist Standard, referring to the late president of a Theological Seminary which he mentions says: "I recall now that Dr. Boyce has more than once told how there came a crisis in the history of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Great strong, executive man that he was he reached a point when the burden was heavier than he could bear and his own Elijah-like heart and lion-like spirit had almost reached despair. He called the faculty of the seminary and the students together and told them that unless some large thing was done he would have to close the seminary and send them to their homes. He urged them to pray earnestly to God that some great benefactor might be found who would come to the rescue in this time of direful need. Very shortly after this he received a telegram from Governor Joseph E. Brown of Georgia, inviting him to come to Atlanta to answer certain inquiries in reference to the seminary. He took the cars, and in a day or two returned home with bonds for \$50,000. The crisis was past. The seminary was saved. From that time on it was comparatively easy to raise the endowment. Something like a dozen men have taken credit to themselves for having suggested to Governor Brown the doing of this large thing for the seminary. My honest judgment is that this suggestion to Governor Brown was from the throne of God, in answer to earnest, importunate prayer." I have no doubt that God did, in response to prayer, move upon Governor Brown to financially help that seminary; and it is quite possible that God may have influenced those men to use their persuasion upon the governor; this would not be at all inconsistent with the truth that God's power was especially exerted in that matter in answer to the united prayers of those persons.

C. H. WETTERBE

PRESBYTERIAN HOME MISSIONS.

Our Presbyterian brethren carry on their home mission work on a large scale. The reports presented to the General Assembly showed that in the Eastern section—the work which is principally fostering weak fields and reclaiming neglected districts—\$14,089 were spent. Of the mission preaching stations supplied, 112 were by 23 ordained ministers; the rest of the work was done by ministerial students, of whom 36 were employed during the Summer.

In the Western section the work is of another kind. The field is vast and is constantly growing. More than one half of the mission fields of the Church are west of Lake Superior. The expansion of the work in the West calls for more means and men. The sum of \$89,542 had been expended, but to keep pace with the work much more will be required this year. Thirty-nine missionaries had been secured from Great Britain, and work has been begun among the Galicians and Doukhobors.

HOME RELIGIOUS NEWS.

—Rev. S. V. Williams, of Ohio, has accepted a call to the pastorate of the Coburg St. Christian church, St. John.

—Rev. J. H. Coy was elected President of the Reformed Baptist Alliance in session last week. Rev. A. L. Bubar was received as an ordained minister. Rev. T. W. Moses was dismissed at his own request.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

IT PAYS.

There are people who really appear to believe that prohibiting the liquor traffic in a community interferes with its business prosperity. It is a silly notion, and it is difficult to see how any intelligent person, who is honest, can entertain it. Sheriff Pearson, of Portland, Me., has been giving that city a rigid enforcement of the prohibitory law. All lines of business are receiving the benefit of increased trade. A clothing dealer reports \$800 more received last January, \$1300 more in February and \$1800 more in March than in the corresponding months of the previous year.

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ANTI-CONSUMPTIVE LEAGUE.

The President of the Canadian Anti-Consumptive League is Sir James Grant, an eminent physician. In a recent statement he says that from reports to date there are in Germany at present 45 sanatoria capable of treating 30,000 consumptive patients a year, for three months each. The insurance companies have taken a leading part in this movement from an economic point of view, as they found that 71 per cent. of the patients left the institutions fit for work, and it was cheaper to provide sanatoria for consumptives than to let them die an early death.

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DEAF AND DUMB SCHOOL.

The annual closing exercises of the Deaf and Dumb Institution in this city took place on Tuesday of last week. The exercises by the pupils in all the departments showed that excellent work had been done. The attendance during the year was forty-one—25 boys and 16 girls. The Institution deserves well of the public, and should have the most generous support from the Provincial treasury.

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COTTON.

According to the Financial Chronicle the Southern States have this year 25,861,691 acres planted in cotton. The prospective yield is 12,500,000 bales, being two and a half million bales more than last year.

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PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Five hundred teachers from the United States are to take charge of the schools about to be established in the Philippine islands by the U. S. government. One-fifth of the teachers must be women. The establishment of good public schools will quickly bring about an intellectual and social revolution amongst the Filipinos.

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THE EXPLANATION OF IT.

The Montreal Witness knows the situation in Quebec Province. Writing of the repeal of the Dunkin Act (County prohibition) in Richmond Co., of that Province, the Witness says that

"It chiefly means that the French have so gained ground on the English in that county that their views prevail. . . . Opposition to prohibition would seem to have become a matter of race jealousy with them."

The race feeling was appealed to by the opponents of prohibition, and the appeal was successful. In the defeat of the Dunkin Act the last stronghold of prohibition in Quebec has been captured by the liquor traffic. This, with the recent orders of the Provincial government as to the issue of wholesale and "bottlers" licenses, leaves the Province a prey to the rum gang. And the worst of it is that because the rum traffic can rule Quebec it claims to dictate to the other Provinces of the Dominion—and succeeds. Some day the people will wake up, and throw off the tyranny.

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LIED THE KING.

Speaker Henderson of the United States House of Representatives, is visiting England. He had an interview with King Edward, and appears to have been quite delighted with His Majesty. He authorized the representative of the United States press to say,

"I have never enjoyed a more agreeable half-hour interview than the one I had with King Edward. He was perfectly frank and agreeable and in accord with American progress. He looks forward to even more cordial relations than now exist between the English-speaking nations. America may depend upon the fact that she has no more cordial friend in the world than King Edward." "While the details of our conversation may not be repeated, I can assure my American friends that England may be depended on in any ordinary controversy which may arise between the United States and the remainder of the world."

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Speaker will, probably, swear about the King and all things British during the next election campaign, or whenever it is desired to play to the Fenian and other anti-British elements which abound in the United States. They all do it—even the preachers and the editors of religious papers.

THE VATICAN "PRISONER."

The Pope appears to enjoy regarding himself as a prisoner. And the faithful everywhere are taught to think of him as imprisoned. It is told of him that recent y, in his walks about the Vatican, he ascended an eminence from which he got a glimpse of the blue waters of the sea, and remarked that he would like to visit the seashore. He could do so, if he wished. As the Interior remarks, "this fiction of imprisonment has become ridiculous. If he cared to leave the Vatican no one would interfere with him. He could go to the ends of the earth without molestation. If he chose to have a summer outing by the sea, if his watchful physicians approved, nobody would interpose the least objection, unless those who think that keeping up the fiction of imprisonment would be scandalized."

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THEY DESERVED IT.

In sentencing a defaulting bank cashier to the State's Prison recently, Judge Danforth, of the Maine Supreme Court, expressed regret that he could not at the same time send to Prison the directors of the bank who, through the long term of years that the cashier had served the bank, had expected him to do their work, live respectably, bring up a large family—all on a salary of \$6000 a year. He, of course, did not mean to say that the small salary of the cashier justified his appropriating the bank funds; but the directors deserved the severest things the judge said of them. They were doubtless receiving good dividends from the bank's business, and had not enough business sense, to say nothing of human feeling, to give the man who did their work more than a starvation salary.

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SUICIDES.

Last year Germany's suicides numbered nearly eight thousand. The men who suicided were three times as many as the women. About one-half of the whole number were addicted to drink.

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Dr. Borden was in Buffalo, Monday, representing the Dominion government at the opening of the Canadian Building at the Pan-American Exhibition.

Sydney, N. S. W. now ranks as one of the large cities of the world. It is the largest city south of the line. The United States only contains six large cities.

The year book of Canada for 1900 was issued to-day. It is said to contain several new features.

The dates of the Fredericton Exhibition have been changed to Sept. 12, 18, 19 and 20—to avoid interfering with the Sussex Exhibition.

The British have a hand in two other wars in Africa besides the Boer war. In Somaliland they have to do with the "Mad Mullah," and the character has suffered several defeats with the British. The other war has been waged in Southern Nigeria—Benin—where the city of Uli—heard of till recently—has been brought under British rule. Nigeria is a province of great extent and immense resources. Several powerful tribes are still unconquered.

WHAT THE DEACON SAID.

XI.

About the "Dead Line."

"I saw an editorial in the 'Outlook,' said the deacon, "with the startling heading, 'Should the ministers be shot?' I forget how the question was decided, but I know took the negative side of it. I think shooting even a minister of state a foolish waste of powder, unless the head crop has failed. Imprisonment for life, 'with hard labor,' ought to be sufficient punishment for a minister of state who gives garbled and misleading statements of public accounts. But that is 'another story.'"

"I have the impression that the article in the Outlook with the heading 'Should the ministers be shot?' is a satire, aimed partly at the callow youths who think the men who have borne the burden in the heat of the day, cleared the farms, taken out stumps and rocks, ought to retire to the 'poor-house' of the hill, and leave the results of the toil to those who never gave to the farm one anxious thought, or an honest hard work."

"What use to make of an ex-Governor, ex-President, or ex-Premier has been a puzzling question. Stars of the first magnitude do not care—I imagine—to become little twinkling stars. Men do not very gracefully take a lower seat, when they have been used to a higher one. And sometimes even the old ministers does not relish the