

TERMS AND NOTICES.

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Religious Intelligence.

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14TH, 1902.

Two Baptist ministers who had been speaking in favour of prohibition in a Texas town, were waylaid by a rumsellers' gang and badly beaten. Both are seriously injured, and one of them may die. How like the rum traffic! It is always, in some way, doing bloody deeds.

Rev. Dr. George M. Grant died Saturday morning. He had been in frail health for some time. Last year he was so ill that his recovery was almost despaired of. Dr. Grant was born in Pictou, N. S., in 1835. He was for several years pastor of St. Matthews Presbyterian church, Halifax. Twenty-five years ago he became Principal of Queen's University, Kingston, Ont., and there did excellent work. Dr. Grant was a man of affairs, interested in all the great questions of national life. He freely expressed his views. While we could not always agree with him, we admired his frankness and vigour. He was one of Canada's notable men, and will be missed.

If the statistics of the official Year Book may be taken as an indication, the Established Church of England is gradually losing its hold upon the English people. The number of confirmations shows a steady decrease from 228,348 five years ago, to 195,673 last year. Last year's decrease was 8,500. The number of Sunday school scholars, also, has decreased. The population having increased largely, the decrease in Church statistics is the more marked. To the Ritualistic movement, and the discord caused thereby, the failure to grow may, in part at least, be attributed. Then, the churches outside the Establishment are working well together and vigorously, and are making progress.

Bishop Thoburn, the senior missionary bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in a recent address, expressed the belief that the next revival—and it is coming—must be a revival of giving to God, for the extension of His Kingdom. He adds,—"If we really believe we are sent forth of God to take the world for Christ, we must forever put away the reproach that the pitiful sum of forty-five cents a member represents all God calls us to do. When you pray for a revival, let it be for one that will take in this world. When you ask for a blessing on your own heart, you ought to be able to say:

"These arms of love that compass me
Would all mankind embrace."

Of the custom of wearing mourning, about which it is hoped more rational views are being entertained, the Interior says that while wearing mourning "is a right, if not a duty, in times of present affliction, it is a question how long the cheerfulness of the home should be sacrificed to the memory of the dead. The home, not the tomb, is the thing to be conserved. A dear friend of ours, some what disposed to despondency, has often said to us in confidence that for fifteen of the twenty years he has been married he has not seen a bit of color at his wife's throat, or a flower upon her hat, or a ribbon on her garments. It is not to be wondered at that each year he spends more and more time at the club, where the evidences of mourning are not so persistently kept before his eyes. It is well to be loyal to our friends in heaven; but it is hardly just to forget that our first duty is toward our friends on earth, and we owe to them a cheerful front, a happy hearth and a converse that does not

dwell forever upon the sorrowful incidents through which we may have been called to pass.

Some weeks ago the Intelli- GENCER mentioned that a Quarterly Meeting of a religious body in Wisconsin had passed a resolution appealing to its churches to refuse to allow any representative of the Woman's Missionary Society to organize work amongst them. A paper representing the religious body concerned, and in which the resolution was printed, points out that our note does the Quarterly Meeting injustice—that there are no distinctively Woman's Missionary Societies in the Wisconsin Yearly Meeting, but that each church is a missionary society, and that the results of the system are quite as good as those produced by W. M. Societies and other systems. We are glad to hear that the churches are doing so well. In extenuation of our grievous offence it may be said that there was nothing stated in connection with the resolution to show that the churches were doing anything for missions. The resolution, standing alone, did seem to express a belief that some representative of the Woman's Mission Society had designs on the churches, and that the Quarterly Meeting feared some of them might be deluded into permitting such organization. But it does not make much difference by what method the mission work is done, so long as it is well done.

The writer remembers very well the first time he heard the late Dr. Talmage preach. It was when he was at the height of his popularity as a Brooklyn preacher. The congregation was very large, the great organ pealed forth, the famous cornetist led the congregation in singing which was grand, the preacher paced from side to side of the platform, gesticulating, posing, being dramatic every way. Listening to the sermon, we could not keep down the thought, "Why, we have heard a score of preachers, unknown outside their parishes, preach vastly better sermons than that." And we are sure of it to-day than then. The following extract from a sketch and comment on Dr. Talmage's life expresses our feeling:

"We are careful to point out the commercialism and the sensationalism of Dr. Talmage's career, for we wish to direct the thoughts of our readers to the tens of thousands of ministers in this country whose names seldom appear in the papers, but who go on doing good quietly every day; whose lives are consecrated to Him whom they serve, and who are among the most useful members of the communities in which they live. In comparison with their careers, we would not call the career of Dr. Talmage successful, and surely it is not one that young ministers should emulate. They may feel the pinch of poverty, they may feel the circle of their usefulness is limited, and that they are likely to die without being well known to the world, but assuredly they can find little in the sensationalism or the wealth of Dr. Talmage to arouse, even for a moment, a feeling of envy."

THE REAL TEST.

News of revivals in various places is cheering. Christians rejoice when the number of avowed disciples of Christ is being multiplied. That the new members being received into the churches will be a real addition to their working forces will be the hope and prayer of all who are concerned for the prosperity of Zion. A genuine revival—one in which Christians are truly and deeply quickened spiritually, and in which sinners are well converted, will be followed by increased strength and faithfulness of Christian service. Good deeds done, generous support of Christian enterprises are the ultimate and real tests of a work of grace, showing the genuineness of the reform and consecration professed. If, in a church which is understood to have had a revival, the pastor continues to have to live on a starvation salary, the church building continues in a dilapidated condition, the Sunday school and other departments of the local work continue to suffer for lack of workers and money, the mission contributions are not increased, and other interests which should be supported are neglected, there is reason to fear that the revival was largely a failure. There may have been very enthusiastic meetings, with much singing and joyous exclamation, and some souls may have come into a new experience, but —, well, the best work is that which saves people to faithful, self-sacrificing service for the extension of the Kingdom of Christ.

A PLEASANT VOYAGE.—Letters received from the Canadian young ladies who are enroute to South Africa tell of a very pleasant voyage from St. John to England. The letters received were written on ship board, and posted on their arrival at Liverpool.

TIGHTEN THE BUCKLES.

REV. T. L. CUYLER, D. D.

It is related that a cavalry officer, with a small number of followers, was pursued by an enemy who were in large force. He discovered that his saddle-girth was becoming loose; his comrades were urging him on to greater speed; but he dismounted, tightened the loose buckle, and then rode on, amid the shouts of his companions. The broken buckle would have cost him his safety—perhaps his life. His wise delay ensured his safety, and sent him out of the reach of his pursuing enemies.

This incident suggests several spiritual lessons. A very obvious one is that the Christian who is in such haste to rush off to his business in the morning that he does not spare any time for his Bible or for prayer, is quite likely to "ride for a fall" before sundown. One of the most eminent Christian merchants of New York told me that he never met his family at the breakfast table until he had had a refreshing interview with his God over his Bible and on his knees. His family worship afterwards was not only a tightening the buckle for himself, but was a gracious means of safety to his household. One of the greatest dangers in these days is that too many children are growing up—even in nominally Christian families with sadly lax sentiments in many vital directions. They have loose views about God's day and God's Book, and very loose practices as to attendance upon God's worship. They start out in life with a broken buckle and when the stress of temptation comes, they are easily thrown to the ground. Fathers and mothers owe to their children as well as to themselves the duty of tightening the saddle-girth.

Not only do many families suffer from laxity in parental training, but I fear that some congregations suffer from laxity in the teachings of their ministers. No church is very likely to rise higher than its own pulpit. If the shepherd of the flock holds loose doctrines; if he is so "liberal" that he gives away, or throws away, vital truths; if he lets down too many bars that the Bible wisely puts up, then it is no wonder that the flock wanders off into the way of worldliness. There is no danger in these days of excessive strictness, or of Puritanical principles, or practices. The danger is just from the opposite direction. Would it not be a wise thing if some pastors, who see that their churches are being overtaken and demoralized by worldly temptations, should call a halt, and tighten their buckles?

The incident at the head of this brief article has a very close application to the maintenance of a vigorous, happy and useful Christian life. The very word "religion" is derived from a Latin word that signifies "to bind fast." True religion means the being bound fast to the Lord Jesus Christ in constant dependence on him and obedience to him. It is the very opposite to loose thinking and loose living. How to keep up a healthy spiritual life is the daily problem with every Christian. The parable of the buckle gives a hint. True piety is never self-sustaining. We only can "do all things through Christ that strengtheneth us." Without him nothing; with him everything. Therefore it is that our Bible exhorts us with prodigious emphasis to "pray without ceasing." When we relax in this vitally important duty, the enemies will soon overtake us, and overmatch us, and leave us in the dust. Brethren and sisters, tighten the prayer-buckle.

Home Religious News.

—At the meeting of the Halifax Presbytery last week an application was received from Rev. D. Coburn, M. A., minister of the Congregational church, to be received as a minister of the Presbyterian church.

—Calvin church, Presbyterian, St. John, is to be conducted as a mission for a year.

—At a roll-call of the Moncton Baptist church last week, the offering amounted to \$830.00.

POLITICAL NEWS.—A complimentary banquet was given Sir Mackenzie Bowell by Conservative senators, last week.

Mr. Wm. Montgomery, collector of customs at Dalhousie, has been superannuated and Mr. George Hadow, ex-M. P., appointed in his place.

RESIGNED.—Prof. Stockley of the University of New Brunswick has resigned, his resignation to take effect at the end of the present term. He has accepted a professorship in the Ottawa University, a Roman Catholic institution.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

ANOTHER PAPER.

A new French paper has made its appearance. It is called L'Ontario Francais (French Ontario), and is designed to appeal especially to the French in the Province of Ontario. It announces that its establishment was decided upon because its promoters believe that there is a movement on foot to destroy French influence in the several Provinces. It is intended, evidently, to diligently fan the race feeling in French Canadians.

PROGRESS IN EGYPT.

Lord Cromer's report of Egypt in affairs last year is interesting as his annual reports usually are. It is a record of steady progress. There was a surplus revenue of £2,000,000. The broad foundations on which the prosperity of a civilized community should rest have been laid in Egypt. A sound fiscal system is established; the chief irrigation works are completed, or nearly so; railways and roads have been extended; slavery has virtually ceased, and enforced labour for the State has been practically abolished. Law and order are everywhere supreme, and there is an efficient, well organized army. Good hospitals are provided for the sick, lunatics are cared for and prisoners are treated with the same consideration as in European countries. Lord Cromer, as the result of careful investigation, says that the alleged irredeemable extravagance of the peasantry has been grossly exaggerated, and steps have been taken to deliver them from the grip of the money-lenders. Education has made considerable progress and the people as a whole are prosperous and contented. The Sudan naturally lags behind Egypt proper, but the first steps in the direction of good government are there being carefully taken.

THE CENSUS.

Another Census bulletin has been issued. It deals with immigration and birth places. Perhaps it is correct, perhaps not. It sets forth that there were last year 203,803 persons of English birth in Canada, against \$219,688 in 1891 and 169,504 in 1881, showing that in the last decade the immigration from England does not make good the death and exodus of English-born Canadians. The Irish-born population shows a greater reduction. It fell off from 185,526 in 1881 to 149,184 in 1891, and 101,628 in 1901. The Scots in Canada numbered 115,062 in 1881, 107,584 in 1891 and only 83,631 in 1901.

INDIA.

Recent India advices are not cheering. There is in some districts the beginning of another famine. The rainfall in Western India was only three or four inches, which, the writer says, is not sufficient for the coming hot months, and some reservoirs are already dry. The same writer adds: "The districts which suffered so terribly in the recent famines are, most of them, face to face with further bitter trouble." In addition, there is "a score of rats," and in some regions the seed sown "sprung up only to be devoured by caterpillars, which in their turn, were followed by myriads of locusts that destroyed everything green in the fields." In some districts "famine conditions have been officially declared." The missions, are sustaining a large number of orphan children, bereaved in the last recent famine, and have all the responsibility their means will allow. The outlook is discouraging.

ABOUT NORWAY.

A London Times writer discussing Norway affairs says the defences of that country are of great importance, because, in his opinion, "It is in Norway and upon its frontier that the ultimate fate of the world will be decided. The advance of Russia is, of course, what is meant. Against this, we are told, the Norwegians have been preparing for a generation past. "Norway," he says, "is above all things a country that loves its liberty, and is resolved to fight for it to the last drop in its veins."

CHILE'S LIQUOR LAW.

Chile, a South African state, has recently enacted a most stringent law for the supervision and restriction of the traffic in strong drink. According to the law which went into operation March 18, 1902, the distilleries and breweries are all placed under governmental control, not only as a quantity but as to quality of product. Public inspectors and chemists are put in charge of the works and all liquors are to be kept free from adulterations. Licenses are to be sold to the highest bidder once in three years. No license

will be issued for the sale of liquor

within two hundred yards of any church, school, charitable institution or soldiers' barracks. No liquors may be sold at any theater, at any railway station or on any railway trains. No mayor of any city, nor alderman or other officer of government may own or control any license. Sections of cities which so vote may constitute themselves prohibition districts. No liquors may be sold after midnight or before six o'clock in the morning. Offenses against the law must be tried summarily. No case can be continued beyond ten days and no judge can withhold decision more than five days. Sales to all minors are prohibited.

It is said that they have a habit in Chile of enforcing their laws. Let us hope that they will not, as in many places, make an exception of the law touching the liquor traffic.

ONTARIO.

The political fight in Ontario grows warm. The election takes place on the 29th inst., and the parties are doing their utmost—their best in some cases, and their worst in others.

The rum traffic organization is not caring for either party particularly but is working to secure the election of the men who will favour the traffic. It is said that they are secretly pledging candidates. They do not care what the candidates publicly profess, or what they say, only they agree not to interfere with the traffic when in the Legislature.

Prohibitionists are showing signs of activity, but it does not yet appear that they are as willing to sacrifice party as the rum men are. Neither party, as such, has the slightest claim on the support of prohibitionists. They should rally to the support of the right men, no matter of which party. Where the candidate of neither party pledges himself to prohibition, an independent prohibition candidate should be put in the field. There are now nine straight prohibition candidates in nomination; besides them a number of party candidates, some Liberals and some Conservatives, have given prohibitionists satisfactory assurances. We earnestly hope enough trustworthy prohibitionists will be elected to dictate the policy of the government, whichever party succeeds.

PEACE TERMS.

In a speech to the Primrose League in London, last Wednesday, Lord Salisbury said the government had not receded an iota from its previous peace terms to the Boers. "As to rights we claimed," he said, "and the policy we intended to pursue we are exactly where we were. The country must not expect the 'ashes of past conflicts' to be extinguished immediately. Great Britain has had a great and serious war; but admitting that misery and suffering had been caused, it must be recognized that the power, prestige, influence, and magic effect of our great empire are more potent, more efficient and more admirable than ever before." We have suffered," continued the premier, "but we have greatly won."

NO PROHIBITION.

Some weeks ago while the legislature was in session, the New Brunswick government was presented with the petition of several thousand electors asking the enactment of a Provincial prohibitory law. The answer has just been given—and it is that the government does not intend to give the Province any prohibitory legislation.

SOUTH AFRICA.

The first section of the Fourth Canadian contingent sailed from Halifax for South Africa, Thursday afternoon, in the transport "Cestrian." There were six squadrons, numbering about 800 men. They were given a hearty send-off.

Lord Kitchener reports that 47 additional Boers were made prisoners May 7 and 8.

Lord Kitchener announces that the town of O'okiep, western Cape Colony, which had been besieged since April 4 by a Transvaal force under Commandant Smuts, has been relieved by a British force under Colonel Cooper. The garrison was in good health, and only a few of the troops were wounded. The Boers retired south.

THAT "RAILWAY"

\$327,678, with \$830,000 costs, is the amount McKenzie and Mann are to receive for work done, or intended to be done, on that Sticken River Railway. The Senate refused to ratify the bargain made with M. and M., and the road was not built. \$328,000 is a large sum to pay for nothing; but

better that than what the road would have cost according to the contract.

INVESTIGATING CANCER.

A carefully prepared scheme for a systematic investigation into the cause treatment of cancer has received the approval of both the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Surgeons. A fund of £100,000 is to be raised, and a general committee of representative men, will administer the fund. An executive will establish and carry on laboratories and it will assist individual workers; will carry on special investigations and collect statistics; and will invite the cooperation of scientific men, public authorities and statistical experts, both at home and abroad. Everything is to be done to bring together and systematize all available information as to the cause, treatment and cure of cancer. Hitherto cancer research has been left to private enterprise, but in Germany a collective investigation of the disease has already been organized, and in the United States a project is on foot for the appointment of an international commission. The English inquiry will, doubtless, be carried on with great thoroughness. The British Medical Journal thinks there ought to be a Parliamentary grant in a matter which so much affects the public weal.

AN APPALLING DISASTER.

Forty thousand people are believed to have perished last Thursday by a volcanic eruption on the French island of Martinique, West Indies. St. Pierre, the commercial capital of the island, a city of 25,000, or more, people, was destroyed, and fifteen or twenty vessels in the harbor, with all on board, were included in the awful destruction. The statement about the number of lives lost is, of course, an estimate, and may be somewhat larger than the actual loss. Let us hope that it is. But making every allowance for overestimates, the destruction of life is most appalling.

Martinique consists largely of volcanic rocks, with some fertile valleys. It was colonized by the French in 1635. The population is less than two hundred thousand, and is composed principally of negroes and half-castes. The island is fifty miles long and about sixteen miles wide, and is situated south of Dominica and north of St. Lucia. This is not the first time in which it has suffered from disaster. In 1767 it was visited by an earthquake, which caused the loss of seventeen hundred lives. Again, in 1839, there was an earthquake shock which caused great damage all over the island, ruined nearly half of Port Royal, the capital city, and killed seven hundred persons. The latest advices (Monday) say: The crater of Mont Pelee had been wearing its "Smoke Cap" since the 3rd of May; but there was nothing until last Monday to indicate that there was the slightest danger. On that day a stream of boiling lava burst through the top of the crater, plunging into the valley of the River Blanche, overwhelming the Guern Sugar Works and killing 24 people.

A commission was appointed by the governor to investigate the outbreak and it returned a reassuring report on Wednesday evening. But about 8 o'clock on Thursday morning a shower of fire rushed down on St. Pierre and the coast from Le Carbet (population 6,000) to Le Precheur (population 4,000) burning up everything in its path.

A Saturday despatch from Kingston, St. Vincent Island, B. W. Indies, says that the volcano on that island has burst out, and it is feared there has been much loss of life there.

WELSH SETTLERS.

Twenty eight Welsh settlers, the advance guard of several hundred who are expected to come to Canada, have arrived in Winnipeg. They do not come direct from Wales, but from South America where for several years they have been endeavouring to establish a colony. They are anxious to get back under the British flag, and prefer Canada to any of the colonies. Such settlers are likely to be a desirable addition to our population.

SUNDAY OBSERVANCE LAW.

Last September the Lord's Day Alliance, of St. John, made representations to the government about the violation of the Sunday Observance Act. Premier Tweedie held an investigation, and promised an early decision. The decision has just been given. It admits some violations of the law, but thinks that for a city like St. John, the law is remarkably well enforced. The violators of the law, and those in authority who are believed to have been winked at violations will doubtless, regard themselves quite justified by the decision.