

TERMS AND NOTICES.

The RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER is issued on Wednesday, from the office of publication at 100 St. Frederick St., N. B.

\$1.50 a year in advance.

If not paid in advance the price is \$2.00 per year.

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All communications etc., should be addressed RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER Box 384 Fredericton, N. B.

Religious Intelligencer.

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28TH, 1922.

Your subscription, if not already paid will be very acceptable now. Kindly send it this week.

Spasmodic efforts are always followed by reaction. Stimulants need to be used only in extreme cases, and with great carefulness.

An English paper tells that the Church Association in England has a list of the clergymen in the Established Church who are believed to be disloyal to the Church, and seeking to betray her to Rome. In this list there are the names of 9,660 clergymen.

The rum traffic men in the United States are perfecting the organization of their forces for political action. They intend to endeavour to hold the balance of power. Practically they do that now; and their fellows in this country do the same here. When will temperance voters make themselves felt with equal force? They could if they would.

The Christian Guardian, the Toronto Methodist paper, expresses the belief that the next Legislature of Ontario will contain a larger number of active, earnest temperance workers and prohibitionists than the last Legislature did. We hope this belief may be fully realized. The same paper sees in the present election contest in that Province reason to believe that citizens are looking at public questions less through party spectacles, and hopes that the hidebound party man is rapidly passing. Measures and character are surely counting for more than they did. Let us hope.

Good Dr. Cuyler, always sensible as well as good, says this about a mission of the Church of God:

If one mission of the Church is to save men out of drunkenness then by sound logic it ought to be still more its mission to save men from falling into drunkenness. Every pulpit ought to speak out just as freely and frankly against the temptation of the wine-cup or the social glass, against the temptations to gambling or dishonesty, or Sabbath desecration, or licentiousness. Suppression of the saloons never will be enacted and never enforced unless God's people put their conscience and their courage into their citizenship.

Bishop William Taylor died in California, last week, aged 81 years. As street preacher in California and other places, as independent evangelist and missionary in South America, India, Africa and elsewhere, and as the great missionary bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Africa, he is known to all who have knowledge of the work of the Church of Christ in the last half century. A man of profound religious convictions, of deep Christian experience, of unflinching faith, of martyr-like courage, of quenchless zeal—he went everywhere in the name of Jesus, and preached and laboured with mighty effect. Many thousands were turned to righteousness by his proclamation of the Word, and many more thousands by the Christian work he set in motion in many parts of the earth. He was really a great man. He honoured God, and God made him greatly useful.

The revision of the Presbyterian creed was adopted by the General Assembly of United States Presbyterians. The Assembly is meeting in New York. The vote on the revision took place on Friday. There were

only two dissenting voices. Important changes are—

"No man is condemned except on the ground of his sin."

"We believe that all dying in infancy are included in the election of grace, and are regenerated and saved by Christ through the Spirit, who works when and where and how He pleases."

"Works done by unregenerate men, although for the matter of them they may be things which God commands, and in themselves praiseworthy and useful * * * they come short of what God requires, and do not make any man meet to receive the grace of God."

"The Lord Jesus Christ is the only head of the church, and the claim of any man to be the vicar of Christ and the head of the church is unscriptural, without warrant in fact, and is usurpation dishonoring to the Lord Jesus Christ."

It is stated that the Archbishop of Canterbury has, at the command of the King, requested the Anglican bishop of Ottawa to arrange for coronation day services in his diocese. Probably a like request has reached the other Church of England bishops in Canada and elsewhere.

This suggests to us that in a recent number of the Church Times (London) there was a sectarian article of the strongest sort, protesting against preparations that are being made in different parts of England to hold united Coronation services. The Church paper says that the very suggestion of such services is "repugnant." There can, it says, be no excuse for such shocking impiety. It is positively "unreasonable" for others than members of the Established church to wish to share in the religious celebration of the national event. And Churchmen are urged to "stand firm against the insidious principle of corporate indifference in religion"—whatever that may mean. Strange, isn't it, that in the twentieth century of the Christian era that any people calling themselves Christian should object to the "godly union and concord" of members of different churches in common prayer for the King.

Very little has been heard during the last two years about persecution of the Russian Stundists. It is going on again, though in a changed form. In former years the Russian government and the Holy Synod endeavored to show the Stundists the errors of their way, and the advantages of Orthodoxy, by a wholesale system of imprisonment and banishment. To a certain extent they succeeded. The priests and police were successful in driving the Stundist movement below the surface, if they did not succeed in destroying it. Now different tactics are to be followed. A number of priests have been sent apart by the Bishops of those provinces in which the Stundists are most numerous, to visit the villages and invite the 'heretics' to 'disputations' in public. The priests defend the tenets of the Orthodox Church, the Stundists state the reasons why they decline any longer to continue in communion with the National Church. In a number of cases, however, the Stundists have been indiscreet enough to allow the calumnies of the priests to drive them into unguarded expressions. The result has been that some ten or fifteen leaders have been arrested for 'insulting the Church' and speaking disrespectfully of the Orthodox faith. In one town a recent 'disputation' resulted in a serious riot. The debate was held in the church. As soon as the 'disputation' was finished and the Stundists had declared their inability to rejoin the fold of the Church, the Orthodox fell on the Stundists, drove them from the church and injured several of them severely. A fearful fight ensued, and the enraged crowd had to be dispersed by the military.

DISTRICT MEETINGS.

The time for holding the District Meetings is drawing near. The dates and places are announced on another page. It is to be hoped the churches are making preparation for them. We do not mean the churches that are to entertain them. That they will make ample preparation there is no doubt. They always do. The hospitality of our churches has been demonstrated so often that there is never any question about the entertainment when a general meeting, whether Conference or District Meeting, has been appointed to be held with any of them.

The preparation we have in mind is the preparation of the churches to be fully reported and represented at their respective District Meetings. Every year there are churches which fail to report; some years they number twenty or thirty. The neglect to report is more marked in some Districts than in others: but we do not just now recall any District all the

churches of which have reported in any late year, or in any year.

It would be a most gratifying thing—a sign of renewed life, if reports were made by all the churches in one year. Why not this year?

One reason perhaps, why some churches are irregular in their reports is because they have the habit of neglecting attention to the matter till the District Meeting is right at hand—the last week, or the last day, before it. Then it is easy to say, "It's no use, we haven't time now to prepare the report and select delegates, we'll have to let it go this year." In some cases this is done for several years in succession, much to the hurt of the church, and greatly to the regret of the District Meeting and the General Conference.

To make sure of being reported, and of having the report properly filled out, and the delegates judiciously selected, attention should be given to the matter some weeks before the date of the District Meeting. What is hurriedly done is not often well done. The preparation of a report of church life and work for a year is of sufficient importance to be carefully done.

Pastors usually give special attention to the reports. It is not easy to find an excuse for a non-reporting church that has a pastor. Some churches are without pastors. The officers of such churches should see that they are reported. For fear of neglect, the nearest minister to pastorless churches would do well to give them some attention just now, especially with a view to making sure that their reports are prepared and their delegates appointed.

The report form asks a number of questions and provides spaces for statements on several subjects concerning which it is desired to get information. From the appearance of some reports that reach District Meetings, it would not be unfair to infer that no attempt had been made to give the information asked for. Some of the questions may not be easy to answer. There should, however, be an attempt to give the fullest information possible. Whether asked for or not, whatever will help to an understanding of the church's real condition should be into the report. Be careful, brethren, to do the best possible in this respect this year.

Besides their reports, the churches should be represented by delegates. Last year, at some of the District Meetings, there was an unusual lack in this respect. Let us hope that this year each church will be fully represented.

If any of the District Meetings arranged for the publication of their programmes this year, they should be forwarded in time. It is not much use to print them only the week before the meeting. Get them in early. We are hoping that this year, more than ever before, the business of the District Meetings will be thoroughly done, the devotional services will be numerous and good, and that the churches entertaining the meetings will be blessed with revival through their instrumentality. Let prayer be made to this end in all the churches.

THE NEXT GREAT AWAKENING.

A book by Dr. Josiah Strong, bearing the above title, deals with the problems which demand the attention of good people in this time. The Presbyterian Witness reviews the book interestingly:

Confessedly there is need for a "great awakening." The world is too much with us. Extensive spheres of human affairs are managed as if there was no God to be taken into account. The devout Roman Catholic, passing the church which is supposed to contain the body and blood, the humanity and divinity of Christ, makes some sign of his devotion. This, possibly something much less than this, is the passing respect which the average business man pays to his religion. He may spend an hour, an hour and a half a week in the place where public worship is conducted. Though present in body he is often absent in spirit; and other thoughts than the thoughts of God creep through his mind. Real worship is often excluded by a spirit of criticism, or by unbelief, or indifference. Singing, praying, reading, hearing, often become mere formalities. Large masses of our population absent themselves from public worship, and have no Christian worship in their families. Christianity is not expressly excluded from business affairs, from our town councils, municipal councils and legislatures; yet the pure and lofty morality of Christianity is not greatly regarded. Party spirit is on the whole antichristian. The weapons of party warfare are unchristian. If we drift along in this way year after year ignoring God, the end will be moral degradation and ruin.

What then is to be "The next great awakening?" We agree with the writer of this volume that the crying need of the time is faith in God, the living and true God, ever present, ever active; a personal God who is on the side of righteousness, and who is the Judge of all. This is no new truth, but it is a truth of which we need to be constantly reminded. God is Spirit, said the Lord Jesus. The outward forms of religion are important; but without spirit and reality they may become a snare and a delusion. Gorgeous adornments of religious forms are a source of danger because men and women and especially children are tempted to rest in them. Churches fully equipped with the "machinery" of religion may yet lack power. Organization and ornamentation do not produce life, but life seeks organization and leads to it. The Spirit of God is the life that all Churches need as the only real source of power.

The material development of the age so wonderful and on the whole so beneficent, tends to dim our perception of spiritual realities. The scientific habit prevalent in our age has not been favorable to the dominance of a gna. Science has revealed the universal reign of law in the natural world, and "law" in the estimation of a certain school excludes God. "In Him we live, move, and exist," is the Christian doctrine. Christ claimed that he revealed to us His Father and our Father, His God and our God. But science, these teachers tell us, has banished a personal God from the universe. Myriads who would not expressly and articulately deny God do so, practically, by omitting Him from the whole round of their lives. Obviously there is need for a "great revival" of faith in God as our Father and our personal Friend.

The note of the great revival of the fifteenth century was The just shall live by faith, not by ceremonies or forms or the performances of a priestly caste. Salvation is of the Lord. Faith is the link that connects us with the Divine Saviour. The next revival had for its note the sovereignty of God in Christ. His people were to be ruled not by priests or by kings or even by parliaments, but by the very living God, the only Lord of the Conscience. This was the Puritan revival. Then came the Methodist revival of which the note was personal salvation. The revival of the first half of the nineteenth century gave due prominence to individual guilt and responsibility and free agency. The note of the great revival of which Mr. Moody was the chief leader was the love of God.

Each age seems to need emphasis on a particular doctrine, while of course not ignoring any part of Divine truth. Now what is the special message coming to us in the twentieth century?

The great questions peculiar to our time are social. The Social Ideal is the Kingdom of God when every man shall acknowledge the supreme Headship of Jesus, when all shall feel responsibility for each and each for all. Christ pleased not Himself. He was as one who served. He came not to be ministered unto but to minister and to give His life a ransom for many. He preached the Gospel to the poor, and He at the same time opened the eyes of the blind, healed the lame, cleansed the lepers, unstopped the ears of the deaf. Thus in the lips of our Lord the coming of the "Kingdom of Heaven" implied material blessings as well as spiritual emancipation. He fed the hungry multitudes. He cared for the necessities of His disciples. His kingdom will have come when God's will is done on earth as it is in Heaven,—then and not till then. God's laws express His will. We must not forget that the "laws of nature" are the expression of His will as certainly as the moral law. God is Lord and Master of the physical world. His Kingdom ruleth over all.

God's message concerning His Kingdom comes to us by our Lord Christ. It is contained in parable and miracle and discourse; it was emphasized by His own example of loving service. The Kingdom will come when the world recognizes the laws of the Kingdom and follows the example of the great Redeemer in giving heed to the physical as well as the spiritual needs of humanity. Jesus recognized physical suffering and need and ministered to them, thus giving to men proof of His love which the most ignorant and degraded could understand. Through the lower nature he reached the higher. He went down to the physical plane on which the multitudes lived and thus raised men up to the spiritual plane on which He lived. The physical needs of the world afford the church her opportunity to minister as her Master did.

NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

"I TOLD YOU SO"

Prof. Wiggins, of Ottawa, says he knew the volcanic eruptions were coming, and predicted them more than a dozen years ago. Asked how he foreknew all this, he said:

"I knew it by calculation. Look into the nautical almanac of 1902 and you will find the following phenomena: Moon in conjunction with the sun May 7th and 10 hours west of the meridian of London. In perigee or nearest point in her orbit the earth May 8th and 7 hours north declination 15 degrees. You see the earth, moon and sun were in the same straight line and the sun was eclipsed on May 7th. All the great volcanic eruptions in history occurred at the moon's conjunction with the sun."

THE FISHERIES.

The conference of representatives of the Provincial governments with the Dominion on government last week, concerning the fisheries, resulted in a general understanding that the best interests of the country would be best served by the Dominion having sole control. Another meeting is to be held in the summer.

RUSSIA IN REVOLT.

Russia seems to be seething with discontent, though the authorities take every possible means to prevent news of the actual state of things from getting abroad. High officials continue to receive letters threatening them with death. In Finland there is very bitter resentment against the new conscription law, numerous disturbances have taken place, and the recruits are refusing to present themselves. At St. Petersburg the students are in state of ferment, and agitators are busy among the workpeople of the factories, urging them to come out on strike. Things have gone much further in Central Russia and the neighbourhood of Moscow. Strikes and disturbances are of daily occurrence. Education has been spreading among the workers, and, realising their miserable condition, they are claiming the rights and liberties enjoyed by those of their class in other countries. The worst disturbances have taken place further south in Little Russia. Eighteen thousand peasants are in revolt, made desperate by the want of seed corn and the means of livelihood. Eighty estates of the nobles have been ravaged and everything destroyed. The most rigorous measures have been taken by some of the authorities, and the peasants have been arrested and flogged wholesale. It is rumoured that sedition is also spreading in the army. Russia has requested the French Government to watch closely Russian refugees in Paris, where it is suspected a group of agitators is working in concert with the Russian nihilists.

A SINGLE VICTORY FOR ABSTINENCE

In several numbers of the 'National Advocate' we have called attention to the recognition by the Life Insurance Societies of Great Britain of the claims of the total abstainer that he is a better risk than the drinking man. Now some American life insurance companies are coming to take the same position and officially recognize the total abstainer as a man in better health and with better chances of long life than the drinking man, hence entitled to lower rates; and one of the leading companies has established a total abstinence class, and offers lower rates to men who do not drink.

The abstinence clause in the contract is at once an avowal of temperance in the past and a pledge not to drink in the future. The applicant must testify that he has been a total abstainer from all sorts of liquors, and must pledge himself to the same abstinence during the life of the policy. Officials of the company admit that an injustice was done to men who have been total abstainers in placing them on the same rating as men who drink. The records of the company readily establish the fact that the proportion of deaths among drinking men abstainers, and yet, as an insurance risk, both have been regarded upon the same footing.

An actuary of the company which has taken the step new to American insurance said that while the company did not consider itself a temperance society and was not segregating all its policy holders who are total abstainers it would put in this new class any accepted applicant for insurance who declared that he had been a total abstainer from the use of a beverage of alcoholic liquors, including wine, beer and fermented cider, and as a condition of membership in this class would agree to remain a total abstainer as long as his policy is in force, any surplus being based upon the experience of the society on policies belonging to the total abstinence class.

MARTINIQUE AND ST. VINCENT.

Mount Pelee is still active. On the 20th there was an eruption more violent than the one that swept St. Pierre away. On the 24th the volcano belched forth a torrent of lava and mud, which rushed down the north slope of the mountain and swept away what was left of the town of Basse Pointe. New fissures have opened in

the side of the mountain. St. Pierre is now completely covered with lava and it will be dangerous to approach the place until the cover hardens. Ashshowers and detonations continue. Fort De France, according to the Post's correspondent, is safe, but the people are apprehensive lest the lightning flashes shall fire the hundreds of tons of explosives stored in the forts. The inhabitants are fleeing. Most are destitute.

From Kingstown St. Vincent island, word comes that the number of new craters in the disturbed district cannot be ascertained, as ascent of the mountain is impossible, but there are apparently four active craters there. Rumbling sounds are heard and vapor is still issuing from different parts of the mountain and the lava is still flowing.

LORD PAUNCEFOTE.

The British Ambassador at Washington, Lord Pauncefoot, died in that city Saturday. He had been reported ill for two or three weeks, but the latest report, prior to that of his death, was to the effect that he was recovering. He was in his 74th year. He had been fourteen years the British Ambassador at the United States capital. He had dealt with difficult international questions in a way to command the confidence and respect of both countries.

PEACE PROSPECTS.

It is believed that peace terms have been agreed upon and may be announced very soon. The Monday London despatches say: "The announcement of peace may be expected at any moment, and it will be found that the government has remained inflexible on all vital points at issue."

The Fifth Regiment Canadian Rifles

sailed from Halifax Saturday.

The late Archbishop Corrigan, of New York, left an estate of \$250,000.

Australia denies the mails to those that would use them for sending information about gambling. She rightly puts character before revenue.

Preparations for viewing the Coronation procession in London are proceeding on a great scale. Stands have been planned, and in many cases are already half built, which will accommodate 2,000,000 seated spectators.

The Countess of Minto is at the head of the movement to secure a common burial ground for all the Canadians who have fallen in South Africa.

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