

Religious Intelligence.

THAT GOD IN ALL THINGS MAY BE GLORIFIED THROUGH CHRIST.—Peter

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WIVES AND GLEANINGS.

At the age of sixty-three, a San Francisco lady sued her fickle millionaire aged seventy and was awarded substantial damages.

553 fifty-one out of every marriages in England and were performed by Roman Catholic priests, but in 1897 the number had sunk to forty-one in 1,000.

A Lather died at the age of John Calvin at the age of 55 Knox and Thomas Chalmers they were 67. Oliver Cromwell 59 years, Bonaparte 52. Adams 91, John Quincy 79, Washington 67 and 63.

Uganda people practice the old of "hardening" children. The corn babe is placed on a cold India leaf and cold water is poured over it. South east of Uganda there is a district that suffers severely from famine and the diseases that famine breeds.

John Taus, who was declared King of Samoa by Chief Justice Chambers, has asked for an extension. His request was forwarded by United States Consul Osborn, now at Apia, to Secretary Hay, who has approved and has suggested in a note to Britain and Germany that the three powers pay the expenses of the young man, while he attends such natural history in Europe.

A so-called "literary" in a Georgia settlement a sturdy old farmer settled the floor and spoke for an hour on corn raising, fodder raising, and cotton picking. The preacher was present, and to a point of order. "I do not," he said, "what a literary man has to do with the corn and fodder pulling." "Well," said the old farmer, "it's got just so to do with it: If it wasn't for corn, cotton, and bacon, and there wouldn't be a literary man in the whole blame country!"

General Hector Macdonald made a sergeant in the 92nd—Macdonald, as is well known, has risen from the rank—his Colonel addressed him as follows:—General Macdonald, we have no more to find with you. You have served well, and I am going to you a sergeant. Remember, sergeant in the 92nd Highlanders equal to a member of Parliament, don't forget it and your many responsibilities." "And I never said the gallant officer when, Colonel and the hero of Omdurman he told the story.

The cost of the gypsy moth to the State of Massachusetts is incalculable. One of the professors of the Entomology Museum says that extermination is impossible. Yet this terrible pest was introduced by a scientific man, who brought the eggs from Europe to this country for the purpose of study. The most penalties should be enacted to prevent such an act. A scientific man who wants to study pests or diseases should go where they are, and if he brings them to this country his collection should be destroyed and he himself incarcerated in the nearest State penitentiary for the rest of his life. Scientific men of this sort are too dangerous to be allowed to live.

The Trans-Siberian Railway, when completed, will take a passenger from Paris to Yokohama in seven days, as against twenty five days which he now takes if he travels by Atlantic greyhound and R. R. rail and steamship, and a harvest of forty-four days which he takes if he goes via Suez Canal.

There has been found for fish scales before considered valueless. According to a report of J. C. Calvert, United States Consul at Lyons, France, there is a great demand for them. They are used in the manufacture of artificial pearls and other ornaments by the newly discovered method of a French chemist. The supply is less than the demand, and it is said large quantities will be used at a good price paid for them in

his report the Consul says: "The scales should be sprinkled with salt as soon as they are removed from the fish and packed in tin cans. Any specimens sent to this Consulate will receive careful examination, and the results, with any suggestions that may be made and particular prices offered, will be duly reported." It is believed here that the sale of these scales may result in establishing an important business in an article that has now no commercial value.

INDIA CONDITIONS.

The last reports from India tell of 70,000,000 people in the affected area, of 4,000,000 in government relief work, of cattle dying everywhere, of living human skeletons walking through the land, and men, women and children starving to death in spite of all the best efforts of a Christian Government to relieve their need. And this is only the beginning.

But India is so far away, the conditions there so unknown here, the horrors of a famine too fearful even to be imagined, that many who could and would help are untouched by the sad story of these millions. Perhaps our hearts would be touched more deeply by the sufferings of these far-away people if we understood them better, knew better the difficulties they contend with, and could realize how millions may be so dependent on a few inches of rain that its failure means starvation. India's poverty is hard for us to realize. The famine commission estimated the average income per head as rupees 27, or about nine dollars, or expressed differently, the average income of all, rich and poor, was less than the amount necessary for the subsistence of native prisoners in the jails of the country. A safe estimate places the average income of one hundred million at rupees 12, or four dollars. Of course prices are low and living is cheap, but that fact cannot explain how multitudes of the day laborers and very poor exist. The struggle for existence is terrible in thousands of homes. One shudders, but does not wonder at the outcast Mahars, who go through the towns and gather up the dead oxen and buffaloes for food.

The people of India live in villages, for two-thirds of them are dependent upon their fields for the living. These villages are a few mud huts and a temple, a hundred or more homes surrounded by an ancient mud wall; or a town of three thousand people gathered on the bank of a river and surrounded by many acres of fertile land. The village house is, as a rule, built of sun-dried brick, or white clay baked hard by the hot sun. Its roof is tile or thatch, and lets the smoke find its own chimney through cracks and crevices. It is innocent of windows, unless that hole a foot square be so called. Before the door or on a veranda, the patient oxen or buffaloes that draw the heavy wooden plow, trample out the grain and cart it to the bazaar, are stalled, and the visitor frequently has to find his way between these animals, to enter the low door of the house.

Within the house, when one's eyes are accustomed to the darkness, he looks in vain for furniture. True, here is a small brick or mud furnace or two that answers for a stove; there are pots and pans and plates of shining brass; here is a roll of bedding in the corner, there is a padlocked box of clothes and ornaments, the wealth of the family, and in a niche in the wall you will find a god. The mud floor, on which the little naked children play, answers for bed, table and chair.

The life of the villager is as simple as his surroundings. He works in his field as his father, plows with a huge wooden plow, reaps with a short sickle, threshes with trampling oxen, and winnows with the wind. The wife grinds the grain in the mill of two flat stones, prepares the two meals of the day (cakes made of millet flour or boiled rice and curry). There is no sewing for her to do, for buttons she does not need, and her husband can manage the few he has. In the field she can weed and harvest with the rest. She, and the children, too, are needed when the grain is formed, to frighten away the birds.

It is a careless life for all; at least its ills and cares are faced without grumbling, as long as their field brings enough for all; food for the home,

fodder for the cattle, and money for clothing.

Early in June, a telegram comes from Colombo, the monsoon has burst. The villagers watch the clouds as they gather. Will the rain be too little, enough or too much? When, after the first rains, the fields are sown, they still watch the sky; and to meet a farmer without referring to the rains, would be strange, indeed. If the rains are timely and plentiful, the little field will yield two crops; if not, the stalk withers, and the hot wind, blowing over the plain, parches it, and the ground cracks open. The Brahmins are feasted, and the priests are fed and offerings are made, while all cry for rain. Still the rain does not come. The little stock of grain is soon finished; credit is exhausted; jewels and ornaments are sold. Prices are increasing. The wife and children must be fed. Work is not to be found. The neighbors are all equally poor. Gaunt faces look into gaunt faces, and wonders where the next day's supplies are to be found. The family and all its horrors settle down on the land.

The famine this year promises to exceed the worst suffering known this century, even the terrible famine of '76 and '77. The people had not recovered from the last visitation three years ago, and now their crops have failed, their wells are drying up, and water, as well as food has failed. The cattle are dying for food and water. The people, living skeletons, are wandering here and there for food and drink. Many die by the road-side before they find relief. A child is sold for a song. Love and humanity are crushed out of hearts that once were tender, and men and women fight with loved ones for what will keep body and soul together. In camp and in home, cholera and disease finish the work famine wrought in the weakened, emaciated victims.

The British Government in India is doing all that Christian rulers can do. Wise from past experience, organized and prepared for such a crisis, the machinery of the Government is working day and night to save the lives of its people. Grain is brought from other parts of the country and is hurried to centres where it is in reach of the people. Public works, new roads, canals, etc., are open to give employment to the poor. Hospitals are prepared for the sick, orphanages for the children. Think of the emaciated workmen, the helpless, toiling women, the widows, the children, the old men and women in the hospital.

In hospitals in schools, in churches, the missionaries have been making known the spirit of Christ. They know the people. The people turn to them in their need. The helpless, hungry, sick and dying are at their doors. They have called upon Christian people of the home-land to make it possible for them to feed the starving, minister to the sick, save the orphans.

"Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye did it unto me."—Christian Observer.

PROTESTANTS IN RUSSIA.

News has recently come of a renewed attack by the czar's government upon the Lutheran churches in Finland and in the Baltic provinces. The pretext for this attack, the Missionary Review says, is that Lutheran clergy in Finland and Livonia are favoring the spread of pan-Germanic sentiments. A number of recent conversions from the Russian Orthodox church to the Protestant faith have inspired a cry of alarm in the clerical and reactionary press. As a result, the Lutheran theological seminaries, which a few years ago had been allowed to be open in St. Petersburg, have now been closed.

If the czar has hardened his heart toward Lutherans, Finns, Jews and Mennonites, the death of his brother seems to have caused some change, for the moment at least, in his attitude toward the Protestants known as the Molokani in far eastern Russia.

The Molokani are total abstainers from liquor, and have the reputation of being wonderfully familiar with the Bible. When the czar's brother, the czarévitch, was attacked by hemorrhage while taking a bicycle ride in the Caucasus, a poor Molokani woman found him, helped him to her house, and nursed him during his few remaining hours of life. In recognition of this, the czar has issued a public manifesto, not only thanking the woman for her services, but also offering his grateful acknowledgments to the entire Molokani sect.

Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.

"Rise up ye women that are at ease." Isaiah 32: 9.

[All contributions for this column should be addressed to Mrs. J. McLeod, Fredericton.]

LETTER FROM MISS GAUNCE.

Ujarda, India, Feb. 12th, 1900.

DEAR MRS. McLEOD,—A short letter to you this evening, so as to be ready to send by cable to-morrow morning to Guwahati, or, if needs be, to Basta, the nearest post office from here.

I have sent in to Balasore for two Bible women to come out here, and am expecting them tomorrow noon.

A week ago last Saturday afternoon I left Balasore. At Jellassore I was joined by Mr. and Mrs. Rae, and thence proceeded to Kharagpur (the new railway town you have heard considerable about) where Mr. Rae holds regular Sunday evening services, except when the Episcopal clergyman is present. Miss Coombs has organized a Sunday School there for the children of the railway employees. I took charge of the school that Sunday, and thus saved Miss Coombs the trip from Midnapore. We had a good attendance at Sunday school, and I enjoyed meeting with the children.

The evening service is at an inconvenient hour, and therefore the attendance is not as large as it might be. I believe Mr. Rae has resolved to change the time to half an hour later. The service is held in one of the offices belonging to the Railway Institute. Mr. Rae has the use of a vacant house there. Of course, it is not exclusively for him, but he has now a fixed place, wherein to put up when he goes to Kharagpur; moreover, his congregation have told him to get up a subscription; and he has, I believe, signers for 16 or 18 rupees per month.

Work shops are open; boilers are cleaned, and trains are run Sunday the same as any other day in the week. The drivers have to work hard, and it does seem a pity that they cannot have Sunday for rest.

Early Monday morning we returned to Jellassore, and Tuesday morning left for this village, arriving here in about two hours.

I think I wrote you that on account of some dissatisfaction here, the mission boat had mysteriously disappeared. The last time I was through I was told that it would be found when the water subsided. The people found out that they were not to have their Christmas until the boat was produced, so efforts were made to discover its whereabouts. A subscription was raised among the Christians, and one man, who seemed to know where it would be likely to sink, pocketed half the money (eight annas), and gave the remainder to two Hindus to raise the boat. With great joy word was sent in to me, that a subscription had been raised and the boat found. I told the messenger that I was not pleased that they had given money, because I had found out who had had a hand in sinking the boat, and therefore he was held responsible for its reappearance. I asked why Hindus were employed to raise the boat, and why the Christians did not do it, and thus keep the money among themselves. The answer was,—Jadu (the man whom I accused, and who confessed to me that he knew of its whereabouts) told us that, "if we raised the boat the Missions would think that we had sunk it, while if we employed Hindus she would believe they had done it." Such a strong argument surely ought to convince me of his innocence.

I have been here nearly a week, and have not given them their Christmas, not because of the above mentioned affair, but because there is such a bitter feeling among some of them. I believe two will need to be expelled from the church. Nearly every time I come they pray that I may with joy return to my home; but I do not think that they try hard to give me reason for joy.

Things have been rather quiet these last few days, so I hope to give them their usual distribution of clothes and a dinner before I leave, which will (D. V.) be next Saturday afternoon

Towards the end of March I hope to come out here again.

The village god has been carried through the village this evening. I shall try and write you about it by next mail.

It is quiet here and we have not so frequent interruptions as in Balasore, so I may be able to write you again before leaving.

I hope you and all the sisters will forgive my silence. The trial I was bearing seemed to make it almost impossible for me to write. I remain, Yours sincerely
L. E. Gaunce.

PARLIAMENT.

MONDAY.—The premier explained that the total cost of the plebiscite vote was \$189,827.

Sir Richard Cartwright stated that the question of the fast line steamship was under advisement.

Mr. Mulock said the department of public works was considering the question of adopting the Marconi system in coast telegraphing.

When the motion for the resumption of the West Huron and Brockville inquiry was reached, Mr. Borden had it struck off the paper. This makes it possible for him to bring it up in another form.

Mr. Martin, moved for papers relating to the admission of Newfoundland into the confederation. He believed that Canadian statesmen had not given enough attention to the subject of joining out confederation. He contended that great development of trade would follow political union and be of great benefit to both countries.

Sir Louis D'Almeida said the papers would be brought down.

TUESDAY.—The discussion on Russell's preference amendment was resumed.

The amendment was carried by 91 to 46.

Mr. Fielding announced that the budget speech would be delivered on Friday.

WEDNESDAY.—Mr. Carroll introduced a bill to amend the franchise act, to provide for the preparation of the voters list in unorganized districts. This led to a general discussion of the franchise act.

A dispute arose over a question put on the paper by Mr. Mills of Annapolis containing a statement of expenditure at Philadelphia. The custom has been to allow questions to be asked without reading. Sir Wilfrid and others insisted that Mr. Mills should read the whole question. There was a long discussion on the point.

Mr. Blair made a speech on Mr. Bennett's motion as to transportation routes between the Lake Superior and Atlantic seaboard. The minister said that in view of the large expenditure on present canal system it was necessary to push it to completion.

Adjourned at midnight.

TUESDAY.—Mr. Mulock moved this resolution:

That all government contracts should contain such conditions as will prevent abuses which may arise from the subletting of such contracts, and that every effort should be made to secure the payment of such wages as are generally accepted as current in each trade for competent workmen in the district where the work is carried out, and that this house cordially concurs in such policy, and deems it the duty of the government to take immediate steps to give effect thereto. The work to which the foregoing policy shall apply includes not only work undertaken by the government itself, but also all works aided by the grant of Dominion public funds.

The postmaster general explained that this policy of requiring fair wages to be paid to working out government contracts was adopted by the imperial government in 1891, and had been carried out with success. The resolution was discussed till midnight, when the debate and the House were adjourned.

FRIDAY.—Mr. Fielding made his budget speech. He reviewed the statements of revenue and expenditure. He said that the increase of debt was larger than he had anticipated, but contended that the increase had been slower during the past three years than during the eight previous years. He estimated that current revenue would pass the fifty million mark. He estimated the expenditure would be \$43,175,000.

The only tariff change is an addition to the free list of machinery for the manufacture of beet sugar.

Mr. Foster moved the adjournment of the debate. The house adjourned at six o'clock.

THANK YOU.—A careful and appreciative reader of the INTELLIGENCER writes:

"The INTELLIGENCER grows better every year. Your notes on current events and the war news are very interesting. The denominational news columns are always eagerly scanned. Matter contributed by the men whom our people know is always most interesting to them. I am sorry we do not do more for the paper."

The writer of the foregoing emphasized his kind words with a good list of new subscribers.

AN OMISSION.—The appeal to Maritime Prohibitionists, in last week's INTELLIGENCER, was from the pen of Rev. E. Crowell, President of the Maritime Prohibition Association. It is his official call to the prohibition forces. His name was signed to it, but by some accident was dropped by the printers.

A KOPJE.—No one who has not seen a kopje, says a South African, can easily realize it. It is not a hill so much as the stump of a hill—what is left of it after ages of denudation; out the special feature of it is that it is almost invariably covered with a breas-work of bowlders. Tropical torrents have washed away the earth, and all the soluble components of the rock, and what is left consists of heaps and lines of detached masses of sandstone, ironstone or granite. The kopjes are the Boer's fortifications, and he has any number of them.

IN TORONTO.—Messrs. Crossley and Hunter are now holding meetings in Toronto, in the E. M. St. Methodist church.

ALL SORTS.—The cosmopolitan character of the Boer army is singularly illustrated by one single hospital in South Africa, which required Bibles in the Gaelic, Dutch, German, Flemish, French, Swedish, Danish, Italian, Bulgarian, Croat Magyar, Roumanian, and Czech languages, all of which the British and Foreign Bible Society supplied.

POLITICAL NEWS.—There are rumours of possible changes in the composition of the government before the approaching general election.

The resolution to abolish the Legislative Council of Quebec did not meet the approval of that body; it was defeated by a vote of six for and seventeen against.

Mr. Jos. Martin has not yet announced his British Columbia government. There is talk of a combination of Conservatives and Liberals against him.

The Quebec Legislature was prorogued Friday evening. The session lasted two months.

THE QUEEN'S MESSAGES.—The London Empire tells that the Queen received from Gen. Buller news of the relief of Ladysmith nearly an hour before the news reached the war office. It appears that with every General commanding in the field Her Majesty has a special cipher code, by means of which she can communicate with them, and they with her. Before such messages are transmitted a special pilot message is rushed through, marked "X X X Clear the Line." Instantly every other message is put aside, and the Queen's royal message is flashed through in a few minutes. Should it be a fairly long one, its head is frequently in London before its tail has left the point of departure. Cabinet throughout the world are imperialists, proud of their Queen, and they enjoy the patriotic thrill which results from the stirring signal "X X X Clear the Line!"

AMONG EXCHANGES.

NOT ONE GOOD WORD.

A small girl, who was an unnoticed listener at a family discussion the other morning suddenly asked: "Mamma, is everybody wicked?" "Why, no, my child, of course," answered mamma. "What do you ask such a question as that for?" "Only because you haven't said a nice thing about any one to-day." The rest was silence.—Capetown Methodist.

THEY SEE IT.

The loyalty of the British colonies is a striking incident of the South African war. Greater England is a fact that must be reckoned with in the future. This development immeasurably strengthens England as a fighting power. The Russian Bear doubtless exulted over British reverses, but here is a new lesson for the Great Bear to think on during his hibernating.—Baptist Argus.

"ONE WORD MORE."

Children are apt in discriminating. When words and acts disagree they readily conclude that the former are not truthful. Little Freddy's mamma had a caller one day who several times during her stay said, "Now I must go," always resuming her seat, nevertheless. Upon another repetition of the remark, Freddy said, solemnly, "Don't you believe it until she's gone, mamma." The preacher who is in the habit of saying, "One word more and I have done" three or four times before he concludes his sermon, compels his people to do like Freddy—not believe him till he has actually stopped.—Rel., Telescope.