

Religious Intelligencer.

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

VOL XLVIII.—NO. 3

FREDERICTON N. B., JANUARY 17 1900

WHOLE No. 2427

Notes and Gleanings.

There is a movement in Hiawatha, Kansas, to unite the fifteen local churches run at an expense of \$15,000. The local editor is leading this attempt. The church-going population is given at 1,500.

Over a thousand letters directed to Santa Claus were sent to the Dead Letter Office by Saturday last. Unless the letters contained stamps or something valuable, they are destroyed. Stamps are returned.

Captain Drefus has taken a villa in Cairo and will spend the winter there with his family. He is reported to be growing stronger continually and his physicians say that a winter of rest in a mild climate will make him a well man.

India has immense coal deposits, from which the output in 1896 was 3,537,820 tons. In the Bengal district alone the Raingyr and Barakar colliers are estimated to contain 14,000,000 tons, the Karampara colliers 8,800,000 tons, the Bokara colliers 1,500,000 tons, and the Djherria colliers 465,000 tons.

A doctor and well-known scientist died from the plague in Lisbon. During his illness he was inoculated with the plague serum without effect. Shortly before his death, he said: "The plague is a disease which is not understood by the doctors of to-day. They know no more about it now than in olden times." Deceased had devoted months to the study of the plague, and met his death in the execution of his duty.

The climate of Egypt is magnificent and there are few winter resorts that are preferable, meteorologically speaking. The air is fine and dry and the sunshine is perfect, while with equable temperature, whole some food and water, and gentle breezes, there is little to be desired. Unfortunately, the sanitary arrangements in Egypt are very bad, and most of the hotels, even in Cairo, are built on contaminated sites.

"Can you tell me what sort of weather we may expect next month?" wrote a subscriber to the editor of a paper, and the editor replied as follows: "It is my belief that the weather next month will be very much like your subscription."

The inquirer wondered for an hour what the editor was driving at, when he happened to think of the word "unsettled." He sent the required amount next day.

The high school girls of Evanston, Illinois, have, if report be true, entered into a very praiseworthy compact to influence the habits and the morals of their young gentlemen friends. They have formed an Anti-Cigarette League for the purpose of discouraging the use of such articles and tobacco. One feature of their compact is that they pledge themselves not to give as a present to any one of their gentleman friends any form of article used in smoking, such as smoking-cap, cigar holder, etc. A movement of this kind will do much toward discouraging the use of tobacco.

The Montreal witness gives the following characteristic account of the way in which history is taught in Italy: "Who was Mazzini?" asked a professor of history when inspecting a clerical school in Italy. "A godless wretch, an enemy of God and of our Holy Mother the Church." "Who was Garibaldi?" "A monster, an adventurer, a godless man, a great enemy of the papacy and of the Holy Catholic Church." "Who was Victor Emmanuel?" "What did he do for the country?" "King Victor Emmanuel was a man excommunicated by the Church. He was a tyrant, for he deprived the head of the Church of his temporal power and made him a perpetual prisoner." That is how Roman Catholics teach history.

In England they are computing the value of the incense required for the Anglican liturgical churches which have been using the stuff and have now been forbidden to use it. Will its non-use affect the market of the commodity? It is

thought that it will not materially, since not over \$30,000 worth would have been used if the order had not been sent out. As to its composition, it is said that it consists of gum olibanum, Siam benjamin, cascarilla bark, myrrh and copal varnish. Of whatever it is made, it is a villainous compound which, when burning, emits a most stifling odor, and choking smoke. Since its use has no Scriptural authority, we are exceedingly glad that we do not have to inhale it on the Sabbaths.

The Churches in 1899

It has been the custom of the N. Y. Independent for many years to review, at the close of each year, the work of the churches in the United States. Its review for 1899 is interesting. The denominations are dealt with alphabetically. The following summary gives the statistics of the churches, and some other facts:

The Adventists are not a large denomination, but it seems vigorous. Much zeal is shown in missions. There are six different sects of Adventists, and all taken together number 1491 ministers, 2,267 churches, 89,482 communicants. Growth during the year has been small.

Armenians in America number 15 ministers and 21 churches. Communicants, 8,500. These people are all immigrants from Asia, and most of them are evangelized.

Baptists classified together count 33,088 ministers, 49,721 churches, and 4,443,628 members. The increase in ministers is nearly one thousand and members nearly 100,000. The sect known as "Old Two seed in the Spirit Predestinarian" shows no increase, though its ministers number 300 and the members over 12,000.

Plymouth and River Brethren taken together have nearly 12,000 members, and show no increase.

Roman Catholics have priests, 11,119; churches, 11,571; communicants, 8,446,301. Increase 97 priests; members, 52,123. Independent Catholics have 46 churches, 25 ministers, 23 churches with 25,000 members.

"Christians" number 1493 ministers and 1598 churches with 112,414 members.

Christian Scientists claim 80,000 members, and 497 churches. These are Mrs. Eddy's followers. Dowie, of Chicago, counts 14,000 followers, and 40 churches.

Communitarian societies count only 4000 adherents.

Congregationalists report 5639 ministers, 5620 churches, 628,234 members. The increase during the year was 3000.

The Disciples have made marked progress. They report 6339 ministers, 10,298 churches, and 1,118,396 members, an increase of nearly 33,000.

Episcopalians—ministers, 4,876; churches 6,519; members, very nearly 700,000. Increase of membership 20,000.

The Jews number over 1,000,000. Mormons, 343,000. Increase 3000.

Of the Lutherans there are 18 different sects, numbering in all, ministers 6,685; churches, 10,991; members, 1,575,778.

Of Methodists there are 17 different sects. Total ministers, 36,424; churches 53,023; members, 5,809,516.

Presbyterians are classed under 12 different names; 8 of these taken together number about 80,000 members. Presbyterian ministers, 12,073; churches, 14,831; members, 1,560,847; increase 18,446. Some of the branches decreased.

Unitarians and Universalists have together about 1,300 churches, and about 126,000 members.

Total: ministers, 153,901; churches, 187,803; members, 27,710,004. Increase of ministers, 4581; churches, 421; members, 277,367. Gain 1 per cent. Episcopalians increased 1 1/2 per cent.; Catholics, 3 1/2 per cent. Three Reformed Presbyterian bodies decreased nearly 1 1/2 per cent. Methodists increased 1/2 of 1 per cent. Universalists decreased more than 3/4 per cent. Baptists increased 2 per cent.

Figures show that the churches in the United States are making steady progress. The larger denominations do not usually make as large a percentage of growth as smaller ones. The churches are slowly gaining upon the population. Ten years ago the church

membership was 20 millions to 60 millions of population. This year the proportion is 27 millions of church members to the 70 millions of the country's population.

A Christian Woman's Appeal.

BOERS' TREATMENT OF NATIVES. The impassioned appeals of Oive Schreiner have called forth an equally impassioned appeal from her sister, Mrs. Ellis, addressed "to all Christian peoples," and claiming that this war is God's vengeance on the Boers for their infamous treatment of the native races.

Mrs. Ellis has a command of words perhaps excelling that of her eloquent sister. She writes:

"If ever there was a war for the Lord of Hosts, if ever there was a war for truth and right, for putting down oppression and wrong, for the deliverance of a people powerless to deliver themselves, this is that war. It is not the grievances of the Uitlanders, though they have been very real and have called for justice; it is not what the British subjects have had to suffer of indignities and wrongs, though these have been numerous under the recent Transvaal Administration; it is not the insult to England's power and prestige shown by the refusal to concede her moderate demands for justice to be done to her subject, followed by the unparalleled act of defiance contained in the Transvaal ultimatum; it is not these things, however they may justly stir the national heart, which call upon us as Christians to bring the united force of God's people, by the power of believing prayer, to bear upon this war question."

"Let no Christian heart think the immediate events which have led to this war are the chief cause why the life blood of the British Empire is being poured out to-day. British soldiers are dying on African soil to-day to put an end to a condition of atrocious wrong, a wrong continued throughout generations, and which apparently nothing but this sacrifice of life could right."

"For over 200 years the progenitors of the Transvaal Republic, and their descendants have crushed, maltreated, and as far as they had the power to do so, robbed of all rights belonging to them as fellow human beings, the coloured peoples of this land."

"Under Transvaal rule a ceaseless succession of crimes—legislative, social and individual—have been perpetrated upon the helpless natives, both within and beyond the borders of the republic, for whom it has seemed till now there was no possible deliverance. To justice-loving souls who have known of these wrongs it has been like some horrible nightmare that in the nineteenth century, within the limits of a country over part of which there waves the British flag, political and social oppression by one race over another was long so grossly practised; to know that on every side individual brutalities were being committed on defenceless victims, and that not by Arab slave drivers or Moslem oppressors, but by a professedly Christian and highly religious people, who, with the Bible in their hands and loud professions of faith in prayers, were practising barbarities, in peace as well as in war, which put to shame the records of what the savages of this land have inflicted, even in war time, upon white races."

"Oh, it has been horrible, beyond words horrible!"

The Heliograph Described.

The heliograph, which is being put to such effective use in South Africa by both British and Boer, is a modern adaptation of one of the oldest forms of signalling apparatus known to military science. Heliographing, as the name implies, is suntelegraphing, and General White's signal men in despatching news from sorely pressed Ladysmith are using the same device, only in more perfected form, that the wicked small boy with a bit of looking-glass in his grimy fists employed to attract the attention of his fellows across the school-room by flashing the sun in their eyes. Mirror-signalling was early used by the North American Indians, and is in no doubt partially responsible for the marvellously rapid dissemination of news on the plains noted by many American army officers. The modern war heliograph

is almost equally simple in theory and practice. The sending apparatus consists of a mirror mounted on a tripod and hung on both horizontal and vertical axes with adjusting screws admitting of minute change of plane. With this mirror the sun's rays are flashed for miles, directed by painstaking adjustments into the field of vision of a receiving telescope also tripod-mounted. The code is similar to that used in electric telegraphy. Flashes, long or short represent dots and dashes, and the Morse or any other code, including ciphers can be readily used.

The heliograph has been called the trump card of visual signalling, for it possesses the four cardinal military virtues—portability, rapidity range and secrecy.

The heliograph is extremely portable, weighing with its stand no more than a soldier's rifle. It possesses a curious virtue of secrecy, because to anyone standing even at a very short distance from the point on which its rays are directed its signals are invisible. But this fact will show how useful it is to have the sun reflected full on the distant station; and to insure this the heliograph has to follow the sun as it travels through the sky. The two screws mentioned, one giving a vertical movement and the other a horizontal movement to the mirror, above its centre, effects this, and the screws can be manipulated by the signaller while in the act of sending without interruption to the message. The range of the heliograph is enormous with a strong sun and clear horizon, and it is therefore admirably useful in South Africa. In the 1883-85 campaign a heliographic signal service extended north—Orange River to Molopole—a distance of 429 miles. One of the great virtues of the heliograph is its ability to pierce haze. Colonel Keyser, who was in 1880 with the besieged garrison at Kindsbar, reported that he opened communication with the advanced guard of the relieving force, under Sir F. Roberts at R. bat, a distance of forty-eight miles, and communications were kept up for several hours on a hazy day.

Heliographing 429 miles, as stated above, implies a system of repeating stations, however, as the curvature of the earth in such a distance makes it improbable that stations sufficiently high could be secured. In this country the longest distance covered of which we have record was a message sent in 1897 from Mt. Wilson in California to Black Jack Mountain, in the island of Santa Catalina, seventy-five miles away. This message was sent with ease, and there was nothing in the account of it to suggest that the limit of the heliograph's range had been reached in this experiment. Sightsight signals by night, are, of course, only a modification of the same principle, with the disadvantages of less portability of instruments, less range and less secrecy.

How the Uitlanders Were Taxed.

The following statistics show to what an extent the Uitlander has been taxed by the Transvaal Government: Supposing his business was the importation into the Transvaal of any of the following articles, he would have to pay, first of all, a customs tariff on beer of 73 cents per gallon; butter, \$1.21 for every hundred pounds; cheese, the same; coffee, 50 cents per hundred pounds; gunpowder, 73 cents per pound; dynamite, \$14.58 per case; guns, \$2.45 for every barrel, with \$1.31 1/2 per hundred for cartridges; ironware, machinery, jewellery, preserved meats, vegetables and fresh fruits were charged an indiscriminate 7 1/2 percent ad valorem duty. Common soap, \$1.12 1/2 per hundred pounds; toilet soap, \$2.43 for a similar quantity; spirits, when from neighboring states \$1.46 per gallon, but when from outside South Africa, \$2.43, and if over proof, \$4.85 per gallon.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.—I wish to acknowledge in the INTELLIGENCER the pleasant surprise my wife and I received on Christmas from the many friends on my part—a very nice far cape to Mrs. Miller and an excellent fur coat for myself. We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to those who have so kindly remembered us.

W. MILLER.

Shag Harbour, N. S.

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. Jos. McLeod, Fredericton.]

India Letter.

Ujarda, Balasore District, Dec. 6th, 1899.

DEAR SISTERS,— I hope you will pardon my delay in writing. I cannot give you any excuse, except that it seemed almost impossible to write.

You see from the above address that I am in Ujarda. A week ago to-day I left Balasore, arriving here at noon the following day. I purpose to leave this afternoon, and will, probably, reach Balasore about midnight.

Two Bible women viz.—Suka and Maini (Dannie's widow), are here, also Mishra, the colporteur. The women will remain until the 19th. They go out every afternoon to the Hindu villages. This week they are having prayer-meeting every morning with the women; in the afternoons, meeting with the children.

At present the church has no pastor. I wish I could get a faithful Christian man and his wife to come out here and live. I am praying that some one may be found for this work. I wish you would set apart a day for special prayer for the Ujarda church.

I am hoping to come out again after Christmas, and will then, I hope, be able to remain longer.

The rice crop here is not good this year. Some of the Christians are going to have a hard time to "make ends meet." At present the men are working as day labourers in the rice-fields of the well-to-do Hindus. They earn ten pice, equal to five cents of our money, per day.

This morning was spent in the school, examining the different classes. Several of the pupils have made good progress in the last six months.

I am sorry the Hindus will not send their children, but I do not think it wise to grant their request to give them a Hindu teacher.

Besides the two Bible women who are here, four others have been sent out to Metrapore, to work for three weeks among the Hindu villages there.

Mishra (colporteur) is out in the district nearly all the time; coming in to Balasore the first of month for his pay. He says that many Hindus listen to his teaching. Several invite him to their homes and give him to eat. He now sells six books, on market days to one he formerly sold. Often that one, he says, was torn into shreds by half a dozen hands.

The heat of the day is passing, and I must begin to get ready, or night will overtake me before I reach Jellapore.

On the way here I was fortunate in getting "Julie men" to carry me through to Ujarda, but I have to return on foot.

Yours sincerely,

L. E. GAUNOR.

Women's Work Notes.

—The total contributions of the Southern W. M. U. this year were \$64,112.73.

—A Brahmin in India recently married a Brahmin widow. Last century she would have been burned on the funeral pyre of her husband.

In 1872 when the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society sent its first missionaries to Kiu Kiang, China, among the few Christians there was Mrs. She (Stone), who was their first Bible woman. She was a lovely Christian character, and although all the women in Kiu Kiang had bound feet, she promised not to bind the feet of her daughters. One of her daughters is Dr. Mary Stone, another, Miss Ida Stone, has spent the last year in Minneapolis attending school and living at the home of Bishop and Mrs. Joyce.

—Thirty five negro women in Chicago agreed to fast for three days, recently, in order to save sufficient money to repair the church (African Methodist) with which they were connected. Some succumbed to hunger after the first day, but many man-

aged to do without meals, taking only a little bread and weak coffee. Each saved something like twenty-five cents a day on the average, and in all upwards of twenty-five dollars were raised. Such zeal for the church of one's choice is to be commended, even if the wisdom of the act is questionable.

—Neither Buddha nor Confucius, founders of the two great religious systems in China, assign to woman a position of honor. Buddha taught that she is in all respects inferior to her husband and can only hope that upon her re-entry into life in the next stage of existence, she may be born as a man. Confucius wrote "Woman is subject to man; she can not herself direct any affairs, but must follow the three obediences. At home (before her marriage) she must obey her father when married, she must obey her husband; after her husband's death she must obey her son. She may never presume to follow her own judgment."

A CHRISTMAS TREE.—Brown's Flat Free Baptist church had its first Christmas tree on the night of Dec. 27th, when a large and appreciative audience was entertained by the Sabbath school and Santa Claus. All present seemed delighted with the programme, which consisted of recitations, choruses, readings, etc. The selections were appropriate, and were well rendered. After the literary and musical features of the entertainment were over, to the delight of the children in walked Mr. Santa Claus, dressed in fur saying Brown's Flat had good children. Our Santa remembered the old as well as the young. The Superintendent (bro. W. P. Short), as also, the pastor and his wife were remembered. Much praise is due our pastor, bro. Puddington, who was ably assisted by our organist, Miss Laura Belyes, in making the concert and tree a grand success.

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A RELIGIOUS CENSUS.—A notable enterprise has been undertaken by the Christian forces of Philadelphia. It is nothing less than a complete census of the city's homes, all to be taken in a single day, February 22. The army of Christian workers who will be engaged will come from all the churches. There is complete co-operation of denominations and organizations for this purpose—Roman Catholics, Unitarians, Salvation Army, Y. M. C. A., W. O. T. U., besides the regular denominations. The city has been divided, and district leaders secured, so that the census will be taken with all the system and accuracy of a Government census. The statistics gathered will be placed in the hands of the pastors and Sunday Schools.

THE PARIS TELESCOPE.—They are building a telescope for the Paris Exposition from which great results are expected. After several failures, the great seven-foot mirrors have been finished, and the lenses, after a number of accidents, are ground and perfect. Unlike all other great telescopes, the new one now nearing completion at Paris will not be pointed at the sky, but will lie flat along the ground pointing at the seven-foot mirror, in which objects in the sky are reflected. The greatest focal power yet obtained was 65 feet in the Yerkes telescope. The new one will have a total focal power of 175 feet, and by its aid it is hoped to bring the moon within forty miles of the earth. No one can hazard a guess as to what will be really discovered when the glass is looked through, but marvelous things are looked for, and the whole astronomical world stands expectant.

Among Exchanges.

EARIER. It is easier for some people to give up divine truth than their own opinion.—United Presbyterian

MANLINESS. You will never be more as a preacher than you are as a man. Count manliness the greatest of qualifications for any work. Have enough in you to preach the whole round gospel, and illustrate it in your life. Love of God must be exhibited in love of men.—Bishop E. R. Hendrix.

MUCH MORE. A good deal is said of Carnegie's magnificent gifts to colleges, public libraries and other educational institutions. They are magnificent. Few men in the world have ever approached him in the sum of their charities. But Mr. Carnegie's share in the profits of the Carnegie Steel Co is a round \$22,000,000. The man who out of an income of five hundred dollars a year gives one dollar to an unfortunate brother or sister is more self-sacrificing in the eyes of God than the great millionaire.—The Gazette.