

Religious Intelligence.

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

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W HOLE No. 2513

THE FIJI ISLANDS.

There are men still living in New Zealand who can tell you stories of the day when the Fijians were the blood-thirstiest cannibals on earth. They had human sacrifices, and widows were expected to burn themselves on the funeral pyres of their husbands. When a chief built a house he festively planted a living victim under each post, and when his canoes were launched he used living men as rollers upon which to slide them down into the sea. When he died his wives were strangled to line his grave, that he might lie soft, and such a thing as killing a baby was too common for notice.

The last king of the Fijis, Thakombau, was the son of a noted man-eater. Thakombau was something of a cannibal himself, but his father craved human flesh as a native maiden craves candy. He had war canoes which he sent about through the South Sea islands for supplies, and they often came back filled with dead men and women and with dead babies dangling from the yard-arms. Upon their return there was always a feast, in which every one joined.

You can still see the ovens in which the cooking was done. They were filled with red-hot stones, and it is related by the missionaries that victims were often thrust in alive. At one time fifty babies were cooked, and at another eighty women were strangled for a similar feast. When there was not enough enemies to supply the king's table, he ordered his men to ambush and lay in a stock of fishermen or stray women who had gone down to bathe.

King Thakombau killed his first victim when he was six years old, and he was famous as a cannibal up until the time of his conversion by the missionaries. He then reformed, and later on made the treaty which gave these islands to England.

These stories give you some idea of the Fijians of the past. The Fijians of to-day are perhaps the most civilized of the colored people south of the equator. They have been almost universally converted to Christianity. They have churches everywhere. They have almost a thousand places of worship; there are 30,000 church members among the 120,000 of the population, and there are 33,000 children in the Sunday schools. They have their own native preachers and they pay the salaries, giving about \$15,000 a year to the church. There are a half-dozen denominations, among which the Methodists, the Presbyterians, the Episcopalians and the Catholics are the leading ones.

The Fijians have good schools. They were first established by the missionaries and afterward taken up by the government. There are now 34,000 scholars, in the public schools. There is a night school at the town of Levuka and another at Suva. There is an industrial school near the latter place, where carpentering, boat building and iron working are taught. There are seventy students in the school, who have been entered for terms of five years. There is also a medical school, and altogether the people are well equipped as to educational matters.

It seems strange to think of newspapers being published in such an out-of-the-way part of the world. There are, however, four different journals set up and printed in the islands. The Fiji Times is issued twice a week, and it costs 12 cents a number. The Royal Gazette appears five times a month at 25 cents a copy, while the Na Mata, a Fijian newspaper, is published by the government at 75 cents a year, or 6 cents a copy. In addition to these there is the Fiji Colonist, published in Levuka at \$5 per year.

WHAT THE FIJIS ARE.

But before I go further let me give you some idea as to the extent of the islands. You know that they lie south of the equator and a little to the west of our possessions in Samoa, but you may not know that they scatter over the sea for a distance of several hundred miles and that they constitute altogether more than two hundred different islands and islets. They were discovered in 1643 by the Dutch navigator, Tasman, the same man who discovered Tasmania, and they became a British colony in 1874. Altogether their area is a little less than that of Massachusetts and their total population about that of Omaha.

They are growing less in number every year. There were 80,000 more forty years ago than there are now, a fact which suggests that modern civilization may mean death to the savages of the South Seas. The same falling off has occurred in the Hawaiian islands, as well as in other places where the foreigners have introduced new diseases along with other evils which we have, but which they had not. Take the measles, for instance. This disease was unknown until it was brought in by the Europeans, but when it came it took off 40,000 people the first year, and it has killed many since.

And still the Fijians are as strong and as good looking as the foreigners. They are among the finest of the Melanesians, and are far superior to our American Indians. They have dark copper skins, frizzly hair, which stands up about their heads in enormous mop, making them look very tall. They plaster their hair with damp lime in order to have it stand straight, and this, in connection with the sun bleaches it to an auburn and makes it look very curious.

The men are tall and well-formed. The women, when young, are fine looking, having handsome eyes and well-molded faces. In the settled regions the women wear loose cotton gowns, but back in the interior the usual attire is a breechcloth and a string of beads and a fan. The men wear little more. The Fijians are a good-natured people. They are cleanly and spend more than half their time in the water. After every bath they rub themselves down with coconut oil, the rancid smell of which enables you to tell them if the wind is blowing right before you can see them.

There are a number of Fiji villages scattered over the islands, and there are many natives who live in and about Suva and Levuka, the principal places where the foreigners are located.

The Fiji villages are made almost entirely of thatched huts, the walls made of woven bamboo. The roofs are very thick and the thatch is so beautifully put on that it seems to be woven. No nails are used in building, the walls being tied together with strings. Some of the houses are conical in shape, others oblong and others oval. The usual hut has but one room, in which the whole family stays in the daytime, when it rains, and where all sleep at night. The usual bed is a mat on the floor and the pillow a bamboo log, which is placed under the neck in order to keep the sleeper's head dress well up from the ground. There is but little cooking, and fruit forms a large part of the diet of the people.

In the mountains there are savage Fijians who keep themselves apart from the civilized natives. Here the men for full dress wear a strip of bark about their waists tied at the front in a bow, while the women have a fringe of grass about four inches long. Both sexes take a great deal of pride in their head dresses, and you frequently see one with a long pin thrust through his hair as a scratcher. This weapon is to make war upon certain unmentionable insects with which almost every head is infested. Sometimes the irritation gets beyond the scratching point, however, and in desperation the man so attacked kindles a fire of banana leaves and, lying down upon his wooden pillow on the side toward which the wind blows, thus smokes out the surplus.

There is a close connection between New Zealand and the Fijis. You can get here every few weeks from the two chief ports, Suva and Levuka, and the excursion is one of the favorite ones of this part of the world. It is looked on here much as a trip up the Great Lakes is looked upon in the United States. I have met a number of men who have been to the islands, and they tell me they are the paradise of the Pacific. They describe Suva, the capital, as being especially beautiful. It has many nice foreign houses, and about a thousand Europeans, as well as a large number of natives. Its chief street, the Victoria Parade, is paved with soapstone. It is lined with shade trees and is almost a mile long. The town has four hotels, a public library, a mechanics institute and Presbyterian, Episcopalian and Catholic churches.

It is at Suva that the Governor has his offices. He is, of course, an Englishman, and he lives like a little King in a palace which cost about \$100,000.

Suva has a customhouse, a postoffice, a hospital and a lunatic asylum.

Levuka, the former capital, is some distance away on the island of Ovalau, which is a much smaller island than Viti Levu, where Suva is situated. Levuka is surrounded by hills. It lies upon a beautiful harbor, covering an area of about forty acres. It has a hospital, a cathedral, a mechanics' institute, a bank and many respectable buildings.

The Governor of the Fijis is Sir G. T. M. O'Brien. He is appointed by the King of England, and he has a salary of \$12,500 a year. He has a sort of a Cabinet, or Executive Council, and the laws of the country are made by a Legislative Council, of which he is President. There are a large number of salaried chiefs and native magistrates. In ordinary matters, the native laws are preserved as far as possible, but in five of the provinces there are European officers as resident commissioners to assist the chiefs. The colony is on a good paying basis. It has about a million dollars debt, but it is reducing this every year, and at present its revenues are considerably greater than its expenditures. About half the receipts come from the customs and the remainder from other taxation.—Frank G. Carpenter.

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.]

FIFTH DISTRICT SOCIETY

The following is the address of the President of the Fifth District Society, Miss Augusta Slipp, read at the annual meeting of the society:

BELOVED SISTERS AND FRIENDS:—

It is with no little hesitation, and yet also with great pleasure, that I stand in this church this evening, and testify to our interest in the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. Another year with all its opportunities and responsibilities is past, and we have met in our annual session to plan for the future, and gather inspiration and help for the work which may be before us. We have all been the recipients of unnumbered mercies during the past year, and we are devoutly thankful to our Heavenly Father for His tender care over us, and we would earnestly implore His guidance and blessing in all our deliberations, and we trust that our coming together at this time may be a source of great benefit and blessing to all. Why should it not be? If we have come in the spirit of prayer, God only comes into our midst to bless, and we therefore believe that this meeting will be the means of strengthening us to carry on more unitedly and energetically than ever before this great work. We look back over the months that have gone. Some of our plans have met with success, others seemingly to us have been failures; yet with it all, whether success or failure, we feel an eagerness to press on in the Master's work.

In the annals of the Empire and the world this has been a memorable year—we have marked the close of an epoch, the glories of which we have all shared in—the Victorian age—and the close of a great Century in the history of the world—a century in which Christianity has spread more marvellously than in any century but the first of christian era.

It was a great privilege to have lived so much of our lives in the greatest reign of history. The passing of Victoria the Good, is a memory to be cherished to the end of our days. We call to mind with heartfelt gratitude the many virtues which adorned her illustrious and beautiful life, her steadfast faith in God, her high sense of duty, her unflinching sympathy with the joys and sorrows of her people. All this fills our hearts with profound thankfulness to God for the blessings we enjoyed under her wise and beneficent rule. She has passed hence our beloved Mother-Queen, but truly she has left behind her that which will never die.

When the reports for Foreign work

were laid before our last annual meeting, India was stricken with famine. A famine that increased and became so widespread and severe as to command universal sympathy. Then suddenly came word of disruption and danger in China and for a time all hearts were filled with fear. While in Europe it was my privilege to meet two missionaries from China who had escaped at the beginning of the disruption. Though fatigued by weeks of perilous travel, their faces were bright and cheery, and they fully believed that out of chaos God would again bring sweet peace and order. Far beyond the bounds of our understanding have been the persecutions of Chinese christians. In their desolate homes, they mourn the martyr dead. Out of their sight have gone unnumbered thousands of men, women and children, passing by the gates of anguish to the land of life. Poverty stricken China needs today the Gospel of the grace of God.

A thousand years before Romulus dreamed of building the seven-hilled city of Rome, the Chinese were a peaceful and prosperous people. While Solomon in all his glory was receiving the Queen of Sheba in Jerusalem; when Jonah threatened Nineveh with destruction; when Isaiah foretold the downfall of Babylon; when David prayed and prophesied—through all these years the Chinese were engaged in agriculture, commerce and literature. Her great wall was built 220 years before Christ was born in Bethlehem—Oh the vastness of human history, the silent centuries that lie behind the records, the millions of human beings who have looked with dumb eyes to the silence of the skies.

Among all the events that challenged attention, in either hemisphere none loomed up into more startling prominence during the past months than the threatened collapse of the greatest empire on the face of the earth. China is filled with the sins of her youth. She has no expedients for self-delivery. She should take a lesson from Nineveh of old and hearken to the preaching which God has bid His missionaries preach. There will be a reconstructed China, and it is our firm conviction that this New Century will witness the death of heathenism in China, and the dominance of the Christian faith. Instead of the idol shrine, shall rise up the house of the living God.

There are many obstacles in the way which human hands may remove. The Kingdom of God is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. Righteousness shall one day be the supreme law of this world. But God has also decreed that man, redeemed man, is to be a fellow-worker with him. God is ever ready with his share of the work. He waits to be gracious. But we His people must not only pray, we must act before the gospel can reach the heathen, before we can reclaim the lost. God's kingdom is our kingdom. The Psalmist says that those who have felt His "great goodness" shall "abundantly utter" its memory. For the "Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.

In reviewing the Foreign work, during the past year we have abundant cause for thankfulness that our mission-field escaped the ravages of famine and cholera and has been at peace during the "wars and rumors of war," and that our own missionary has been blessed with her usual good health. We find all the departments of work are being carried on successfully as far as there are workers, and means at their command. Truly the "harvest is great, but the laborers are few."

May we pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth laborers. As this gift of a New Century has been placed in our hands, let there be a far reaching advance. Can we not ask Him to restore unto us the years that the locust hath eaten. Phillips Brooks said "I beg of you to live far-looking lives. He has opened the door of faith to all nations. His word is suited to all peoples. It is the promise of God unto salvation." As truly as I live saith the Lord, the whole earth shall be filled with my glory. Let us lean upon God, His purpose and His ability to carry

out. He who hath led will lead. Let us "lift up our eyes unto the Lord from whence our help cometh."

We might all wish that men and women throughout the world were followers with us of the Lord Jesus, but in the words of our Master "How shall they hear without a preacher; and how shall they preach except they be sent?" and how shall they be sent unless you and I do our part? We have the command "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." We are not all called to go to India, but we can all do something in supporting our missionary, and upholding her by our sympathy and prayers. To do this is our duty and privilege and I am sure that Miss Gaunce, in that far distant land, feels that she needs our sympathy and prayers as well as our money. He that watereth shall be watered himself. In seeking a blessing for others we obtain a blessing for ourselves.

There are today millions of heathen, and we are solemnly bound by our vows as christians to give them the gospel. I often feel that we in the Fifth District are not as zealous in this great work, as we should be. It is a good work. The true missionary spirit is simply the spirit of Christ, and Christ's own words and example leave no room for doubt as to this. He says "I am the light of the world," "Ye are the light of the world." "As the Father hath sent me so send I you," "Go ye and teach all nations." "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say." "If ye love me keep my commandments."

We have entered upon this new century. None of us will see its waning years. Great possibilities, great opportunities lie before us. Let us grasp them as they come. One of the great features of present day mission work is the existence and success of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Societies and they are destined to be powerful factors, reaching by the medical and educational work of women in the foreign field, a class that can be reached in no other way. In most of our churches these societies exist, but we see great room for expansion, and every one who is interested at home, increases the working power abroad. Sisters we have a high calling in this work. We need to be filled with grace, furnished with all fruits of the spirit, and "girded with strength from on high. Faith and works must go together—faith without works will never "take the world for Christ."

We are glad of our opportunities, and we welcome the future. The evangelization of the world in this generation is to christians no self-imposed task. It rests upon Divine command. The great commission of Christ given by Him in the upper room in Jerusalem on the night after the resurrection, again a little later on a mountain in Galilee and yet again on the Mount of Olives clearly expresses our obligation to make Christ known to all men. That command was not intended for the Apostles alone, but for all christians. Do our brave soldiers in the Transvaal expect their officers alone to work? No. Every man is expected to do his duty. So in our Missionary Society every member should do her duty.

No one who has followed the history of our Woman's Free Baptist Foreign Missionary Society can doubt that this work has been blessed of God. The women of India present the saddest contrast to those of christian America—creatures without soul, without education, 140,000,000 without God, and without hope in the world," wandering in darkness and the shadow of death. Could we but realize these conditions, and the pressing claims of the unchristianized nations upon us. Our Saviour has told us where much has been given, much shall be required. His Holy word and christian example has been ours all our lives. Oh, may we be moved to ask, "What shall we render unto the Lord for all His benefits."

In closing I would urge individual members of our society to remember the hour of prayer, and would recommend our auxiliaries to hold monthly meetings. "Be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises," and may our zeal in the service of Christ inflame those around us, then "God even our God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear him."

ABOUT LEAFLETS.

Word comes that \$1.00 was sent to me by Mrs. Vince, of Woodstock, some time ago, for mission leaflets. The money has not come, but will be found. Let me say now that money sent to me by express should be addressed to Mrs. Z. F. Griffin, Penn Yan, N. Y. Remember \$1.00 gets 250 leaflets. If any one else has sent money that way, kindly see your agent and see that it comes to Pen Yan. We have no express office at Kenka Park, where our Post Office is.

I rejoice with you in the home-coming of Mrs. Sunder. Mr. and Mrs. Boyer, Mr. Griffin and I spent some happy hard years together in dear old Balasore. May New Brunswick send another man to that needy field now, the coming Fall if possible. A new man would not more than get the language before brother Hamlen's furlough would be due. God give us the needed men and women for India.

L. C. GRIFFIN.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

There are 11,700 hotels in Paris, in which there are on an average, 240,000 guests.

There are 28,894 juvenile temperance societies in the British islands with a membership of 2,536,000.

British farmers and dairymen are to-day milking over four million cows, and producing annually in their dairies £32,000,000 worth of milk, butter and cheese.

Australia offered a prize of £25,000 to any one who would rid the country of rabbits, but after several people had tried their hands, no more satisfactory solution was found than that of eating them.

It is proposed to bring a number of selected Filipino young men and women to the United States to be educated as teachers. They would be sent back after a short course to teach in the public schools of the island.

A demonstration was given in London of shorthand typewriting by the blind. A machine recently invented is automatic in its working and the operator can maintain a speed of seventy words a minute from dictation.

The Canadian Year Book gives the following as the expenditure per head in each province: Ontario, \$1.74; Quebec, \$2.74; Nova Scotia, \$2.04; New Brunswick, \$2.47; Manitoba, \$4.58; British Columbia, \$9.88; Prince Edward Island, \$2.82.

Although the Kaiser has reigned for twelve years, he has not yet been crowned. The approaching 200th anniversary of the Foundation of the Kingdom of Prussia is to be celebrated at Konigsberg by the coronation of the Kaiser and Empress.

Among the British newspapers there are now 100 Advertisers, 150 Times, 149 News, 128 Gazettes, 120 Chronicles, 119 Heralds, 104 Journals, 95 Expresses, 70 Guardians, 68 Observers, 48 Standards, and 42 Mercurys. There are 40 Free Presses, 38 Telegraphs, 31 Mails, 30 Posts, 29 Independents, 23 Couriers and as many Examiners, and 22 Echoes.

"Growing figs in the city of London are great rarities now," says a late issue of the London Telegraph. "In the court-yard of the Aldgate ward schools there is to be seen at the present time a beautiful fig tree in full leaf, with at least twenty-five good sized figs developing upon it. The tree is believed to be a relic of the old abbey of the Holy Trinity, which existed for a good many centuries. The abbey was abolished by Henry VIII."

In 120 army prisons throughout Germany 46 per cent. of all the murderers committed their crimes while under the influence of drink. Sixty-three per cent. of the cases of manslaughter, 74 per cent. of serious injury to the person and 7 per cent. of criminal immorality are due to the same cause. In the navy out of 1671 punishable cases during the last six years 75 per cent. of the most serious cases have been due to drunkenness.