

Religious Intelligence.

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

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WHOLE No 2489

Some from whom we hoped to have payments in January have not yet been heard from. Will they and all others whose subscriptions are still due do us the favour of forwarding them now? Let February make up for any lack there may have been in January. And to make sure of this make your payment early—this very week.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS

After Victoria but one actually ruling Queen remains—Wilhelmina of Holland. Of seventy-four rulers on the earth twenty-two are Presidents, fifteen are kings, and six are Emperors.

There is a strong movement being developed in France to prohibit the manufacture and sale of absinthe, the consumption of which has doubled in the past few years.

The Joneses are confusingly plentiful in Wales. A recent jury in Merioneth comprised one man named Hughes and 11 named Jones. Seven of the latter bore the Christian name of John. The prisoner's name was the same as that of seven of the jurors—John Jones.

The population of the whole world is about 1,500,000,000. Of this Great Britain and her colonies as 25.9 per cent; Russia, 8.09 per cent; France 6.3 per cent; United States 5.7 per cent; Germany 4.6 per cent; Austro-Hungary 3.1 per cent; Italy 2.2 per cent.

A good story is told of Miss Ruth Bryan, daughter of the erstwhile great William Jennings Bryan. She started to school one morning, not long ago, and, after a desperate run for a street-car, finally succeeded in catching it. As she took her seat, she gasped, "Well, I'm glad one of the family can run for something and get it."

King Alexander of Serbia, has tried to have his life insured for \$2,000,000 in several companies but one company to whom he applied for \$300,000 worth of insurance refused to write a policy on the ground of the great frequency of anarchist crimes, and this company had a \$600,000 payment to make on the assassination of King Humbert.

It is alleged that a habit of drinking petroleum is spreading to an alarming extent in many districts of France. It has apparently been prevalent for some considerable time without being recognized, and is quite as persistent a habit as alcoholism. Though petroleum does not make the drinker, but morose, there is no doubt that, so far as the victim of the vice himself is concerned, it is even more deadly than ordinary drunkenness.

One of the Berlin reviews publishes a calculation on the number of letters distributed annually throughout the world. It gives the total as twelve thousand millions. Of these, it says 8,000 millions are English, 1,200 millions in German, 1,000 millions in French, 220 millions in Italian, 120 millions in Spanish, 100 millions in Dutch, 80 millions in Russian and 24 millions in Portuguese. The Anglo-Saxon for the present very well in front.

The Baptist Standard wonders if any men with white skins are called to the ministry after the fashion described by Booker T. Washington in his autobiography, now appearing in the Outlook. He says: "A colored man in Alabama one hot day in July, while he was working in a cotton field, suddenly stopped, and, looking toward the sky, said, 'O Lawd, de cotton am so grasy, de work am so hard, and de sun am so hot, dat I b'lieve dis darkey am called to preach!'"

There is a vital, tremendous point in that colored man's reasoning. Let none fail to look until they can see

ARM CHAIR CRITICS.

BY KNOXIAN, IN THE WESTMINSTER.

A species of military man, common in these days of war and war-talk, is the arm-chair critic. The business of this hero is to sit at home and write articles about what he thinks the army in South Africa should or should not do.

The chief characteristic of an arm-chair critic is omniscience. He knows more than Kitchener knows. He always did know more than Roberts. He could have relieved Ladysmith in twenty-four hours and marched to Mafeking in two or three days.

Next to his omniscience we must put the arm-chair critic's love of a whole skin and of good victuals. He takes no chances in the way of stopping Boer bullets. He never lives on biscuits and bad water. His place is by the fireside. His food consists of four good meals a day, with some drink thrown in. He plans campaigns in his easy-chair and fights battles with his feet on the fender. He is a great soldier, the arm-chair critic is, and he often writes patronizingly about Buller and White and Baden-Powell and the other little fellows at the front.

Let no one suppose that the arm-chair critics are all in London, and that their work is confined to military operations. They swarm in Canada. In the United States their name is legion.

Arm-chair critics abound in the Church. The number of people in almost any congregation who know how to preach better than the preacher; know how to sing better than the choir; how to rule better than the elders; how to manage the congregational business better than it is conducted by the managers, is simply astounding. But, strange to say, these worthy people, like their fellow-laborers in London, seldom go to the front. They confine their operations to the arm-chair, take no responsibility and content themselves with making lofty remarks about what other people should or should not do.

The Home Mission Committee has never been without assistance from the arm-chair critic. The Foreign Mission Committee enjoys his counsel. One chase, such as missionaries got out of China, would make the intellect of an average arm-chair critic totter and reduce his flesh until he could scarcely cast a shadow, but he takes no risks in foreign lands. The arm-chair critic is a home man. He never goes to the front.

In fact arm-chair critics seldom do much at home or abroad, except criticize the work of others. They expend so much strength on the work of their neighbors that they have none left for work of their own. Somebody says there was a steamer on the Mississippi in the early days that stopped every time the whistle blew. The motive power of the concern was so small that when steam went out through the whistle there was none left to drive the machinery. Arm-chair critics resemble that boat. They have so little power of any kind that they exhaust it all in whistling about their neighbor's work.

Is an arm-chair critic of any use? Is he made in vain? How much did the arm-chair critics in London contribute to the success of British arms in South Africa? Not much. One good, healthy mule that helped to draw an ammunition wagon at the front, did more for the Empire than the whole crowd did sitting in their chairs at home. The brave fellows who stood on the field in the firing line, who risked their lives for the old flag, were the men who upheld the honor and dignity of Britain. Moral—Stand by the men in the firing line. Let the arm-chair critics blow their whistle if they will, but always give the honor to the men at the front in every department of human activity.

Forty evangelical churches in Utah report that one-sixth of their present membership came to them from Mormon churches and families, and that since the beginning of evangelical work in Utah 1,417 members have thus come. On the other side, only nine members have gone over to the Mormons.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA.

Sea kings' daughter from o'er sea, Saxon and Dane and Norman are we, But all of us Danes in our welcome of thee, Alexandra!

So wrote Tennyson when the Princess Alexandra of Denmark landed on the shores of England to become the bride of the Heir Apparent. The marriage was celebrated on the 10th of March, 1863, and the writer, who was then a young boy, remembered very distinctly being present at a grand military review on the historic Hoe of Plymouth on that occasion, and the gorgeous illumination of the old town and the warships in its harbor, in the evening that followed.

The beauty of the young princess, her modest and gracious bearing, and the simple and trustful heartiness with which she seemed from the very first to throw herself into her new interests and responsibilities, touched the heart of the English people deeply and won for her at once their affection and esteem.

Nearly thirty seven years have passed since that March morning, when in St. George's Chapel Windsor, Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, and Princess Alexandra of Denmark stood together at God's altar and were made man and wife. During all those years the princess has not only maintained but has constantly increased the popularity with the English people which she won on her arrival among them. She has proved herself one of the most devoted of wives, one of the most affectionate of mothers. She has evinced a strength and purity of character, a benevolence and kindness of disposition, an approachableness and tender consideration towards all brought into relationship with her, that have endeared her more and more to the people of her adopted country. Queen in their hearts she has long been, and now that at length in the fulness of matronly maturity, with children and children's children clustering around her, she assumes, as consort of the reigning sovereign, the social dignities and responsibilities that attach to that exalted position, not only the English people, but the people of the whole British Empire may well rejoice, may well be thankful.

Of course the functions of the new queen are vastly less influential than those of the great and gracious lady, whose death the whole Empire and, indeed, the whole wide world is mourning. They are purely domestic and social. To be a good wife to her husband, to be a good mother to her children, to be the first lady of the land and the leader of the great social life of the court and of the country a pattern of purity and propriety, to exercise the kindly and beneficent offices of help and sympathy for the sorrowing and stricken of her people in times of public calamity or sore and sudden private suffering, to take deep personal interest in philanthropic schemes and efforts for the general amelioration of social conditions,—these are the fields in which Queen Alexandra's influence will be exerted. Happily her past record is evidence that she is preeminently qualified for her high position. She has known deep anxieties and sorrows. For weeks her husband lay at death's door and she nursed him with heroic self-denial, and with a faith and devotion which were rewarded by his almost miraculous recovery. She has known the greatest grief a mother can know in the death of her first born son, at the very threshold of manhood. Through all she has shown herself a simple and sincere Christian woman, sustained and strengthened by powers from on high. Out of a heart thus acquainted with human anxieties and sorrows, she delights to pour sympathy upon those similarly tried.

From an American paper we take the following incident, which small in itself, will illustrate this point in her character.

"Some time ago when she was in London, an old lady-in-waiting of her mother, the late Queen of Denmark, lay dying in the royal palace at Copenhagen. She had known the present queen of England since the latter's infancy, and was deeply attached to her. King Christian writes every week to his daughter in England, and in one of his letters declared that her

one dying wish was to speak with her Princess Alex. before she expired. Alexandra was quite unable to leave England at the time, but she spoke a tender and sympathetic message into a phonograph and dispatched it to Copenhagen by a special messenger. Already the dimness of death had veiled the old woman's eyes when the phonograph gave out its message of love and hope, and as the last words died away and only the vibrations of the phonograph lingered on the air, she sighed happily, and with 'God bless you, dear,' on her lips, passed away to another world."—The Wesleyan.

Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.

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

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

THE FIRST WOMAN'S MISSION SOCIETY IN CANADA.

"Great oaks from little acorns grow"—great oaks with deep roots and wide-spreading branches—"trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord." The beginnings of great enterprises are always interesting, and when traced back to their initial source, are often found to originate in the direct influence of the Holy Spirit in the heart of some one, unknown to the great, busy world, but known and loved of God. Mrs. J. T. Gracey, secretary of the W. F. M. S. of the Methodist Church in the United States, gives an interesting account of the formation of the first W. M. S. in our own Dominion, which we here reproduce for the benefit of our readers:

The Baptists of the Maritime Provinces have the honor of being pioneers in the woman's mission work in Canada. The first Woman's Missionary Society in Canada was organized at Canso, Nova Scotia, June 18, 1870. Strange, indeed, were the leadings of divine providence that brought about this result. God's Spirit entered the heart of a young girl in the small village of Canso, converted her soul, and led her to consecrate herself to his service wherever he might lead.

Her name was Miss H. M. Morris (Mrs. W. F. Armstrong). Her soul was filled with a burning desire to carry the blessed news of salvation to her heathen sisters. She speaks of it as a still small voice that made itself felt when she prayed alone, and rose up to disquiet her amid present activities. Happy in her teaching and work among the poor and ignorant at home, she thought this merely a fancy and delusion, and tried to shake it off; but after laying the matter before the Lord over and over again, she determined to respond to this call from heaven, at all costs, and move forward as the Master directed.

She offered herself to the Baptist Foreign Mission Board of the Maritime Provinces, to receive the answer, "They had barely sufficient funds for the work already undertaken, positively nothing for any new enterprise."

The pillar of cloud continued to move forward, the voice within refused to be quieted, so this brave girl, putting her whole trust in the Lord, who was calling so loudly, determined to start for Burma alone, without any means of support. She secured a passage in a steamer bound for Boston. Before leaving Halifax, a number of gentlemen, prominent members of Baptist churches, visited her on the boat, and earnestly desired that she remain longer, visit some of the churches, and enlist the sympathies and prayers of the Baptist people in this mission work.

She considered this also from the Lord, and allowed herself to be detained for a short time, to appear again before the Foreign Mission Board, this time to be accepted, and authorized to form Woman's Missionary Societies in all the churches of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, as far as her time would permit.

Through these Provinces she went, overcoming all difficulties, allaying prejudices, arousing enthusiasm, and kindling a flame in the hearts of her sisters, that has ever since continued to burn. In three months, Miss Mor-

ris visited forty-one churches, organized thirty-two Mission Societies, attended two associations, and the convention. On September 21 she left for Burma, all the money necessary for her passage and support for a year being secured, and she was followed by the continued earnest prayer of hundreds of her sisters.

SHE GAVE THE BEST.

What sad stories sometimes come to us from India! How touching the devotion—the blind devotion—of this poor mother, of whom a missionary writes:

"She had two little boys, twins, and one was blind. She thought that the god she worshipped might be angry with her. Could she give some sign of her submission, lest some worse thing should happen?"

"One day there was only one babe in her arms; the other she had offered to the great river, the Ganges."

"And the one she clasped to her breast was blind!"

"In answer to an inquiring look, she said, in slow tones, and in her native tongue:

"Yes of course, I gave the best!"

THE KING'S INCOME.

Says the Mail and Empire:—King Edward will no doubt receive a larger income than was allowed the Queen. The Queen was granted £385,000 a year. But this money did not really come from taxation. Large estates appertain to the crown in its own right and in virtue of the lordship belonging to the Sovereign. In addition to the territorial income the Crown from time immemorial was the heir to the estates of persons dying and leaving no blood relations, also to all unclaimed property. Parliament in providing for the monarch took over all the ancient sources of revenue, and all the possessions of the crown and incorporated the proceeds in the public income of the country, allowing in return £385,000 as a lump sum annually. The receipts by the Treasury are far larger than the Royal allowance. The £385,000 is spent thus:

The Queen's privy purse.....	£ 60,000
Salaries of the Queen's household.....	131,000
Expenses of the household.....	172,500
Alms, or Royal bounties.....	13,200
Pensions.....	8,400
	£385,000

It is thought that the new King will be more liberally provided for owing to the increased income from the Royal estates. At all events, he may be expected to spend more. Compared with the income of other European sovereigns that of the British ruler is small.

ABOUT THE QUEEN.

Queen Victoria traveled very little. She had never been out of Europe and had never been in Spain, Greece, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Austria or Russia.

During Victoria's reign there have been twenty-two Cabinets formed, headed by nine different Prime Ministers, and of these all but two (Lords Rosebery and Salisbury) have preceded the Queen to the grave.

Among the many incident illustrative of our late Queen's character is one which showed her reverence for religion. At the Jubilee of her reign, the Nonconformists, Baptists, Congregationalists, Presbyterians, presented an address. When the lords, lieutenants and mayors were presented, she received them sitting, but when these representatives of religious bodies, of bodies not her own, were presented, she received them standing. This was her gracious and tactful way of showing that she thought religion above all earthly dignities.

During Queen Victoria's long reign seventeen presidents of the United States have administered its affairs; France has passed from the rule of Louis Philippe to the second republic, second empire, and third republic; Germany and Italy have become consolidated from many small states; three czars have ruled Russia, five popes have reigned, Spain has become a republic and again a kingdom, Austria and Hungary have united; one czar has been assassinated, one King of Italy, one president of France, and two presidents of the United

States. What a reign, to be contemporary with all this! What an influence, to be an important factor in it all!

PARLIAMENT.

Parliament met Wednesday. The only business done the first day was the election of a Speaker. Mr. Borden was chosen. Mr. Power, of Halifax, was chosen Speaker of the Senate.

Thursday the Governor General's speech was read. The speech made brief reference to the death of the Queen, mentioned the return of the Canadian contingents from South Africa, and the approaching visit of the Duke of York and Cornwall, and promised measures concerning the export trade in food products, the Pacific cable &c.

After the return to the Commons, Premier Laurier announced that the debate on the speech would be taken up on Monday.

The bill to name the regular standing committees passed.

The Premier congratulated Mr. Borden on his being chosen as leader of the Opposition. Mr. Borden made a suitable acknowledgment.

In the Senate Sir Mackenzie Bowell gave notice that he would move for a committee to inquire into the charges made by Mr. H. H. Cook concerning the sale of seats in the Senate. He spoke of the serious nature of the charges, and said the honour of the Senate demanded a thorough investigation.

FRIDAY.—The Premier moved the following: "To the King's Most Excellent Majesty:

Most Gracious Sovereign—We, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the senate and house of commons of Canada, in parliament assembled, humbly beg leave to approach your Majesty with this expression of our deep and heartfelt sorrow at the demise of our late sovereign lady Queen Victoria.

In common with our fellow subjects in all parts of the Empire, we deplore the loss of a great ruler, whose manifold and exalted virtues have for three generations commanded respect and admiration in the world.

As representatives of the Canadian people, we mourn for the beloved sovereign under whom our dominion first rose into being, and to whose wise and beneficent sway are due in no small measure its growth and prosperity.

May we venture to add that above and beyond these sentiments which the sad occasion naturally calls forth, there has come to each one of us a sense of personal bereavement, which, we say it with all possible respect and duty, makes your Majesty's sorrow our own.

We pray that the God of consolation may comfort your Majesty and the members of the royal family in their affliction.

It is with feelings not less deep and sincere than those to which we have just given utterance that we hail your Majesty's accession to the throne of your ancestors. We beg to assure your Majesty of our devoted attachment to your Majesty's person and government, and to express our unclouded confidence that the glory and the greatness of the British Empire abroad, and the happiness and the well being of your Majesty's people at home, will suffer no diminution under your Majesty's gracious rule."

It was seconded by Mr. Borden, the Conservative leader, and unanimously adopted. Both the Premier and Mr. Borden made suitable and eloquent speeches.

The House adjourned till Monday.

AMONG EXCHANGES.

"NOT TRANSFERABLE."

We have read of a negro entertainment at which, in lieu of printing on the tickets, "Not transferable," a notice was posted over the hall, which read: "No gentleman admitted unless he comes himself. It might be a good plan if a notice were posted over the doors of the churches reading: 'No gentleman admitted to church membership unless he comes himself to church services, the midweek meetings included. The presence of wives or daughters not accepted as a substitute for the attendance of a man himself. Certainly religious duty is a thing which is not transferable.—N. Y. Observer.