

# Religious Intelligencer.

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

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## NOTES AND GLEANINGS

### THE ORDINARY MEMBER.

In most of our congregations the majority of those on the roll of membership are just ordinary members. They attend with a fair amount of regularity, they contribute to the maintenance of the church; they vote at the congregational meetings, when they are present, and they sign the roll to a new minister if they are asked to do so. They have a pride in the stand their congregation takes in the general work of the church, and feel some sense of responsibility to keep it up to the mark. That they have any further responsibility in its actual spiritual work does not occur to them.

Yet what a latent strength lies in the ordinary membership of every congregation? If a sudden calamity sweeps away the working members of any congregation there are others to carry on the work, and to carry it on successfully too. If the overgrown congregation hives off, or if an active congregation breaks in two because of differences of opinion, there are always men to take up the work of each section. These men would have remained undiscovered had it not been for the call for more men to assume positions of importance in the new congregation, or in the thinned ranks of the old.

Is there nothing for the ordinary member to do but to stand and wait till there is a vacancy among the ranks of the few workers? Is it the Divine intention to keep so strong a reserve force? The enemy is active, and is said to be gaining ground, would you not expect that the reserves would be called out? For this welfare is not one of defense but of conquest. The Christian force is supposed to be aggressive and to be making continuous advances into the enemy's territory. Then is this quiescent condition due to the command of Christ, laid upon his men, or is it because the men will not respond to His call to active service?

There can be little doubt as to the answer to this query. The demands of a man's own spiritual life indicate the true answer. For the Christian who does not enter into actual service remains undeveloped. His spiritual muscles are flabby, his heart is weak, his spiritual intellect is that of the child. When he ought to be a man he is but an infant crying for protection and support. As for work, it is a practical impossibility for him. He may have the mind to do it, he may make a pitiful attempt at it, but it will be the blundering work of the unskilful, nervous beginner.

Probably most of the ordinary members would answer, were you to remonstrate with them because of their idleness: "There is no room for us. The places are all full, and the work of the congregation is carried on well by those who already occupy the places of active service." If that be true, and sometimes it is true, that congregation is undertaking altogether too little work. The normal condition of the Christian is one of active service, not of complacent idleness. If the field occupied by his congregation does not afford scope for the activities of all its members, then that congregation ought to take in another field, and continue in this process till every member had work to do.

The ordinary member however, will not seek out work for himself. He is no fonder of work than the ordinary boy is; and he will make quite as many excuses to escape work as the said boy. Some will even say, "John Smith is working in that field, I'm not going to work in the same field with John Smith." That's merely an excuse to get out of working. And similar excuses will continue to be made till that man has done enough work to become thoroughly interested in it. We remember being much impressed with the wisdom of a pastor who used to put a card into the hand of every new member who united with his congregation. On this card was printed a list of the fields that were being occupied, and the new member was asked to say in which of these he would work. This plan, however, was barren of results.

We met another pastor who was wiser. He carefully studied his workmen till he found out what each could do. Then he came to the man whom he had sized up and said to him, "I want you to do this work. And they do it, said he. I rarely have a refusal." That places a heavy responsibility upon the minister and his members of session. The minister plans the campaign and carries it forward. Upon him devolves the whole responsibility. He is the general in command, and if the campaign fails he will be blamed. His session constitutes his staff, and with them he takes counsel; but the plan is his own and the success of the plan will depend upon himself. And that plan should take account of every man and woman able to do work in that congregation. Of course he does not trouble himself with the details of the work any more than a military general would do, but he maps it out and holds his lieutenants responsible for carrying it into execution.—Dominion Presbyterian.

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### ROME AND THE PRESS.

Rev. Dr. Horton, the well known English writer, and a highly esteemed member of the Congregational Church, writes as follows to the Christian World:

I have clear evidence of two facts—(1) that on almost every newspaper, daily and weekly, there is a Romanist, whose business it is to give prominence to Catholic affairs, and to burke any book or speech, or any unpleasant fact which reveals the dark side of the Roman Church; (2) that there are Roman Catholics in all parts of the country whose business it is to immediately overwhelm an editor with correspondence if any statement has been made in his paper, however true, which may be injurious to Romanism.

For example, Mr. F. C. Conybear, of University College, Oxford, has just issued a book, "Roman Catholicism as a Factor of European Politics." I am told by a journalist that the papers will probably not notice the book, or they will try to pooh-pooh it, without attempting to disprove it. And yet the facts revealed there are of first-rate importance to the national welfare. If the country became acquainted with them the whole Roman propaganda would be arrested.

We are thus in this extraordinary condition, we, the children of the Reformation. No man can defend the principles of the Reformation with any earnestness, but immediately he is discredited, his books are pooh-poohed, and his own character is probably vilified, in the Press of his country; not that the Press is Roman Catholic, but that a cunning and vigilant Roman Catholic conspiracy has got a grip of the Press, and carries out its Apostolate sub rosa.

### WHAT OTHER PAPERS ARE SAYING.

#### The Best Troops.

RELIGIOUS TELESCOPE: The British frankly confess that the Canadian volunteers were the best troops they had in South Africa. This is another proof that a large standing army is not necessary.

#### No Canadians?

MAIL AND EMPIRE: When the census figures are published it will be found that there are no Canadians in the country. We are all English, Scotch, Irish, French, German, or Doukhobor. It is a pity that so vast a Dominion has so few natives.

#### Wanted.

THE FREE BAPTIST: Preachers who are not so afraid of the fires of criticism as to cover up the fires of hell, who speak what God wants them to speak rather than what the people want to hear, who are moved by the Spirit of God instead of the spirit of self-seeking, who would rather save one soul than please a hundred.

#### Who Can Tell?

DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN: If, as Dr. William Butler said, the mutiny and bloodshed in India in 1857 brought the redemption of that land one hundred years nearer, what may God's more recent judgments not have done toward ushering in the wonderful twentieth century, which, we pray, may also be a new age of blessing!

#### In Chicago.

THE INTERIOR: The "holiness" people have been doing their best in Chicago to bring evangelical religion

into ridicule. Their performances and their speeches have been on a low grade of comedy which attracted the religious cranks of the city and were cheered with shouts and acrobatics by the lowest grade of intelligence and morals. That, with a thousand dollar prize offered for fifteen converts completed the humiliation.

#### A Wise Father.

WESTERN RECORDER: "As long as a boy sits at my table he must sit in my pew," was the saying of a Christian father who required his sons to attend church regularly. Now that father is dead, and his sons still sit in his pew, and they are pillars in the church. Some parents foolishly think that if they compel a boy to attend church, it will give him such a distaste for religion that when he becomes of age he will never go to church at all. As well think that if a boy is compelled to attend day school, he will grow up with such a distaste for education that he will insist on being an ignoramus when he becomes of age. As well think that if a boy is made to work, he will grow up with such a distaste for work that he will never do any work at all after he becomes of age.

### Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.

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

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

#### PUNDITA RAMABAI.

BY MRS. M. M. H. HILLS, IN THE HELPER.

A few weeks ago I was surprised, indeed I may say amazed, as I read a statement in a missionary periodical, that Pundita Ramabai—the marvelous Hindu high caste widow—had gathered into her institutions to care for, over 1400 victims of the late terrible Indian famine. It did not say that they were all child widows, the especial class she had labored to save to train for teachers and missionaries. The latest estimate I had then seen, some more than a twelve-month ago, made the number over 300. The statement referred to seemed so incredible that I was almost sure that there was a mistake in the figures, that it should have been, instead of 1400 not more than 400. And what a responsibility was that for one woman, without any resources of her own, to assume to personally gather and transport from the famine districts to her own field, the starving ones, and then shelter, feed, clothe, teach, and train them. For my own satisfaction I wrote to India regarding the accuracy of the statement. Mrs. Dr. J. L. Phillips replied: "I am sorry that I have nothing definite to write you in regard to your query, but I am quite sure Pundita Ramabai is capable of planning and caring for 1400 children, or battalions of them. She, of course, must have a great deal of help, but she will get it."

And now, an article appears in the February issue of the Woman's Missionary Friend, which fully corroborates the truthfulness of the seemingly incredible statement. It is from the pen of Minnie F. Abrams, who has charge of Pundita Ramabai's mission work at Kedgaum, India. She says the Mukti\* church of widows at that place has a membership of three hundred and fifty, and four hundred probationers who have become Christians within four months. She further states that the demand in western India for teachers, matrons, nurses, and Bible readers was so great that during the latter half of 1899 and the first half of 1900, there came requests to the institution, from various missions, for fully one hundred Bible women, but as the women when they came were idolaters, with no education whatever, they had none trained for the work.

Early in 1899 the great need of Christian workers was set before the Mukti church and the Student Volunteer Movement explained; then a call for volunteers to prepare for Christian work was made. Seventy young women responded, and before the year closed, several were preaching in the villages near by, and several had taken

up the care of little children. The demand for workers grew more and more imperative, and in 1900 when Ramabai had taken into her institution one thousand three hundred and fifty more famine-stricken girls and young women, all were anxious to help. They were told that without Bible training they could not do Christian work properly, and then fifty more joined the Bible classes. These one hundred and twenty Bible students are in two classes, one in advance of the other. It is expected that another year will add at least one hundred more new students to this Bible school. The Missionary Review in speaking of this work says: "Nearly two thousand women and girls are saved by Ramabai from ruin and death, to be fed, clothed and sheltered, to be taught how to meet evil and conquer it (alas! they know too well what evil is), to be taught how to care for their own bodies and souls, that they may know how to care for others; to be placed on a self-respecting, self supporting plane, and become object lessons to India in what Christianity, education, and honest work can do for its women, especially for its despised widows."

\*Mutki means Salvation.

#### PARLIAMENT

MONDAY.—Private bills occupied the first sitting.

Mr. Blair, in reply to Mr. Borden of Halifax, stated that E. G. Russell was still in the employ of the Intercolonial, having been engaged for five years from February 23rd, 1901, at a salary of \$7,000 per year. He has been ill and is absent without salary since March 15.

The public works estimates were then taken up.

When the New Brunswick items for harbors and rivers were taken up, Mr. Ganong spoke of the repairs to the breakwater at Campobello. This work involving an expenditure of thousands of dollars, he said, should have been done by tenders.

Mr. Tarte defended the day labor arrangements as the best available.

The New Brunswick estimates passed amounted to \$74,950.

Other items, making a total of one million and a half, were passed.

TUESDAY.—Mr. Blair resumed the debate on the railway estimates. He said that when a few days ago he laid the draft of the contract for rails on the table he was in ignorance as to its terms, until it was read in the house by Mr. Haggart.

Mr. Borden and others sharply criticised the course of the Minister of Railways. The premier claimed that the opposition was not fair in its criticism, and that the government had acted in good faith.

WEDNESDAY.—Mr. Northrup brought up the question of irregularities connected with the Nipissing election where the nomination papers of the conservative candidate were refused by the Sheriff. He asked that the matter be referred to the committee on elections and privileges.

After some discussion the premier refused to permit the enquiry.

The house then went into supply to consider the railway estimates and the item for steel rails was taken up. Mr. Blair announced that 1,160 miles of the Intercolonial would be re-laid with rails.

THURSDAY.—The geological survey estimates were passed. Mr. Sifton said the programme of the geological surveyors this season would be: Professor Bailey in the southwest portion of New Brunswick; Dr. Hugh Fletcher, with Mr. McLeod and A. McKinnon, in Annapolis, Kings and Cumberland counties, N. S.; Dr. G. Matthews will collect fossils at Bras d'Or; E. R. Faribault will survey in Halifax, Lunenburg and Kings counties.

The main estimates for militia were concluded.

In reply to Mr. Robinson of Northumberland, Mr. Blair stated that the government had received addresses from New Brunswick boards of trade, Fredericton and Chatham, and the Fredericton city council, urging the government to acquire the Canada Eastern railway. The government had the proposal under consideration.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in reply to Mr. Taylor, said that the government had received a number of communications asking them to enact legislation to further restrict the liquor traffic. The matter was under consideration.

Mr. Provand, representative of the Chignecto ship railway, addressed a meeting of the members of the commons-to-night in support of his claim that the government should grant relief to the shareholders, who have expended \$4,000,000 in good faith.

The customs estimates were brought on. An increase of \$44,000 for the preventive service caused considerable discussion.

FRIDAY.—The agricultural estimates were considered.

Mr. Fisher announced that 400 census returns were already in. The work in the cities is progressing rapidly, but in the rural districts the same success has not been attained.

The Cote circular sent to the clergy of Quebec was strongly criticized.

Mr. Fisher admitted that circulars were sent to French priests in Quebec and other provinces, and that no such circulars were sent to the Protestant or English speaking Roman Catholic clergy.

Mr. Tarte claimed that the circulars were all right, and charged conservatives with raising the French cry.

Mr. Clarke claimed that if the circulars were sent to the clergy of one race and religion they should have been issued to all creeds and races.

Mr. Borden, Halifax thought it unfortunate that the attempt to obtain information in regard to the absentees in the United States was only confined to the French speaking Canadians. How would the situation have been if a confidential circular had been sent to the English speaking people only? He did not see why any race should be referred to. It was sufficient to know that we were all Canadians.

Mr. Ganong claimed that if efforts were made in Quebec to ascertain the names of those who had gone abroad, the same course should have been followed in the lower provinces.

The question of the bogus Ontario census circular came up, and Mr. Fisher admitted that a number of census enumerators had been found who had them.

TUBERCULOSIS.—A great congress is to be held in London on July 22nd of this year on the subject of tuberculosis and the discussion of the experiences obtained in various countries for the cure of consumption and the best methods to adopt to bring about its eradication. The congress will last five days, and it will be supported by delegates from all parts of the world, who will advance any information relative to the subject at their command. The King of England, who has always taken a keen interest in the cure of this malady, will open the congress. One of the leading features will be a museum containing a number of pathological and bacteriological instruments, charts, models, etc.

D. D.—Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, St. John, received the degree of Doctor of divinity from Pine Hill College (Presbyterian) Halifax, last week. Dr. Fotheringham will wear his new honours worthily and modestly.

FARM PRODUCE.—Farmers who ship produce to St. John will be interested in the announcement of Mr. George N. Erb, Commission Merchant, whose business it is to handle country produce. See his card in another column.

The office of a temperance paper at Athens, Penn., was raided, Thursday night. The presses were destroyed, and the type taken away and thrown into the river. This is the kind of "argument" the rum men use whenever they dare.

A serious famine prevails in the province of Shau Si, China. Over 11,000,000 affected. Appeal for relief is made.

The Armour Institute, Chicago, a school for technical training founded by the late P. D. Armour by gifts amounting to \$2,650,000, has just received another million from Mrs. Armour.

Joseph Parker said recently that too many Christians are invalids who make the church a hospital, and the workers nurses.