

Religious Intelligence.

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

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NOTES AND GLEANINGS

It is published that the Pope forbids décolleté dresses in his presence, and that on one occasion when a party of young women came to one of his receptions, thus adorned, he instructed a cardinal to so tell them when they departed.

The pet delusion of a mildly insane man in Osage City, Kas., is that he has an electric wire in his stomach on which he can send messages all over the country. He also imagines that the local telephone company has connections with the wire and can thus learn all that he thinks.

Some years ago the mantis, an insect eating insect, was brought to New York State from abroad, presumably in a shipment of nursery stock. It has become a popular ally of farmers and horticulturists, as it kills all kinds of insects except ants. It is found commonly in France and Germany, where it is prized as the foe of destructive pests.

No water that can be navigated remains undisturbed in these days. Even the Dead Sea, for thousands of years a forsaken solitude in the midst of the desert and whose waves have for centuries been undisturbed, is now to be crossed by a line of motor boats. A shorter route will thus be found between Jerusalem and Kerak, the ancient capital of Moab.

And what, asked the caller in his most ingratiating tones, what did Santa Claus put in your stocking, my little girl? For a moment the Boston child looked at him through her dimutive spectacles, then, in a voice of mingled pity and indignation she said: "We no longer put credence in obsolete tradition—nor was it delicate of you to mention that article of feminine apparel." Gathering up her copy of *Ibsen*, she hurriedly left the room.

A recent discovery made in the course of excavations in the Forum at Rome is eliciting very general interest. It is an ancient Christian church building, which is decorated with paintings executed in the eighth century of the Christian era. Mr. Rushforth (director of the British school at Rome) expresses the view that the building itself dates from the second century; it was remodelled however, and thus its present decorations are of the period just indicated.

Two thousand Japs were put to work by the Great Northern Railroad a year ago. They took the places of white men in all branches, and there were many who predicted the necessity of excluding the Japanese, just as the Chinese were before them. The fear, however, was ill founded. The railroad has come to the conclusion that Japanese at \$1 a day are more expensive than white men at \$1.25. Orders have been given to discharge the Japanese as fast as their places can be filled.

Dr. Gay, a well-known Boston physician and a member of the Johns Hopkins University scientific staff, claims to have discovered that the deadly malady of dysentery is a germ disease amenable to the antitoxin which he and Dr. Flexner, a Paris physician, have succeeded in producing. Dr. Gay made a thorough study of dysentery in the Philippines two years ago, and has since been conducting a series of experiments with Dr. Flexner, which promise to result in one of the crowning triumphs of bacteriological knowledge of the nineteenth century. The announcement of the discovery has created interest among medical men in New York.

CHINA.—Says the Presbyterian Witness: China is still far from the haven of peace and safety. The emperor has issued an edict calling upon the wise men to convene and to consider in course of the next two months what reforms are necessary to the safety and prosperity of China. It is hoped that a revolution may be brought about which will enable China to follow wisely in the footsteps of Japan. The representatives of the powers still insist on the punishment of the chief transgressors in the late treacherous and terrible movements. The court is straining every nerve to save the delinquents. Rumors abound of secret negotiations with Russia, and of impending conflict between the representatives of the nations.

SHAKY PREACHING.

BY REV. THEODORE L. CUYLER, D. D.
I have heard of a Scottish congregation who presented their minister with a sum of money and sent him off to the continent for a holiday. A gentleman just back from the continent met a prominent member of the church and said to him: "Oh, by the bye, I met your minister in Germany. He was looking very well; he didn't look as if he needed a rest." "No," said the church member, very calmly; "it was na him, it was the congregation that was needin' a rest."

Against what particular style of minister this sharp shot was aimed I do not know, but there is a certain type of preaching from which any intelligent congregation might well seek to have a long vacation. It is what may, in homely phrase, be described as shaky preaching. The minister, if he belongs to any Apostolical succession, is a successor of Thomas the Doubter. He spends his week in a sort of twilight atmosphere, groping about in the company of writers who are a compound of speculation and skepticism, and who claim to be the representatives of "advanced thought." The poor man may be afflicted with a natural tendency to doubts and indecision in spiritual matters, and, instead of selecting books that would confirm his weak faith, he chooses those that unsettle him all the more. He dives into some of the latest issue of "conjectural criticism" and pores over them until he not only rejects the traditional authorship of many of the books in his Bible, but he is doubtful if his Bible is really the supremely infallible Word of God, after all. He looks at it as "through a glass darkly." Instead of grasping its grand, vital truths firmly and building his pulpit work on them, he gropes about among the mysterious things which "belong unto God," and he puzzles his brains with that which is too deep for any mortal man to fathom. That glorious tonic preacher, Dr. Maclaren, of Manchester, says that every minister "ought to burn his own smoke"; but the shaky minister prefers to live in the smoke of his own doubts, and envelopes himself in the superadded mists of other men's unsettling speculations. Instead of keeping his feet firmly planted on the Everlasting Rock, and attempting to draw everybody else up on to that Rock, he is constantly venturing off upon the shoals and sand-bar. "I suppose that you know all the reefs and shoals and sunken rocks on this coast," said a passenger to the captain of a coasting steamer. "No," replied the sagacious captain, "I do not pretend to that, but I do know where the deep water is." It is a thousand pities that every minister of the Lord Jesus Christ has not sense enough to imitate that sagacious ship-master.

When the minister who has spent his week in the unwholesome atmosphere of human speculations and reckless biblical criticisms, and "oppositions of science falsely so called," enters his pulpit on the Sabbath, he is completely ham-strung. He comes before his congregation, who have had their own share of difficulties and doubts and temptations and trials. They need to be fed, and with the veritable bread of heaven, and not to be put off with the hard "stone" of human quarrying. They have troubles enough of their own without listening to their minister's troubles about "inspiration," or about "evolution," or about "the existence of sin in God's world," or any other abstruse questions. Instead of being unsettled, they want to be confirmed and strengthened and helped to fight the battles of daily life with a more vigorous faith and a brighter hope. The man who has not spiritual backbone enough to stand up straight and deliver the mighty message which the Holy Spirit has given him, and to deliver it without any trembling of his knees or stammering of his lips—such a man had better doubt whether God Almighty has ever called him into the pulpit at all. "The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream, and he that hath My Word, let him speak My Word faithfully."

The ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ who not only draw their

fellowmen around their pulpits, but draw souls to the Saviour, are men who, like Spurgeon and Simpson and Maclaren and Newman Hall and Phillips Brooks and Moody and McNeill have a clear conviction of vital spiritual truth and a firm courage in proclaiming it. The theological seminaries—in all our evangelical denominations—who turn out well-rooted, well-grounded, spiritual-minded preachers of the everlasting gospel, will preserve the confidence of the churches. Strong winds that blow down ill rooted trees may be expected in the religious as in the natural world; but the men who are stoutly enough vertebrated to stand up against a cyc one are the men whom God wants in his pulpits in these days. As for the whole tribe of shaky preachers, let them be granted leave to enjoy a perpetual vacation.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

No. II.

One Spring evening a certain farmer, his family, a city friend and two new men sat down to tea. One man's fine talk about farms, values, expenses and needed improvements, with many suggestions, led the friend to say of him, "How interesting." The other man's short reports of work done, asking for new work, and request for hammer, nails and rails for immediate repairs, led the farmer to know of him, "how interested." Do you wonder that Thanksgiving Day found the latter a part of the farmer's establishment, while the former had left some time before for Boston, to spend the winter among some relatives. "Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." Living grace, alive, active, and taking hold of something, is the genuine article. Christ keeps and supplies no other goods. Just so surely as the grace of God in Jesus Christ took hold of the world's redemption, so will the grace of God in our hearts fasten us to some work under the Master who has bought us.

Friends, church members and all—Sunday School work is one sphere of grace in which to take root and grow. But we want interested hands, not alone those who know and say how and why things should be thus and so. Better get interested, or we will be apt to drop out among such poor relatives as the indolent, the fault-finders and the backsliders. There is a large place in S. S. work to occupy upon the grace of God and grow spiritually rich. In fact, much spiritual poverty can be traced to non-investment in S. S. work. Accounts that the Master cannot accept show, among other faults, refusal to use one (only one) talent of grace in S. S. work. While some have cared for five talents of grace in difficult places, others will not look after one in such a favourable field as S. S. work. Poverty is explained.

Much spiritual loneliness, otherwise called coldness, is due to absence from S. S. "How can one be warm alone?" We must be beside the living Christ to retain warmth. In busy S. S. life the living Christ in Spirit is present. Be there to see Him bless the children, and our hearts will get warm. No wonder we grow old and cold, when we will not meet and work with him in the S. S.

Edward VII. looks at his mother's footsteps as his ideal of life. Our ideal spiritual path is marked out by Jesus' footprints, left upon the sacred page. On Sabbath these are sure to direct to where God's word is read and taught. Friend, where would I bring up if I should follow the direction of your footprints, or waggon tracks, last Sabbath? Yet you tell the world that you are a follower of Jesus. Some one is lost, perhaps it is your own boy. Whose fault is it? Christian, church members, do you candidly think it right to so interpret Jesus' life, by your life, that the world will read, "Keep away from the Sunday School?" There must be an increased attendance by Christians at the Sabbath School, if the true revival for which we are praying and hoping is to be all that Christ wishes it to be. Jesus' invitation will accomplish this. He says, "Follow me."

DAVID PATTERSON.

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.]

ST. JOHN WEST SOCIETY.

As I unfold the INTELLIGENCER each week I usually scan the Woman's Missionary column first, anxious to see if there are any letters from our sister societies. When there are any they are read with deep interest. It comes to me there may be others that would like to hear from our society. Looking back, we are thankful for what success has attended our efforts; looking forward we are very hopeful. As we have entered upon the new year some of us have expressed strong desires to be more consecrated to our Master's service; others of us have quietly formed resolutions which we are very anxious shall be lived out in our lives. Our President, Mrs. G. A. Hartley always prepares a programme—a well thought out and careful one, full of good things in which all can participate. Our Bible readings are particularly interesting and helpful. The subject for the January meeting was, "The new name," and for February "Joy." Many beautiful scripture passages, all bearing on the subject, are read by the different members. So many of them seem to suit and apply to our different conditions that they prove very sweet and comforting. Our President has added to the program at the beginning of this year, "A helpful thought" for each member to read or express. These heart-to-heart talks are good and helpful too. Our meeting for February was exceptionally interesting, as we listened to Miss Lydia Fullerton give a very full account of the life and work of the veteran missionary, the beloved and lamented Dr. O. R. Bachelor who recently died in New Hampton, New Hampshire. He laboured 38 years in India, crossed the ocean 8 times going and coming, which consumed much more time than now. Early in life he was left a widower with two small children, and passed through untold discouragements and many hardships, but lived to accomplish a great work, and passed to his reward at the dawning of the new century. His death, which was more like a translation, was beautifully described by Miss Gertude Seelye, as was also his funeral, which was very impressive. Funeral sermon by Rev. S. J. Case. We would like to hear from other societies through the Missionary Column.

A. J. SLIPP, Sec.

A CONVERTED SORCESS.

A lady missionary, relating incidents of the work, says one of the most interesting cases of the year at her station was the conversion of a sorceress, a woman who went about among the people as a doctor, at the same time using exorcism as her principal remedy. She was kept as an inquirer for over a year, and when she was baptized her first convert was baptized with her, a woman of most beautiful character, who for years had been searching for peace and rest. She called this sorceress to attend her sick grandson, and she refusing to more than give the child simple remedies, the interest of the searcher after truth was aroused. She spent the night asking questions as to the Jesus doctrine which so filled with peace the heart of this former sorceress who for years had bowed down to the devils but now had no fear of them, even though the family offered her a sum of money to do so. This sorceress took down her ancestral tablets and destroyed three ancestral incense pots. Many of her neighbors are watching her, and they say if God can protect her and her family against three sets of ancestors they will know that God is Lord indeed.

BETTER FAITH.

Not to attempt to do good is far worse than to fail while attempting—Free Baptist.

ABOUT THE KING.

It is proposed, and the proposal meets with much favour, that upon his coronation King Edward VII. shall take the title of King of Canada, Australia and New Zealand as well as of the homeland. Emperor of India is already part of his title.

Edward VII. has won and is winning his way to public confidence, affection and admiration. Mr. Culliffe Owen, a thoroughly reliable man, testifies in the Independent to the baselessness of scandals circulated concerning him. He is "a level-headed man, warm-hearted, of strong affections, absolutely free from affectation and pretense, the very soul of loyalty and a chivalrous sense of honor." He is a favourite with children. His home is one of the happiest in England. His acquaintance with literature is unparalleled—no notable work in English, French or German being unknown to him. He has been a good son, husband and father. His influence in smoothing difficulties with Russia, Germany and France has been very great. He has been true to his friends in adversity as well as prosperity; and he forgives injuries like a Christian. In English society he has discouraged profanity and drunkenness.

MISSION NEWS AND NOTES.

From Corea comes a most earnest call for more laborers. Perhaps in few, if any mission fields in the world has so large a harvest presented itself ready to the hand of the reaper. In most fields one difficult and often lengthy work is to overcome the hatred and prejudice of the people. In Corea there seems to be very little of this feeling. Multitudes appear to be waiting for the Gospel.

Baron Von Welz was so mastered by the missionary idea that, after pleading pathetically, but in vain, with the Lutheran Church to give the gospel to the heathen, he renounced his title and his estates, and gave himself, going at his own charges to Dutch Guinea, where he soon filled a lonely missionary grave. Of his renunciation, he said: "What to me is the title 'well-born' when I am one born again in Christ? What to me is the title 'lord' when I desire to be a servant of Christ? What to me to be called 'your grace' when I have need of God's grace, help, and succor?"

The extraordinary ease with which the people of India create for themselves new objects of worship finds illustration in an item from a daily paper. It was found that the boundary stones within the bounds of the Ootacamund municipality had become converted into popular wayside shrines. Municipal fence poles in a certain vicinity had also become objects of worship. Sanction was granted to the erection of a small Hindu temple on Havelock Road to divert the worshipping proclivities of the poor people from the Municipal boundary stones and fence posts.

Protestantism seems to have gained a firm footing, and is making rapid progress in Manila and the surrounding villages. A despatch to "The N. Y. Sun," under date of January 30, says:

An investigation of missionary work develops the fact that Protestantism is spreading among the natives. Mr. McLaughlin, a Methodist missionary, with native preachers and volunteers from the soldiers, held thirty meetings last week. Five thousand residents of Manila and the villages of Malibay (four miles from Manila) and Galalanguin joined the Methodist Church in a body and now hold services in former Catholic churches. The president of Malibay would not allow the friars to enter the church, stating that it had been built by common contributions and hence belonged to the people who now profess Methodism. These conversions are due principally to the work of Mr. McLaughlin and an ordained Filipino preacher, Nicholas Zamora, who expects to baptize 500 on Sunday. Zamora is very eloquent and his methods of exhorting the natives resemble somewhat those employed by the late Dwight L. Moody. The Presbyterians are also successful in the Province of Cavite and have a numerous following of natives in Central Luzon, Panay and Negros.

PARLIAMENT

MONDAY.—Hugh Guthrie, South Wellington moved the reply to the address.

R. L. Borden, leader of the opposition spoke briefly. He was followed by the Premier. Then the address passed.

Mr. Borden asked if the government intended to make provision to pension wounded Canadian soldiers and the widows of soldiers.

The Premier said that if the Imperial Government does not pension them sufficiently the Canadian Government may take action.

The annual reports of the post office public accounts, interior, agriculture, inland revenue, and marine and fisheries, were laid on the table.

The main estimates for 1901-1902 were brought down.

They total \$50,398,823.56.

TUESDAY.—Little business was transacted in the house to-day beyond answering questions. Mr. Maclean of East York, called the attention of the government to the impending disaster to United States railway interests through their purchase by the greatest trust in the world. He felt that the pooling of the great highways and coal fields, oil output, banking institutions and iron and steel industries was too grave a moment to pass unchallenged, particularly as this monster might turn its attention to Canada and wipe Canada off the map. He asked the government to take steps to protect the railway interests of the west, even if it is necessary to secure government control of the C. P. R. and G. T. R.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier raised questions of order. John Charlton insisted that attention should be given to the question of the Grand Trunk and C. P. R. building up American ports at the expense of Canada, Montreal, he said was to be sacrificed along with St. John and Halifax, and he thought the time had arrived to put the brakes on.

Sir Wilfrid consented to give information on motion.

Mr. Fielding announced that the auditor general's report would be brought down on Friday, and that the estimates would not be taken up until after that date.

Answering Mr. Ingram, the minister of militia stated that as Canadian soldiers had died in Africa in the imperial service, it was not the intention to bring their bodies back. He believed that in many cases the graves had been properly marked.

Mr. Tarte refused information re the Yukon telegraph, without a motion being given.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier intimated that he had been invited to assist Australia in the opening of the new federal parliament, and that he would accept if possible.

WEDNESDAY.—A short session to-day.

Mr. Henderson was informed that for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1900, \$3,281,639.48 had been collected by the inland revenue department on tobacco.

The number of immigrants during the year ending 21st December, 1900, was 44,697.

The house adjourned at 4.45.

THURSDAY.—Another short session to-day.

Mr. Blair, answering Mr. Monk's questions concerning the intention of the Grand Trunk to make Portland their terminus all the year round, said that correspondence is now being exchanged in regard to the matter.

Mr. Clark secured information concerning the printing of the report of the public works in the office of La Patrie and the report of trade and navigation by the Montreal Herald. No tenders were asked for.

The senate adjourned till March 6th.

FRIDAY.—The commons sat to-day for fifteen minutes.

The auditor general's report was laid on the table.

The house adjourned until Monday.

AMONG EXCHANGES.

MRS. NATION.

John Brown started just about such a crusade against slavery as Mrs. Nation has against the "murder shops," as she calls the saloons, and though John Brown was hung slavery soon came to an end. All revolutions are unlawful, and yet that is the way the world has made most of its progress.—Baptist Argus.

SABBATH SCHOOL BOOKS.

The Sabbath school library should be made up of books proper for Sabbath reading, and calculated to develop religious faith and character. We were greatly perplexed the other day, on seeing a list of books recently purchased for a Sabbath school library, by finding the names of some books that go squarely against evangelical truth. Some books of modern fiction are made the medium for the propagation of infidelity, but, forsooth, because they are popular and modern, they are put in the hands of young people to read on the Sabbath, to neutralize the teaching of the Gospel and the sanctuary! And then people are surprised when these young people lose their interest in religion.—Herald & Presbyter.