

Notes and Gleanings.

—The rice paper tree, which is so interesting and valuable in China, has been introduced into Florida.

—One of the recently discovered wonders in China is a mountain of alum, which is ten miles in circumference at its base. It is 1,900 feet high, and the Chinese quarry the alum in large blocks.

—The number of timber sleepers on the railways of the world is calculated to be about 1,494,000,000, and their value is estimated at about \$900,000,000. This item makes a serious drain on the timber supplies of the world.

—In some Japanese temples may be seen suspended great coils of rope woven from human hair. Such ropes, made of hair, sacrificed by thousands of women and girls, were used to hoist stone and timber for the temple, and are preserved as relics.

—The twentieth century will have the greatest number of leap years possible for a century—namely 25. 1904 is the first one, then every fourth year after up to and including the year 2,000. February will three times have five Sundays—in 1920, 1848 and 1976.

—The poverty of the Russian peasants is so great that many families use less than four quarts of oil for lighting during the year. The nights in winter are so long that the poorer people lose much time, some going to bed at 4 in the afternoon and staying there until 8 the next morning to save burning oil for light.

—A San Franciscan named Frederick Muller got a divorce from his wife several months ago on the ground of desertion and cruelty. Later she was committed to an insane asylum. Now he has had the decree of divorce set aside on the ground that he believes her mistreatment of him was due to the condition of her mind, and that he wishes to care for her during the period of her infirmity and afterward in the event of her recovery.

—There has just died in Stockerau, Bavaria, at the age of 28 years, a dwarf, Maria Schumann, who passed her whole life in the cradle where she slept her first sleep, 28 years ago. Up to the day of her death this strange creature preserved the height and general appearance of an infant of a few months, but her intellect was normally developed, and nothing could have been odder than to hear this tiny babe in the cradle talk like an adult, with much vivacity and intelligence.

—A new and interesting method of cutting trees was experimented upon recently in the forests of France, which may prove to be of great commercial value. A platinum wire is charged with a heavy current of electricity to a white heat, and is then used like a saw. The process takes about one-eighth the time of the ordinary saw, no sawdust is produced, and the carbonization caused by the heated wire acts as a slight preservative to the end of the timber.

—After three years of patient research, two professors of Geneva,

Switzerland, have discovered a new anesthetic which promises to revolutionize dental practice. In reporting this to the State Department Consul Liefeld, at Freiburg, Germany, states that, finding that the nervous system was influenced by colored light, the professors soon perceived, after experimenting with each hue, that blue had an extraordinary soothing effect on the nerves. The consul says that a tooth may be painlessly extracted, with none of the after-effects on the system, by shutting up the patient in a dark room and exposing his eyes to a blue light of 16-candle power for three minutes, causing him to lose all sense of pain, although at the same time retaining his senses.

THE MAGAZINES.

Within less than twenty years of scientific cane-culture, Hawaii has achieved second place among the countries of the world in sugar production. The processes employed there and the conditions under which Hawaiian sugar is produced, are clearly described in the December number of the *Review of Reviews*.

The *Spectator* counts Herbert Paul's tribute in *The Contemporary* to Sir William Harcourt by far the best appreciation yet written of the late leader of the Opposition, and particularly praises its judicial tempering of eulogy and criticism. *The Living Age* for December 3rd re-prints Mr. Paul's article entire.

The Christmas *Canadian Magazine*, with its handsome cover and its illustrations, is something to be proud of, for every feature of it is "made in Canada." The art of printing has not been neglected in this country, hence the fine mechanical appearance of this issue. The contents are also worthy of commendation. The number is one that will be appreciated both at home and abroad.

The *Methodist Magazine* for December completes the thirtieth year of this magazine, the oldest in Canada. It abounds in articles of interest, as "Canterbury and Its Memories," "From the Andes to the Sea," "Dante," and other illustrated papers. There are Christmas stories, poems and pictures. With the January number this magazine will appear in enlarged and improved form. Its programme for the year is strong on illustrated articles on Canada. Toronto: William Briggs. \$2.00 a year. \$1.00 for six months.

THE BIBLE A LANGUAGE MAKER.

The Bible Society by no means rest contented with their present horizons of conquest. Both the London and New York societies are very much engaged upon translations and revisions, and missionaries throughout the world are busy with similar tasks. In scores of instances the Bible is the only lifeline of a language. Often a language is first reduced to literary form in order to produce a Bible. Often, also, the Bible actually creates a language, in the proper sense of that term. The ideas, the topics of thought, the point of view are not in the local speech. Take, as an example, the translation just made for the Sheetswa tribe in East Africa. They had no word for Supreme Being, or home, father, heaven, house, and other ideas equally fundamental. "Our Father which art in heaven" was absolutely intelligible to them. Yet, little by little, the missionaries persevered until they have now compiled a dictionary of 18,000 words, a grammar, and a translation of the New Testament, that can be used by 3,000,000 people.

Other recent translations have been into Mare (one of the French Loyalty Islands), Uganda, Persian, Labrador-Eskimo, Kongo Baldo, Murray Island (Torres Straits), Wedan (New Guinea),

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Fang, Madarese (South Malaysia), Nogogu (New Hebrides), etc. That much work still remains to be done, however, appears from the statement that in the borders of the Indian Empire alone 108 languages, in use by 74,000,000 souls, have as yet no version of the Scriptures. Translations and revisions are now going forward in over one hundred languages.—*Century*.

A Telegu Father of Christian Workers.

Among the early converts of Dr. Lyman Jewett's Baptist mission to the Telugus in 1849 was Tuili Rangiah, the son of a Hindu priest, who became an evangelist and then a teacher, and is now a pastor in Madras. He is the father of seven children, all of whom are engaged in Christian work. One of them, John, is laboring in South Africa as the first foreign missionary sent out by the Telugus and supported by them. An account of the history of the father and John and their work has been written by Mrs. Jewett and published by the American Baptist Missionary Union as a leaflet. Accounts of the other children and what they are doing is given by the father in a recent letter to Mrs. Jewett. The eldest son, Daniel, is a pastor at Madras, where his work is improving. John is able to give a good account of his work in South Africa. A third son is a pastor in Palmur, doing well. A fourth son is headmaster of the boarding school at Secunderabad. The eldest daughter is wife of the pastor at Rampatan. The second daughter is the widow of a pastor, and now lives with her father. The third daughter, unmarried and living at home, is employed in the school as mistress.

GIVE WHAT YOU HAVE.

How many Christian people are willing to give what they cannot give; how slow many are about giving such as they have. Many of them would endow colleges and build churches and libraries and hospitals, if they were millionaires. The churches are full of people who would teach in our Sunday schools and speak in the prayer meeting if they had a "talent for it."

The good Samaritan bent in sympathy over the wounded Jew and "set him on his own beast." An automobile or an ambulance would have been much better, but he had neither of them. He had

only a small donkey, and such as he had he gave to the service of the man who needed his help. The question is not what we would do if we had wealth, but what we are ready to do right now, however poor or ignorant we may be.

Some time ago four men were traveling on an American railway. Three of them conversed freely about the business they represented; the fourth, a quiet listener; and finally one said to his silent partner: "And what house do you travel for?" His reply was: "I represent a wholesale liquor store in New York city. Some people do not like my business. There's lots of money in it, and—lots of danger. Twenty years ago there were nineteen of us started out for the firm I represent well and hearty. We arranged to put into New York every Saturday night, and, after reporting, went out on a lark together. I am the only one of the nineteen left; the others, every one of them, were killed by the liquor we sold. I tell you, gentlemen, there's lots of money in it, but lots of danger."

E. G. HOBEN,

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