

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

Board of Works dec04

"THAT GOD IN ALL THINGS MAY BE GLORIFIED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST." -Peter.

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Editorial Outlook

DISESTABLISHMENT.

The movement for disestablishment of the Church of England is spoken of by the *Methodist Times* as "the inevitable corollary of the Education Act," which is so deeply stirring the Nonconformists. The Education Act is not wholly evil if it hastens disestablishment. And certainly the church would be better for it, though it is difficult for churchmen to see it so.

JAPAN'S CROPS.

Even nature's forces seem to be helping the Japanese. The coming rice crop, according to recent official estimates, promises to be remarkably large. It is stated as certain that there will be 250,000,000 bushels, or twenty per cent. more than the average. It will be a record breaking crop. There will be no need of importing rice. Other crops, especially barley and tea, are also large.

FOOT-BINDING FORBIDDEN.

The Japanese government has issued a degree forbidding foot-binding in Formosa. Every breach of the law will be severely punished. Chinese girls under six years of age whose feet have been bound must now have them unbound, so that they may return to their natural shape. Those older than six must go on in their deformed condition, as they cannot be restored. Chinese mothers are greatly lamenting the new decree, but they may be expected to see its wisdom in a few years and become reconciled to it.

THE CHAMBERLAIN CAMPAIGN.

Mr. Chamberlain has re-opened his imperial preference campaign. He spoke to a great audience Wednesday night, dealing chiefly with the agricultural situations, showing what it loses by the present fiscal system. He said he was not pleading for the protection of fifty years ago, but he did want to make foreigners pay toll on shipments to the British market where they competed with British workmen, and unless Great Britain and her colonies worked together they must suffer, and suffer increasingly. Referring to Premier Balfour's recent statement about a conference with the colonies, he said it marked a distinct advance. He hoped the conference would soon be held.

THEIR MILLIONS.

The Standard Oil Company goes on crushing all competitors and robbing the people of their hard earnings, and the president of the concern

thinks he is making it all right by giving some of the ill-gotten money to benevolences of one kind and another. It is well said that such gifts are "of infinitely less value in the eye of Almighty God than the hardly earned, sorely needed, but spontaneously sacrificed \$5 bill which many a poor man puts into the Mission Fund. Concluding a series of magazine articles on the methods of this great tyranny. Miss Ida M. Tarbell, the brilliant writer, deplors the low moral tone which not only condones the nefarious doings of the company but actually applauds it and says:

Very often people who admit the facts are willing to see that Mr. Rockefeller has employed force and fraud to secure his ends, justify him by declaring, "It's business." That is, "it's business" has come to be a legitimate excuse for hard dealing, sly tricks, special privileges. It is a common enough thing to hear men arguing that the ordinary laws of morality do not apply in business. Now, if the Standard Oil Company were the only concern in the country guilty of the practices which have given it monopolistic power, these articles never would have been written. Were it alone in these methods, public scorn would long ago have made short work of the Standard Oil Company, but it is simply the most conspicuous type of what can be done by these practices. The methods it employs with such acumen, persistency and secrecy are employed by all sorts of business men, from corner grocers up to bankers.

THE WAR.

The week has not brought much real news of the war. Port Arthur has not yet fallen, though hard pressed. A Che Foo report, which is always a doubtful report, says "tinned meats at Port Arthur are nearly exhausted and the troops are now slaughtering thirty donkeys daily for fresh meat, which is worth \$1.20 per pound. Eggs cost twenty cents each."

Aside from the daily sacrifice of lives offered before Port Arthur, and the steady pushing forward of the Japanese lines toward Mukden, there is nothing of importance to record.

RELIGIOUS ORDERS.

In an address on Monasticism, Canon Cody, of Toronto, said that in this century the Roman Catholic Church is becoming more strongly centralized than ever. All power is being concentrated in the Vatican, and a more rigid discipline is being exercised over the subordinate clergy. In consequence there is a revolt both in and outside the church. Outlining the history of the differences between the government of France and the Vatican, as illustrating the revolt, he said the attack on the religious orders in France is not a mere religious persecution. The grounds for the movement against the religious orders are three-fold:

1. It is claimed that the monastic orders taught doctrine treasonable to the State.

2. The increasing wealth of the monasteries formed a public menace, and the competition of the monks in manufactures was severely felt.

3. The moral influence of the monasteries was alleged to be injurious.

For these reasons the law was passed requiring the order to submit to the same regulations as other associations. Because they refused to submit, they left the country, many going to England. It is as yet impossible to say what the result of these things will be. It is feared by some that certain sections of France may lose the ministrations of the church wholly, and sink into virtual paganism. Others take a more optimistic view, but it was the speaker's belief that unless the Roman Church adopted a more conciliatory and progressive policy she was doomed to sink into ever-increasing weakness and failure.

POLITICAL NEWS.

Mr. McKinnon, M. P., has been appointed Governor of P. E. Island.

Mr. B. Russell, M. P., has been appointed a judge of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier is this week making addresses in Ontario centres.

Nominations have been made during the week as follows: Hon. Geo. E. Foster, Conservative, in North Toronto; D. A. Gilmour, Liberal, in Charlotte Co.; H. A. Powell, Conservative, and Hon. H. R. Emerson, Liberal, in Westmorland Co.; Dr. Hay, Liberal, in Sunbury-Queens; Alex. Gibson, jr., Liberal, in York Co.; John S. Wells, Conservative, in Guysboro; S. W. Pickup, Conservative, in Annapolis; W. A. Mott, Conservative, in Restigouche Co.; R. O'Brien, Liberal, St. John City; H. A. McKeown, St. John County; F. H. Hale, Conservative, Carleton Co.

BRIEF MENTION.

The leader of the people who call themselves "the Holy Ghost and Us" Society has summoned his followers everywhere to come to Shiloh, Me., his headquarters, telling them that is the refuge of the true followers of Christ.

There are more pupils in the public schools of Japan than in all Russia, notwithstanding the fact that Russia has three times the population.

Mount Allison Ladies Academy last week celebrated its jubilee. Students representing every year of the school's history were present.

An Iowa man has bequeathed \$20,000 to found a home for drunkards' wives. The country goes on endorsing the traffic that makes their woes.

The Mormon Conference was held at Salt Lake City last week. The

president's report announced that 20 organized missions are maintained throughout the world, with over 1,500 active workers in the mission field, which embraces nearly every country of both continents and the Pacific islands. Missions are maintained in New Zealand, Australia and also in Palestine.

The official report, just published, of deaths on United States railways is an appalling record. It shows that last year 9,984 persons were killed in railroad wrecks and 78,247 injured.

What Others Say.

NOTHING CHANGES IT.

The doxology will not change the moral character of alcohol.—*The New Voice.*

ALWAYS.

A man who lacks moral courage to face a great evil has always much to say about how impractical other people are.—*United Presbyterian.*

WORTH NOTHING.

The religion that costs nothing is worth exactly what it costs. Every ounce of effort we put into our religion comes back to us, sooner or later, in power. If we have no power, no worth, the reason is not far to seek—there has been no sacrifice, no pang, no striving.

DOUBLE RESPONSIBILITY.

"Are not the unsaved responsible if they do not come to church and hear the gospel?" But are not the Christians responsible if they do not go to the unsaved and preach the gospel? The command of God to the believer to "Go," is quite as plain as in the invitation to the unsaved to "Come."—*Free Baptist.*

WHAT THEY COULD DO.

Alas! that so many churches are, on the saloon question, "dumb dogs that cannot bark!" If all the pastors, and all their church members would boldly, vigorously, and with voice and vote (as do some) array themselves against these hell-traps which are dragging down, besotting and ruining so many of the Sunday-school boys of the churches, the saloons could in due time be closed up. What is a religion worth that will not vigorously and effectually fight the licensed rum traffic?—*Rel. Telescope.*

COVETOUSNESS.

Covetousness is one of the most deceitful as well as one of the most damning of all sins. It is a sin of which very few suspect they are guilty. It is a respectable sin. None the less is it a sin. None the less is it idolatry, and no idolater shall inherit the kingdom of God. If we are not willing to give of our means as the interests of the cause of Christ may require, we cannot prosper. While we seek to abound in everything—in faith, in utterance, in knowledge, in earnestness, and in love—shall we not see to it that we abound in this grace also?—*Chris. Evangelist.*