

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

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

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Editorial Outlook

BRIEF MENTION.

Tomorrow (Thursday) is election day. Put conscience into your vote.

Acadia University has begun the new year with a full attendance, and with an excellent spirit prevailing all the institutions.

St. Louis is to have the tallest hotel in the world; it will be 22 stories, and will cost \$10,000,000.

The world's forest area is estimated at 2,500,000,000 acres.

THE WAR.

The Russian dead discovered by the Japanese after the last great battle numbered 13,333. Gen. Kuropatkin reported 55,868 Russians wounded.

The outposts of the two armies are now within 700 yards of each other, and less than four miles separates the main armies. It is believed another big fight is likely to occur soon.

REFORMED "CHRISTIAN SCIENCE."

Some Church of England ministers in London have started a movement for "the cultivation of a more rational and wholesome form of 'Christian Science.'" They have formed a society, which they call the Guild of Health. Its specified objects are the cultivation of personal and corporate spiritual health, the restoration throughout the Church of the Scriptural doctrine of Divine healing, and the study of the influence of spiritual upon physical well-being. Members of the Church of England only are eligible as members of the Guild, but the secretary will keep an invitation list of friends of the society and those interested in its work, who need not belong to the Church of England.

ITALY AND THE VATICAN.

While France is freeing itself from the Church of Rome, Italy seems disposed to concede something to the church. There is no love for the Vatican on the part of the Italian government. But socialism is so prevalent in Italy, and so increasingly assertive, that the government is inclined to closer alliance with the church as a protective measure. The ideal of socialism is anti-monarchical. The friends of the monarchy believe they need more strength to make it more secure. Pious Catholics obey the injunction of the Pope to refrain from voting and from taking representative positions, or any offices under the government. This weakens the monarchy, practically contributing strength to the radical socialistic movement. To secure the support of the non-active Catholic electors, and their participation in the affairs of the country, the government seems disposed to concede something to the Papacy—perhaps a certain amount of territorial

independence. At any rate, the king and the Pope may some day be found considering terms for mutual help.

NEGLECTED CHILDREN.

The State of Michigan takes good care of its destitute and neglected children. Every such child is made a ward of the State. In every district there are officials whose duty it is to discover such children. If, on examination into their circumstances by the proper authorities, it is found to be for a child's good he is sent to the State public school and the control of the parent or former guardian ceases. At the school the children live in pleasant cottage homes, but the plan is to keep them there only for a short time, and as soon as possible find a real home for them, generally with farmers in the country. Children from poorhouses and workhouses are dealt with in the same way. The plan has worked well, and the demand for children has exceeded the supply. In all some 5,000 children have been received into the Michigan State school since it was opened, and of these 90 per cent. are doing well. In 1900 1,376 were grown up and self-supporting; 145 of the girls were married and 456 had been adopted. Whilst in 1871 there were 600 children in workhouses and poorhouses in the State, there are now only forty. And all this is done at trifling cost. Juvenile criminals are in a corresponding fashion taken in hand by specially appointed officers; care is taken to teach each one a trade, and in other ways the attempt is made to turn them into good citizens.

TEMPERANCE IN CEYLON.

A remarkable temperance movement is going on in Ceylon. It had a singular beginning. A wealthy Sinhalese and some of his friends were having a drinking time in a tavern. A dispute arose with the tavern-keeper, and the whole company determined never to touch ar-rick (the common drink) again. They founded a society, which practically all the men of their village joined. The news of this movement, was published in the vernacular press, with the result that the idea was taken up rapidly in all the towns and most of the villages of South Ceylon. Largely-attended meetings have been held, and, after speeches denouncing the liquor traffic pledges are signed. Well-organized processions go through the villages singing temperance songs, which rouse great enthusiasm. The movement is distinctly a Buddhist movement, and the appeal is made to the doctrines of Buddha, though Christian missionaries are sometimes asked to speak. Those who break their pledge are rigorously dealt with. In Ceylon the liquor traffic is a government monopoly, and though Buddhists, the missionary societies and the planters' associations have many times petitioned

against the liquor trade being encouraged, it has extended at an appalling rate during recent years. This new movement has greatly checked it; the taverns are becoming deserted, and the liquor-sellers, who rent from the government, taking a hint from their fraternity in England and elsewhere, are already appealing for compensation.

TREATMENT OF DRUNKARDS.

At a recent meeting of some of Toronto's citizens interested in moral reform, the question of the care and cure of inebriates was considered. Dr. Crothers, who is editor of a quarterly *Journal of Inebriety*, and who is regarded as a specialist in this department, was present. He made an address in which he stated that during 1902 over half a million persons were arrested for crimes connected with drunkenness, and that statistics showed that under the present penal method not one per cent. of those punished received any permanent good. Inebriety, he declared, should be a medical question, the drunkard being treated as diseased rather than criminal. "Every inebriate," he said, "should be considered a public nuisance, and quarantined like a smallpox case. He needs protection and control, with proper medical care, and his liberty should be restricted till he is cured." He recommended that workhouse hospitals be established by the state, to which patients should be sent on legal commitment, based on the testimony of two physicians, for periods of from one to three years. He emphasized the statement that inebriety was one of the most serious diseases of modern times, and one curable by special methods. A resolution was passed commending Dr. Crothers' views, and looking towards the formation of a society to promote the movement. There is, doubtless, much that deserves consideration in the suggestions of Dr. Crothers. It is rarely a good thing to send a drunken man to prison. He is not benefited by it, and his family suffers. It is especially unfair to imprison the victim of the legalized drink traffic while the drink-seller goes free. Whatever may be done, either in line with the suggestions above or in any other way, to cure the drunkard, the fact should never be lost sight of that it is wicked to authorize the traffic which makes the drunkard. Cure the drunkards of today, by all means, but let us not be guilty of the cruelty of keeping temptation before them, and of luring others to follow in their bad way.

A RUSSIAN OUTRAGE.

The world was given a shock, and Great Britain was stirred to the depths by the murderous act of the Russian fleet in the North Sea on Saturday, 22nd ult. The Baltic fleet on its way to the Pacific came upon the Hull, Eng., fishing fleet and deliberately fired upon the

unoffending fishermen. One vessel was sunk and others damaged; two men were killed and several wounded. So soon as the news of the unexampled outrage reached the British authorities the government communicated with the Russian government, setting forth the facts, and intimating that "the situation is one that does not brook delay." At this writing it is not known what excuse the Russian government may give in explanation of the wanton outrage. If it is claimed that the Russian officers mistook the fishing vessels for Japanese torpedo boats, there will be set against it the statement that Russian torpedo boats inspected the fishing vessels at close range before the firing began. If the pick of Russia's navy, after a close inspection, cannot distinguish between Hull trawlers and Japanese torpedo-boats, their existence anywhere on the high seas is an menace to the world's safety.

The Russian government replied to the British note expressing deep regret for the occurrence and promising full reparation as soon as a report is received from Admiral Rojestvensky, who was in command of the offending fleet.

It is well said by the *Witness* that "the whole Russian bureaucracy is demoralized, and all Europe is quaking as to what will happen next. If Russia had studied incompetence alone for the past decade, she could not have made worse than her recent record. This is not the first time of late that she has blundered and broken the laws of civilized nations. Against all the obligations of her treaty, she sent war vessels through the Dardanelles in the guise of merchantmen, and these afterwards seized British shipping. The acts were apologized for, the privateers were recalled, but only England's calmness and strength prevented war between the two countries. Again, in Japanese waters, the Russians sunk a British vessel in the most wanton and unjustifiably manner, and reparation has not yet been made. Russia, therefore, is a daily menace to European peace, not because she wishes to be, perhaps, but from sheer incompetence and funk on the part of her rulers."

The utter heartlessness of the Russians in not going to the assistance of their victims shows the kind of people they are.

The story of the Russian Admiral that he was attacked by two Japanese torpedo boats which came from the direction of the fishing fleet, and that in firing on them the fishing vessels were injured, is an absurd attempt at explanation of his cowardly deed. The possibility is that the Russian officers were drunk and neither knew nor cared what they did.

An officer of the British navy predicted this afternoon that it would be demonstrated in the inquiry at Vigo that the Russians fired on their own torpedo boats and probably sank one of them. The officer also predicted it would be made clear that Admiral Rojestvensky knew this when he wrote his report.