

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

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

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Editorial Outlook

THE WAR.

In an engagement near Chong Ju on the 28th, the Japanese defeated the Russians. The Russian commander's report admits that his forces were compelled to retire.

MORE TROUBLE.

Dowie is in more trouble in Australia. He is so abusive of everybody that he has been refused the use of any of the public halls. His attacks upon the king have been strongly resented by the public.

IMMIGRANTS.

The rush of immigrants into Canada has begun. Several large parties have arrived within the last three or four weeks — several thousands in all. And many thousands more will arrive within a few weeks. It is gratifying that so large a proportion of the new arrivals are substantial old country people — English, Scotch and Irish. The more of these we can get the better. Besides those from across the ocean, several thousands from the United States have gone into the Canadian Northwest during March.

POLAND AND FINLAND.

The war with Japan is not the only trouble Russia has. Polish revolutionists are disposed to take advantage of the situation, and are said to be organizing an anti-Russian movement. The restoration of Polish liberties is what they want. The Russian government recognizes the danger of such a movement, and there has been an increase of the police throughout Poland to check revolutionary demonstrations. In Finland, too, where the Russian yoke is most galling, there may be trouble, and recently there has been a massing of Russian troops there, ostensibly on account of "labour troubles," but probably really to prevent an outbreak.

FINDING OUT.

Some of the South American countries are said to have formed an alliance to protect themselves against attempts by the United States to encroach upon the rights of any of them. They have, apparently, begun to understand that the Munroe doctrine, as interpreted and applied by the United States, has more in view some advantage to that country than any protection of its smaller neighbors. The Panama and like affairs have opened their eyes to the fact that the only interest the United States has in them is to use them for its own purposes. The United States has never shown in its relation to any country any particularly high purpose.

TRAMP COLONIES.

Gen. Booth, of the Salvation Army, proposes a plan for dealing with tramps. He believes the only remedy for the tramp evil is compulsory labor — not in prisons, but in labor colonies. He would have such colonies established by municipal authorities, or charitable societies, and would give magistrates authority to commit vagrants to them instead of to jail. He believes, and there is force in his view, that being required to work, and being trained to work, under proper superintendence, and amid moral and religious influences, many who are now not only useless but a menace to society would become industrious citizens. It is worth trying.

POLITICAL NEWS.

Rumor says that Sir Wm. Mulock may retire from the government to the Chief Justiceship of the High Court of Ontario.

Premier Parent, of Quebec, is likely to be appointed Chairman of the commission in charge of the construction of the G. T. P. R. Salary \$10,000.

The Ontario Legislature had an all night sitting last week. Members talked against time, awaiting the arrival of absentees who were needed to defeat an amendment to a government bill.

The bye-election last week in Cardigan, P. E. I., for the local legislature, resulted in the election of Mr. Kelly (Conservative).

It is stated that the indemnity of members of the N. B. Legislature is to be increased to \$300. It is now \$300.

WHICH IS WORSE?

A St. John man named Doherty says he was assaulted on his way home Saturday night. He was struck on the head with a club, but managed to defend himself, and his assailant fled. Doherty thinks the object was robbery, as he had with him a large sum of money, the day's receipts in his business — rum-selling. To assault anybody, even a rumseller, is a crime, and should be punished. But how many people were worse than assailed with a club by that one day's business in Doherty's rumshop? Not only those to whom the rum was sold, but many mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, and little children would have suffered much less had they been beaten with clubs. That day's business not only took the hard-earned money of many men — money, in many cases, sorely needed by their families, but it sent sorrow to the hearts of those who loved them. It would be much wiser and greatly more humane to license foot-pads than rumsellers.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

The announcement that an understanding has been reached concerning certain long-standing questions between

England and France, including the Newfoundland French shore difficulty, has led to the belief that Newfoundland might soon become a member of the Canadian confederation. It would appear, however, from a statement made by the Premier of that colony, a few days ago, that there is no immediate prospect of so desirable a union. Speaking in the Legislature last Wednesday, Premier Bond said that no correspondence had passed between the governments of Canada and Newfoundland respecting confederation; that replying to a communication of the Imperial government, conveying a resolution of the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire favoring confederation, the Newfoundland government had replied that it did not think the present an opportune time for the opening of negotiations for union, and that there was no desire on the part of the colony to become a constituent part of the Dominion. And yet it is quite possible that the question of union may be taken up.

THAT CENSUS.

A census item of \$635.72 in the Auditor's report being questioned in Parliament the Minister of Agriculture explained that it was paid to two doctors for furnishing information of the mortality in Ontario and Quebec. He acknowledged that the census enumerators had done the work so badly that the mortality tables for those two provinces were worthless and could not be used. Correct information had, therefore, to be secured from the doctors named, and paid for. What pressure caused the correction to be made?

Mr. Fisher was offered correct information of the Free Baptists in New Brunswick, without any cost, but he was unwilling to receive it. The falsity of the census figures was again and again pointed out to him and his Commissioner, and facts presented proving every statement made, but they stubbornly refused to make corrections. It was small business, but, evidently, quite characteristic of the men. The census, which has already cost \$1,179,376, and will probably cost a million and a quarter before the incapables in charge let go of it, is not worth the paper it is printed on. Its blunders are so many and so flagrant that nobody pretends to believe anything it contains.

BRIEF MENTION.

The French Chamber of Deputies, by a decisive majority, has passed the bill suppressing all teaching by Roman Catholic religious orders in France.

It is alleged that Germany's treatment of the blacks in West Africa has been very cruel; and that it is this which has provoked war by the natives.

The veteran missionary, Rev. John S. Moffat, son of Dr. Robert Moffat, and brother-in-law of Dr. David Livingstone, has issued a protest against the

importation of Chinese labor into South Africa.

A Chicago man — a jury "fixer," — swore in court the other day that he had bribed more than a hundred jurors in that city. Asked if any of those he approached had refused his offers, he said he remembered only three that he was not able to buy.

Three of Dowie's officers recently visited Salt Lake City, and it is announced that the Dowieites will begin a crusade there in August. They are to take a larger contingent of Zionites than went on the New York campaign.

The King and Queen have gone to Copenhagen, to attend a family gathering on the occasion of King Christian's birthday, April 8th, when His Majesty will be 86 years of age.

Archbishop Duhamel, Ottawa, has instructed his priests to dispense with women from the choirs of the various Catholic churches in Ottawa.

Chester Martin, St. John, has been given the Rhodes Oxford Scholarship by a majority of the U. N. B. Faculty.

It was reported a few days ago that a plot against the life of the Pope had been discovered.

St. John is making elaborate preparations for the celebration of the Champlain tercentenary in June.

A United States senator has been found guilty of taking pay for using his position in the interests of a company having dealings with the government. He is, probably, not the only one who has done so at Washington, and at other places, too.

THE CAUSE OF DECLINE.

A correspondent of the *Journal and Messenger* cites the case of a church complaining of decline, and states what he believes is the cause. The instance may provoke thought in some other churches. He says:

Some time I read this report in the church news column: "For some time we have been on the decline, and the way looked dark," etc. Why "on a decline?" A few years ago this same country church had a pastor whose labors were being blessed; the church was being strengthened; the outlook was hopeful. But the time to extend the "yearly call" was at hand. Another preacher proposed to take the work for \$25 less than the church was then paying. He also proposed to subscribe \$20 himself — a clear saving of \$45 to the church. Of course he was called and the cherished plans of the old pastor could not be carried out. The new pastor remained with the church six or seven months, then the pulpit was vacant, to be filled by whosoever would "preach" for the least money. Is it any wonder that the church was on the decline? Covetousness? Yes. The yearly call is an abomination, and the sin of covetousness is ruining many of our country churches; at least such is my opinion.