

# RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

Board of Works dec04

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

VOLUME LII.

ST. JOHN AND FREDERICTON, N. B., MAY 18, 1904.

No. 20.

## Editorial Outlook

### A WANING AUTHORITY.

The fact that the president of France did not during his visit to Rome pay an official visit to the Pope, is significant of more than appears at first glance. It is a distinct declaration that whatever authority the Pope may have, that authority has nothing whatever to do with governments as such, and must not interfere with any nation's freedom. The out-of-date conception of the Pope as one of the temporal potentates of Europe also received a further blow by this incident. Everything that tends to make it more clear that his influence properly belongs only to a religious and non-political sphere is a gain.

### GAMBLING FOR THE CHURCH.

The Roman Catholic nuns at Mafeking, South Africa, recently undertook a lottery scheme to raise funds for new schools they wished to establish. As soon as the matter came to the knowledge of the head of the police, he notified the priest in charge that the lottery must cease, or everybody connected with it would be liable to prosecution for violation of the law. The sisters and nuns were very indignant, but they had to abandon their illegal immoral scheme. What a commotion there would be if lotteries and like schemes in the interest of the church in Quebec were so dealt with. Gambling is a great vice, and when it has the sanction of the teachers of religion it is at its worst.

### RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

The policy of the Japanese government is to give the utmost religious freedom. A Methodist missionary in Japan, writing to the Canadian Methodist Mission Board, says:

Some Buddhist priests have tried to use the war to stir up religious strife by representing that it is a conflict between Christianity and Buddhism. This has led the premier of Japan to publish a proclamation setting forth that in regard to religions by whatever name they may be known it is his fixed and unchanging principle to regard them all equally and impartially, and calling upon those engaged in the propagation of religion to pay especial heed to this important point. "We cannot too strongly emphasize this point," the proclamation concluded, for it may bring injury to the dignity of this country if this instruction of ours should be disobeyed.

### THE TELEPHONE.

It is stated that nearly a million farms in the United States have telephone communication in some form with their neighbours. At first the wires of the fences were used to transmit the messages, and fence phones became very popular. As they grew more numerous, they were improved in many ways, companies eventually being formed to

operate them. The average cost at present to farmers is about \$18 a year. The latest idea is the telephone letter, which Congress is being urged to authorize. It is proposed that a telephone letter shall be opened by the postmaster, who shall at once call up the person addressed and telephone the contents of it to him. Thus the farmer might get his news a day earlier than it would reach him in the ordinary course of delivery. A special stamp would be attached to all telephone letters, so that the postmaster would know at once what he was expected to do with them.

### THE WAR.

Among the reports during the week were the following.

The Japanese followed the Russians retreating from the Yalu, overtook them twenty miles south of Liao Yang, a severe engagement ensued, and the Russians retreated north.

Typhus fever, dysentery and small-pox have assumed an epidemic character among the Russian troops.

The Emperor of Russia is anxious to go to the front.

The report that railroad communication with Port Arthur was restored, is not true.

The Japanese are placing southern Manchuria under control before beginning a forward movement, thus guarding against threatened Cossack raids.

The Russians have blown up the docks and piers at Port Dalny, Liao Tung peninsula, presumably to render more difficult a Japanese landing at that point.

Port Dalny is on Talienwan Bay, on the east coast of the Liao Tung peninsula, was intended by Russia to be the chief commercial emporium of its eastern dominions.

More than 10,000 Japanese women have volunteered to go to the front as nurses.

The Japanese torpedo boat, No. 48, was destroyed while removing mines from Korr Bay, north of Talienwan (Port Dalny) Thursday. Seven men were killed and seven wounded. This is the first warship Japan has lost in the war.

As they retreat to the north the Russians are burning the railway stations and such food-stuffs as they are unable to take with them. Much Chinese property has been destroyed.

The Japanese are very careful to extend to their opponents, living or dead, all the amenities and honors of war. They mourned the drowned Admiral Makariff, and they have buried with the honors of war more than 1,400 Russians. The prisoners they treat like gentlemen. When Russian officers were paroled their swords were returned to them.

### STANLEY.

Sir Henry M. Stanley, the African explorer, died in London on Tuesday of last week. He was sixty-three years old. Born in Wales, some of his childhood years were spent in a work-house. There he received enough education to qualify him to teach. He came to America when yet a lad. In New Orleans he was adopted by a merchant, whose name he took. The death of the merchant left him as poor as when he left Wales. He joined the Confederate army. Later he fought in the Union navy. After the war he became a newspaper reporter, and was a success. He was war correspondent for the London *Telegraph* in Abyssinia. The first of his exploring expeditions was when he went to Africa in search of Dr. Livingstone, who had not been heard from for two years. The searching expedition was at the instance of the London *Telegraph*, of which Sir Edwin Arnold was editor, the *New York Herald* sharing in the enterprise. With indomitable courage he fought his way through jungle and desert and blood-thirsty natives, until he discovered the man he sought. The story of the expedition is told in his book, "How I Found Livingstone." Two years later he went to Africa again on a trip of exploration, and was absent three and a half years. During this time the Congo was discovered to be not the Nile, as Livingstone had supposed. This expedition was recounted in "Through the Dark Continent." Two other journeys to Africa were made by him, one at the instance of the King of Belgium, and the other to rescue Emin Pasha, which was successful. The record of these years is given in his book, "In Darkest Africa." At the age of fifty, Mr. Stanley married an English lady of high social standing. Later he was knighted in recognition of his great services as an explorer.

His death has called forth many warm tributes to his worth and his valuable services. The King and Queen have written letters of condolence to the widow, and messages of sympathy have been received from every part of the world. He will be buried in Westminster Abbey.

### THEIR WEAKNESS.

Commenting on the temperance situation in Ontario, the *Christian Guardian*, organ of the Methodist church, speaks plain words—but not too plain. The Dominion Alliance convention held recently in Toronto, it fears will have very little effect on the situation. It was a large gathering, and representative, and ought to have made an impression. A similar gathering of liquor traffic people would have caused a marked ripple on the political stream. It does not appear that the temperance convention made even a slight ripple.

A liquor traffic convention could not have been so large, but it would have been enormously more influential. The reason for this the *Guardian* points out thus:

It is not the habit of our friends the enemy to talk in public, the talking they do is with actions that speak louder than words. With too many temperance people words speak louder than actions. And, as a consequence, so far as immediate effect goes, the liquor people's little finger is bigger than the Dominion Alliance's whole body. The comparison between them is largely the comparison between sandstone and the sand of the shore—the one acts by its mass and unity, the other has only the strength of its separated individual particles. The average politician—and let us not forget that we have to deal with the average politician—knows who his masters are, and governs himself accordingly. His masters are the men who, however deeply their craft is in danger, act always and everywhere as a unit. His masters are certainly not the men who, however deeply they may feel, or however earnestly they may talk on temperance in the abstract, are in different camps every time when that issue affects party exigencies or interferes with party ambitions. It is humiliating to have to admit one's weakness to one's self, but it is wholesome. For recognized weakness may be fought against and overcome. Who are to blame—let us ask it and answer it honestly—who are to blame for the deadlock in the political temperance situation in this province? The politicians who are truckling to the liquor power? Yes, certainly; but in the last analysis the blame rests—the blame must rest—with the electors who put them there, the temperance electors who allow the House to be filled up on both sides of politics largely with men in the grip of the liquor interests, when a little courage and a little conscience and a little sacrifice and a little common-sense would have sent to the Legislature a sufficient number of Liberals and Conservatives owing nothing to "the trade" to have lifted the matter out of the mud of partyism and insisted on prompt and straightforward legislation on the lines of the most stringent restriction of the liquor evil.

And what is true of the temperance workers in Ontario is true, in more or less of it, in every part of the dominion. The temperance voters have the remedy in their own hands. When they stand together at the ballot box in support of the moral reform they profess to be anxious about, their wishes will be treated with respect by political leaders.

### BRIEF MENTION.

A representation of the Mexican government is expected in Ottawa to confer with the Canadian government respecting the inauguration of a direct steamer service between the two countries, and the introduction of a lower rate for the exchange of letters.

The St. Louis robbers are becoming desperate at the very beginning of the exhibition. They have already robbed an editor of his small wad of pocket money.

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