TERMS AND NOTICES.

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THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

SAINT JOHN, N. B., APRIL 26, 1878.

THE LOVE OF GOD.

Human affection is strong, human love devoted. When disease and suffering come to and prostrate their victims, to see a careworn, anxious face watching with sad weeping eye, the many changes of the sick one, ever ready to supply the least want, listening to obey the most trivial command, speaking kind words, and constantly seeking how best to alleviate the anguish and promote the happiness of the suffering one—these things point to the devotedness of human affection, the strength and power of human love. But what is all this compared with God's love. "God is love." When man, created perfect, with all his God-like faculties, stood in Eden, he was a monument of God's love, and when he fell from his lofty estate, transgressing the laws of his Creator, the benefits from on high which he them received testified that his love still remained. And when, after *ages*, the world had become a vast theatre of iniquity, the unsearchable love of God was displayed in giving the promised Shiloh for a guilty, helpless race, a means of escape from his kindling anger—the Lamb to bear away the sins of the world. The whole career of Jesus, his works of mercy, his acts of kindness, his sufferings and death, the righteous for the unrighteous, speak in tones sufficiently loud to awaken the most careless slumberer to all that is high and ennobling, that "God is love."

Every blessing that is poured upon our path, every privilege which we enjoy, every good thing provided for us which increases our comfort and adds to our happiness attest the truth of the Scripture declaration. God's dealings with the impenitent, his desire that all should embrace the salvation so freely offered them, his entreaties, his promises, his warnings, ay, and even his threatenings, as contained in his Word, declare *most* emphatically that "God is love."

The whole creation exulting raises its voice, witnessing, with strongest emphasis, that "God is love. The blazing sun, dispelling the gloom of night speaks; and speaks the moon's soft light, irradiating the deep darkness; and each burning orb of heaven's countless hosts speaks, each drop of the vast ocean teeming with life, each laughing cascade that leaps on its way, each fountain that sends forth its crystal stream, speaks; and speaks each dew-gem of the morn, each bud and each flower of every hue; the zephyr's softness and the storm wind's fury, every valley and hill, and each plain and mountain, speaks—yes, innermost nature tells in never ceasing strains—the heavens re-echo every sound, and angels swell the song—all united in one unbroken harmony, proclaim that "God is love." M.

PRAYER FOR THE WORLD.

Our Lord taught his disciples to pray: "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven." This prayer was for the whole world, it was therefore a prayer for Missions, both foreign and home. The wonder is that so many Christians never pray it. Some may use the words, yet lack the spirit of this beautiful and broad petition. Before the Gospel can be preached in all lands, and to every people, Christendom, must lift up her fervent and effectual prayer for the coming of Christ's kingdom of purity and peace and power, throughout the world. If we believe in prayer at all, we believe in prayer for the whole world. To the unbeliever it is as foolish and futile to pray for pagan lands as it seemed foolish and futile for Jesus to command the early church, when so small and weak, to preach the Gospel to every creature. There is something in this too many believers fail to see. Not only does the great world lying in wickedness need our prayers, but we need in our own local work the love and largeness of heart and the inspiration to quickened service that work for the whole world is sure to bring.

It will be generally conceded that Christians pray for objects in which they feel an interest. We have before stated that Christians cannot fail to be interested in foreign missions, provided they are well informed about the condition and claims of the heathen. When the thought of the community is stimulated by knowledge and especially by fresh news from mission fields, then can Christians pray intelligently and earnestly for the conquest of the Gospel in pagan lands. Indeed, we believe they will be so moved by the facts brought vividly and forcibly to their attention that they cannot help praying. Prayer will be both a relief and a pleasure. We have heard such prayers in the pulpit and in the pew, and been greatly refreshed by them. There is a breadth and richness in them that we fail to find in so many prayers, just because they take in the whole world, and follow the pattern which Jesus himself showed the disciples.

Let the pious reader contemplate the objects that should be remembered in prayer for the world. We may cite some of them, and these may suggest others. (1) "Prayer for more workers." "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest." Are our churches praying and looking for volunteers for this foreign service? At least twenty-four American workers are wanted for those three and a half millions of pagans, Mohammedans and savages within the limits of our missionary field in India. Until our churches pray in earnest, we shall look in vain for a reinforcement. But we must reinforce the Mission the present year, or lose ground dearly won.

(2) "Prayer for money." Will the brethren ask God in faith for cash, to meet the present and prospective demands of the work? George Muller has made a business of praying for money for the Gospel work in India! I believe nothing will lift that debt of six or seven thousand dollars, and put plenty of ready money into our treasury, but the earnest and united supplications of the churches. I firmly believe that prayer will do all this, and do it speedily. Oh, that Christians would pray!

(3) "Prayer for missionaries in the field." Almost a hundred years ago Andrew Fuller spoke words like these:—"There is a deep gold mine in India, who will go down there for us?" And William Carey answered:—"I will go down, if you will hold the rope." Some of our own men and women have gone into that deep mine, to find precious jewels for the Lord. Beloved pastors and people, are you holding on to the ropes? Are you daily remembering these missionaries in your most fervent prayers? Perchance some one you have known is there toiling among the heathen. Do you pray for him? In a collection of sheet music I took with me to India was a piece entitled, "Do they pray for me at home?" How often those words cheered us, as we sang them together, when gathered for our annual meetings. Next to the precious assurance that our Lord remembers us ever, is the sweet thought that our brethren think of us at home, and pray for us.

(4) "Prayer for the native Christians." Let the churches ever bear in mind the trials and persecutions to which converts in India are subjected. It costs something for a Hindu or a Mohammedan, or even a Santal, to become a Christian. Will the churches pray that these men and women may be steadfast and become useful agents in publishing, the true religion among their countrymen?

(5) "Prayer for the Mission schools." Soon we hope the Bible school may be one of these. The hundreds of children and youth in our schools call for special remembrance in prayer. They may become a great power for good, a mighty and effectual blessing in their native land. Some of the orphans, rescued in the fearful famine of 1866, are now among our very best workers. Don't forget the schools, when you pray.

(6) "Prayer for the millions still in darkness." We were startled only the other day by this question:—"Have half of the people in your mission field become Christians?" We felt like answering have the home churches asked any such thing of the Lord? Large accessions to the church are sure to come in answer to much prayer. Be it remembered that in India, as in other pagan lands, there have been more converts in proportion to the number of workers, than in America or England. "It pays to pray for India." (7) "Prayer for consecration and missionary zeal at home." Every church should be a real missionary society. According to the Scriptures we affirm that an anti-missionary church is a dead church, devoid of Christ's spirit, and barren in good works. Let our very weakest churches look out on the great field and pray for faith and strength to keep the Lord's great command. There is life and blessing for every church that prays and works for a lost world. Oh, for greater loyalty to Christ and supreme delight in his holy service.

Will the Free Baptist churches, every one of them, set apart the first prayer-meeting of each month for special supplication in behalf of the whole world? Could we have such a Concert of Prayer every month, what cheer, and what inspiration would surely come to our workers at home and abroad!—J. L. P.

EDITORIAL NOTES AND COMMENTS.

—BEECHER–TILTON.—The scandal involving these names, which so long occupied public attention, and which decent people thought dead, has been revived by the publication of a letter purporting to have been written by Mrs. Tilton, and acknowledging the crime which all these years she has again and again denied. The letter says the pangs of conscience forced her to the confession. Fortunately the respectable papers are disposed to attach no importance to the unfortunate woman's statement. It is said that she is suffering from pecuniary embarassments, and that her mother, Mrs. Morse, has on several occasions tried to extort money from Mr. Beecher. The New York papers intimate that she is of unsound mind. It appears, too, that Tilton has a finger in the mess, and that he visited his wife previous to his departure on his present lecturing tour, and possibly may have arranged that the confession should come out while he was away in the West, so as to give it an appearance of being an affair of conscience only. It is rumored that Mr. and Mrs. Tilton are about to live together again, and that this confession is the preliminary scene in the reconciliation programme. Mr. Beecher was away when her letter appeared, but it was telegraphed to him, and he promptly and most emphatically denies the charge. The *S. A. Journal* says, It is evident that no reliance can be placed upon her word. She has vacillated throughout, confessing and retracting, according to the influence bearing upon her, until this last declaration forced from her professedly by the intensity of her anguish, loses all its value. If the document be authentic, the most charitable construction that can be placed upon it is, that her mind is completely shattered, and that she is now under the guidance and control of a disappointed and revengeful man, who is resolved to make one further effort to blast the reputation and ruin the position of the man to whom of all others he has been most indebted. All right thinking people greatly regret the re-opening of the unsavoury affair, and it is hoped it will be immediately put out of sight and hearing, to remain there for all time.

—MR. SPEAKER WEDDERBURN well deserved the vote of thanks tendered him by the House of Assembly on the last day of the session. Mr. Covert, speaking for the Opposition, and the Attorney General, speaking for the Government, spoke of the unvarying impartiality and dignity which have marked Mr. Wedderburn's four years occupancy of the Chair. No occupant of the Speaker's Chair could have discharged the delicate and often trying duties of the position better than Mr. Speaker Wedderburn has done.

—SENSIBLE.—King Humbert, the new King of Italy, has done a number of very sensible things since he ascended the throne. The last reported, though to some, perhaps, it may seem a trifling matter to engage the attention of a Sovereign, indicates his good common sense and his practical character. He has issued an order that in future a regulation dress coat and white necktie will not be necessary at his receptions. The simple civilians' costume and black or any other kind of cravat will suffice.

— THE LOCAL LEGISLATURE was prorogued on Thursday at noon. The Lieutenant Governor after assenting to the Bills passed during the session, delivered the following speech:

Mr. President and Hon. Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I have pleasure in expressing my acknowledgment of the diligence with which you have during an unusually long session applied yourselves to the service of the public. Within the last four years your attention has been given to some of the most important matters that are within your jurisdiction, and I believe that your deliberations have tended to promote the welfare of the Province.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I thank you for the liberal supplies you have voted. I believe the agricultural interests of the country will be benefitted by the large appropriations you have made in their behalf. I also thank you for the steps you have taken towards the erection of new buildings for the use of the Legislature. I will lose no time in procuring suitable plans and careful estimates.

Mr. President and Hon. Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly:

I relieve you from further duties with my best wishes for your prosperity and happiness.

The House was then prorogued until the second Tuesday in May next.

—A STRANGE PEOPLE.—Dr. Field in a recent book of travels "Around the World," told of a race of human beings in Malaisia, who live in trees, roosting on the branches like monkeys. It was denied by some that such a race existed. A Captain Codman, who has been to Malaisia, declared that he had never seen such men, and unaware that others had seen them—notably Mr. Wallace in his visit to the Malay Archipelago, and that the fact was fully established—he plumply denied the existence of such people. Quite a controversy has since been carried on in the press on the subject; and now Professor Jas. D. Dana being applied to, sets the matter at rest. He says "there is no doubt in regard to the existence of the small degraded race in the Malay archipelago, their living in trees, without fixed dwellings, their going naked, leading the life of a brute, and that of the most disgusting kind." He himself saw one of them when at Manilla in the Wilkes Exploring Expedition. Dr. S. Wells Williams, who has lived more than forty years in Eastern Asia, also says that the French found such people in the interior of Cambodia, a full account of which is given in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*. They lived in trees to be out of the way of tigers and other wild beasts.

—FEELING OR DUTY.—Here is a wise word of the *Herald* concerning the moods and feelings so largely depended on by too many very good meaning people. All such will do well to keep in mind the fact that "moods and feelings may be as really idols as stocks and stones are those of the heathen. What you regard as the highest phase of your piety may be an offence to God, who is less mindful of your emotions than of your conduct. Religion does not lie in feeling; religion is allegiance to God and faithfulness in the discharge of those duties assigned to us in His law. Feeling is one of the effects of genuine purity of heart, and not the very thing itself. Religion is abnegation of self; feeling may be a mere worship of self; the one turns away from self, the other constantly reverts to it. What would you say of a servant who should constantly attend to his moods rather than your business? What if he should make these moods his standard rather than your orders? Would you not say he ought to attend to his duty, whatever might be the condition of his feelings? So God looks not so much to the glow or subsidence of our emotions, as to our conscientious and unquestioning obedience.

—A NEW KNIGHT.—It is reported from Ottawa that Hon. Albert J. Smith has been Knighted. The statement came without any preliminary rumours usual in such cases, and was at first received with some doubt. We notice, though, that he is addressed as Sir Albert in Parliament, and probably he is really a K. C. B. We are of opinion that Canada can do without any of the titles so common in the old country, and we could wish that every public man in the Dominion who is honored by the offer of any one of them, would decline it.

In the present case, without saying anything disparagingly of Mr. Smith, we may be permitted to say that he is not by any means the New Brunswicker most deserving Royal recognition. Several men could be named who have done greater public services, and who are more truly representatives of the country. It is hinted that the title is in recognition of his services in the settlement of the Fisheries question. Perhaps he did sufficient service in the matter to entitle him to the distinction just bestowed. We congratulate him, and hope he may worthily wear the new honors.

—WELL AND TRULY SAID.—Over twenty persons appeared in the Police Court before the Sitting Magistrate, Mr. Lockhart, on Monday morning, charged with drunkenness. The *News* report says: the Magistrate looked around the Court room, and then at the prisoners for a while. He said, "this is an unusual batch of men to be brought here for drunkenness, and it is a usual thing for a man in the liquor trade to come up here day after day and laugh at the men he is ruining." [One liquor merchant in the room smiled on hearing this.] "You may laugh my good fellow," said the Magistrate. "You are as guilty as the men before me; it is a pity you could not be taken hold of."

The *Freeman*, true to its instincts, resents this utterance of plain truth as an insult to the rum-seller. The dear innocent. No doubt he had in his pocket the money of more than one poor victim at whose sorry plight he was laughing. Mothers, fathers, wives, children, angels may weep, and the poor victim may go to jail or penitentiary, and the rumseller may laugh. And to tell him the truth is to insult him. The wretch ought to be put in a striped suit and made break stones for an honest living. The day is coming, thank God, when the rumseller will be classed with other criminals.

DENIALS.—Last week we uttered some plain words concerning certain scenes said to have occurred in the House of Commons during the long and noisy debate on the Quebec matter. It had been charged in despatches to papers all over the country that several members were drunk on the floors of the House. The charges were made so distinctly and names mentioned so freely, that it seemed the statement must be true. To be sure it was a little suspicious that all the members charged with having imbibed too freely, and conducting themselves badly, belonged to the opposition. Not a Government supporter was mentioned, and the impression was given that the Government side of the House, from the Premier down, was, for the time, the victim of the rage and drunkenness of Sir John and his followers Supposing the statement so positively and circumstantially made to have considerable foundation in truth we penned the condemnatory words in last week's issue. Many other papers expressed themselves in a similar way.

But now it shows that the reports were for the most part pure fabrications. It is not denied that the greatest confusion prevailed, participated in by both sides of the House; but the charges of drunkenness are denied in the most positive terms, and the men charged with inspiring them are challenged to repeat them in the House, and are silent. We are glad for the sake of the country as also for that of the men charged, that denials are not only possible, but are endorsed by the most reliable men in the House, men of well-known strong temperance principles.

But what can be said of the authors of the falsehoods? If such things are resorted to for party purposes, the party must be in sore need. Readers of the *Intellingecer* know that in condemning the public actions of public men it knows no party, nor cares for any. It is against drinking and drinking men whoever they may be, and whatever position they may occupy. But it can have no other feeling than contempt for the authors of fabricated charges against the leaders or rank and file of any party. The affairs of the country have run very low when such things are resorted to. We cannot think the chief men of the party had anything to do with the creation and circulation of what are now declared to be base falsehoods. But they will do well to put a check on some of their servants whose zeal is more prominent than their judgment or honesty.

—A REAL NEED.—In an article concerning the New England Free Baptist Convention, which meets this week in Boston, Dr. Phillips refers to the need of more mutual conference, and freer and more frequent intercommunication of an intellectual and religious character, between brethren labouring in different sections of the denominational field. He says,—"None, surely will undertake to deny that there is need of more co-operation, in the highest and best sense, among brethren engaged in the same work. Is there not too much of "every man for himself" style of doing things? Hence who wonders that our congregational polity seems too much like a rope of sand? Where there is so much "genuine free vill," is there not liable to be a fair stock of "free wont?" One man puts down a broad guage track for his trains, his neighbor puts down a narrow guage track for his. What wonder that we find travelling somewhat incommodious? Besides, the time tables don't tally. Every one is gotten up quite independent of the rest, and so we fail to make close connections! *Ergo*, grumbling. Well, what is the help for it? Our prescription is short and simple: Mutual confidence and co-operation. We must understand each other better. It is a favorite trick of human nature to misinterpret and even misrepresent what it does not understand. Courteous, Christian conference enables men to understand and appreciate each other. We hold that the most critical and even explosive theme can be wisely and profitably discussed by brethren who meet in the right spirit. Our faith in Christ's power over frail human nature, and in Christian self-mastery, waxes stronger every day. We believe that the church has yet very much to learn of the benefits of Christian convention and conference. As a people it seems to us, we fail to realize half the solid good that might accrue from such meetings for mental and spiritual improvement."

There is a valuable suggestion in this for Free Baptist ministers of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

—CELIBACY.—The agitation in favor of the abolition of celibacy in the priesthood of the Old Catholic Church is making good progress in Germany. We some time ago referred to the petition of the Mannheim congregation in favour of its abolishment. That petition has since been concurred in by thirty-one congregations, and others are quickly falling into line. It is said the question might be settled this year, but it is feared that Dr. Dollinger, who is opposed to the movement, would withdraw from the Church. The friends of the movement therefore desire postponement of decisive action for the present. But the death of celibacy is only a question of a very short time.

—A MISTAKE.—In some way, no one seems to know exactly how, a good many people have got the impression that parties who wish to settle in Manitoba would receive from the Government a free passage, free meals on the journey, certain farming implements and cattle when they reach there, provision for a year, &c. The *Times* says the party which recently went from Moncton believed they would get the things above enumerated. Dr. Clay, Emigration Agent, addressing some intending emigrants stated that he knew nothing of such arrangements. It is well that people should know that all such reports are untrue.

—A TRUE PICTURE.—Dr. John Hall is evidently well acquainted with "the man without a church," whom he well and truly describes in the following pungent paragraph: "There is hardly a more hopeless class, religiously, in the community than the unattached, roving Bedouins, who without the loyal principle of the older Rechabites, yet like them, 'neither build houses, sow cornfields, nor plant vineyards;' who say truly that all denominations are alike to them, for they are alike useless to all. In some instances, where they are fussy, or wealthy or vain, they become 'honorary members of all denominations.'"

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

MEETING OF THE "NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES"—MR. EDISON EXHIBITS HIS PHONOGRAM AT THE CAPITOL—DESCRIPTION OF THE WONDERFUL MACHINE—HOW IT WAS TESTED BY SENATOR HOWE AND GENERAL BUTLER—AN OLD PENSIONER FROM 1812—THE SICKNESS OF "DR." MARY WALKER—WHAT MASSACHUSETTS IS CAPABLE OF, ETC.

(From our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 20th.—The events of the week have been the gathering of the "National Academy of Sciences" at the Smithsonian Institution, and the arrival of Mr. Edison, the famous inventor, with his phonograph, which he exhibited yesterday at the Capitol to an admiring throng of senators and members. Mr. Edison received an invitation, by telegraph, to attend the meetings at the Smithsonian, and brought with him his marvellous instrument, which is, sure enough, a wonderful invention. When he took it up to the Capitol some of the more skeptic among our Solons shook their heads doubtingly, and predicted that if such things as claimed for the phonograph were possible, then the world would certainly not stand long; but others, with more faith in the possibilities of the nineteenth century, elbowed the throng to get near enough to the instrument and get a chance to test it. Mr. Edison first explained the principles upon which the phonograph operates, and then went through a number of practical tests, such as whistling, singing, crowing, talking different sentences, etc., all of which the phonograph repeated with wonderful accuracy. The only two instances in which it failed to repeat distinctly the questions put to it, was when Senator Howe said something into the mouthpiece, to which the only answer which came back was "bow, wow!" but then, perhaps the Senator had only been barking. The other failure was when, in reply to a whisper by General Butler into the machine, the single word "spoons!" rang out clear and distinct from the little black cylinder, with a metallic sound in the very utterance that had something significant in it.

As possibly many of my readers now hear of the phonograph for the first time, I will endeavor to describe this wonderful machine in a few words. It is composed of a cylinder, on which appear spiral grooves, and which is connected with a crank by which it may be turned, and a diaphragm over the cylinder, showing on the outer side a mouthpice, and on the inner side a fine steel point. The cylinder is covered with tin foil and set in motion. If no words had been spoken, the steel point would merely have pressed the tin foil into the grooves of the cylinder and formed a regular indentation. But the words spoken into the mouthpiece caused vibration in the steel point as it indented the tin foil. When the machine was reversed and the steel point placed where it commenced its journey, as the cylinder again revolved, the same vibrations were produced in the steel which originally caused the indentations, and were translated into sound-waves and spoken from the mouthpiece. When words were uttered in the mouthpiece, the sound-waves caused vibration in the needle or steel point and indentations in the tin foil. When the steel point was again passed over the indented tinfoil, precisely the original vibrations were produced, which by reverse process were converted into sound-waves and issued from the mouthpiece as speech. Thus the process was entirely mechanical. Into the mouthpiece of the instrument Mr. Edison's assistant sang, and shouted, and whistled, and crowed, and in a few minutes the same sounds floated out upon the air, faint but distinct. "I declare," said one who had heard it before, "it sounds more like the devil every time!" There was something weird and uncanny about the little machine as it expressed itself in articulate language; and more than one little girl in the audience crept up closer to her protector as the awful hush that preceded the phonograph's remarks was broken by its far off utterances. Senator Ransom seemed particularly delighted, and asked Mr. Edison whether he could invent a machine that would pick cotton automatically. "I believe I could," Mr. Edison replied; and in answer to a question by Senator Conkling, he said that he had taken out 158 patents and 86 caveats on different inventions.

Among the applications received at the Pension Office yesterday was one from Captain Harry Ward, of Sackett's Harbor, N. Y., aged 101, who served in the U. S. Navy in the war of 1812, taking a prominent part in the battle of Sackett's Harbor, where he was three times wounded, which laid him up for good, and he has resided there ever since.

"Dr." Mary Walker, the famous female dress-reformer and advocate of pantaloons for women (as if some married women I wot of didn't wear the "pants" already), has been lying dangerously ill for some weeks at the Providence Hospital, and was, of course, "interviewed." When asked when she was born, she said it was none of his (the reporter's) business; but when asked (for reporters are not so easily put off as that) *where* she was born, she replied, "In Middlesex, Mass." It is a curious coincidence that this lady, who, as far as her peculiar dress is concerned, may be regarded, so to speak, as a cross between a man and a woman, should have been born in Middlesex; but the old Bay State is capable of wonderful productions.

ALPHA.

DENOMINATIONAL.

LOWER SOUTHAMPTON, YORK CO.—Bro. J. E. Sleep writes (April 17th) of good being done in Lower Southampton. He says: "I came here on the 7th inst., and have been here constantly till now, visiting the people and holding meetings. The church has been quickened exceedingly, difficulties of long standing have been removed, sinners are being awakened, and we trust ere long many will experience His converting power. Pray for us that God may more abundantly bless us."

REV. J. N. BARNES is now at Vanceboro, and intends spending a month with that church. He will then return to White Head, Grand Manan where he is engaged to labour the rest of the year. Considerable revival has been enjoyed under his labours at White Head, and a number of converts baptized.

☞ Here is something for Christians to think about. During the last year the 16,000 members of the Moravian Church raised $85,000 for missions—nearly $5.50 for each member, old and young, poor and rich. What church has done better than this?

☞ A great revival is reported among the colored people in Richmond, Va. The churches are besieged by thousands who are unable to get in. Tuesday night there were over two thousand penitents at the different churches.

☞ The Paris Exhibition is announced to open on the first of May.

PERMISSIVE BILL AMENDMENTS.

Since our last issue we have received a copy of the Permissive Bill as passed by the Senate. We are glad to find, on examining it, that the Senate has made very important amendments to the Bill as introduced. Our readers will remember the defects in the original draft of the law pointed out in these columns. The section which "provided that any merchant or trader may thereat keep for sale and sell intoxicating liquor in quantities not less than ten gallons at any one time," was particularly obnoxious to temperance men. That section alone was enough to destroy the whole bill, as we pointed out at the time. Under it every man who kept a shop for the sale of any kind of goods, could sell liquor so long as he pretended to sell no quantity less than ten gallons. There was no license required for such sale, and no way of limiting the number who should sell. The section has been improved by an amendment which provides that no one can sell except a "merchant or trader who is exclusively in wholesale trade" of some kind, and he must also be "duly licensed to sell liquor by wholesale." A common sense interpretation of this provision would seem to indicate that any city or county coming under the operation of the Permissive Law may prohibit the wholesale as well as retail rum trade. The law being adopted by vote of the people the retail trade is absolutely prohibited in the district adopting it; the wholesale trade cannot be carried on without license, and it is scarcely probable that a community which prohibits the retail will authorize the wholesale.

Another amendment has been made which requires any seller of ten gallons to furnish satisfactory evidence that the quantity sold is not only taken beyond the limits of the county in which it is sold, but also beyond the limits of any adjoining county or city in which the Act is in force.

The limiting of the number, as suggested in these columns, of those who shall sell for medicinal purposes and for use in some art or manufacture has been done. Such vendors require to be specially licensed by the Lieutenant Governor in each Province, and the number is "not to exceed one in each township or parish, nor two in each town; and in cities not exceeding one for every four thousand inhabitants; such sale, when for medicinal purposes, to be in quantities of not less than one pint, to be removed from the premises and to be made only on the certificate of a medical man having no interest in the sale by the druggist or vendor, affirming that such liquor has been prescribed for the person named therein; and when such sale is for its use in some art, trade or manufacture, the same to be made only on a certificate signed by two Justices of the Peace of the *bona fides* of the application, accompanied by the affirmation of the applicant, that the liquor is to be used only for the particular purposes set forth in the affirmation; and it shall be the duty of the druggists or other vendor to file the certificates and keep a register of all such sales, indicating the name of the purchaser and the quantity sold, and to make an annual return of all such sales on the thirty-first day of December in every year to the Collector of Inland Revenue within whose revenue division the county or city is situated."

The foregoing are the chief amendments not previously alluded to. They are of the greatest importance, for without them the bill would have been nearly worthless. Temperance men in the Senate, and those outside who have given them all the assistance in their power, deserve much credit for having succeeded in so greatly improving the bill. It is gratifying to know that men of both parties worked together to perfect and pass this important measure.

True, the danger is not over yet, for it has not passed the Commons. Changes may be made which will make it less acceptable and less effective. We shall continue to hope, however, that whatever changes are made may be of the kind that will still further improve the bill. If the Commons does wrong the people have their remedy; and if they will may punish the men who dodge responsibility or oppose the measure in any way. The bill is likely to come up for discussion this week, and perhaps before this goes to press we may have some report of the debate. We shall endeavor to give our readers an idea of what their representatives say and do on this great question.

THE HORRORS OF THE FAMINE.

In addition to facts already given about the terrible China famine, is the following letter just received by the *Independent* from a missionary in Pekin. He says:

"One of the most appalling catastrophes of modern times lately occurred under my own observation. This was the burning of a yard full of woodsheds, in which were housed a great number of refugees from the famine regions, who are collected here by the 100,000 to obtain a little food furnished by the government. It was on Sunday, Jan 6th, and the wind was bitterly cold and from the north. The fire broke out about 10 a. m., as I was on my way to the chapel; and I, hearing the alarm and learning what it was, ran to the spot to find the sheds already consumed and a multitude of bodies roasting within. The poor victims must have been suffocated almost at once by the smoke and flames arising from the combustion of a foot or so of straw, upon which they slept, and which constituted their only means of keeping warm, aside from their own animal heat. The premises were surrounded by a strong stalk fence, plastered with mud, very difficult to break down. The fire broke out inside; but no one knows *how*, as no fire is allowed, except that in the little mud range, where the gruel on which the people are fed is cooked. It spread with astonishing rapidity, so that it was with difficulty that any escaped. The number within this inclosure appears to have been about 2,800 and it is not certainly known how many were burned. By the time I reached the place most of the people who escaped at all had got out; but there were a good many badly burnt who had no strength to flee and who did not know where to go. I did a little in helping one or two out of the flames; but it was very little that any one could have done, had there been ever so many both able and willing. The sight was the most horrible that could be imagined. A long row of sheds, quite consumed, mats above and straw beneath, and each packed full of hundreds of women and children, all burned to a cinder as they stood or squatted, before they had time to reach even the door, suffocated. There were many very small children, scarcely three months old. The number of very badly burned must have been more than 100. It took three days to extricate all the bodies and get them coffined, and in many cases this was quite impossible.

The accounts from the Province of Shansi are horrible beyond the imagination of those who in distant lands only hear of famine. The stories in the Books of Kings about the famine are realized in that province.

POLITICAL NOTES.

The politicians, large and small, are becoming very active. This is the season when "the dear people" will be told how great interest in their welfare certain gentlemen have, and how ready they are to devote their time and talents to the public service. Hand-shaking and that sort of thing will be done wholesale for the next two months; and many a "free and independent" will be surprised to learn how important a personage he is thought to be.

If half the rumors afloat are true there will be no lack of men willing and anxious to sacrifice themselves on the altar of public service. Of course they are impelled by a strong sense of duty. The people will do well to be careful in their choice of representatives. Vote for sober, honest men—men having good common sense. The New Brunswick Assembly, soon to be dissolved, had these qualities in a very large degree.

It is quite well understood that neither Attorney General King nor Mr. H. A. Austin, who have so worthily represented the County of St. John, will again be candidates. Messrs. Willis and Elder probably seek re-election, and besides Mr. McLellan, mentioned last week, Mr. R. J. Ritchie is said to have ambition to be an M. P. P. Others are likely to be in the field....The Sussex correspondent of the *News* mentions a number of names—Dr. Vail, R. E. McLeod, Dr. Taylor, J. H. Crawford, H. A. White, Mr. Markham, and says others are spoken of. Kings County will, therefore, not be short of candidates....Prov. Secretary Fraser will of course, ask York to re-elect him, and is not likely to ask in vain. Dr. Dow is said to be busy canvassing; and Mr. Barker will also ask the electors to send him to the Assembly again. Rumour says Mr. Robinson is to be "elevated" to the Legislative Council. Who and how many others than those named will solicit the votes of York electors has not yet transpired....Messrs. W. E. Perley and J. S. Covert, the present representatives of Sunbury are anxious to hold the position for another four years, and they will probably succeed in getting the votes necessary....Rumor says that Mr. Swim, of Northumberland, and Mr. Flewelling, of Kings, will go up stairs with Mr. Robinson. Another report says that Mr. Kelly is to have one of the vacant seats in the "Lords."....The *Sentinel* announces Mr. Appleby, M. P. for Carleton, as a candidate. The name of his opponent, if there is to be one, has not yet been publicly announced. Mr. G. Connell and Mr. Jones have been spoken of....In Nova Scotia candidates are multiplying. At a Reform Convention held in Truro Dr. A. C. Page was nominated for the House of Commons, and Messrs. A. B. Fletcher and Hugh McKenzie were nominated for the Local House....Valentine A. Landry, Esq., in a Card to the electors of Digby, announces himself as a candidate for the representation of that County in the Local Legislature.... The Convention in Yarmouth Co. that nominated T. B. Flint, Esq., for the Dominion Parliament, nominated Hon. A. Gayton and W. Y. Brown, Esq., for the Local....In Guysborough the Government party have nominated John A. Kirk, Esq., M. P., as their candidate for the Dominion Parliament, and Hon. D. C. Fraser and Mr. Herbert R. Cunningham as the party's candidates for the Local House. Mr. Fraser will resign his seat in the Legislative Council, but will remain a member of the Executive. C. M. Francheville, Esq., the present member, declined a nomination....The latest card is that of F. M. Sproul to the electors of Kings County....There is no truth in the rumour that Chas. Burpee, M. P., is to be Governor of New Brunswick. He desires to represent Sunbury another term in Parliament.

THIS AND THAT.—Boss Tweed is said to have died worth only about $2,500. His stolen millions did not do much for him....Temperance is making great progress in Inverness Co., Cape Breton, where upwards of 1200 persons wear the blue ribbon badge....Among the theological students at Oberlin, is a native of Japan, Mr. Hato-Taro Tamra. ....Fifty-four railroad companies failed in the United States last year....All the students at Baker University, Kansas, except two or three, have professed conversion....The meetings in the valley of the St. Croix river, in Maine, by the State Y. M. C. A., has been followed by 1,500 conversions....The number of Roman Catholic missionaries and teachers among the Indian tribes in the United States is 117....The Pennsylvania Legislature have passed a bill prohibiting the employment of females in drinking saloons....Messrs. Pentecost and Stebbins are awakening deep interest at Middleton, Ct. Their meetings are crowded and full of life....A Baptist church in Maine has recently dismissed its pastor because he used tobacco. What if it should come to that in all the churches? ....A series of evangelistic services have been conducted at Felstead, Essex, England, by the Rev. Henry Bright, who is totally blind....An extensive revival is reported at Hardwick, Vt....Mr. George Muller, of England, has been holding a series of religious meetings in St. Louis, Mo., under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A....An intelligent farmer in Kentucky devotes the yearly product of one acre of his farm to purchasing reading matter for his family.

CURRENT TOPICS.

SOCIALISM IN GERMANY.

(Christian Union.)

The Socialist movement in Germany is assuming somewhat alarming proportions. In some of the large towns it seems to be approaching a crisis. In Berlin socialist artisans are daily declaring their determination to leave the Church, and it is thought that still larger numbers would secede were it not for the fine exacted from persons declaring such an intention. Socialists in Germany are atheists. The movement in its religious aspect is the outcome of the infidelity and formalism that has been for a long time growing within the Church. Politically, it is only another phase of the French Commune. Its strength and sudden growth may be judged from the fact that whereas in 1871 the Socialist party could command but 120,000 votes and two members in Parliament, it registered last year 497, 000 nearly one tenth of the whole voting population, and returned twelve members to the National Legislature. One of its recent rapid strides the conservative community seems to have been almost unaware. On a late Sunday, however, a demonstration at the funeral of one of the Socialist leaders has done a good deal to arouse public sentiment and disclose the grave dangers that lie hidden beneath the surface. The deceased was one August Heinsch, a foreman in a semi-Socialistic printing-house, and a successful propagator of Socialistic doctrines. His death was supposed to be occasioned by excitement and overwork in this cause. In the funeral procession fully ten thousand persons took part. Every one wore the red badge of the Commune. As many as a thousand women were among the number, and even little children, decked with crimson scarfs. Six Members of Parliament, also ornamented with red, headed the line and lent official dignity to the occasion. In all the streets a vast multitude of astonished spectators was gathered. At the cemetery, belonging to one of the atheistic societies, very concise and informal ceremonies were held, consisting only of revolutionary and eulogistic speeches, and singularly enough, a Lutheran choral, there being as yet no distinctively Socialist hymns or music. An ill-judged attempt was lately made by some of the clergy to establish a counter movement by organizing a party of "Christian Socialists." As the fundamental doctrine of Socialism is disbelief in Christianity, and the two are absolutely irreconcilable, of course the effort was a failure, and only brought contempt on its originators. Thoughtful people are awaiting further developments of the movement with no little concern.

SIBERIAN EXILES.

(Christian Treasury.)

The exiles who live in the mines are convicts of the worst type, and political offenders of the best. The murderer for his villainy, the intelligent and honest Polish rebel for his patriotism, are deemed equally worthy of the punishment of slow death. They never see the light of day, but work and sleep all the year round in the depths of the earth, extracting silver on quicksilver, under the eyes of taskmasters who have orders not to spare them. Iron gates, guarded by sentries, close the lodes or streets at the bottom of the shafts, and the miners are railed off from one another in gangs of twenty. They sleep within recesses hewn out of the rocks—very kennels—into which they must creep on all fours. They have only two holidays a year—Christmas and Easter—and all other days, including Sundays, they must toil until exhausted nature robs them of the use of their limbs, when they are hauled up to die in the infirmary. Five years in the quicksilver pits are enough to turn a man of thirty into an apparent sexagenarian; but some have been known to struggle on for ten years. No man who has served in the mines is ever allowed to return home. The most he can obtain in the way of grace is leave to come up and work in the road gangs, and it is the promise of this favor, as a reward for industry, which operates even more than the lash to maintain discipline.

STANLEY'S COMING BOOK.

Mr. H. M. Stanley is engaged in writing a full account of his most important journey across Africa, and at present he is doing so with characteristic energy. He rises early, works all day, and as his labors during the day are constantly broken in upon by numerous callers, he makes up for any such loss of time by toiling on frequently till the small hours of the morning. Already a large portion of his manuscript is in the printer's hands, and it seems quite certain that if his health does not fail he will accomplish the Herculean task he has set, writing in about 70 days the 600 pages of octavo print which will form the two volumes of his work and which will doubtless be ready for publication in May next. Mr. Stanley carried with him through the whole of his arduous journey a heavy photographic apparatus, and succeeded in obtaining many very good negatives of views and groups on the great lakes and on the Congo. The work will be published simultaneously in London, New York, Paris, Leipsic, and Christiania.

☞ We are indebted to S. B. Appleby, Esq., M. P., for a copy of the Permissive Bill as amended by the Senate.

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