

Religious Intelligencer.

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

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WHOLE No. 1826

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NOTES AND GLEANINGS

HER "SPHERE."—That woman is disposed to widen her "sphere" very much beyond housekeeping, is quite evident. A recent report of a United States Labour Commission says that women have entered no less than 342 industrial occupations.

DREADED.—The Shah of Persia is contemplating another visit to England. And it is said that his coming is cause for no little embarrassment to the Court officials. He expects, of course, to be a Royal guest. What is to be done with him in England has not yet been settled, but the Queen has decided not to give him quarters at Buckingham Palace again, having decided that there is to be no repetition of the Oriental orgies which took place there in 1873, when every room which had been occupied by the Persians had to be entirely repainted, redecorated, and refurnished in consequence of their eccentricities. It is thought to engage a residence for the Shah, whose visit it is hoped will not exceed a week.

"BEN HUR."—The blind are to have the pleasure and profit of reading Ben Hur, an edition having been published in raised letters especially for them.

AN EDITOR AHEAD.—A very good joke at the expense of a church journal in Wales is told. Not long ago the committee of ministers who manage the paper had occasion, as they thought, to be dissatisfied with the editor, and gave him notice to leave. An advertisement was issued for a successor, and the salary offered was 30s. a week, being an advance of 3s. upon the previous wages. Applications were to be sent in under a *nom de plume*. Amongst those received was one from the discharged editor, and the committee, not waiting to identify the individual, appointed him to the vacant post. Thus the editor got 3s. a week more for being sacked!

A GOOD EMPRESS.—The Empress of Japan is much interested in the women of the Empire, and is diligent in efforts to promote their welfare. She is said to be very charitable, and is patroness of a number of charitable societies. The education of women engages her attention particularly. A school for the daughters of the nobles is known as the Empress' School, and one of the pictures on its walls contains poetry written by her. She is a fine scholar, and many of her poems have been set to music and used as national songs.

A CRITIC CRITICIZED.—Prof. Swing, who has a kind of independent congregation in Chicago, set himself to criticize the ministers who do not approve of an inauguration ball, saying they were "wasting their time and that of their listeners," and suggesting that as "there are evils worse than the dance they should first be assailed." The *Christian Standard* thereupon remarks: "That is a new gospel and altogether curious—let all the little evils alone until you have abolished the big ones. How would it work? Prof. Swing awakes some morning with a terrific tooth-ache. Neuralgia plays hide-and-seek all over his classic features. With haste he seeks unto the physicians. But they say unto him, 'Sir, thou seest how many evils worse than the neuralgia there are, which we must first assail. Here are diphtheria, and typhoid fever, more dangerous

and deadly than thy neuralgia, and it would be but a waste of our time to meddle with thee. Get thee hence!' I, that case the philosophic Professor would be in a good position to realize the feeling of a mother who should come to him for help to save a wayward daughter from being led astray by the dance, and he should say, 'There are worse evils than the dance which I must assail first.' Such logic is but a makeshift of moral cowardice, in whose mouth it may be found.

ILLITERATES.—A census of the illiterates in the various countries of the world, recently published, puts the three Slavonic States of Roumania, Servia, and Russia at the head of the list, with about 80 per cent. of the population unable to read or write. Of the Latin speaking races Spain heads the list with 63 per cent., followed by Italy with 48 per cent., France and Belgium having about 15 per cent. The illiterates in Hungary number 43 per cent., in Austria 39, and in Ireland 21. "In England we find 13 per cent., Holland 10 per cent., United States (white population) 8 per cent., and Scotland 7 per cent., unable to read and write. When we come to the purely Teutonic States we find a marked reduction in the percentage of illiterates. The highest is in Switzerland, 2-5; in the whole German Empire it is but one per cent.; in Sweden, Denmark, Bavaria, Baden, and Wurtemberg, there is practically no one who cannot read and write."

CORRECTED.—An article in the *New York Sun* of a recent date greatly exaggerated the numerical strength of the Roman Catholics in the United States, and made strong claims about their rapid increase. Rev. Dr. Dorchester, who is especially strong in Religious Statistics, shows how absurdly incorrect the *Sun's* statements are. The latter had claimed 12,000,000 Catholics in the country. Dr. Dorchester shows that two leading Catholic Year Books disagree strangely in regard to the number of their people, as well as of their churches, schools &c.; and their he demonstrates that the present Catholic population does not exceed, if it equals, 7,400,000. He also compares two periods of progress, 1856-70 and 1870-86, and shows that Roman Catholic churches were increased 12 per cent more in the latter period than in the former, while evangelical Protestant churches have increased 87 per cent.

Temperance Legislation in Europe

The labor troubles in Belgium, with their strikes and attending poverty, are attracting the notice of all Europe, and many economists have been giving solutions of the existing distress. It is rather interesting says the *Journal* that the need for special temperance legislation has been felt at the present time. Without ostensibly connecting the labor disturbance of Belgium with temperance, the Parliament has given color to the intimate relation of the two factors in social life by recently passing a law for the suppression of public drunkenness. According to the Parliamentary report, there is great need of special action. Belgium, it seems, is surpassed only by Bavaria in the consumption of beer, about 240 quarts a year being credited to each inhabitant, and only by Russia and Denmark in the consumption of spirits, about 50 quarts being consumed a year by each inhabitant. The trade in beer and spirits is perfectly free, and there exists no fixed closing law for public houses. To such an extent are spirituous liquors sold that "in the smaller towns and villages most of the workmen who occupy a small house establish in the basement room, which is at the same time the kitchen and family sitting room, a dram shop, which, in the absence of the owner and his wife, who go to their work, is minded by one of the children." It is not surprising that in five years 1710 alcoholic lunatics or habitual drunkards, of whom 259 were women, should be confined in the lunatic asylums. The new legislation forbids the sale of drink to minors under 16, abolishes the right to sue for public house debts, forbids the sale of drink in disorderly houses, and orders heavy punishment for those who intentionally make others drunk. Although the law is of little value while the sale of liquor remains free, it is interesting in showing the tendency of temperance legislation in Europe.

—It is expected that Mr. Sankey will join Mr. Moody again in evangelistic work in the spring.

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSION SOCIETY.

"Rise up ye women that are at ease." Isaiah 32: 9.

[All contributions for this column should be addressed to Miss Lydia J. Fullerton, Carleton, St. John.]

The Prayer Concert—China.

That person or denomination that engages in Foreign Mission work must be in line with God's arrangement. All one has to do is to open the eyes of their mind, look around, and see proofs of this on every hand. Of course there are some who won't see. Even in this age of christian light and intelligence, there are some strongly opposed to Foreign Missions, but can we not say with David, "Is there not a cause?" One of the ablest mission workers the world knows, recently said,—"As I look into the origin of this and trace it to its source, I have no hesitation in affirming that in every case this has been due to their ignorance of the character, the object, the methods and the results of mission work. Gross ignorance has always been a foe to progress."

If our interest is in proportion to our knowledge, would it not be well for all to engage in this work in a manner that will make us better acquainted with the "firm facts" of years. Would it not be a step in that direction for the F. B. Churches in N. B. to more strictly carry out the Monthly Concert of prayer and observe the "Concert Calendar" for '89 as prepared by Dr. J. L. Phillips. How helpful it would be to the work, and how cheering to the weary workers over the sea, as well as the burden bearers at home, if all the churches which comprise the F. B. denomination would set apart a certain day of each month, (it may be Sunday or it may be the evening of some other day of the week) for the concert of prayer, and thus get at a uniform line of work.

We feel like especially requesting the W. Aux. Societies to do so. No one need have any hesitancy in saying the results of such a step would be wonderful, in awakening more Mission zeal and interest, inasmuch as the light and knowledge we obtain opens our minds and hearts. The subject for Feb. in the Calendar referred to is China. Of course India, and the dear toilers there on the Orissa Mission, claims our interest, efforts, and prayers every time, but would it not do ourselves and the world good, to go out a little farther? How vast is the field before us, how wonderful our opportunities. I think it was Dr. Steele, who said,—"The fate of ages seems to hinge upon the services of these closing years of the 19th Century, who can think unmoved of China's millions,—millions surely, swiftly hastening to a dark and hopeless tomb." It was to this mighty empire with its burden of human souls, that Rev. Judson Collins felt in his heart the burning desire to go. When he told his convictions to a Mission Board in Baltimore, he received the answer that they had no money to organize a new Mission. "Then," wrote back this determined man of God, "engage me a passage before the mast; my own strong arm shall pull me to China, and support one when there." This was too much for the Board and in 1847 they sent him with others to Foochow. At this time the commercial and religious world were entirely shut out from the walled kingdom, as it was always called; but that can be no longer for these barriers are removed. Not only has that wonderful literal wall been scaled, but the stronger wall of superstition, ignorance and heathendom in all its horrors, has given way, and now the man or woman of God can go anywhere through the provinces of this vast empire,—an empire groaning under the pressure of 400,000,000 immortal souls,—with the Bible in their hands, and Salvation's story upon their lips. There, as in other heathen countries the heaviest burdens were heaped upon the women. They were degraded by custom, by ignorance, by vice. Girls were not welcome in the homes, and infanticide prevailed. Such as escaped a terrible death in infancy, were immediately contracted in marriage, and a life of torture and seclusion began.

It is said that nothing in the East calls more loudly for reformation than

the condition of woman and girls in China. Think of the horrible custom of crippling the little girls, and of peddling them about the country as pigs are sold here. The women dare not venture within the sound of the gospel; they were taught they had no soul, while man had three. But amid all this terrible darkness a brighter day dawned to China. Every intelligent reader knows that in the last score of years, the appliances which have been at work have wrought wonderfully in breaking down and building up. The following statement ought to bring joy to the heart of every christian woman who reads it. "A remarkable tribute has just been paid to woman's power and ability by the mandarins of China. The empress dowager has administered the government so well and wisely during her regency of twenty-three years that an invitation has been extended to her to occupy the throne with the emperor for some years." In view of woman's position in China this speaks a great deal. Surely better days are coming to the women of China. May that day hasten that will rescue the daughters alive, do away with child marriage, establish girls' schools, train women for their homes—one step towards training them for Heaven. It is cheering to know that women of Christian America have been active in this great work of attempting the evangelization of 400,000,000 people who give to death more than half their female children. By God's blessing they have lighted such a candle as can never be put out, in establishing female schools, Academies, etc., as well as in helping to support new Mission Stations organized by Mission Boards.

I fear this is too long already for the Mission Column. An historical sketch of "A Ladies China Mission Society" will appear later.

Mrs. F. BABCOCK.

PARLIAMENT.

Sir Richard Cartwright moved the following resolution.

"That it has become a matter of extreme importance to the well being of the people of this Dominion that the government and parliament of Canada should acquire the power of negotiating commercial treaties with foreign states."

"2. That a humble address be presented to Her Majesty praying that she will empower her representative the governor general of Canada, acting by and with advice and consent of the Queen's privy council for Canada, to enter by an agent or representative of Canada into direct communication with any foreign state for the purpose of negotiating commercial arrangements tending to the advantage of Canada, subject to the prior consent or subsequent approval of the parliament of Canada, signified by act."

Sir Richard referred to the introduction of a similar motion seven years ago by Hon. Edward Blake, and contended that many of the excuses and objections then taken had been shown to be unfounded. The facts as we now know them he held completely vindicated the course then taken by Mr. Blake. He was not one of those who looked upon Canada's present condition as a final idea. Canada was now responsible for the good government of the whole of her immense territory. We could look for no material assistance from Great Britain in defending Canada if needed. The only true policy for England to adopt was to impose upon Canada the direct control of all North American affairs. The fact that Canada has to conduct all the communications through the English government makes the United States all the more ready to hurt us for the purpose of affronting England. Hon. George E. Foster said when in 1882 Mr. Blake had a proposition before the house, he asked the power to treat with the other British possessions as with foreign states, and the mover in supporting it had mentioned no foreign states, save the United States of America. Mr. Foster claimed that in matters affecting the colonies, Great Britain had shown an inclination to deal and had dealt more and more liberally with them; and with regard to the making of treaties we had today everything that we would have under the proposed motion, and in addition the prestige of Great Britain, with the weight of her army and navy, if necessary. He held that such a course asked for by the resolution tended to put farther away the union of the empire and to bring nearer the absorption of Canada by the adjoining country. He asked if within recent years there had developed anything of sufficient importance to make it a point of urgency that a change in our relations with the mother country be brought about. Canada's progress from 1867 to the present time had been almost unexampled in the history of the world, and today Canada stood as the foremost colony of the great British life and in a proud position

with relation to the nations of the world. Our position was fortified by the fact that the treaty of 1813, which Canada had enforced, was a treaty made by the British government, and the whole power of the British army and navy was behind Canada to act if necessary in seeing that that treaty was carried out. He reviewed the incidents connected with the negotiation of every treaty attempted of late years to be made with the United States or with other countries where Canada was interested, and showed that in every instance possible, Canadian statesmen had been appointed on the commission and that every practicable benefit that could be got was obtained by the British government. The conduct of Great Britain was now as generous as we could seek it to be. A declaration of independence was but slightly veiled under the motion.

Mr. Davies held that the lack of a Canadian representative at Washington had tended to greatly aggravate the difficulty about the fisheries. He condemned the attitude of Canada on the fisheries business, and held it responsible for the acts of retaliation now being heard of in the United States. He held that if we had the power to make what treaty we pleased all our difficulties with the States would be terminated within two years.

No one else offering to speak the members were called, and the resolution was lost on a division of 66 to 94.

On the item for the civil service examination board Mr. Davies asked if it was intended to continue the examinations next year.

Hon. Geo. E. Foster said the examinations would be continued, because, although there were so many young men who had passed who had not yet entered the service, these had in the main satisfied themselves with other positions, and there were many others eligible for examination.

In the discussion of the appropriation for the administration of justice, Mr. O'Brien called attention to the very insufficient accommodation provided in the supreme court building.

Mr. Davin put in a plea for the judges of the Northwest, for whom he asked an increase.

Mr. Mitchell spoke for the maritime provinces judges.

Mr. Cook took the view that judges were already sufficiently paid.

The subject of prison labor was introduced by Mr. Casey, who contended that while a man was imprisoned he should be compelled to earn his living by labor.

Sir John Thompson said this question had not yet become a problem of any considerable importance, abundance of work being found. They were not manufacturing anything for sale except in the Dorchester penitentiary, where wooden ware was made to put upon the market and sold at regular prices so as not to unfairly compete with similar goods otherwise made.

Mr. Purcell introduced a bill to make provision for the protection of persons employed by contractors of railways. He explained that it was designed to protect workmen from loss through defaulting sub-contractors.

Hon. Mackenzie Bowell informed Mr. Fisenhauer that it was the intention to make a change in the present system of bonding foreign fish.

Mr. Boyle was informed that the value of the entire importations from the United States of green fruits, seeds, trees and other articles placed on free list on 4th April last, had been \$831,399 from that date to first January, 1889. If not upon the free list the amount of revenue collected would have been \$219,636. For the corresponding period of the previous year the value of such importations had been \$598,183. From 4th April, 1889, Canada had exported to the states in value as follows:

Apples.....\$1,315,452

Berries.....80,000

Seeds, grain, etc.....50,000

Balance, \$40,570 for small fruits.

Hon. Geo. E. Foster, in answer, said a contract had not been entered into with a view to securing for Canada a line of rapid steamers to carry the mails by way of the St. Lawrence across the Atlantic ocean, but the government was now engaged in negotiating for such a contract.

Mr. Jamieson's prohibition resolution and amendments thereto were taken up. After speeches by Messrs. Jamieson and McDonald of Huron, the house divided on Taylor's amendment proposing a plebiscite on the question of total prohibition, which was rejected by 85 to 58.

Hon. Mr. Mills (Bothwell) moved a sub-amendment proposing that the question of prohibition be submitted to the people at the next general election.

The house divided on Mr. Mills' amendment which was defeated by 127 to 35.

An amendment moved by Mr. Moncrieff in favor of permitting the sale of wine and beer in Scott Act counties was ruled out of order. The house divided on the amendment moved by Mr. Wood of Brockville, to the effect that a prohibitory law should be passed whenever the country was ready for it. The amendment was carried by 99 to 58.

The house went into committee of supply and took up the estimates for legislation, upon which an unimportant discussion took up the whole afternoon. Hon. David Mills read the statement

appearing in the newspapers that the Canadian vessels seized by the United States in Behring sea in 1887, and which have been held until this time pending negotiations concerning the disputed right of seizure, have been advertised to be sold in March. He asked whether there had been any correspondence with the foreign office on the subject, or if the Canadian government had asked that a cruiser be sent to protect Canadian vessels. He desired to know what representations had been made by the Canadian government.

Hon. C. H. Tupper said a good deal of correspondence had already been brought down. Any request for the rest, he had no doubt, would receive fair consideration.

Hon. Geo. E. Foster informed the house that he would probably deliver his budget speech Tuesday, March 5th.

Temperance Notes.

—Evansville, the second city in size in Indiana, has 350 saloons and three breweries. Sunday is disregarded, and the liquor laws are not enforced.

—In regard to surgical operations, every physician dreads to have anything to do with beer-drinkers. It is dangerous for a beer drinker to even cut his finger.

—Statistics show that on an average every man, woman and child in Belgium, consumes yearly two hundred and forty quarts of beer and thirteen quarts of spirits. This consumption exceeds the average rate of any other country in Europe. The Government of Belgium surely ought to arouse itself, and at once do something to reform the drinking habits of the people.

—A man who kept a liquor saloon in Raleigh, N. C., went to hear Sam Jones in Durham, was convicted and converted, and at once telegraphed to Raleigh: "Close up my saloon; I am done with the business." So any person who has any affinity or touch with the God that cannot look upon iniquity with any degree of favor, will be done with the saloon in every form that shall support or sustain it.

"Whiskey never misses fire," said a man to us the other day. No; it never does. It is sure to bring down its victim sooner or later, whether he be high or low in the social or intellectual scale. And fluttering all about him will always be the wounded hearts of mother, father, wife, children, sisters, brothers, and friends, while beyond and behind all this is too often a trail of ruined virtue and contaminating influences. At least six hearts on an average carry a life-long, overshadowing, dreary sorrow, for every victim alcohol brings down. The undertow of all family and social life is largely silent sorrow and dreary heartache over the victims of alcohol. No; whiskey never misses fire, never.

—Rev. Dr. Howard Crosby says in the *Forum*: It is safe to estimate the receipts of the New York saloons at \$30,000,000 a year, one half of which at least comes from 150,000 men known as "laboring men"—a title which, like that of "working-men," is a misnomer for there are men who work far more in exhausting labor than these do, to whom the title is as appropriate. Poverty is this system, tically manufactured by these vile dens where the communists, anarchists, and other demagogues gather to accuse the rich and industrious of causing the distress of the poor. The destruction of the liquor saloons alone would cure four-fifths of the poverty in the community.

Literary Notes.

The *March Missionary Review* of the World has stolen a march on the other monthlies for the month. Every number comes forth fresh, strong, and full. The leading article in the number is by Dr. Sherwood, on "the City as a Factor in the World's evangelization." It is full of startling facts and statistics and arguments showing the necessity of evangelizing cities in order to the salvation of the country and the world. Dr. Pierson's "Exposition of Missions" and "A Wonderful Work in the West Indies" will be read with interest. Mr. Bliss' criticisms on the gross and stupid assault on missions are trenchant and deserved. "Missions in Equatorial Africa," "The Bondei Mission," and the translation from foreign missionary periodicals, are all valuable. All the departments of the *Review* are full, and the whole a number of interest. The Editorial Notes are rich and suggestive. The extra demand for the *Review* of the current year is so great as to necessitate the reprinting of the January and February numbers. There is also a large demand for the bound volume of 1888. Published by Funk and Wagnalls, 18 & 20 Astor place, New York. \$2 per year; 25 cents for single number. In clubs of ten, \$1.50.

There is in the United States a dog for every three inhabitants. The cost of keeping twenty million dogs is at least \$200,000,000 per annum. The food given to an average dog every year, if fed to chickens, would yield a return of more than \$10. Hightoned dogs are very expensive, their food costing a good deal more than that of some people.