

# Religious Intelligencer.

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

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## A Liberal Offer!!

### A Chance for New Names! Send Them Along!

We want a thousand or more homes which do not now see the INTELLIGENCER to have its visits during the remainder of this year.

We think that after reading it that long, most of them, if not all, will desire to have its visits continued.

To induce a large number to give it this trial, we make this offer:

FOR TWENTY-FIVE CENTS the INTELLIGENCER will be sent to new subscribers from now till January 1st 1890!

There is not a church in the denomination that might not send a list of names; many of them might send scores of names.

We are anxious to have the paper enter every Free Baptist home in the Provinces, and many others too.

This offer gives an excellent chance to introduce it on trial.

Will the ministers and all the friends of the paper use the offer at once and earnestly?

Let us have immediately a list from every community.

### NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

SEND A LIST of trial Subscribers to the INTELLIGENCER.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL Association of Nova Scotia will hold its annual session in Truro, commencing Wednesday, 25th inst. It is expected to be an occasion of more than ordinary interest.

SOME LEADING business men in New York are talking of taking measures to secure, if possible, the repeal of the Anti-Chinese immigration law. Their idea is that the prohibition of Chinese immigration hinders their trade with China. They are not likely to succeed, however.

SOME INCONSIDERATE PERSONS have been offering a prize for the largest number of words written in shorthand upon a postcard, and is thus responsible for a good deal of unnecessary straining of the visual organs on the part of a number of young men and women who have entered into the competition. Thackeray, who was very near-sighted, was wont to amuse himself by writing the Lord's Prayer in a circle no larger than a threepenny piece; and many similar instances of caligraphic compression, both in long-hand and shorthand, are recorded. Postcards have of late years been a favourite medium for this species of contest.

Now that paper and postage are so cheap, it seems cruel to encourage a practice which can only bring injury to a precious faculty, and consume time and labour which might be devoted to better purposes. However, an American stenographer in the employ of a railway company has just beaten the record in these trials, having contrived to write 36,764 words on one side of a postcard, and has thus carried off the prize. The amount of writing represents nearly thirty columns of newspaper, or between four and five hours ordinary public speaking. It is simply appalling to reflect that one is liable to receive such a mass of correspondence on a single postcard. It adds a new terror to life.

BIGOTRY is not dead. The rector of a Norwich (England) parish wrote to the clerical secretary of the local branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society, of which his own bishop is the President, to the following effect:—"Be so good as to send me no more notices of the meetings of a society which encourages schism and heresy, by combining, for spiritual purposes, with those who have cut themselves off from the true branch of the Church in the land, and which tends to increase contempt towards the Holy Scriptures by making them too familiar. If the Bible had never been made cheap, it would have been valued more highly; and as there is an excellent Church Society, S. P. C. K., which provides copies of Holy Writ at reasonable prices, what need is there of Churchmen to support an un-denominational society, upon the platform of those comprising a professed

schismatic, a Baptist, the Sheriff of Norwich, is to preside? It may be interesting to add that this "professed schismatic," the Sheriff of Norwich, was Chairman of the Norwich School Board, President of the Gospel Temperance Union, a life-long teacher in Sunday-schools, and an indefatigable worker in every good cause calculated to raise the people spiritually, intellectually, and materially.

A BOSTON correspondent makes the statement that 3,645 women were arrested for drunkenness in that city last year.

SEVERAL LADIES, chief among them being Mrs. John A. Logan, Mrs. J. Ellen Foster, Miss Kate Sanborn, and Miss Frances E. Willard are contemplating the organization of a joint-stock company, with a capital of \$50,000, for the establishing of a central training-home, where both American and foreign girls will be received, cared for, trained, and homes secured through an intelligence bureau. After that, branch homes in all the large cities will be established. It is to be called the Sunshine Mission.

SOME CLAY TABLETS recently formed at Tel-el-Amarna in Egypt, furnish, says Prof. Sayce, 'solid standing-ground in Egyptian history for the events which issued in the Exodus.' They consist of letters received by Amenophis III. IV from Palestine and other parts of Western Asia in the fifteenth century B. C. They show that Ramses II. was the Pharaoh of the Oppression; that during the latter part, at any rate, of the Eighteenth Dynasty, the Egyptian Court was more than half Semitic, and the governors and officials of the king were for the most part of Semitic descent. This explains the friendliness of the Egyptians towards the early descendants of Abraham. They also show that writing was known in Palestine before the days of the Exodus, and that therefore the earlier records of the Bible need not have been so dependent on tradition as is ordinarily supposed. In fact, Professor Sayce suggests, in his paper in *The Newbury House Magazine*, that the list of Edomite kings in Gen. xxxvi. may have been derived from the cuneiform tablets of some ancient library.

THE EMPEROR OF GERMANY effects deep interest in the welfare of the laboring classes. In a recent interview with a member of the Provincial Council, he declared that the existing laws for the protection of laborers in Prussia were deplorable. They were insufficient, he said, to protect the workmen from the greed of capitalists, and reform was urgently necessary.

A MISSIONARY ON THE CONGO writes that famine is stalking through the land, and that two-thirds of the people are in danger of dying for want of food.

SPAIN is generally supposed to be the most devoted Roman Catholic country in Europe. Whenever the probability of the Pope's leaving Rome is discussed, Spain is mentioned as his next residence. A movement has been started among some of the faithful for the purpose of securing the proper accommodation. But something must have changed the old-time faithfulness of the Spaniards, if the latest news concerning this movement is to be credited. The Spanish Government has ordered the governors of provinces to cease countenancing any efforts to induce the Pope to come into the country. This will be a general surprise, even if it be shown that, in this instance, political reasons were stronger than religious devotion.

THE HONOUR of being the 'oldest and smallest sect in the world' is claimed for the Samaritans of Nablous, the ancient Shechem. They still worship according to the rites in use at the time of the Babylonian exile. Beyond their history goes back to Abraham's settlement at Shechem. They state that their copy of the Pentateuch was written by Aaron's grandson, and that it is the oldest in existence; but Dr. John F. Hurst describes it in *Harper's Magazine*, from personal examination, as containing evidence of comparatively recent origin.

### A Living Death.

Robben Island is a place about three miles in diameter, close to Cape Town,

where the Cape Government keeps some 30 convicts, 230 lunatics, and 130 lepers, with a staff of police and ward-masters to look after them. A visitor who recently inspected this 'island of desolation' gives, in the current number of *Blackwood*, a harrowing description of the condition in which he found the lepers. They were housed in the foul wards of two crazy buildings styled a hospital, without the washhouses and other sanitary appliances which are doubly necessary for those suffering from so terrible a disease as leprosy. 'The patients must needs mop their poor diseased bodies out of buckets by their bedsides,' says the writer of the article, and 'a very disgusting sight it was.' One of the leper-attendants—for they are invariably taken from other patients who are in an elementary stage of the disease—begged the visitor to 'write something in the newspapers explaining how miserable we are,' and added, 'we have nobody to speak for us. I am scarcely at all ill, yet I am compelled to remain here. My wife and children are on the mainland. I have not seen them for years. Indeed I am unhappy—ah, so unhappy!' and the man's voice quivered as he clenched his hands in all the despair and abandonment of woe. The writer of the article says he could not refrain from shaking hands with this leper in order to cheer him, although he had just been told by the doctor of the undoubted contagious disease. The Cape authorities should certainly be roused to provide something better than this vile lazar-house for the unhappy creatures who have been stricken with leprosy, and for the security of the rest of the community are kept on Robben Island. There are two resident clergymen, but neither is apparently a Father Damien, or these discreditable conditions would probably have been long ago altered.

### The Slave Trade.

A dispatch from London gives extracts from letters of African missionaries concerning the effect of the international blockade on the east coast of Africa. The blockade has prevented the export of slaves, but it has not diminished the slave traffic in the interior. Mr. Robson, of the Church Missionary Society, writes from Mombasa, near the coast, north of Zanzibar: "If the blockade is preventing the transportation of slaves in boats it has not arrested the trade. The crimes committed by the Arabs in the interior are worse than ever. No longer able to export the Negroes, they drag them far north by land, and scarcely one in ten slaves reaches his destination. Many of the slave bands that are passing north through this country come from the Makua district east of Lake Nyassa. By the time they reach this region they have traveled several hundred miles."

Father Bridoux, a Roman Catholic missionary, writes from the southeast coast of Lake Tanganyika that on his journey from the Mpwapa to the lake he had passed many caravans of slaves, who were, for the most living skeletons. In spite of their miserable condition the men wore the slave fork on their shoulders, while the women were fastened together in long lines by chains. All the children who could walk bore burdens in proportion to their size. Father Bridoux tells terrible stories of finding wretched captives who, overcome by weakness, had been left to die along the route, and who were still alive when he saw them.

The Comoro Islands, south of Zanzibar and Madagascar, have in the past been the destination of many thousands of slaves captured by the Arabs on the mainland. The Sultan Abdallah of the Comoros has now, under the influence of Dr. Omeries, the French Resident at his capital, issued a proclamation abolishing slavery in his islands. He forbids the purchase and sale of slaves, and announces that any person landing on the Comoros shall be free, whatever his previous condition. There are about 25,000 slaves in the Comoros who have been brought from the mainland. On March 8th the Queen of Madagascar issued a proclamation to her people, in which she says that all slaves who are landed on her dominions shall be free when they touch her soil. "If the natives of Africa," says the Queen, "are brought across the sea, and introduced into any part of Madagascar to be slaves, they shall not be slaves but free subjects."

### Prohibition not a Modern Idea.

As early as 1759, Lord Chesterfield made a speech in the House of Lords on the subject of prohibition, as radical in favor of the principle as anything that has since appeared. A few brief extracts will make the fact perfectly apparent. Please bear in mind that this was in a British Parliament one hundred and forty years ago.

"Luxury," he says "is to be taxed, but vice prohibited, let the difficulty be what it will. Would you lay a tax on a breach of the Ten Commandments? Would it not imply an indulgence to all those who could pay the tax? The use of those things which are hurtful in their own nature are to be prohibited. Vice is not properly to be taxed, but suppressed."

"The trade of distilling is very extensive, it employs great numbers, and distillers have arrived at exquisite skill, and therefore the trade is not to be discouraged! Allow me to wonder at the different conceptions of different understandings. Since the spirit which the distillers produce is allowed to enfeeble the limbs, vitiate the blood, pervert the heart, and obscure intellect, the number of distillers should be no argument in their favor, for I never heard that a law against theft was repealed or delayed because thieves were numerous."

"It appears to me that really, if so formidable a body are confederate against the virtue or the lives of their fellow-citizens, it is time to put an end to the havoc, and to interpose while it is yet in our power to stop the destruction. If their liquors are so delicious and the people are tempted to their own destruction, let us, at least, secure them from their fatal draught by bursting the vials that contain them. Let us crush at once these artists in human slaughter, who have reconciled their countrymen to sickness and ruin, and spread over the pit-falls of debauchery such a bait as cannot be resisted."

Nearly one hundred and fifty years have now elapsed since a British statesman gave public expression to such views on the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors; and who shall say that they are not in accordance with common sense? And yet neither in England nor the United States have they been generally received by those who profess regard for the common weal, at least to the extent of seriously attempting to 'crush at once those artists [the rum-sellers] of human slaughter.'"

When will our statesmen cease from "straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel?" But the time is surely coming when such plain speech as that of Chesterfield will be frequently heard in our halls of legislation, and its fruit be seen, as the time not long since came for the utterance of similar sentiments prior to the overthrow of slavery.

### Recognizing People.

Ambrose, the well-known contributor to the New York *Evangelist*, has a thoughtful paper on the ability of ministers to recognize people whom they may have met, probably only once or twice and in different places. He says:

But ministers are often mortified to find themselves at a loss to recall names, even when they know the faces. Nor is this a mere result of the hebetude of age. It troubles many a young man. It is sometimes a personal defect, but in degree is a product of his profession. If he is a studious man, he is liable to give more time to the study of themes and books, than of persons. His thinking is concentrated on sermons and addresses. And even upon the street some men do a considerable amount of thinking. And if, while pursuing a thought, his chase is interrupted by a stranger met once somewhere, and who thinks that as he or she needs no more than one brief interview to know the minister, the minister needs no more of opportunity to know the stranger. The effect of a little absent-mindedness in such a case is to produce a chill, which much subsequent warmth is required to thaw out.

On which the *Canada Presbyterian* says:

A minister given to much writing is unfortunately as likely to compose in his bed or on the street as in his study and some of them do. Close thinkers of all professions are liable to fall into the habit of working in unlikely places. Not long ago one of the most learned and brilliant judges on the Ontario Bench was seen walking backward and forward on the platform of a city railway station audibly discussing with himself a point of law. He was so intensely interested in the discussion that he would not have seen his mother had she met him. But supposing a minister has not allowed himself to fall into the habit of thinking out subjects in public places there may be other and perfectly valid

reasons why he cannot stop and talk to people on the street. He may be hurrying to pray with a dying parishoner. He may be starting out to make more calls than he has time to overtake. He may have an appointment to meet some one in a few minutes. He may be going to a prayer meeting or any one of a score of places where duty calls. Most of the people who want to stand and talk for ten minutes have nothing to do and are diligently doing it. Is it reasonable or right to expect one who is doing the Lord's work to stop and help them?

### Jewish Missions.

Work among the Jews has always presented peculiar difficulties, owing to race prejudice; but in proportion to the number of laborers and the means employed, no evangelistic work yields better results. There are several societies in England and on the Continent carrying on missionary work among the children of Israel. The Mildmay Mission to the Jews has thirty agents at work, and expends annually about twenty-five thousands dollars. Every branch and department of the work is receiving blessing from God. The great need at present in London is a Mission Hall, and about half the estimated cost of one is already pledged. In Russia, while great obstacles exist to evangelical work among the population generally, the door is remarkably open among the Jews, who seem very eager to obtain the Word, and wonderfully accessible to the missionary effort. Hungary is at present the scene of an interesting work under Rabbi Lichtenstein, similar to that which has been going on for some years in Southern Russia under the lead of the well-known Rabinowitz. God seems working in a marvellous manner. In one city, where two-thirds of the people are Jews, a club meets weekly for the study of the New Testament, to see if Jesus really were the Messiah. The leading man among them is reported as having already avowed his faith, and several Rabbis are convinced. In Morocco, where there are 400,000 Jews, a missionary is laboring, with many signs of encouragement. The number of Jews in North Africa is estimated at one million. A very interesting incident is related connected with the work in Kabyle. An Israelite named Eli, with his wife, had been converted through reading the Hebrew New Testament. They had a nephew named Amram, living some miles away, who had been led to inquire after the truth. One night in a dream, Amram saw two strangers with his uncle reading a book. The dream so impressed him that he at once made a visit to his uncle, where he found the missionary and his wife engaged with his uncle in studying the gospel. His heart opened to receive Jesus as the Christ, and Amram and Eli are now laboring together for the salvation of their fellow countrymen.

France, Spain and Gibraltar are also places where there are many Jews, and where there has been recently much encouragement. There seems to be a remarkable movement going on in Europe, especially in the house of Israel, a shaking among the dry bones. The fig tree seems to be putting forth its leaves, a sure indication that "summer is nigh, even at the doors." There are everywhere renewed life and activity, many Jews are going to Palestine, and that country appears as if likely to become as populous and enterprising as in ancient times. It seems evident that we are on the eve of great events as relates to God's chosen people.—*Watchman*.

### Edison's Ideas.

Mr. Edison has submitted to be interviewed in Paris by a representative of *The Pall Mall Gazette*. He said eighty of his ore-extracting machines are already at work in the iron mines, and he is studying how to adapt them to the getting of refractory gold and silver. His far-seeing machine is 'getting on very nicely.' In a city, he thinks, it will be of practical use, but it is absurd to talk of its enabling one to see another ten thousand miles away. Eighteen hundred phonographs are already in practical use, and the factory is turning out forty per day. He has made the model of a small 'pocket' phonograph which will take three hundred words. He had seen that morning in the Exhibition a tool which would save him six

thousand dollars a year. It was a chisel worked by hydraulic pressure. He should order some, and they would save the labour of eighteen hands. Mr. Edison finds four hours' sleep enough for him, and works the other twenty. He pronounces the words 'work' and 'working,' says the interviewer, like some do 'prayer' and 'religion.' He smokes about twenty cigars a day, which do not hurt him—the more he works, the more he smokes. New York, he thinks, could beat the Eiffel Tower by a hundred per cent. Is a thought-reading machine possible? asked the interviewer. 'Such a machine is possible,' was the reply, 'but if it were invented every man would flee his neighbour.' Was the inventor 'chaffing' the journalist? Mr. Edison is indignant at the application of electricity to executions. He would kill nobody. 'Put them away to work, but don't kill them.' He is highly amused at having been decorated with the rank of 'Grand Officer of the Crown of Italy,' which constitutes him Count Edison. 'This must not be known in New York,' he said. 'They would never stop laughing at my illustrious self.'

### Chinese Preachers.

In a late number of the *Independent*, Joaquin Miller, writing concerning the city of Portland, Oregon, says:

I find more Chinese here than in any other city I ever saw this side 'the Flowery Kingdom.' They are of course, all at work. In every street and on every block you see them splitting wood as you pass up and down. The Chinese have almost an entire street here all their own, and it is in a very active and prosperous part of the city.

Yesterday I saw a singular spectacle; three Chinese preachers, in full Chinese dress, stood out in the middle of the street and preached and sang to their countrymen as they plied their various trades and sold their various wares to passing customers.

The Chinese preachers had Bibles and hymn-books in their hands, translated into the Chinese tongue, of course, and from these they read and sang. So far as I could find out they were itinerant Methodist preachers. I had no time to wait till the conclusion of the service, and to my regret when I got back the good men were gone. Inquiry could get no satisfactory answer as to what denomination they belonged to or who paid them for their work. The two Chinese brothers, who insisted on my tasting a cut of their roast pig, did not respond at all to my inquiry after the preachers, and as I have only the bare fact to set down: three Chinese Christians are singing hymns and preaching and reading the Bible in the busy city of Portland, Oregon.

### An Illustration.

While the discussion is going on as to the prohibitory method of dealing with the liquor traffic, the children and young people in prohibitory States are, to a large extent, growing up free from the saloon contamination to which so many fall victims in licensed liquor-selling communities. Not long ago an eight-year-old boy, the son of a prominent official in Kansas, paid a visit to relatives in Pittsburgh, Pa. He made a continuous journey from his Kansas home, where he had never seen a liquor-saloon, to Pittsburgh. Soon after his arrival, on going out for a walk in the streets of that city, and passing the liquor-saloons, with their screened windows and other characteristic appointments, he inquired with much curiosity of his uncle: "What kind of shops are these?" He had never seen such in his own city in Kansas. What a saving of the boyhood and girlhood of the nation it would be indeed if, as completely as from Kansas' the liquor-saloon could be banished everywhere.—*Temp. Adv.*

### Among Exchanges.

#### DIDN'T KNOW IT.

A clergyman was boasting the other day that he had "built his church on a tireless old head." "I didn't know that the city authorities permitted the erection of wooden buildings," was the reply.

#### IT WON'T MEND MATTERS.

Other people's tongues will make you miserable, but it will not mend matters for your tongue to make them miserable.—*Home Journal*.

#### WANTED TO BE A REPORTER.

Mrs. G. asked what her husband did for a living. "Oh," said Mrs. N., "he is a reporter." "What's that?" "Why, he goes all about town finding out things about people, and then he prints it in the newspapers. He earns \$20 a week." "Oh, dear! Do you mean to tell me that people get paid for that, and I never knew it?" screamed Mrs. G., as she took up her bonnet and rushed off to a newspaper office as fast as she could go.