

Religious Intelligencer.

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

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WHOLE No. 1824

FEBRUARY RENEWALS.

January renewals were numerous. We thank them all. Their promptness, and also the hearty words of commendation of the paper by many of them, were greatly encouraging.

February should bring us an equal number. A good many due the first of the year have not yet been received. From all these, as well as from those falling due now, we hope to receive during this month.

We do not want to part with a single subscriber. We trust all present readers desire to read the "Intelligencer" during 1889.

Prompt renewals from all will be regarded a great favour.

Send by the next mail if possible.

Make February even better than January.

Now is the time. Do not delay.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS

JUST LIKE THEM.—Recently Canon Taylor published an article attacking in a most unfair way Foreign Missions. The Salvation Army people have had the attack reprinted in large numbers and are circulating it widely. How like them to attack the christian work and workers of standing repute, in the hope of building up their own peculiar system. All trustworthy testimony is to the effect that "the operations of the 'S. A.' in India are still only evil in their results. Their ways are largely the foolish ways of heathen fakers and other agents of heathenism."

LEPERS.—The colony of lepers in the Sandwich Islands, of which Father Damien has charge, consists of about 1,150 people. They are each allowed a pound of meat and three pounds of peas daily. A small steamer lands fresh cases every week, and a new arrival often finds relatives in the colony. Rev. M. Comardy, who went out to assist Father Damien, writes that the Father cannot live long, as leprosy has done its work at his ears, eyes, nose, throat, hands, and lungs. The two live together in spite of the dreadful odour of the disease. Some of the lepers wither away and dry up completely, while others are completely covered with thick scales, and are horrible to look at. In many cases their feet fall to pieces, and an Irish leper who is the only mason there, has one foot very bad, but is still working at a new church. The lepers seldom survive more than five years. Mr. Comardy has not taken the disease yet, and he cannot tell whether precautions will avail him; but he has no wish to return to Europe. "My mission is here," he says, "and here I'll remain."

TRADE WITH AFRICA.—The Missionary Herald says that British trade with Africa is estimated to be worth about \$125,000,000 annually, while that of France is about \$100,000,000. The commerce of Germany with the great continent is as yet insignificant. The total value of exports and imports of Africa is estimated at \$375,000,000 annually. An enormous sum truly. What a field for commercial enterprise the Great Continent is! And what a field for missionary enterprise!

"ECONOMITES."—There is a community of peculiar people on the Ohio river, about twenty miles below Pittsburgh, known as "Economites." Their village is called Economy. They resemble the Shakers in many respects, although not so extravagant in their views of social life and duty. They

have occupied this site for many years, and as land has increased in value with the progress of the country they have become very wealthy. As their wealth has increased their numbers have diminished, until only a few remain to represent the peculiar social opinions of the original Economites. The oldest of these is Jacob Henrici, who is eighty-five. He manages the finances of the community of which he is the official leader and head, and is highly respected in business and financial circles.

MUSCAT ARABS.—Of the Arabs, frequently mentioned in the papers, who carry on the slave trade and traffic in ivory in Africa, and who are leaders in resisting European encroachment, particularly on the eastern coast, Zion's Herald says:

They are not to be confounded with the natives; they do not belong to the soil. They are Muscat Arabs, who visit the Dark Continent solely to enrich themselves, after which they return to their homes in Oman. They are keen, alert, cultivated, fanatical. They claim, too, prior rights over those of any European country, Portugal excepted. A century ago their Inuam conquered the east coast and wrested Zanzibar from the Portuguese. Until quite recently travelers had no fault to find with them. Even the missionaries praised them. Their superior intelligence and manners were felt to be a grateful relief amid the oppressive barbarism of the natives. Without their pioneering enterprise and aid, Central Africa would scarcely be known to-day. They penetrated to the great lakes and opened their marts of trade at Ujiji and Niangwe.

A COMPARISON.—One would expect from the great membership and wealth which the established church has in Great Britain that it would give more for the spread of the Gospel than all others. But a comparison of statistics shows that such is not the case. In the last full fiscal year, the total amount given to foreign missions, through the Church of England societies, was \$2,300,000, in round numbers; through Nonconformist societies in England and Wales \$1,800,000; through joint societies of Nonconformists and Episcopalians, \$9,000; through Scotch and Irish Presbyterian societies, \$1,000,000; through Roman Catholic \$50,000. The Presbyterians and the Nonconformists, as a whole, are making long leaps toward the front in the work of evangelizing the world.

CHILD INSURANCE.—It is stated in the *Child's Guardian* that the British Government is giving serious consideration to the system of insuring the lives of children. In England to-day more than a million and a half of children are insured. In Manchester during the last three years inquiries were held on 882 children, and of these, 452 were admittedly insured. The practice of insurance seems to be increasing, for last year the percentage of insured children on whom inquiries were held was sixty-two, while in the previous year it was fifty-two. Of course, it is not asserted that all parents who insure their children have murderous intentions in view; the argument is, that the system puts an immense temptation in the way of the vicious.

REPEAL, A MISTAKE.—Several counties in Ontario and at least one in Nova Scotia are soon to vote on the question of repeal of the C. T. Act. Temperance voters are being persuaded that they will promote the cause by repealing the law. They should hesitate about making such a grievous blunder. A correspondent of the *Montreal Witness* says:

The counties that have repealed the Scott Act now find to their dismay that the fine promises that were made by the liquor sellers, are "a mockery, a delusion and a snare," and that in repealing the Act they have committed "a blunder that is worse than a crime." With such sad examples before us let us not be such fools as to walk into the trap these men have set for us. The same writer well says: The best of man-made laws are imperfect, but some are far worse than others; the Scott Act is imperfect, but the License Act is far worse; instead of prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors as the Scott Act does, the License Act opens the floodgates of evil, it means open bar-rooms, the ruinous trading system, the sacrificing of our boys to the insatiable greed of liquor sellers, and surrendering our own happiness and that of our families and homes to the indifference and heartlessness of men, who, to make money, are reckless as to the wreck and ruin that are sure to result from a licensed liquor traffic.

The Destiny of the New Africa.

There have been many striking testimonies as to the commercial importance of the newly discovered portions of Africa, and as to the crisis in its evangelization by the missionaries of Protestantism. So great, and yet so vague and complex, are the interests forced upon the attention of the world by the recent developments of discovery and colonization in Africa, that it needs much thought to gain a bare outline of them. The explorer, the colonist, the trader, and the missionary are all busily at work there; but we have been used to the presentation of isolated results of their work rather than to a general idea of its magnitude for future possibilities. Accordingly we have reason to be grateful for the valuable series of articles by Dr. Lansing Taylor, in the *Methodist Review*, in which an apt summary of the facts and their implications is given.

Geographically speaking, the New Africa extends from the southern border of the Great Sahara desert and Abyssinia to the Kalahari desert of South Africa. The great river basins included in this immense tract, which is more than half the continent, are those of the Upper Nile, the Niger, the Zambesi, and the Congo. The great central Soudan region is also included in it. Dr. Taylor sums up the natural resources of this vast region in the following words: "The entire central region of Africa—the region drained by the Upper Nile, the Logon-Shary, the Niger-Benue, the Zambesi, and the three-fold Congo—is the vastest, best watered, most fertile, most accessible, most populous, richest in resources, most promising for future greatness, of all the uncivilized regions on the globe; and far more so than many regions now civilized and famous originally were. The New Africa is the seat of the coming New World of the Eastern Hemisphere, or, at any rate, is physically capable of being such."

When we come to consider the number and quality of the population, some idea may be gained of the political and religious problems involved. Between the limits mentioned there are over 150,000,000 of people; "not like the prehistoric Europeans, the American Indians, or the Australians, so intractable and constitutionally savage that their only possible destiny in the presence of superior races is to be 'civilized off from the face of the earth,' but races capable of rapidly forming a part—and, when Christianized, the main part—of a great, new, and powerful race-dominion over at least their own continent." Among this vast population Mohammedanism has been at work, and has set, as far as possible, the seal of its bigotry and fatalism upon it. Especially among the Soudanese the foothold of Islam is firmly fixed. Its contact with the pagan religion has been a powerful and stimulating one, its patronage has released some of the enslaved tribes from their oppressors; but any benefits resulting to the natives have been lost in the fanaticism and stagnation inherent in the dominant religion, and impressed upon the character of its votaries. Hence, Christianity will have to make its way against a faith which deems extermination by the sword to be the pre-destined end of its opponents—a faith which will not stop at any scruple or impediment in order to secure that end. The shameful admission must be made that under color of Christian civilization the rum traffic has gained a foothold, and has been incorporated with the settled trading policy of some commercial companies, although others have repudiated it. From foes without and within, the future religious progress of the New Africa finds much besetment; but the missionaries have made the truth known in influential places, and there is great hope in the outlook. Bishop Taylor's missions, the black Bishop Crowther's work at the Niger-Benue junction, the mission field in Uganda and on the Nyassa, and the growing Baptist missions on the Congo—all these successes point to permanent progress. Some of the leading chiefs have heartily joined with the missionaries in the plans of evangelization, having been convinced of the great benefits resulting from mission work. Besides, the fact that the people of the great Congo basin are natural traders and keenly desirous of commercial intercourse, will greatly facilitate their truthful presentation of Christian-

ity by the Europeans with whom they come in contact. The political influence of Islam will be weakened under pressure of the extending commerce and superior colonizing methods now at work, and its religious hold on the population will be relaxed by its political decline. There are great and populous districts where Moslem opposition is unknown, and in which Protestant missionaries have established a strong and growing influence. The great powers of Europe are placing immense tracts of the New Africa under their protection, thus making the future extension of Mohammedanism impracticable. If Christian evangelization be left free to work the regeneration of these peoples, a civilization of great richness and splendor, strong in the elements of permanent greatness, will be the outcome.—*Guardian*.

Things About Town.

—The C. T. Act cases are the chief topic just now.

—The lecture on "Wellington and Waterloo" by Rev. L. G. Macneill, in the Kirk is highly spoken of.

—The expenses of the Short Line delegates to Ottawa were \$170.

—Coleman, Edwards, Manzer, Grievies, Crangle and Smiler are the gang of law-breakers now on trial in the Police Court. If justice is done they will be sent to jail. None more deserve it.

—Mr. Burton C. Foster has been appointed Principal of the High School in place of Mr. Parkin, resigned. It is a good appointment. Mr. Jas. Palmer, now of Chatham, was appointed second teacher in room of Mr. Foster.

—The severance of Mr. Parkin's connection with the High School was evidently quite a trial to him, and it is certainly regretted by the students, his fellow teachers and the citizens generally. He will be long and gratefully remembered by the many classes of students who have been under his instruction. And they and all his friends wish him large success in the important mission he has now undertaken.

General Religious News.

—The Rev. Sam Jones has gone to California to hold revival meetings.

—There are now about forty places in Connecticut where religious services are held by the Swedes.

—The Rev. Anthony Swensson, of Detroit, is the first Swede to become a Roman Catholic priest since the reformation. Out of a population of 6,000,000 Sweden has only 2,000 Roman Catholics.

—Philadelphia has 653 places of religious worship. Allowing the average seating capacity of these places of worship to be 1,000, there are church-accommodations for 653,000 people in a city of at least 1,000,000 inhabitants.

—The Brotherhood on the Sea is the name of a new Lutheran society of 200 Norwegian sea captains, who pledge themselves to have regular services on board, and to conduct everything on board and on shore in the fear of God.

—It was stated at a recent Convention of Colored Catholics in Washington that there are twenty colored Catholic churches in the United States, each one of these having a school annexed; besides 65 colored Catholic schools, 8 orphan asylums and three reformatories. The Catholic hospitals, homes for the poor, etc., are open to both colored and white children. About 5,000 children are taught in the schools, and 300 children cared for in the asylums.

SEED CATALOGUE.—We have just received the Seed Catalogue issued by The Steele Bros. Co. Toronto. It contains description and prices of everything in seeds, roses, climbing vines, flowering bulbs and grapes. New and rare novelties in flower, vegetable and field seeds occupy a large portion of the work. This firm have an immense establishment, employing 100 hands, and do business from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Send your address for a catalogue, they are mailed free.

JOURNALISTIC.—The *Bulletin* claiming to be the organ of the new Third Party in Canada, has been received. It says that soon a weekly edition will be issued. . . . The *Messenger* of Indiana, organ of the General Baptists, has been enlarged. We are glad to notice this sign of prosperity. The *Messenger* ought to have a large support.

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.]

RAMABAI.

The little Hindoo maiden heard a voice amid the lull Of singing streams and rustling leaves, In groves of Gungamul; It swept along the mountain wind down to the western sea,— Heaven whispering to the listening earth, "Truth like the air, is free!"

That word had winged her father's feet from fettering caste away To give his fledgelings liberty for flight in ampler day Than Manu's cage-like code allowed; and so the maiden grew To reach the thought and insight clear no dim zenana knew.

Child of the lone Ghaut Mts! flower of India's wilderness! She knows that God unsealed her lips, her sisters dumb to bless; Gave her the clues to lead them forth from where they blindly grope; Bade her unlock their dungeon doors, and light the lamps of hope.

Bravest of Hindoo widows! how dare we look at thee, So fearless in love's liberty, and say that we are free! We who have heard the voice of Christ; and yet remain the slaves

Of indolence and selfishness, immured in living graves!

O Ramabai, may we not share thy task almost divine? Thy cause is womanhood's is Christ's own work, no less than thine, The Power that unseals sepulchres will move thy little hand! The stone rolls back; they rise,—they breathe! the women of thy land! LUCY LARCOM.

The Bundle Meeting.

They sat down together, three of them, and the meeting began. Mrs. James read the Scriptures; Mrs. Ellis offered prayer; Mrs. Finn read a report of the last meeting; then they began to discuss whether it was worth while to continue their organization. Mrs. James's face wore a determined look as she said, "When I united with the Woman's Missionary Society I joined for life. I have nothing to say about giving up, but I will discuss the question as to how to excite more interest."

A few Sundays after, everybody looked, with open-eyed wonder, when the notice of the W. M. S. was read, with this announcement: "Each lady is requested to bring with her a package of something, which will be used in adding interest to the meeting. Many were the queries as to what the 'something' meant; but the three women kept their secret well, simply saying, 'Bring anything you please.'"

On Wednesday afternoon, twenty-five women found time to attend the meeting of the W. M. S. Each lady was requested to retain her package. After the opening exercises, the secretary distributed "Helpers" enough so that every two persons had one, and an exercise from "Helpers for monthly meetings" was conducted by the president. Then Mrs. Finn was requested to take charge of the bundle exercise. At her request Mrs. Lane opened her bundle, which contained white beans.

Do beans grow in any part of our mission field in India? Mrs. Lane did not know! "Will you be kind enough to find out and report at the next meeting?" Mrs. Lane would try. Mrs. Hart's opened bundle revealed a package of calico. "Are prints manufactured or worn by natives of India?" asked Mrs. Finn. Mrs. Hart could not tell but promised to learn before the next meeting.

(Continued in our next.)

Oh, do not deem that it matters not How you live your life below, It matters much to the heedless crowd That you see go to and fro; For all that is noble high and good Has an influence on the rest, And the world is better for every one Who is living at her best.

A REQUEST.—Will the District Secretaries of the W. For. Miss. Dis. Societies please favor me with their P. O. addresses by Post Card.

MRS. F. BABCOCK, North Head, Grand Manan.

Missionary News and Notes.

—Any brother, clerical or lay, in the Moravian church, is expected to hold himself in readiness to respond to a call to foreign missionary work at any time.

—The first printing ever done in New Guinea has just been put out by the mission on Murray Island. So again are missions the pioneer of civilization.

—One thousand converts were baptized last year in the American Baptist Mission at Onyola, India, under the care of Dr. J. E. Clough.

—Christians, while giving to all useful, benevolent and philanthropic objects, should give precedence to the claims of religion, and the extension of Christ's cause in the earth.

—Two hundred and thirty four were baptized into the Baptist churches in Russia last year. In spite of persecution the work prospers greatly.

—Miss Carter, of Japan, tells of a kindly Christian Japanese woman who came to her with a girl-baby which she had found in a ditch, where it had been left by its father, as thousands of others have been thrown, because it was "only a girl." In begging the Christian lady to take and care for the naked child covered with mud, the poor woman said: "Please do take little baby, your God is the only God that teaches to be good to little children."

—When Dr. Morrison sailed for China forty years ago to carry the Gospel to that hoary land, the captain of the vessel asked him sneeringly, "Do you think that you can make an impression on the 400,000,000 of Chinese?" "No," answered the heroic missionary, "but God can." In one of the first audiences before which Dr. Morrison spoke were two or three Chinese, locked in an inner room at the peril of their lives. Now there are in China 50,000 converts.

Three Requests.

1. Let every subscriber carefully read this issue of the *Intelligencer*, and then show the paper to some neighbor who does not take it, and ask him to subscribe.

2. Let every minister arrange for a complete canvass of his circuit, so that every family of every congregation may have the paper offered to them. Where the minister cannot do this personally, let him appoint some suitable person to do it.

3. Let the benefit and duty of subscribing for our denominational paper be mentioned in every congregation, and all reasonable efforts put forth to obtain new subscribers, and secure the renewal of old ones.

GOLDEN WEDDING.—Mr. and Mrs. George Williams of Spring St. Portland celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding on the 21st January. The friends who met with them passed a very enjoyable evening. Brother and Sister Williams are two of the oldest members of the F. C. B. Church of St. John. Sister Williams is the only surviving one of the original seven who constituted the Waterloo St. Church. They have also taken the *RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER* since its first issue. We wish them many happy returns of their wedding day.

Denominational Notices.

FOREIGN MISSION FUND

Rec'd from,
Ch. Tracy Mills C. Co. \$7 00
Ch. Knoxford 3 50
Thos. O'Donnell Esq. 1 00
M. C. McDonald M. D. 2 00
Allen Schofield 5 00
WM. PETERS, Treas.

Note:—Friends will please send in the collections. A payment is nearly due.—W. P.

NOTICE.

Pursuant to the action of the Executive of the Free Baptist General Conference of Nova Scotia, there will be a special meeting of said Conference held at the Temple Church, Barrington, Shelburne County, on Wednesday 6th of March next, at 10 O'clock A. M., for the purpose of examination and ordaining Bro. A. G. Jones of Halifax, and other business that may duly come before that body.

J. I. PORTER, Clerk, of Conference, Feb. 7th, 1889.