

Religious Intelligencer.

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

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WHOLE No. 1888

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

THE SCOTCH-IRISH SOCIETY, which was organized last year, is to hold its meeting this year in Pittsburgh, Pa., on the 29-31 of this month.

CROWFOOT, chief of the Blackfoot Indians, is dead. His death occurred a few weeks ago. He was the most prominent Canadian Indian of this generation, and had great influence over his people. He was always friendly to the whites, and during the Northwest rebellion kept his tribe loyal notwithstanding strong inducements were held out to him by the rebel leaders.

THE MOHAMMEDAN MAHDI is said to have resolved to drive the rum-sellers out of Africa, so deeply incensed are they by the evils wrought by the introduction of intoxicants into the country. While this is to be commended, it is to be hoped, says the "Guardian," that the new crusade against rum so will occupy the Mahdists' time and energies, that they will have to abstain for a season from their brutal slave raids. After they have driven liquor out of Africa, in the name of Mohammed, it will be in order for some power to take up the work of driving out the Mahdists in the name of humanity.

STANLEY tells of a dwarf tribe of the African forest with which he became acquainted during his last expedition. He seems to be much interested in them. He says they are the oldest aristocracy in the world, with institutions dating back fifty centuries. They are ruled by a queen—a beautiful, charming little woman, who was exceptionally kind to Stanley and his comrades. He intended to bring her to Europe along with other dwarfs, but she was so ill on the road that she had to be sent back, and the others died when they emerged from the forest to the plains. There are numerous photographs of them, however, and Stanley makes the queen a conspicuous figure in his book. The dwarfs are of olive complexion, remarkably intelligent, ingenious artificers in iron and ivory, and probably the only monogamous race in Africa.

BEGGARS sometimes become rich. The richest one of the "profession" known in the United States is one called "Blind Johnny" of Philadelphia. He is 60 years of age, and is worth about \$20,000. He travels from Chicago to Washington, from there to Baltimore, and ends up in Philadelphia, spending about three months in each city. He has made all his money begging.

RATS are running riot in the St. John Post Office. The *Globe* says that at the present season, when large packages of seeds are coming and going through the parcel post, they are especially bold and have made sad havoc with any packages left in the office over night. They have even been known to crawl into the general letter boxes and steal sweetmeats, wedding cake and other goods from them. During the day they are never seen, but at night they grow bold and it is stated that on one occasion the night clerk woke and saw several hundred in the room with him. The rodents gnaw through the woodwork and it is impossible to keep them out. They have even eaten their way through a quarter-inch of lead sheathing.

QUEEN VICTORIA's health is reported very unsatisfactory. A recent despatch says, Her majesty's visit to Aix-les-Bains, whither she went for the cure of persistent acute inflammation of the muscles of the leg, has been in vain, although the English papers report great improvement. She is unable to walk, and is assisted in and out of her carriage. She is very ill and weak, and is suffering from incurable dropsy, which is only prevented from taking a malignant form by the highest medical skill and the greatest precaution.

MANY MOORMONS when they give up Mormonism become atheists, it is said. They have been taught to regard the "revelations" of Joseph Smith as of a higher authority than the Bible, and when they live up these they declare that they are "done with all religions."

THE TREASURY VAULTS of the United States Government at Washington have been reported weak and unsafe by the Treasurer. As they contain about six hundred millions of dollars, which might be a temptation to certain people who have a fondness for "cracking" safes and the like, it has been thought best to make them secure.

THE DUEL is doomed. Those countries and authorities which have long not only tolerated but encouraged it, are now repudiating it. A recent order of the Emperor of Germany forbade duelling in the army, except in cases where a special commission appointed to consider all the circumstances should declare them sufficient to warrant a hostile meeting between the parties. This will prevent a great number of quarrels and do much to discredit duelling in Germany. In France this method of settling disputes is rapidly becoming confined to the diminishing class of firebrand political editors. And in the South, the other day an aggressive Congressman from Tennessee received the following reply from the challenged party: "I would have been surprised but recently to find that you had lived with so little learning as not to have known that the barbarous role in which you have seen fit to display yourself no longer serves to give respectability."

Concerning Ministers.

Rev. D. S. Carpenter (Baptist) died at Midgie, N. B. last week.

Rev. Dr. Bill's health has improved considerably.

Rev. Mr. Gerrior (Presbyterian) is holding Evangelistic meetings in Moncton.

Rev. J. I. Skinner (Baptist) has been stricken with partial paralysis.

Rev. Jos. Barker (Presbyterian) has removed his family from Sheffield to his new field in Richmond, C. Co. On the eve of his departure members of his former charge presented him with a gold headed cane.

Rev. H. G. Mellick (Baptist) has entered upon his duties as pastor of the Lister St. Church, St. John.

The Presbyterian College, Halifax, last week conferred the degree of D. D. on Rev. John Martin, missionary to Trinidad.

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 Crisis of Missions.

The crisis of missions is now upon us. What is a crisis? It is the parting of the way, where opportunity and responsibility meet: where the chance of a grand success stands opposed to the risk of awful failure. We call this THE CRISIS; for never, in the whole history of missions, have such opportunity and such peril confronted the Church of God, and entailed such fearful responsibility.

First consider the opportunity. Never before could it be so truly said that the whole world was open to the Gospel. Less than a century ago, the whole pagan, papal, and Moslem world was shut and hermetically sealed. Here and there was a narrow and uncertain opening, which, however, was exceptional, and liable to be suddenly and violently closed. Japan, the same year of the landing of the Mayflower pilgrims at Plymouth, had driven out the last representatives of the Papal church, and barred her sea-gates against Christianity and even commerce. China was literally "The Walled Kingdom." England had a foothold in India, but the East India Company was the worst foe of missions, and had left on record the utterance of one of her directors, that he "would rather see a band of devils in India than a band of missionaries."

Turkey punished apostasy with death; Africa was an unexplored mystery; the isles of the sea were infested with cannibals more brutal than the beasts. Papal lands forbade the preaching of the pure Gospel, and even the circulation of the Bible; the Word of God must not be sold or even given away; and Dr. March could enter the Eternal City only by leav-

ing his Bible outside the gates. Wherever the missionary went, it was as the three holy children into the furnace, or Daniel in the lions' den; to face martyr fires, or dare brute beasts in human shape.

To-day the walls are down; in every part of the world we have only to go up straight before us, and take the strongholds of Satan by storm. Corea now welcomes the medical missionary, builds him a hospital at government expense, and decorates him with the honors of Korean knighthood. Only Thibet remains, of all the hermit nations, deliberately shutting out the missionary of the cross; but there are now sounds of creaking hinges—the long-shut gates of the Land of Bod are slowly turning to open the way to another territory of 700,000 square miles, and a population as large as that of Siam; and here are the very shrine and throne of the Grand Lama, the very sanctuary of Buddhism.

The way in which these doors of the nations have been opened during this century constitutes the modern miracle of Providence. The pillar that, moving before Israel, rolled back the Red Sea and the Jordan, drove back Amalek, beat down Jericho's walls, has gone before the little band of missionaries. Obstacles broad as continents, high as the Himalayas, have vanished like morning mists at sunrise.

We can now understand why, in the seventeenth century, God permitted England to plant her foot in India. Though it was by means of a corrupt, greedy corporation, an opening was secured. The Company's right to trade, to build factories and storehouses, to defend persons and property, to acquire territory, and call on British arm and diplomacy for help in case of collision with the Indian Government,—all this meant increase of possessions and political power. God was using this avaricious corporation as an entering wedge into the heart of Asia, to cleave asunder the garbled and knotted trunks of Oriental empires, and open a path for the Gospel from the gates of the Golden Horn to the portals of the Sunrise Kingdom.

Meanwhile, on this continent, a new missionary nation, was growing to gigantic stature; it strode across this great land till it stood beside the Pacific; then, as though there was no more sea, advanced still westward, and thirty years ago knocked at the sea gates of Japan, and unsealed them to commerce and Christianity. Here was God's anvil, to oppose the sledge-hammer of England with the resistance, not of antagonism, but of co-operation.

But it was not enough to unbar the portals of the Island Empire. America united with England and France to open the gates of China. Then Turkey decreed toleration. Then the massacre in India transformed even the East Indian Company into the friend and advocate of missions. Then Livingstone, who had undertaken to explore the Dark Continent, and had been forty times scorched in the furnace of African fever, died on his knees near Lake Bangweolo, and Stanley resolved to take up the apostolic succession. A thousand days from Zanzibar, and he emerged at the mouth of the Congo; and, following in the path of the explorer, the missionary goes, like God's engineer and surveyor, carrying the chain of missions from sea to sea. Last of all, Corea comes out of her hermit cell, and welcomes Dr. Allen to preach the Gospel of the Divine Healer.

No words can do justice to this wonderful story of missionary advance. It leaves behind the tales of the Arabian Nights. Never was there such making of history. Every year, every day, every hour is critical; every event, even the most insignificant, proves pivotal. So rapid is the march of events that the maps of Africa, made yesterday, are inaccurate to-day, and will be obsolete to-morrow. The opening of doors is only the beginning of Providential interpositions. Look again at Africa. It was only in 1877 that Stanley reached the Congo's mouth. The next vessel that left England's shores after the news of his complete transit of the continent reached Britain, bore missionaries to the lake region, and at Nyassa, Albert and Victoria Nyanza, and Tanganyika, mission stations were located; then the Livingstone Missions on the Lower Congo; then, only seven years after

Stanley's exploring tour, fourteen great nations, representing Protestant, Papal, Greek, and Moslem powers, met in the Berlin Conference to decree the Congo Free State.

No less marked is God's hand in the rapid transformations taking place. In Japan, for instance, the changes within twenty years have been radical and revolutionary. The very structure of society is altered. Christian churches, schools, and institutions, are becoming dominant forces in the land of the rising sun. Roman letters are displacing the Japanese characters. Even the primitive Pentecost wrought no changes equal to those of this newly opened Island Empire. The Light of Asia is fading before the Light of the World. In the graphic terms of a native convert, "only the natural scenery remains the same." And this is only one example of these marvelous transformations.

It is impossible to appreciate the facts without being brought face to face with them. Dr. Lindley said that when a Zulu trades at the mission premises for a calico shirt, duck pants, and a three-legged stool, gets on his new clothes and sits on his stool, he is a thousand miles above the pagans round about him. The story of Fiji reads like a fairy tale. Thirty years ago the hut of a chief was built over piles, round which stood a score of human beings, buried alive, and his canoe was launched by being rolled to the sea over living human bodies. Now a thousand churches of Christ lift their spires there.

By a curious ordering of Providence, the very restrictions of the Moslem Bible serve to give the Christian's Bible access to the followers of Mohammed. The Koran is in Arabic; it is unlawful to translate it; and yet every intelligent Moslem is enjoined to read it. Hence, whatever be his native tongue, the same Arabic version of the Bible finds in the Mohammedan a reader.—Arthur T. Pierson, D. D.

IVORY RAIDING IN AFRICA.—The latest crimes against the natives are promoted by white merchants who are penetrating to the very centres of the continent in quest of ivory. The recent large exports of ivory from the Congo basin have been heralded as gratifying proof of the wonderful growth of legitimate trade in that region. A despatch to the Congo Government the other day announced that over forty tons of ivory, worth in Europe about \$240,000, had been purchased by trading companies on the upper Congo within two months, and were then on the way down the river. Within the past few months nearly \$1,000,000 worth of Congo ivory has been sold in Antwerp. This ivory is purchased by trading companies that are pushed as far inland as Stanley Falls. A small part of the ivory is brought from the natives, but by far the greater part of it comes from the Arabs of Stanley Falls and the Lomani River, who are straining every nerve to meet the sudden and unexpected demand that, to their delight, has arisen at their very doors. The methods that have been stimulated by the new enterprise of white men are described in one of Mr. Stanley's letters, and also by Mr. Herbert Ward. These gentlemen say that ivory raiding is now a very bloody business. The Arabs lead into the ivory district bands of 300 to 600 Manyema armed with Enfield rifles. They burn every village they come across, capture all the women, shoot down the men unless they at once get out of the reach of the bullets, and destroy the plantations. Having thus desolated a large area, they settle down with their captives at some place where plantations are abundant and proceed to open negotiations with the people whom they have driven into the wood. They send word to these fugitives that their women will be restored to them for the price of a tusk of ivory apiece. The natives then go on elephant hunts or open their hidden stores, and slowly the women are redeemed. The Arabs thus secure a rich supply of ivory to sell to their white friends, and finally depart for the river, leaving behind them a region turned into a waste.

ALL SORTS.

They have a very curious way of deciding lawsuits in Siam. Both parties are put under cold water, and the one staying the longest wins the suit. In this country, both parties are got into hot water, and then kept there as long as possible. The result is the same.

Narrow-chested recruits of the Prussian army are to be measured monthly; and those whose chests are not widened by drill are to be discharged as predisposed to consumption. All are to be considered narrow-chested whose chests are less in circumference than half the length of their bodies.

There are now two women miners in Montana. One of them does her own assaying and is superintendent of the properties in which she is interested. She goes down into a mine and gives the directions as to the way in which she desires the work done, just as a male manager would do.

Captious Deacon: "Our people desire extempore sermons, and you persist in using notes." Famishing Pastor: "My dear brother, as I never have any notes in my pocket-book to use, you should not object to my using notes in the pulpit."

The first cost of iron and wooden railway ties is nearly the same. The expense of maintenance is in favor of the iron. In running over metal ties in passenger trains a peculiar metallic ring is produced. It is so slight, however, as hardly to be noticed except by one listening carefully.

Schoolboys generally sympathize with one of their number who is subjected to the teacher's rod, but in a school at Marysville, Cal., the other day, a lad undergoing punishment struck the teacher, a woman, when the other boys pounced upon him and gave him a severe drubbing.

Thread of all kinds should be kept as much as possible from the air, which rots it. If one buys thread by the quantity which is the economical way of buying it, only so much as is needed for daily use should be taken out, and the rest put away in a covered box protected from the air.

MOHAMMEDANISM AND WOMEN.—The Mahometan scorn of women is the logical outcome of a religion which refuses to recognize their claim as

human beings deserving of respect. As they are of use to man, they are worth food and shelter, but they are not in the least entitled to standing ground at his side. The Countess Cowper, in "A Month in Palestine," gives an instance, far more telling than any sermon, of this dreadful state of things: "I was told by a Christian in Cairo, that he was once walking with a well-to-do Mahometan, with whom he was intimate, and who had often discussed with him the different positions of women in their respective sects. As they passed an old veiled figure in the street, who shrank on one side out of their way, the follower of the prophet delivered a passing but well directed kick at her. 'There,' said the Christian, 'that is what I complain of; you kick a woman as we would not kick even a dog.' 'That,' said his companion, with a look of genuine astonishment, 'why, that is only my mother!'"

OF DREAMS.—Dr. Julius Nelson, of New York, has published the result of his observations, extending over some 4,000 dreams of his own experience. He states that dreams in the early part of the night follow upon great physical or mental fatigue, and are generally connected with the events of the previous day, which always holds good of dreams that are the result of highly nervous excitement; but the latter are usually of a distressing nature. The most curious and pleasant of dreams occur in the early morning hours after the brain has had time to rally its powers. It is then that imagination takes her wildest flights, and weaves those remarkable wanderings with a clearness of circumstance so well remembered afterwards. An old popular superstition which ascribes special value to visions dreamt during the twelve holy nights from 25th December to 6th January may, he believes, have had its origin in some recognition of the fact that dreams are always very clear and definite during that period.

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS.—In the United States there were 39 organized missionary societies of women, with 25,000 auxiliaries and 8,000 children's bands. There were half a million members of the auxiliaries and 200,000 members of the bands. The total receipts of these societies in 1889 were \$1,250,000; from the beginning of work from the women's boards, \$10,000,000. These societies support, in the aggregate, 1,200 missionaries, 2,500 native Bible women, teachers, and other helpers, and have under charge 2,500 schools of various grades, 60,006 pupils.

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Sundries.

In Illinois, two years' habitual drunkenness is ground for divorce. The time is near when the average person has an attack of laziness and feelingly refers to it as spring fever. A Mormon with two wives and fourteen children was found in Provo, Utah, recently, living in a hut with one room. The Congo Railway will be 268 miles long. In the matter of head covering the sexes in Mexico change places. A man's hat often costs \$200, while the women wear nothing on the head, except it be a sort of lace veil or the mantilla pulled up. Thomas Congerly, of Dover, is the heaviest man in England. He weighs 560 pounds and his waist-band measures 80 inches. A Norwegian statistician asserts that marriage increases the death rate among women and decreases it among men.

Literary Notes.

The *Century* for May is excellent. A series of articles, varied in style and subject, all have reference to Memorial Day. The first installment of "The Women of the French Salons" is finely illustrated. Mr. Jefferson's Autobiography continues this month relating his experiences in Australia. Articles which will have wide reading are George Kennan's striking paper on the methods of the Russian censors, entitled "Blacked Out," with which is given a facsimile of two pages of one of Mr. Kennan's *Century* articles on Siberia erased by the Government censors. "A Study of Consciousness"; and a contribution on "Institutions for the Aged." Other articles of interest are: "George Washington and Memorial Day," "The New Movement in Education," "The Lingerer Duello," "The Churches and the Poor," in Topics of the Time.

St. Nicholas for May begins with a sketch of Virginian colonial life. It is illustrated, one of the pictures forming the frontispiece. Among the new features is one of interest to boys and young men. Walter Camp, author of the papers on "Intercollegiate Football," is soon to begin a series of practical articles on baseball, called "Bat, Ball, and Diamond." The value of the papers is increased by drawings.

Mr. Glave, the African explorer, continues his narrative of "Six Years in the Wilds of Central Africa." The charming story of "Marjorie and her Papa," is continued. "Lady Jane," is a beautiful story of child-life. Other articles are the geographical papers, "Through the Back Ages," and the Bunbury Stories, the latter being completed. Besides the features mentioned may be named "A Submarine Rambler," a sketch of the experiences of a diver in seeking for wrecked cargoes; "In the Lumber Woods," a beautiful and interesting account of lumbering in the Northwest; two dog stories in plenty, and the departments are interesting.

Harper's Magazine for May contains the first complete account of an absolutely unique episode in the history of United States national credit. Between twelve o'clock on a certain Friday in 1862, and four o'clock a. m. on the following Monday, the Register of the Treasury, signed twelve thousand five hundred bonds. He tells how he accomplished the feat, and explains the interests involved. Professor S. H. Butcher, LL. D., of the University of Edinburgh, contributes an article on "The Evolution of Humor." "Through Bush and Fern" describes the contradictions and fascinations of the fauna and flora in "the oldest land in the world." W. D. Howells concludes his dramatic analysis of a remarkable complication in "The Shadow of a Dream." The contents of the Editorial Departments are characterized by the same novelty as the body of the Magazine.

The *Missionary Review* of the World for May presents several papers of extraordinary interest. The leading one is an incisive and intelligent review of the chief political and other changes which occurred in Japan in 1889. It gives a clear and full view of the remarkable changes wrought and in progress, and of the present condition and outlook. "Personal Observations in Brazil" is equally interesting, and sheds light on the Revolution which has recently occurred there. Not less stirring in interest is Dr. Pierson's Letter, sketching his Missionary tour in England during January. Dr. Morrow continues his historical account of Foreign Missions in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries. "Shadowings of Messiah in Heathen Systems" shows careful study of the religions of the world. We question if any of our literary monthlies for May will present a richer or more varied table of contents than this *Missionary Magazine*. The departments are full of matter of interest and importance to the student of Christian progress.

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