

# Religious Intelligencer.

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

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WHOLE No. 1890

## YOUR RENEWAL!

If you have not yet sent your renewal subscription for this year, kindly forward it at once. The money is needed—needed now. Do not delay longer.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

THE WOMEN who were recently elected to civic offices in Edgerton, Kansas, have, it is reported, resigned in disgust. They attempted reforms, but the men made such a fuss that their responsibilities became unendurable, and they threw up their offices. The men ought to be ashamed. But the women should have held on, and pressed their reforms against every odds.

THE STORY of how Stanley punished a traitor in Africa is thus told: An Egyptian officer was convicted of having plotted to hand the expedition over to the Mahdi, Stanley, who was suffering with acute gastritis, had himself carried in a chair outside the tent. Turning to the incriminated officer he said:

"We have come through a thousand difficulties to save you and yours. Meanwhile you have been plotting to destroy us. Depart to God."

Saying these words, he pointed to a bough of a tree, where justice was done after the fashion of Judge Lynch.

TWO HUNDRED SCHOLARS have been selected by imperial decree to revise the great Encyclopedia of China. It was compiled a century ago, and contains the Chinese classics, the history of China for three thousand years, and requires fourteen volumes to contain its index. New and strange doctrines have been introduced of late years, and the wholesome truths of Confucius and Mencius are in danger of being set aside by Western ideas. Hence the revision.

TWO BULLETS were fired into the residence of Rev. Mr. Southwell, a Methodist Episcopal minister in Sioux City, Iowa, one Sabbath night lately. Mr. S. is an active temperance man, and had done his duty in the prosecution of rum-sellers. Rum-sellers are cowardly wretches always and everywhere, and are quite equal to shooting under cover of darkness.

IT IS STATED that, there are 400,000 heathen and 50,000 Mohammedans in the Russian army, the latter forming 75 per cent. of the Cossack regiments. It is also said that Christianity is waning in South-eastern Russia.

THE FOLLOWING case, if true, is one of great hardship and gross injustice. The *Telegraph* tells it thus:

The pardoning power has been recently exercised in behalf of a German serving a 20 years sentence in Kingston penitentiary for barn burning. At the time of his arrest and trial, six years ago, he could not speak or understand a word of English. He had no interpreter, made no defence, did not know what he was being tried for, but was convicted on circumstantial evidence. He has learned English in prison and satisfied the authorities of his innocence. He claims to be the son of a member of the German Reichstag, and is now looking for redress for the great wrong he has suffered.

THE DEATH of T. L. James, an intrepid African hunter and explorer, is reported. A despatch from the west coast of Africa says that he was killed by a wounded elephant while hunting in the Gaboon country. The James brothers are best known for their journey through central Somaliland, south of the Gulf of Aden. Very few white men have penetrated beyond the seaward fringe of this country. It is, except a part of Sahara, the most dangerous region in Africa to travellers. The people are fanatical Moslems, and few who have ventured into this country beyond the coast hills have escaped death. The British consul at Berber, believing the whole party would be killed, cabled to England for permission to prevent them from going inland. He received permission a little too late to catch the party. While in Somaliland the expedition was in constant danger. After its return Mr. James wrote a noteworthy book describing the discoveries and hairbreadth escapes of the expedition. He came out of Somaliland unscathed only to fall a victim to an elephant on the other side of the continent.

AN ITALIAN GIANT has just died. His name was Catoni, he was seven feet high and proportionately stout and strong. Before his death he sold his skeleton to the Anatomical Museum at Rome for \$2000.

HERE IS THE LATEST scheme for paying a church debt. A New York Life Insurance Company has lent \$120,000 to a church, and the church has had the lives of a number of its members insured in favour of itself. Each time one of these dies the insurance company will reduce the debt by the amount of the policy.

GEORGE PEABODY'S gift to the poor of London has proved a greater blessing than was thought possible. He put \$2,500,000 into the hands of trustees for the purpose of buying the rotten and tumble-down tenement houses in the most wretched parts of London, tearing them down, and building in their places clean and comfortable homes for the poor.

That was twenty-five years ago. The trustees went diligently and honestly to work, and at the end of the last year, after there had been expended \$6,169,225, providing homes for 20,374 people, the fund was twice as large as at the beginning.

A VERY STRIKING WAY of putting things has Dr. Grey of the Interior. This is a specimen:

The Roman bishops and priests threatened parents that they will not forgive their sins if they send their children to the public schools. It only requires a little intelligence to know that this pretense of the power to forgive sins is a rascally fraud. The absurdity of other claims is clearly seen in the strong words of Victor Hugo to the Romish hierarchy of France: "You want us to give you the people to instruct. Very well. Let us see your pupils. Let us see those you have produced. What have you done for Spain? Italy, which taught mankind to read, now knows not how to read. Yes! Italy is, of all the states of Europe, that where the smallest number know how to read. Spain, thanks to you, rests under a yoke of stupor, which is a yoke of degradation and decay. Spain has lost the secret power it obtained from the Romans, the genius of art it had from the Arabs, the world of America it had from God: and in exchange for all that you have made it lose, it has received from you the Inquisition."

SOMEONE has said that the trouble with some of the preaching of the day is well illustrated by the answer of the colored sexton to the new pastor, who asked what sort of sermons he thought would best suit the congregation. His reply was: "Well, sah, yer kin preach to dis yer con'gashun any larnt sermon dat is religious, but for de Lord sake touch 'em light on de Ten Commandments."

## Western Letter.

The Supreme Court of this state has recently decreed that the Bible cannot be read in our district schools. Some time ago a few Roman Catholic parents who sent their children to a district school applied for a *mandamus* from a district court. In their application they said: "We are patrons of the school and are taxed for its support; and are Roman Catholics in conscientious faith and belief; we are taught and believe that such versions of the bible are incorrect; that no version of the bible should be read indiscriminately, as the church was the only infallible teacher; that such reading was giving 'sectarian instruction' which was contrary to the constitution of the state." Their application was refused by the local court, so they applied to the Supreme Court. That court has ruled that it is unconstitutional to read the Bible in any district school of the state. The decision was given about a month ago, and has caused much consternation and not a little indignation.

One section of the state constitution reads: "No sectarian instruction shall be allowed in the district schools." One Judge declared that to read the Bible was to give instruction; that Roman Catholics had become protestants by reading our version of the Bible; therefore such reading was to give "sectarian instruction" and so was unconstitutional.

Another section of the constitution is as follows: Everyone may worship God as his own conscience shall dictate that none shall be compelled to attend, erect or support any place of worship, or maintain any ministry; that no con-

trol or interference with the rights of conscience shall be permitted; that no preference shall be given by law to any religious establishment or mode of worship, and that no money shall be drawn from the treasury for the benefit of religious societies or religious or theological seminaries." Another Judge said to read the Bible would awaken in some "sentiments kindred to worship i. e. a holy sense of honor, reverence, adoration, and homage to Almighty God," as constitutes the very "essence of worship." In other words to read the Bible is worship, that when read in a school house converts it into a place of worship, and if read by a school teacher converts him into a minister; therefore under the section above-named, such reading is unconstitutional. The third Judge said amen to the conclusions of the other two.

"The Advance" (Congregationalist) calls it "a monstrous judicial decision, strained, tortured, pettifoggish, lacking the first element of judicial decency." That's about how it is! The application was from a sect the declared enemies of the public schools, who speak of the district schools as "godless." A sect that denies the right of private conscience, and is the embodiment of ultra sectarian teaching. In the interest of sectarian teaching the application is made and what both sections of the constitution seeks to prevent these judges sustain in the interests of a sect. It is absurd to call the Bible a sectarian book. It is an insult to our common intelligence. Then if reading is worship so is singing. So if there is a national song it is, "My country 'tis of thee," yet according to one judge's decision carried to a logical conclusion, that cannot be used in the district schools. As to the law of this strange decision, an eminent lawyer has said it is "as false of law as hell of hope." We shall do well to let it stop at that. The great question now is, what is to be done about it? To carry the question to the Supreme Court of the United States, is a very expensive process and if that should be done perhaps a year or two would elapse before judgment would be given. So no settled action has been fixed upon. All that can be done is to stir up public opinion and wait events. That is being done. The ban surely cannot stay upon God's Word! The fact of such a ban in its effect upon the youth of the state, is sad to dwell upon. That the book of books, the greater charter of our liberties," as General Grant, once said, should be boycotted from the public schools awakens righteous indignation. Freedom's battles are of all the ages. To preserve, and spread what is good, means constant vigilance, and continued warfare." For 'freedom's battles are handed down, from sire to son.' There is no release in the warfare of righteousness. "Be thou faithful until death," comes to us day by day. Each in our "own place," can stand for God and right; possess the sunshine of an approving conscience; and at last heaven's crown of joy "Well done good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

## Racine, Wis.

VICTORIA HOSPITAL.—A statement of the affairs of the Victoria Hospital in this city has been issued by the trustees, Sir John C. Allen, chairman. They took the charge and management of the Hospital on the 1st of July last. Their statement says:

Seventy persons were admitted into the Hospital between the 1st February and 31st December, 1889, of whom; twenty were inhabitants of Fredericton thirty-one were from the County of York, outside of Fredericton; seven from Carleton County; four from Victoria County; two from Sunbury; one from each of the Counties of Queen's, Westmorland, and Northumberland; two from the United States; and one from Denmark. During that period there has been four deaths among the patients in the Hospital. The usefulness of the Hospital has been very apparent during the past year when cases of fever were so numerous; as some of the fever patients could not possibly have had daily medical attendance, careful nursing, suitable nourishment, and cheerful and healthy rooms, if they had remained in their own houses. The same remarks will apply to two cases of very serious accidents, in which, probably, the patients would have been crippled for the remainder of their lives had it not been for the regular surgical attendance and careful nursing which they received in the Hospital. The income of the Hospital during the

year ending 31st December last was as follows:—

Legislative Grant,.....	\$ 600
City of Fredericton,.....	200
Municipality of York,.....	200
Donation from Mr. Henry Verxa, of Boston,.....	200
Women's Christian Temperance Union,.....	200
Collections in the City Churches,.....	231
Received from paying patients,.....	224
	\$1 855

The City has, during the present year, increased its grant to \$300, and the Women's Christian Temperance Union have withdrawn their grant of \$200. The expenditure for the six months from the 1st July to 31st December last amounted to \$1,150, of which sum \$84 was for work upon "The Asa Dow Wing"; for the extension of the sewer; and for various small repairs. It will be necessary during the present year to expend a considerable sum in improving the sewerage, which has been found to be defective. It will also be necessary to make some change in the manner of heating the Hospital, as the consumption of fuel during the past winter has been a serious item in the expenditure.

The trustees request that the second Sunday in June be Hospital Sunday, and that the ministers of the city on that day speak to their congregations about the Hospital, and that a collection for it be taken in each church.

## 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.]

## Our Marching Orders.

"And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

'Twas the voice of the risen Master, As He stood by His little band, And, watching their eager faces, Thus issued His last command.

He had finished his earthly mission; He had paved the way to life; With bleeding feet He had traversed The path of care and strife.

And now, on His faithful followers His mantle must descend; 'Tis for them to carry the message 'Tof their departing Friend.

And well did they heed that message, Most gladly did they obey; Though it led those sturdy heroes Up a rugged, thorn-pierced way.

Now down through the listening ages Rings out the same command: "Go, carry the news of salvation To people of every land."

"I have given my life to redeem them; My blood has been shed for them all: And now, upon you, my disciples, Must the duty of aiding them, fall."

Have we heeded these "marching orders," Are we, each, doing all that we may, To shed upon nations benighted, The beams of this bright Gospel Day?

The fields! They are white for the harvest; But the laborers are calling in vain, For reapers to come and assist them, In gathering the fast-ripening grain.

Oh Christian! up! and be doing; For time hastens swiftly away; And soon will the shadows, descending, Obscure the brief light of the day.

What matters, though sunny or thorny, The pathway of life to our feet, If only that pathway lead upward, Where Jesus our coming shall greet—

Shall greet us with words of approval, That his voice we have heard and obeyed, And done what we could for His children, Who are groping 'mid sin's deepest shade.

## Santal Marriage Custom.

There are several legitimate ways in which a Santal can secure a wife. The one most in favour and adopted by the more respectable portion of the community is for the parents who have a son or daughter to be married, to send two or three elderly women in search of a suitable companion. When one has been found, the members of the two families interchange visits to see if a proper person has been selected. The parties most concerned have no voice in the matter. When the friends on both sides are satisfied, a village council is called to fix the price of the bride. If she belongs to a good family and is fine looking, her parents can demand a cow to be given to her brother, a cloth for her mother; also money ranging from three to twenty rupees

(four to six dollars.) The mondal, or head man, of the village also claims a share in the price. When all has been arranged, the invitations are sent to the wedding. These consist of bits of knotted cotton thread, snared with turmeric. The knots indicate the number of days to elapse before the bride is brought to her father-in-law's house. The day before she is expected the bridegroom is properly anointed with oil from head to foot with oil and turmeric by his female friends, and dressed in a new cloth which has been made more or less yellow by being dipped in turmeric water.

Laban's plan for securing husbands for his daughters is quite in vogue among the Santals. A young man may not be able to pay the full price of the bride he wishes, or her parents may wish a servant, so they give their daughter to him on condition that he will live with them and serve them for five or seven years, after which he can take his wife and go where he pleases. Such a marriage is called "taking a house son-in-law."

The plan adopted by the Israelites of old for securing wives for the tribe of Benjamin is still another mode. A secret arrangement usually is entered into between the young man and the girl of his choice. They wait until one of their great festivals occur. When all are interested in the drinking and dancing, he feigns by force and against her will drags her away and rubs the red powder on her forehead, which is the sign of marriage. For two or three days they hide themselves in the day-time in the woods and at night at some friend's house. Meanwhile the parents search for the young people, pretending to suffer great distress and agony caused by the shameful conduct of their children. When all has become quiet, a village council is called at the young man's house, and the price for the bride is fixed. A goat is killed, a feast is made, the price is paid and then all is settled.

Aside from these three modes of marriage, it is the easiest, and a most common practice for husbands and wives to interchange. A man for some slight cause suddenly leaves a large family of little ones for his wife to support, while he takes a younger woman; and as easy as it is for a woman to forget all her motherly instincts and forsake a nursing babe, running away with the husband of some other woman.

## Missionary Helper.

## Mission News.

—A noble charity of which the world has heard but little is the Moravian leper-home in Jerusalem, which contained at the close of last year fourteen male and six female patients, eleven of whom are Christians and nine Mohammedans.

—A touching appeal comes from the native Christians of Canton to the churches of Great Britain, entreating them to exert themselves to procure the abolition of the opium traffic, that the Chinese may be released from this yoke of bondage and the obstacles be removed which it places in the way of the Gospel.

—There are 12,000,000 people in Corea, and twenty-four missionaries. A missionary who sold a large number of copies of the Scriptures in the north of Corea was publicly thanked by a magistrate for his work in the city. The people generally are said to be friendly to foreigners. The Presbyterian Mission has one hundred church members and twice as many adherents.

—One of the twelve apostles of the new dispensation of India, Kali Sankar by name is dead. He is said to have been one of the first Brahmos who broke the laws of caste in the matter of marriage. He believed that it was a sin to hoard money, and punished his wife for saving 900 rupees out of the money that passed through her hands, by refusing for eighteen days to eat food from her hands. The Brahmosamaj is on the decline in India.

—A new sect, called the Arya Somaj, has arisen in Northwestern India; having for its aim to oppose to Christianity the worship taught in the ancient Vedas. The sect has established an orphanage and school in Bareilly, which is probably the first effort ever made by the natives of India to provide for the care of helpless and neglected children, and is intended probably to keep the children of Hindu parents from falling into Christian hands.

—The Mission to Lepers in India has issued its fifteenth annual report. It is stated that the year 1889 has been a remarkable one in the history of the leprosy question. After long apathy and indifference, the public have suddenly awakened to the terrible fact that the leprosy of the Bible and the leprosy of the middle ages are grim factors in the life of the world to day. Interesting details are given of the work carried on, which is religious as well as medical. The secretary is to revisit India at the end of this year, to organize the work, and to seek new openings. The society is very worthy of support and confidence.

ELDER GARRATT.—Elder George Garratt well known in this Province, died in California a few days ago. He went there last fall in the hope of benefiting his health. He was eighty years old. For about a half century he was a preacher of the Disciples of Christ church, for fifteen years was pastor of the Disciples congregation in St. John. He was a man of a good deal of preaching ability, and made many friends throughout the country. He had not, on account of failing health, preached for several years prior to his death.

THE PARLIAMENT of Canada was prorogued on Friday.

C. T. Act Notes.—A constable came from St. Stephen to this city last week with warrants for two witnesses in a Scott act case against a fellow named McElroy, charged with a third offence. The constable got the witnesses and took them with him. This indicates commendable zeal on the part of the prosecution in the border town. Success to them in hunting rum-sellers.

Doherty, of the Mansard House, Petitoediac, has to go to jail. He was convicted of violations of the law in December, but his case has been before the Supreme Court, and the appeals have just been dismissed. The decent people of Petitoediac are to be congratulated. They should push all others of the Doherty stripe into jail or out of the business at once.

Rev. "Sam" Small, evangelist, has announced himself a candidate for the Georgia Legislature on the straight Prohibition ticket.

LIBERAL JEWS.—The Jews of Chicago have a society called "The Standard Club." About four hundred of their leading people—merchants, bankers and lawyers—belong to the society. At the annual meeting recently the president recommended that \$24,000 be raised for the new Baptist University. The recommendation was endorsed by a unanimous vote and arrangements made to raise the money.

FOR PROHIBITION.—The Presbyterian synod of Toronto and Kingston, at its session, last week, adopted a report strongly in favour of prohibition of the liquor traffic, and declaring that it is now the duty of the Dominion Parliament to enact a prohibitory law.

"CITY FATHERS."—A fine civic government is that of New York city. Tammany has control of city affairs, and Tammany is essentially corrupt and criminal. Brief biographies, given by a New York paper, of twenty-eight Tammany officials, show that the number includes four professional gamblers, five former keepers of gambling-houses, or "dives," four liquor dealers, five former liquor-dealers, pugilists, an acquitted murderer, a convicted one, and other such characters.

It seems almost incredible that such characters should have control of the affairs of a great city, but there is the fact.

GOLD LEAF.—There is a firm in Cincinnati which each year beats 21,000 gold dollars into gold leaf, and as each dollar can be beaten into a sheet that will carpet two rooms 10½ feet square, some idea may be formed of its tenuity. It requires 1,400 of gold leaf to equal in thickness a sheet of writing paper, and takes 280,000 of them, piled one upon the other to equal an inch in thickness.

Some correspondence, received too late for this issue, will appear next week.