

Religious Intelligencer.

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

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WHOLE No. 1893

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 REPORT of the National Temperance Society of the United States, which held its 25th annual meeting a few days ago in New York, shows much good work done and encouraging results. The review of a quarter century of labour shows wonderful progress in the temperance sentiment and social customs of the people. The publications of the society going silently into all parts of the land, leaving the thought of the nation on this great subject, have exerted a wide and wholesome influence. The society took action expressing the views of its members as adverse to the License system and favorable to Prohibition and total abstinence. Rev. Dr. Cuyler is the President of the Society, having been actively identified with it from its origin.

THERE IS A FEELING that too much discretionary power is allowed judges in passing sentences. To say nothing about human life, says the *Canada Presbyterian*, it is a scandal that the length of a prisoner's sentence should depend on the humour in which a judge, perhaps eighty years of age, may happen to be at a given moment. No such power should be placed in the hands of any one man, no matter how good he may be. Judges are human just as all other men are human. They are not perfect any more than clergymen, or editors, or men of any class are perfect. The trend of the age is very properly against the one man power.

A PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER, Rev. D. B. Cameron of Ontario, recently deceased, made the following codicil to his will:

Considering the foolish extravagance displayed by the community in general, and as a protest against it (I almost believe a solitary protest), I direct that my body, when dead, shall be decently wrapped in bleached cotton, neatly prepared for the purpose, laid in a simple coffin made of pine, with no ornamentation, not as much as my name, and carried to the grave in a sleigh, if in winter, or a spring wagon, and laid in the grave without a shell; and that no monument or stone of any kind be put up to mark the place, unless some friend take a boulder from the field to mark the spot, and, if he fancy to do so, cut thereon the initial letters "D. B. C."

RUSSIA keeps giving a tightening turn to the screws which prevent liberty and anything like freedom of movement in the country. By some new regulations the Passport system is made more stringent than ever. Passports must now state the religion of the foreigners entering Russia, otherwise they will be liable to be registered as Jews, and their passes will thus be stamped as available only for localities where Jews are permitted to reside. A foreigner staying in Russia for more than two weeks must go to the chief town of the province and have his passport indorsed by the Provincial Governor before he can leave the country. A stranger wishing to settle for more than six months in Russia must obtain a Ministerial permit, and if he intends to transact business, a yearly tax of 600 roubles is exacted. The Austrians are particularly annoyed by these new rules, and claim that they are in violation of the Austro-Russian treaty of 1860.

IN SWEDEN a new mill for the manufacture of paper from moss has been recently published. Paper of different thickness and pastebord made of it have already been shown, the latter even in sheets three-quarters of an inch thick. It is as hard as wood, and can be easily painted and polished. It has all the good qualities, but none of the defects of wood. The paste-board can be used for door and window frames, architectural ornaments, and all kinds of furniture.

MARRIAGE with a deceased wife's sister is still against the law of England. But an Englishman who wants to marry the sister of his deceased wife does not find any difficulty in doing so.

It seems that the provisions of the law do not extend to the Island of Jersey, which is a favorite resort for bridal couples. It is the simplest thing in the world for the bride, accompanied by her parents, to make her wedding trip in advance of the ceremony, meet the bridegroom in Jersey, and then and there be married. Of course such marriages are perfectly legal and valid in England, the provision of law being that they shall not be performed in England. As a matter of fact, there are very many Englishmen, some of them persons of note and eminence, who have evaded the law in this way, and what is more curious, some of them strenuously oppose its repeal.

WHO HAS NOT been puzzled over an illegible letter from a business correspondent or friend? In what Mr. T. B. Aldrich did about a letter from Prof. Morse, is a hint for any who are troubled. It is better than to be annoyed and write your annoyance:

My Dear Mr. Morse: It was very pleasant to me to get a letter from you the other day. Perhaps I should have found it pleasanter if I had been able to decipher it. I don't think that I mastered anything beyond the date (which I know), and the signature (which I guessed at). There is a singular and perpetual charm in a letter of yours; it never grows old, it never loses its novelty. One can say to one's self every morning, "There's that letter of Morse's. I haven't read it yet. I think I'll take another shy at it to-day, and maybe I shall be able in the course of a few years to make out what he means by those 't's' that look like 'w's', and those eyes that haven't any eyebrows." Other letters are read, and thrown away and forgotten; but yours are kept forever—unread. One of them will last a reasonable man a lifetime. Admiringly yours.

T. B. Aldrich.

The Land of the White Elephant.

Every acre of land in the 250,000 square miles which make up Siam belongs to Chulalongkorn, its king. His word goes forth meaning life and death, for the men and women are really his slaves as well as his subjects. As he is the greatest king Siam has ever had, and in point of ability the best of absolute rulers, his reign is undisturbed. King Chulalongkorn was educated by an English governess—Mrs Leonowens—and then entered the priesthood. Afterward he had English tutors, and has traveled more than any other king of Siam. He is now thirty-six years old; is a straight, fine-looking young fellow, with a cream-colored face, half-almond eyes, and a downy moustache showing out under a semi-flat nose, or rather full lips. He is more progressive than his people. He has given some money to missions, and has invited the missionaries at Bangkok to his receptions at the palace. He has established a mint, and brought the telegraph to his capital; has organized a royal school, with English teachers, where his many sons and those of Siamese nobles may be educated; and his surveyors are now laying out a railroad which will open up the whole interior of Indo-China, and he now has a street-car line, a post-office and a custom-house at his capital. He is enormously wealthy. He is thought to have about fifty million dollars on his own account, and a little income of ten million yearly, from his title to the country and people, enables him to spend immense sums in carrying out his pet projects for the improvement of his country.

According to the laws of Siam, the king must marry his sister, and accordingly the present king is half-sister to Chulalongkorn. She is reputed beautiful, but is really only a short-haired, yellow-faced lady of thirty, who takes great interest in the affairs of the kingdom, and has a mind of her own. She is very charitable, and gave a large donation to the Catholic Church which is now being built in Bangkok. She does not speak English, as does the king, but has a bright mind and is loved by the people.

The king's palaces cover many acres. They are a combination of Siamese and European architecture, and the buildings allotted to his harem look not unlike the Mikado at Tokio. Hair-cuttings, weddings and cremations are the great events of life in Siam. The first of these ceremonies marks the change from boyhood to manhood. The hair-cutting of the present king was one of the most splendid affairs in Siamese history. It lasted for three days, and the story of it reads like a chapter in

the "Arabian Nights." A mighty mountain was erected at Bangkok. It contained grottoes and caves, and on its top was a grand pavilion, hung with costly curtains and covered with gold. The prince was borne in a golden chair, with a grand procession, to this pavilion, and his royal father handed the golden shears and a golden razor to the hair-cutter. While his black top-knot was being cut away, his father spoke as follows: "Thou, who art come out of pure waters, be thy offenses washed away! Be thou relieved from other births! Bear thou in thy bosom the brightness of that light which shall lead thee even as it led the sublime Buddha to Nirvana, at once and forever." Cremation is made much of in Siam, but not on the score of economy, for the burning of a king costs a fortune, and when Chulalongkorn cremated his first queen eight years ago, it cost him \$600,000, and nothing to show for it but an urn full of ashes!

Bangkok is even more the daughter of the waters than is the famed Queen City of the Adriatic. Of the seven hundred thousand people of this capital city, it is said five hundred thousand live in floating houses on the river. The man in the house pays a ground rent to the party by whose land his house is anchored, but in case of a dispute the moorings are cut and the house and family float away to another location. The houses on land are built high upon piles, so that one could almost walk under them. There are no cellars, and each house has a hole in the floor through which the sweepings are thrown. The clothes of the entire population of Bangkok would be a poor outfit for an American village. The average child under twelve is chiefly clothed in necklaces, bracelets and anklets, and some older people do not wear anything between these points. The custom of betel-nut chewing and spitting is universal.

The women of Siam have few rights that a man is bound to respect, and usually they have to support the family, since the men are divided into classes and are all held directly for the king's service, and the rest of the time they loaf. The women do all the business of the water stores, and form a large proportion of the peddlers who move about on the canals. If a slave-girl marries, however, her husband has to assume her debt; but if he gets tired of her, he leaves her to support the children and pay the debt. He can sell her if he wishes, and he can become divorced whenever he pleases by entering the priesthood for a month or so. There are ten thousand Buddhist priests in Bangkok alone, and every Siamese man is supposed to be a priest at some time in his life. The regular priests go about bare-headed, bare-legged and bare-footed, with a cloth of yellow about their shoulders and waists, carrying black rice-bowls of clay in which to receive the offerings of rice and food which the people give them. The heads of these priests are shaven, and they have sworn to eat no meat and not to look upon woman.

The Buddhist temples of Siam are as grand as the houses of the people are poor. One has a pagoda tower covered with gold-leaf, the brightness of which can be seen for miles around. This temple alone must have cost millions. There were, I judge, around this golden pagoda a half dozen acres of massive buildings, trimmed out in a forest of spires and towers decorated with gold and imitation jewels, which glittered in the sunlight. Some of these rose story after story into massive spires decorated with thousands of grotesque figures of men and beasts, and showing here and there golden images of the holy elephant. If Buddha's followers can so lavish wealth upon their own temples, should Christians spare from Christ's own temples—the human heart?

Stanley's Remedy.

In the June Scribner Henry M. Stanley, writing of the slave trade in Africa, says:

There is only one remedy for these wholesale devastations of African aborigines, and that is the solemn combination of England, Germany, France, Portugal, South and East Africa, and Congo State against the introduction of gunpowder into any part of the continent except for the use of their own agents, soldiers, and employes;

or seizing upon every tusk of ivory brought out, as there is not a single piece nowadays which has been gained lawfully. Every tusk, piece, and scrap in the possession of an Arab trader has been steeped and dyed in blood. Every pound weight has cost the life of a man, woman or child; for every five pounds a hut has burned; for every two tusks a whole village has been destroyed—every twenty tusks have been obtained at the price of a district with all its people, villages and plantations. It is simply incredible that because ivory is required for ornament or billiard games, the rich heart of Africa should be laid waste at this late year of the nineteenth century, signalized as it has been by so much advance; that populations, tribes and nations should be utterly destroyed.

Canada's International Exhibition, to be held at St. John, New Brunswick.

The Prize List of the Exhibition Association of St. John, N. B., is of interest to our readers. We therefore give a summary of the sections and amounts to be offered. The competition is open to all the Maritime Provinces.

In the Live Stock section they offer prizes amounting to \$7337, divided as follows: Horses \$2139, Cattle \$2835, Sheep \$708, Pigs \$492. Poultry and Dog Show \$1163, in addition to which \$1750 is offered for the Horse Race Competition. In the Farm produce section, prizes amounting to \$1560, including \$492 for fruit and vegetables, \$342 for field products; \$241 for butter and cheese; and in addition, Messrs. Manchester, Robertson & Allison, of St. John, offer the following special prizes with a view to stimulate and increase the knowledge of good butter making, and their wish is that the money should go the farmer's wives and daughters:

First Prize \$50. Second \$30. Third \$20. Fourth \$20. Butter to be in crocks or firkins of not less than 25 lbs.

Girls Prize for butter made by farmer's daughters not over 16 years of age. First Prize \$20. Second \$10. Third \$5. Butter to be in crocks or firkins of not less than 15 lbs.

The above prize will be given to each Province, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Each Province to compete separately and will be judged by an unprejudiced expert. Butter must be the product of a bona fide farmer, who is engaged in no other business.

A further Prize of \$50, to be called the Sweepstake Prize will be given for the best 30 lbs. of Butter or over in crocks or firkins. This Prize will be open to all three Provinces and will not be confined exclusively to Farmers, but must not be creamery Butter.

In the Horticultural, Apiary, Natural History, Ladies' and Children's Departments Prizes amounting to \$537, are offered.

The Publisher of the "Maritime Agriculturalist," Dorchester, N. B., offers a SILVER (GOLD LINED) CUP, to be awarded to any Son of a Farmer residing in the Maritime Provinces, for the best essay written by him, on the Subject—"THE BEST MEANS OF INDUCING THE BOYS TO REMAIN ON THE FARMS." All essays to be sent to the Secretary of the Exhibition Association St. John N. B., on or before the first day of September 1890, and judgment to be passed by the Editor of the above Journal and two Directors of the said Association. The successful candidate will receive his Prize during the holding of the Exhibition and his essay will be published in the columns of the "Agriculturalist" after the Exhibition.

The Exhibition Association in addition to the above Prize will award a first class Diploma under the same conditions of competition.

The total Prizes amounting to \$11,264 in addition to which a large number of Diplomas and other Special Prizes will be awarded.

The Directors have already received very encouraging reports of the prospects of an attractive display of the products of the West India Islands, and with a large number of special attractions which are being secured, this Exhibition promises to surpass any yet held in the Maritime Provinces. The Association finding their Buildings and Grounds in the City unable to accommodate the number of applicants coming in have secured the splendid grounds and buildings of the Moospath Driving Part Association, where the stock exhibit will be held, and arrangements are being made for rapid transit between the Exhibition Buildings and these Grounds during the Exhibition. Our Agricultural readers should at once secure space for their exhibit.

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.]

Giving.

BY FAITH HAYNE.

In Nature's precepts there is found One law for all the living; 'Tis seen in ocean, earth and cloud,—The joy of life is giving.

The mists, which silently exhale From off the lake's broad bosom. Drop noiselessly to earth again, Refreshing leaf and blossom.

Thus clouds give water to the earth, Whose streams supply the river, Which, flowing onward to the lake, In turn becomes the giver.

The tree, which draws its nourishment From out the earth, while growing, Gives back to earth its foliage bright, When autumn winds are blowing.

Thus 'tis a round, there is no pause, All nature is receiving Her part, which is some other part She is forever giving.

Shall man, the noblest work of God, Be ever the receiver, Nor know the sweetest joy of life—The joy of being giver?

We know the story of the Cross And of the Father's kindness: Then let us send the message on To those who sit in blindness; When they in turn to others tell The sweet and blessed story, Until the knowledge of the Lord Shall fill the earth with glory.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON THE CONGO.

The officers of the Congo Free State are continuing their explorations of the Upper Valley, and find that the productions of the country are rich and varied beyond the highest expectations. Immense plantations of bananas, oil-palms, maize, manioc, peanuts, beans, etc., were met with, and the supply of these articles which may be obtained from commerce is practically unlimited. The engineers who are surveying the route for the railroad past the Livingstone Falls, report that, after a full survey, the construction of the road from Matadi below the Falls to Lukunga River is not only possible, but easy. The road will run some distance south of the River Congo. The survey of the whole route to the Pool will be completed during the summer. The construction of this railroad will mark a new era in the development of Central Africa. Fleets of steamers can then find full employment on the Upper Congo and its branches, in bringing to Stanley Pool the rubber, gums, spices, ivory, and agricultural products of the valley, which are wanted by the civilized world. The railroad also will be an important factor in commerce, because it will bring to the markets of the world large supplies of several articles which are now obtainable only in limited quantities. Christian missions should preoccupy the Upper Congo Valley in advance of commerce, since it is well known that the introduction of trade with its corrupting influences, and above all its deadly liquors, makes missionary work among any people greatly more difficult. The time to push missions in the Upper Congo Valley is now.

DO NOT ALL CHURCH-MEMBERS DO THE SAME?

Within the limits of a New England city lives a humble Christian Scotch woman, whose name to have learned some secret not widely known, certainly not widely practised, as to Christian giving. In the late unprecedented season, when her husband belonged to the class "out of employment," the little family of four were supported by her own daily labor from house to house, in doing family washing. One morning in the early spring she appeared at the parsonage with a little paper parcel containing "money for the missionaries," amounting in all to two dollars and thirty cents, which she quietly laid on the table by my side.

"Why, Mrs. B—!" I exclaimed in surprise, when I had counted over the little hoard, "how can you give so much? Don't you need it yourself?" "Oh no!" she answered in her rich Scotch brogue, which I will not attempt to reproduce, "it is the Lord's. He has been so good to provide work for me all this winter, that I want to

be sure he has his part of all I earn. I always put away a part of every dollar for him."

"That is a good habit to fall into," I answered, thinking of the joy there would be on missionary ground, if all Christian women had this habit.

"Yes," was the answer, "I was taught to do it in the old home in Scotland. We always had a box for missionary money standing on the shelf; and when any one in the family—father, or mother, or children—had any money, no matter how we got it, a part of it was put in the Lord's box before we spent any ourselves."

Her husband had learned the same lesson also, in his father's house, and sometimes reminded the good woman that she had taken nothing out of her last dollar, hardly patient to wait till the note had been broken, and the sacred portion set free. Her children also entered heartily into the same plan, never spending a dime for self till a part of it rested safely in the little box. The discussion—in which the good woman surely got the better of her friend, and which cannot be given here—ended with, "Why, Mrs. H—, don't all church members do the same?"—*Life and Light.*

LENGTH OF GREAT BRIDGES.—A comparison between the Forth and other great bridges is as follows:

	Length Feet.	Greatest Span Feet.
Forth Bridge.....	8,091	1,710
Tay Bridge.....	10,780	245
Niagara Bridge.....	808	308
Landore Bridge.....	1,700	110
Crumlin Bridge.....	1,800	150
Britannia Bridge.....	1,511	460
Brooklyn Bridge.....	5,362	1,600

ICEBERGS.—Captain Leseman, of the steamer Miranda, which arrived at Halifax Wednesday night, from St. John's, Newfoundland, reports that he met with heavy ice, which extended from Cape St. John to Trinity Bay, a distance of 130 miles. There was also a dense fog, which made it very dangerous to proceed and he was obliged to put into Trepassy, where he remained three days. He got out of there on Sunday and managed to reach St. John's without any mishap, although the steamer was surrounded most of the way with heavy pack ice. Hundreds of icebergs of all shapes and sizes were also to be seen, one of these the captain estimated to be fully three miles long.

—Denmark is said to consume more liquor in proportion to its population than any other country in Europe, though Belgium and Germany are not very far behind it. With constant immigration flowing into the United States from these countries, the wonder is that the temperance cause makes such encouraging progress in our land.

Among Exchanges.

SAY IT TO HIS FACE. Any critical remarks to a mule—human, or any other kind—had better be made to his face.—*Phil. Standard.*

WHAT THEY NEEDED. A New York judge of the old school pleasantly remarked the other day to a very young couple who came before him for a divorce that what they needed was "a good spanking." Would that all judicial decisions were as sound and sensible.—*Can. Presbyterian.*

EASILY ANSWERED. Somebody wishes to take a half column of space to answer the question, "Can a stingy man get to heaven?" A solitary negative should have been sufficient.— *Zion's Herald.*

CRANKINESS. An exchange says: "In the light of eternity our persecutions may be seen as the kisses of divine affection." True, but in this age a good many people call themselves "persecuted" whose troubles come from their own inveterate crankiness.—*Chris. Inquirer.*

VALUELESS. Religion is of no value to a merchant unless it keeps him from putting false labels on his goods; or to the plasterer, unless it keeps him from putting up a ceiling which he knows will crack in six months; or to the farmer, unless it keeps him from putting the only sound pippins on the top of the barrel.—*Standard (Phila).*

ROOM FOR ALL, BUT— Our country is vast and wide, and there is room in it for all sorts of good men—French, English, Scotch, Irish, Icelanders, Mennonites, Swedes, Norwegians—Methodists, Baptists, Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Presbyterians—and other varieties of races and creeds. But our country is not wide enough to afford standing room for corrupt and evil men who sap the life-blood of the country and recklessly imperil our institutions by their wicked ways.—*Pres. Witness.*