

Religious Intelligencer.

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

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WHOLE No. 1870

Established Tyranny in Russia.

Russia is making a determined effort to crush out Lutheranism in the Baltic provinces, where the great majority of the population is Protestant. Assisted by the Established Church, (Greek) which has nothing to learn in the arts of tyranny from the most brutal of governments, the authorities are increasing the severity of the laws against Protestantism, and administering them ruthlessly. Fifty years ago, in a time of famine, the peasants were crowded by hundreds of thousands into having their names placed on the registers of the Greek Church, by the promise that on this condition they should be placed as independent farmers on their land. They were never converted, but ever since, those thus registered and their children and grandchildren are forcibly kept in the Greek Church by a law that forbids conversion from the Established religion to Protestantism. Many have been 'anointed' and 'confirmed' by actual violence. Dr CHARLES H. WRIGHT, in *The Nineteenth Century*, says that in 1886 persons not belonging to the Greek Church were forbidden to use chaplets of flowers at funerals. The year before an Imperial ukase severely threatened all relapses to Lutheranism. A beginning has been made with the appropriation of Protestant places of worship. In 1885 Bishop DONAT was besought by a crowd of Lutheran converts to allow their names to be erased from the Greek registers. He threatened that their Protestant clergyman should be removed. ANNA KURSUMNEKS dared to send a petition to the Czar. She was imprisoned, and so also were Pastor BRANDT and the schoolmaster ABEL, who drew up the petition. Sixty-five pastors have been prosecuted for administering the Lord's Supper and performing marriages between Protestants and persons enrolled on the Greek registers. Yet the Established clergy are clamouring that the laws are not severe enough!

is a step in the right direction, we trust that many others may follow their example, and that in the year to come our column may increase in interest and usefulness, and that its influence may help to mould the thought of those who in just a few years will have to take the burden of Christian work.

I omitted to say that in all their efforts, the sisters have been greatly helped and encouraged, by the advice and kindly sympathy of the editor of the "INTELLIGENCER."

L. J. F.

A True Story.

Up among the hills of India a woman lay sick and dying. It was a barren, cheerless room in which she lay—a desolate home, for homes in India are not the joyous, happy institutions they are in America. Home to us means almost heaven—a sweet retreat from the world's frowns and storms—a quiet resting-place when cares are over and duties done. But no such charm dwelt in this sick one's home. In her home were but four bare prison walls; a shelter from the storm 'tis true, but not a sweet shelter for that woman's heart that yearned for woman's love and sympathy; no dainty dishes to tempt her failing appetite; no gentle smoothing of her pillows; no one to arrange with snowy whiteness her bed, for she was a woman and lived in India; and to be a woman there meant little more than to be a beast of burden here. Many long months had passed since disease had seized that body. Long and weary hours had been spent, the eyes had ached, the brain had throbbled, the brow had burned with fever heat—but no relief had come. She was a woman, and for women there was no help, no hope, only to suffer on until 'life's fitful fever was over.'

The last rays of the setting sun, were still lingering about the hill-tops as this sick one lay watching their changing hues, and wondering, no doubt, where all the brightness was going, and if the sun would ever again come back to her; or if, perchance, there was a God who cared for her, when her attention was aroused by a woman's voice. She listened eagerly; but it was only another Hindoo woman, whose life was as cheerless and hopeless as hers, and again she turned wearily away. But hark! strange words she heard. What were they saying? A "foreign lady" had come to help the sick woman. Could that be true? Hope sprang up within that breast, and she strangely yearned to see the "foreign lady" who had come so far to help poor, needy women. Alas! she was in another province, and this sick one was very weak and weary. Somehow the journey was taken. Strength was strangely given, and the plains below were safely reached. To the "foreign lady" she had come; and now one of our own medical missionaries was beside her, soothing with gentle, cooling touch, her fevered brow; counting the weak and fluttering pulse, bathing again and again the aching limbs, while she whispered in her ear the sweet old story of Jesus and his love—of his coming down to this earth that he might lift us up to heaven; how he gave his own life to save even hers, and had now gone to prepare a place for her, even a many-mansioned home.

For the first time she listened to what to us is indeed "an old, old story." For the first time she knew there was a God. "O why have I never known this before!" she said. "Why has no one ever come to tell this to the women of my province?" The words were full of sweetness and rest to her, for she was sad and weary. She had come for physical healing, but she had found the Great Physician of souls. With a quiet resting smile, she fell asleep—the sleep that knows no waking—but with her parting breath she said, "Won't you send some one up among the hills to tell those sweet words to the women of my province?" She was gone—gone to the many-mansioned home—gone to dwell forever with her Saviour, of whom she had just heard.

But for the Woman's Foreign Mission Society of America she might have gone down through the valley whose shadow is said to be dark, with no ray of light to cheer her soul. God bless our medical missionaries in their double work of healing body and soul. God bless our Christian women with wide-planning and liberal giving that many hungry hearts may

be fed with the bread of life. Our work is not in vain; but "the fields are white already to harvest," the grain is nodding for the sickle, while the earnest labourers are few.

ANNIVERSARY.—The Ladies Foreign Mission Aid Society of Hibernia, Q. Co., intend holding an anniversary entertainment in the meeting house on Wednesday the 8th inst., after which a social will be held in aid of the organ fund.

Mrs. R. SCOTT, Secretary.

Is The Earth In Danger From The Drill?

Professor Joseph F. Jones answers, in a recent issue of the *Popular Science Monthly*, the question, "Is it safe to drill the earth too much?" The professor assumes the earth to be a hollow sphere filled with a gaseous substance, called by us natural gas, and he thinks that tapping these reservoirs will cause disastrous explosions, resulting from the lighted gas coming in contact with that which is escaping. He compares the earth to a balloon floated and kept distended by gas in the interior, which if exhausted, will cause the crust to collapse, affect the motion of the earth in its orbit, cause it to lose its place among the heavenly bodies, and fall in pieces.

Another writer thinks that drilling should be prohibited by stringent laws. He, too, thinks there is a possibility of an explosion, though from another cause. Should such a disaster occur, "the country along the gas belt from Toledo through Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky will be ripped up to the depth of 1,200 feet, or 1,500 feet, and flopped over like a pancake, leaving a chasm through which the waters of Lake Erie will come down, filling the Ohio and Mississippi valleys and blotting them out forever."

Still another theorist has investigated the gas wells with telephones and delicate thermometers, and he announces startling discoveries. He distinguished sounds like the boiling of rocks, and estimated that a mile and a half or so beneath the Ohio and Indiana gas field the temperature of the earth is 3,500 degrees.

The scientist says that an immense cavity exists, and that here the gas is stored; that a mile below the bottom of the cavity is a mass of roaring, seething flame, which is gradually eating into the rock floor of the cavern and thinning it. Eventually the flames will reach the gas, and a terrible explosion will ensue.

QUEEN VICTORIA recently visited Belfast, Ireland, and while their administered a most expressive rebuke to the "high-church" lights throughout the world by communing in the Crutche Presbyterian Church of that city. The following account of the solemn occasion is given by the Belfast *Witness*: "It is a cold, wet, stormy day, but the weather which kept less earnest worshippers at home, did not deter her from showing her love to her Redeemer in the way of his appointment. She sat in the manse pew, and among the simple Scottish shepherds and farmers of the district, received from the minister the bread and wine according to the old Presbyterian form. Probably the Episcopalian bigots, who have so often denounced her for similar acts, will denounce her again. But, happily, she does not regard their bigotry or their folly. They are likely still more enraged at learning that she has actually had a beautiful little Presbyterian Church built within the precincts of Balmoral Castle, where, now that advancing years render her not as able as she formerly was to resort in all weathers to the kirk, she still may enjoy its simple services."

THE POISONING CASE.—Referring to the trial of McDonald for poisoning Mrs. Macrae, the St. John *Evening Gazette* says:

It is possible that those who arranged McDonald's defence sincerely believed in his innocence and in his insanity, and if so they are not to be censured for the line of defence they adopted. But if the contrary was the case; if, as many are of opinion, it was within their knowledge that McDonald was the poisoner of Mrs. Macrae, then they took a heavy responsibility upon themselves when they undertook to set him at large in this community a free agent, with the power to do as he pleased and to commit other murders if so disposed. The responsibility is the greater because there is a prevailing suspicion that another person, very near to McDonald, whose death was very sudden, was also a victim of his homicidal mania. There is no code of legal ethics that we know of that

makes it necessary for a counsel to disregard all other considerations but the desire to save his client from the punishment due to his crimes. If there is such a rule we think it ought to be disobeyed in cases where not only the general public but the family of the criminal are interested in having him placed in such a position that he will be restrained from doing further harm.

DENSE POPULATION.—It has been for a long time asserted and believed that the Island of Barbadoes, with 166 square miles and a population of 175,000, which is 1,054 persons to the square mile, was the most densely inhabited portion of the earth's surface. From a communication of Mr. John Worthington, the Consul of the United States at Valetta, Malta, it appears that in the matter of density of population Barbadoes must yield the palm to Malta. That island contains 95 square miles of surface, and contains 142,500 inhabitants (exclusive of the British garrison and visitors and non-residents), which is an average of 1,500 to the square mile. The city of Valetta contains a great plethora of population, its area being 0.318 square miles, and its population 21,854, a population of 78,157 persons to the square mile.

"Pat, you must be an early riser, I always find you at work the first thing in the morning." "Indade, an' Oi am, sor. It's a family thrait, Oi do be thinkin'." "Then your father is an early riser too, eh?" "Me feyther, is it? Faix, an' he roises that early that ef he'd go to bed a little later he'd make himself gettin' up in the mornin'." *Richmond Dispatch.*

You have a telephone ear. You may not know it but you have it all the same. It is the left ear, for it is on record that only a very small percentage of men or women use the right ear at the telephone. As a matter of fact the telephone has suddenly come into prominence as a medical proposition and unless the scientists are mistaken the bulk of men and women who use the telephone within a few years may expect to find themselves rather hard of hearing in the left ear. This is because when using the telephone every muscle and nerve of the ear is strained to catch the faintest sound from the person speaking at the other end.

Houlton has one of the greatest curiosities now existing in the world, but probably the people do not appreciate it. There is a woman residing in that town who is the mother of fourteen children. She has never worn an article of jewelry; nor a collar around her neck; nor a ribbon, with the exception of one time when first married she wore one fashioned into a bow. Nor has she worn a hoop skirt, a bustle, nor a piece of lace in her life. If the majority of women were like this one there would be a decided dullness in the fancy goods business. *[Bangor paper.]*

The most remarkable canal in the world is the one between Worsley and St. Helen's in the north of England. It is sixteen miles long and under ground from end to end. In Lancashire, the coal mines are very extensive, half the country being undermined, and many years ago the Duke of Bridgewater's managers thought they could save money by transporting coal underground instead of on the surface. So the canal was constructed and the mines connected, and drained at the same time. Ordinary canal-boats are used, but the power is furnished by men. On the roof of the tunnel-arch are cross-pieces and the men who do the work of propulsion lie on their backs on the coal and push with their feet against the cross bars on the roof.

Among Exchanges.

AN HONOUR.

This is sure; the time will come when it will be a high honor to be able to say "I was a prohibitionist."—*The Voice.*

HE UNDERSTOOD IT.

A wise old German once said: "I likes to give villingly. Ven I gives villingly, it enjoys me so much that I gives again."

STUBBORNNESS.

Said one man speaking of another man recently dead, "He was the stubbornest man I ever saw, and always the most stubborn over the smallest things." The result of it was he lived an unhappy and a useless life, and died without being regretted.—*United Presbyterian.*

FASHIONABLE DRESSING.

The style of dressing at some of the social parties in professedly Christian homes, where even preachers are smilingly and obsequiously present, can hardly be called respectable, however fashionable it may be. There is overdressing as far as extravagance is concerned, and underdressing as far as modesty is in question. What must she be, who could even brook the thought of such exposure to public gaze? Ministers may close their mouths but they cannot close their eyes, to this gross offense against reason and religion, against society and the church, against the home and everything that is holy.—*Chris. Standard.*

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

A NUMBER OF JEWS from the Western States have gone to Palestine to inquire into the practicability of recouping the Holy Land. They represent Societies of Jews in America, and will report the results of their observations and investigations.

THE CHINESE are becoming uncomfortably numerous in the Sandwich islands. They are engaging in every kind of business and are dangerous competitors of the business men of other nationalities. And the burning question is how to restrict Chinese immigration.

THE OLD HOME of the infidel Ingersoll in Peoria, Ill., is being torn down, and on the site a Y. M. C. Association building is to be erected. Truth has its revenges.

Egypt has but one Lunatic Asylum. It is an unused palace, which, with its surrounding gardens, is admirably adapted to the purpose. Up to comparatively recent date, the Mohammedans did not regard insanity so much a disease as a proof of divine inspiration. Lunatics were allowed to do almost what they pleased,—to run naked through the streets, to assault persons; and not until their actions became absolutely dangerous to human life were they restrained. This was traced to the early notions of the Christians, who thought all lunatics were either inspired of God or possessed of the devil.

THE GOVERNOR of Maine says the taxes for this year in that state are lower than they have been for thirty years. There is only one person imprisoned in that state for every 1,591 inhabitants, while in high-licensed Massachusetts there is one in prison for every 478 inhabitants. So much for a Prohibitory law.

COMMENTING on the split in W. C. T. Union of the United States, the *Christian at Work* says:

We have only to repeat what we have said before; we think the Union would accomplish better work by letting politics alone, and devoting itself to the work of enforcing the best temperance laws, and otherwise remedying the great evil of intemperance. The best way for temperance workers is to work irrespective of party lines; in no

other way can they secure the help of the best elements of all parties.

BIGOTRY in Bohemia has gone to the extraordinary length of interfering with the family worship of Protestants. The Governor of Bohemia has decided that such worship must not take place in the presence of 'invited guests,' and Mr. Freytag, a lay preacher, has been ordered to cease the practice. An appeal was made to the Ministry at Vienna, but the Imperial Government has confirmed the provincial order.

CARD-PLAYING would seem a considerable part of the legislative duty of the members of the United States Congress if it is true, as it is stated, that \$1000 worth of playing cards were purchased for the last Congress.

THE MARRIAGE of blood relations is quite common in Prussia. Of 1,549 such marriages last year 1,452 were between cousins, 110 between uncles and nieces, and 16 between aunts and nephews.

THE EMPEROR OF GERMANY wants to erect a great monument to his grandfather, and a lottery is being established to raise the funds. Just think of it!

THE GREAT QUESTION with which the nations have to deal in the government of Africa is the slave-trade. There is says the "Watchman," a regularly organized system by which the slave-traders of Northern Africa and Asia invade the country with an army, destroying everything in their path, and seize on the inhabitants. One million slaves are captured every year. They are driven north and east with great caravans. Every morning the lot is inspected, and all who show signs of exhaustion are killed with a bar of iron to save food and water. With the number killed directly and the number who die during the march, only about half reach the countries to which they are destined. Half a million Africans are sold into slavery every year, and half a million more are killed on the march, without reckoning the slaughter which occurs during the capture. It is impossible to control all the Oriental nations. The practical method is to govern Africa in such a manner that bands of slave-traders can be resisted, captured and hung as outlaws.

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.]

Retrospective.

With last week's issue the first year of the publication of our Column came to a close. And as this is the season when people usually balance their accounts, and take stock of goods in hand, it will be well, perhaps for us to look over the past year and consider our success or failures as the case may be.

As our readers all know this matter was first discussed by the Society at their Annual meeting held in Oct. 1888; though at different times previous to that the thought had been suggested. As a result of this discussion a committee of three was appointed to take charge of the enterprise. Namely Miss L. J. Fullerton, Mrs. F. Babcock and Mrs. R. Alexander, power having been given these to add to their number Mrs. C. W. Weyman was added to the committee.

Neither of the above having had any previous experience in work of this kind it took considerable time to correspond and make arrangements, consequently the first issue of the column did not appear till Jan. 2nd 1889.

The aim of the Society in attempting this enterprise, was to bring Woman's Foreign Mission work more prominently before all the women of our churches, while many were interested and doing what they could to advance this department of Christian work, too many were, perhaps for lack of knowledge, entirely indifferent.

If even one has been influenced in any degree to give of her time, money or intellect, to this cause their aim will in just so far be realized.

We feel that we are but voicing the thought of the whole committee when we say that the column has not reached the standard that we hoped it would. We hope it may be more interesting in the coming year.

At the last Annual meeting Oct. 1889, the old committee were re-appointed and three others pledged themselves as regular contributors, namely Mrs. C. W. Weyman, Mrs. C. T. Phillips and Mrs. C. H. Ebbett. This