

# Religious Intelligencer.

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

VOL. XXXVII.—No. 14.

FREDERICTON, N. B., APRIL 2, 1890.

WHOLE No. 1883

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

The many subscribers who have been prompt to renew their subscriptions for 1890 have our hearty thanks.

There remain several hundreds from whom we have not yet heard. We assume that they are intending to renew, but have delayed doing so thinking it makes no difference.

To all these we wish to say that we need their payments at the earliest possible date. We trust they will not delay longer. They can help us very much by at once forwarding their subscriptions. Before the end of this month we should receive hundreds of subscriptions. Kindly send them along at once.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

THE NEW C. T. ACT INSPECTOR for Carleton County is evidently wide-awake, and determined to bring offenders to justice. Last week he had several cases before the Police Magistrate in Woodstock. Among them were five convictions against Perkins of Centreville. It is time the fellow was taken by the throat. He has seemed to be able to do about as he liked for several years.

THE WOMEN SUFFRAGISTS in some places in the west are having a good deal to do in the management of affairs. Oskaloosa, Kan., for two years completely under the rule of the woman suffragists, has gotten along so well that the woman officials are about to be re-elected without any opposition to speak of. Their rule works so well there that it is likely to spread through a large number of towns and cities of Kansas in the coming spring elections. The men are so busy attending to business that the women seem to be absorbing about all the rights and duties of citizenship on the broad prairies.

THE LIQUOR VENDOR under the C. T. Act in Glassville, C. Co. is Hugh Miller. The *Woodstock Press* says a petition is being numerously signed asking the Governor in Council to dismiss him. If half what is reported about the use he has made of the position is true he ought to be summarily dismissed.

HON. M. MERCIER is in a fair way of having to grant a considerable portion of Quebec's land to the fathers of families of more than twelve children, according to the offer recently made law by the Quebec Legislature. From one parish alone, Les Evroulments, the claims of seventeen families of the required dozen or more children have been sent in. It is not a large parish, and yet other claimants are expected from it. When the whole Province is heard from the list of claimants is sure to be very large.

THE COST to England of the influenza epidemic is estimated at ten millions of dollars. This includes the loss of wages, the disorganization of business and the amount paid by insurance companies and friendly societies.

THE GOVERNMENT service in the United States employs a vast army of people. Some recently published statistics show that there are 88,000 employed in all branches of the postal service alone, and 62,000 others filling positions in the legislative, executive, judicial and miscellaneous divisions of the government with some 35,000 privates in the army, navy and marine corps and between 12,000 and 15,000 men and boys who gain their livelihood from the government for work directly incident to the increase of the navy and the construction of heavy guns, making a grand total of about 200,000 persons enrolled in the service of the Government.

STANLEY'S forthcoming book is the topic of conversation in literary circles. It is largely looked for. The Scribners are to pay the author a royalty, and in addition a very large sum as a guarantee. The book is to be sold by subscription, and will rank in popularity with the "Grant Memoirs," by

which hundreds of thousands were realized. Stanley, with his usual shrewdness, bound all the members of his expedition not to write or make public any fact about their adventures, so that the only narrative will be that from his pen.

DR. NORMAN KERR says that he has had among his patients ladies who drank three bottles of brandy a day and others whose diurnal allowance of chloral amounted to 960 grains! twenty grains of chloral is a full medicinal dose. He has known ladies who took a pint of chlorodyne in the twenty-four hours, and some who smoked cigarettes at the rate of thirty per diem.

IN ROME there are several thousand priests who make their living solely by reading masses. Especially in the 323 churches of the Eternal City an almost endless number of masses are ordered from all the ends of the globe. The regular pay for each mass has been 2.50 francs. Now the General Vicar of Rome has ordered, that the priest reading the mass shall receive only 1.20 francs and must hand over the rest to the treasury of the Church. Of course the lower clergy are more than dissatisfied with this innovation. In a number of papers bitter complaints are being made about the lamentable condition of these priests. A priest recently published in the *Tribuna* an article that attracted a good deal of attention. He stated that there are in Rome no less than 500 prelates and monsignori who did nothing but draw a monthly salary of 1,000 to 1,500 francs, and five hundred other ecclesiastics of the higher orders doing nothing, who drew from 700 to 1,000 francs a month.

THE MANUFACTURE of death-dealing engines is, evidently, a paying business. The celebrated cannon founder Krupp, of Essen, is said to be the richest man in Prussia. It is the custom to publish the amount of taxes paid by individuals in that kingdom, and from these accounts it appears that Herr Krupp was taxed for the past year on an income of 5,590,000 marks (\$279,000), while in the previous year his income was valued at 4,380,000 marks. That is an increase of \$60,000 in one year.

## Some National Dangers.

"Knoxonian," a sharp writer who always has something keen and sensible to say to the readers of the "Canada Presbyterian," lately discoursed on the above subject. Among the dangers which threaten the body politic he mentioned The Worship of Wealth, The Love of Notoriety, The Admiration for mere Highness, and The Growth of Self-Assertion. About these, he says, there is very little said, and yet they are the very things that will quickly and surely vulgarize and eventually demoralize any people. Of the first-mentioned danger he says:

THE WORSHIP OF WEALTH is alarmingly prevalent among our neighbors. One of the favorite ways of describing a marriage, or ball, or social gathering in some cities is to say so many millions were represented. We have seen comparisons made between the cabinets of Hayes, Garfield, Cleveland and Harrison on the basis of wealth,—so many millions being represented in each. Harrison's Government, if we rightly remember, comes out ahead, having more millions than any other ever had. It would go hard with some of our best public men if their worth were to be estimated by their millions. Congregations are not unfrequently described by the amount of wealth they possess and the almighty dollar is too often the measure of the man even in religious affairs.

How long can a nation last if the dollar is made the standard by which you measure everybody and everything? If a man's morals are of less importance than his money; if his soul is a trifling affair compared with his sovereigns; if culture, refinement, intelligence, moral worth and usefulness are of less importance than railroad and bank stock, morality and religion will soon go by the board. If, as wealth accumulates men decay, the nation must soon decay for nations are composed of men.

Heaven help clergymen and editors should money ever become the only standard by which men are judged.

Have we much worship of wealth in Canada? If we have any at all we have too much. There is a good deal, we believe, in a quiet sort of way but so far the worship is not particularly ostentatious in most places. Here and there you find a young man with a creeping spirit who is willing to feed on the crumbs that fall from any rich man's table, but he is usually in his proper place when among the puppies under the table. Now and then you do meet a girl willing to marry almost any kind of a man if he is rich, but to the everlasting honour of Canadian girls the number is small.

There are in most communities a few who creep and crawl before wealth but the number is always small. Clergymen are more blamed than any other class for worshipping wealth and no doubt some of them are sorely given to tuft-hunting. The minister of Christ who makes money his standard is more than a sneak—he is a natural born idiot. The money test would press more heavily upon clergymen themselves than upon any other class in the community except perhaps editors.

The other sources of danger mentioned we must leave over for another time, gently reminding our readers that the worship of wealth may do our young nation quite as much harm as allowing small French boys to learn to read in their mother tongue. Eliminating morality, religion and every other good thing and making dollars the only or even the main standard in Church and State will ruin the country faster than printing by-laws in French for the half-breeds around Regina.

## 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.]

## Some Hindu Superstitions.

BY REV. A. B. BOYER, B. A.

One of the interesting things to a missionary who has lived a few years in this country is the credulous superstition of the natives. It is perfectly astounding to what an extent both high and low, educated and ignorant, are its victims. Scarcely a deed is done, a word uttered, or even a thought conceived by an ordinary native, but is connected in one way or another with some absurd superstition. Their buying, selling, lending, borrowing, walking, talking, sitting, eating, sleeping, marrying, and even dying, all have the closest relations to devils, ghosts, witches, goblins, charms, curses, omens, etc.

During the few years I have been in the country I have noticed many of these and for your entertainment I shall speak of some of them.

Dreaming of an elephant is a sign of riches; dreaming of wealth, is a sign of marriage. If a sick man dreams of a snake he will get well, especially if the snake is poisonous and bit him. Sight of a white hawk is a good omen, so also is a full basket, a cow-woman carrying milk or curd, or a fisherman carrying fish. It is a good omen if while a person is writing the ink should be spilled on the paper. The spilling of oil is a good omen and he who spills it must not express regret at its loss. It is a good omen to sneeze while talking but bad while eating. He who is fortunate enough to appear just as some people are talking about him is ensured of long life. He who dies at full or new moon is sure to go to heaven. If a cobra should raise its head over the head of a sleeping man and spread its hood but not bite him, that man shall be a king. Kopila Deb, one of the former rajahs of Orissa became king in this way. He was only a cow boy by birth. Sparks from a lamp or candle are good omens. Sight of the tail of a snake is good, yes, we think so too—at least better than its head. If while people are talking the house lizard makes his peculiar ticking sound it is a good omen. He is said to say "Sat! Sat! Sat!!!" that is "Truth! Truth!! Truth!!!" and the thing being talked of is true. A number of crows making a cawing about the house means that a friend is coming. The friend's name may be known by placing three lots of rice on the ground

and naming them, the name given to the one the crows eat first is the name of the person who is to come.

A house lizard falling at a man's right is a good omen; at his left, bad; at a woman's left it is a good omen, but at her right, bad. A spider seen at a man's right means that he is to have a new garment, but it must be seen at a woman's left in order to ensure her a new garment. A black mole anywhere on the right side of a man's body is a good omen, and on the left side bad. If on a woman's body, it is good on the left and bad on the right. Itching of a man's right palm means that he is to have great riches, but it means nothing for a woman's right palm to itch; it must be her left, then she will be rich. Tingling of a man's right ear means good news; of a woman's left ear, good also. Trembling in any part of a man's right side or a woman's left is a good omen, but trembling in a man's left or a woman's right side is bad. A whole book has been written in the vernacular on the subject of trembling. It deals exhaustively with trembling in the members of the body and its various signs.

A dead man is ensured of eternal bliss by having a portion of one of his bones swallowed by a Brahman. No less than the present raja of Balasore consented to have a Brahman swallow a piece of a bone of his father, the late raja. He paid a large sum for it too. The Brahmins whose special prerogative it is to perform this office form a sect by themselves. They are called bone swallowers.

If a person while on his way to his father's house should meet a man of the oilman caste he must turn about. Indeed no business is successful after one has seen a man of that caste. It is a bad sign for any but a mother to call from behind when a person is leaving his house. It is a bad sign to see an empty vessel but a good sign to see a full one. If an owl looks at a person and cries *whit-too-hoo* it is an evil omen; or if a large crow should look at a person and caw, the omen is evil; but if a small hooded crow, it is a sign of good news. It is a bad omen for a man to sleep with his head to the North or West. Hindus never sleep in this way, but are always careful to place the head towards either the East or South.

The sight of a washer-woman is an evil omen. If the thatching of a house should be burned and the standing mud walls should look of a reddish colour it means that the owner of the house is to be a rich man; if the walls look black it is a bad omen. We would say that the difference was due to the presence or absence of iron in the soil of which the walls were made. If rice should stick in the throat of a person while eating it is a sign that somebody is thinking evil of him. One shoe on top of another, the sight of a snake's head, or the lowing of a cow at midnight are bad omens. A winnowing fan must not be brought home during the last half of December or the first half of January. If it should be it must be thrown near the house at night and not brought in until the next morning.

Fighting cats are the causes of quarrelling families. To write with coal or the finger-nail is a bad omen; so also is the sight of a blind or lame man, a man with projecting teeth or an old Brahman with a cane. A bad omen is created by touching another's foot but it may be averted by crying "Vishnu! Vishnu!" All have observed how careful Hindus are when passing each other not to touch each other's feet. It is a bad omen to touch a broom when the sweeper is using it. This omen is averted by placing a small splint of the broom in the mouth and spitting it out again violently. A man must neither borrow nor lend on Thursday. Many will not sell. A man must not give a salutation nor touch another just after he has oiled himself for a bath. Sight of a black stone is a bad omen in the early morning. For this reason if the stone for crushing spices (every native has a stone for this purpose) happens to be black, it must be covered up at night and not uncovered again until late the next morning. A man must be careful never to arrive home from abroad on the sixth, ninth, or thirteenth of any month. If an only male child should hear a bambu whistle in the evening he must go to bed without his supper to avert the bad omen. This is what

might be called paying dear for some other person's whistle. If a woman's great toe projects she will be a widow and for this reason young ladies with projecting great toes are not likely to be chosen in marriage.

(Concluded next week.)

## Concerning Women.

—Mrs. Talmage, wife of the celebrated preacher, is said to be the financier of the family. It is she who makes all the doctor's engagements and does his banking business.

—There are two sisters in New York who conduct a very profitable jewelry business. One is an expert clock maker, and both are well trained in all the details necessary to their work. It is rather amusing to know that these girls have on the average one proposal a week.

—There is in New York a woman who goes about from house to house fitting keys, mending or putting on trunk locks, putting fastenings to rights, and all such little things where small tools and nice work are necessary. She makes a very good thing of this rather odd work and finds plenty to do.

—The German Empress is forming a "League for the Preservation of Good Habits" among Prussian ladies. The members bind themselves to discourage luxury in every form, both for themselves and their friends; to wear fewer, more simple, and cheaper dresses, and to practice economy in their households.

—One of the prettiest and most sensible girls in Mount Carmel, Connecticut, Miss Nellie Patterson, has just finished a four years' apprenticeship, and is now earning her living as a full-fledged machinist. She had to make her way in life, so she learned the work for which she had a natural bent. Now she is pronounced as clever and efficient as any workman in the shop where she is employed, while her success has been accomplished without any sacrifice of womanliness.

—Mrs. Bolton Lacy is a fully certificated dentist, who has been practicing for twenty years in Brighton, Eng. She acquired her skill as assistant to her husband, and after his death was able to carry on his business and support her young family. She is especially successful in persuading timid children to submit cheerfully to needed dental operations.

REPORTED.—The "faith-cure" sect in Brooklyn to whom we referred last week, some of whose members allowed two children to die of diphtheria rather than have a doctor or give them any treatment, have repented and promised to be more sensible and humane. A delegation waited on the Coroner, and told him they had been impressed by his remarks at the inquest of the children who had died; they said they had prayed together and earnestly asked the Lord to enlighten them if they were wrong, and to put them up on the right path. After long and fervent prayer, the Lord had opened their eyes, changed their hearts, and showed them that they were wrong to conflict with the civil law. They assured the coroner that they would in the future obey the law, and will give due notice when disease arises in the family, and employ physicians and use medicine as a means in occasion of sickness, while still relying upon God to bless the means used and to assist in restoring the patient to health. They also expressed regret at having transgressed the laws, and acknowledged that the arrest of their members and their punishment were entirely just and proper. They appear to have reached, after much tribulation, the position which all consistent Christians hold.

## Among Exchanges.

WOULD BE BOTH.

A Sunday-school teacher had been relating to his class the story of the rich man and Lazarus; when he asked: "Now, which would you rather be, boys, the rich man or Lazarus?" One boy replied: "I will be the rich man while I live, and Lazarus when I die." And is that not what multitudes are trying to do? All want to die the death of the righteous, after having lived the life of Dives.—*Home Journal*, JUDGE CAREFULLY.

Be careful how you judge of a man's holiness by his apparent "unction" in preaching, in teaching, in profession, in conversation, in singing, or in any other manifestation whatever.—*Phil. Standard*.

## DIAMONDS.

Diamonds in the rough are valuable, not because they are rough but because they are diamonds. The uncouth preacher is to be tolerated, not because of his uncouthness or his eccentricities; but that notwithstanding these he has something worth saying and worth hearing.—*Chicago Standard*.

## WIDENING.

Woman's sphere gradually widens. Thousands of women are now engaged in employments into which a few years ago one of the gentler sex would not have thought of entering, and many new pursuits have come into existence recently to which women are eminently adapted. Some women display strange taste in their aspirations. Mrs. Mary Simmons has been licensed as a steam-boat mate, after having been on the Mississippi River for the last eight years, and thoroughly learned all the details in the management of a boat. She is serving an apprenticeship on her husband's boat, and hopes soon to be a master and eventually the owner of a vessel. It is not probable that her example will be followed to an alarming extent by the women of this generation.—*Adv.*

## WELL PUT.

The pastor of a church in upper New York, whose hearers are among the richest in town, but are niggardly in their contributions, has been trying to induce poor people to come to his church, and recently, through the columns of the local papers, extended to them a cordial invitation to attend. Last Sunday at the close of the service he said: "Brethren, I have tried to reach the poor of our own town and induce them to come to our church and break with us the bread of life. Infer from the amount of the collection just taken—\$7.35—that they have come."—*N. Y. Paper*.

## THE N. S. LIQUOR LAW.

Amendments to the liquor license law are now before the Nova Scotia legislature repealing the clause imposing \$20 fine upon any person drinking liquor in a bar in violation of the law, and providing that no licenses be granted to females. All screens, blinds, etc., are to be removed from the windows and the interior of the bar is to be open to view from the street. There is to be no communication between any liquor shop and any other part of the building except by the street entrance.—*Gazette*.

## Sun Life Assurance Company.

The report of the directors of this excellent institution for the year 1889 which is the eighteenth annual statement presents a highly satisfactory progress, and exhibits a greatly increased growth in public confidence. No less than 2,755 applications covering \$4,102,710 of life assurance were received, of which 2,504 for \$3,732,331 were accepted and policies issued, and 1,363 applications covering \$2,420,300 for accident policies were received, of which 1,347 for \$2,375,300 were accepted and policies issued. The total number of policies for life and accident assurance issued during the year was 3,851 for \$6,107,631, and the total number of policies in force at the close of the year was 11,015 for \$17,164,383, of which 8,951 for \$13,387,993 were in the life branch, and 2,064 for \$3,826,400 were in the accident branch. The income of the Company for the year was \$563,140, of which \$476,274 was from premiums, \$85,531 from interest, and \$1,334 was from rents. Compared with the previous year this was an increase of \$37,866. A satisfactory feature of the report is that while the business of the Company shows a considerable increase the death claims were less than in the previous year. The financial statements bear the impression of careful preparation and show in a very explicit manner the condition of the company's affairs. An examination of the assets cannot fail to impress the reader with the care and sound judgment which has been exercised in their selection. The fact that there is a cash surplus to policyholders of \$219,036, and a surplus of \$156,536 over all liabilities and capital stock must impress those interested in life assurance matters with the soundness of the Sun's position, and the positive guarantee it furnishes to the insuring public of its ability under any circumstances to carry out faithfully all its undertakings. The Sun is emphatically a Canadian institution. It has grown out of and with the requirements of the Canadian people. Its success is one of which Canadians have reason to be proud, and its management is a credit to the country. Mr. Robertson Macaulay, who has been identified with the Company since its organization, and now holds the position of president, has shown what perseverance, fidelity and ability can accomplish. Under its present efficient management the Company promises to still further extend its operations, and to secure for both its policyholders and shareholders a return for their investments which will attest not only their security but their financial advantage as well.

Mr. John B. Gunter, of this city, is the energetic and successful agent of the Sun Company in this Province. Mr. G. has done a large business, and is steadily increasing the volume of it, much to the satisfaction of both the Company and its patrons.