

# Religious Intelligencer.

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

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## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

A YANKEE EDITOR says that the man who won't take a paper because he can borrow is trying to invent a machine with which he can cook his dinner by the smoke of his neighbour's chimney.

A WRITER in "Scribner" gives an account of how Stanley wrote his latest and most interesting book on Africa.

Arriving at Cairo, Mr. Stanley determined to tarry in that city until he had completed his great work, because he could write there in comparative seclusion. Having secured a suite of rooms, he shut himself up until his task was completed, writing steadily from early morning till late at night, rarely allowing himself the luxury of a stroll in the garden and never accepting an invitation to drive. According to Mr. Marston, the great explorer who is so amiable and approachable ordinarily cannot endure interruption when writing: "Nothing worried him more than a tap at the door while he was writing. He sometimes glared even upon me like a tiger ready to spring, although I was of necessity a frequent and privileged intruder, and always with a view to forwarding the work in hand. He was a perfect terror to his courier and black boy." Once he was induced to go out for half an hour. He walked with Mr. Marston down to the Nile. After looking at the river for a few moments, Mr. Stanley remarked that he had drunk its waters at its eastern source and discovered its western source in the Mountains of the Moon, and immediately returned to his work. Rarely has a great book been produced in so short a time, and rarely has an author toiled more industriously to finish his task in season.

THE PHYSICIAN in charge of the Leper Hospital at Tracadie, in this Province, is, it is stated, not yet quite sure that leprosy is incurable. There also comes a statement from India that the mission to lepers there has had considerable success in affording relief. It is now a settled and positive conclusion that this loathsome disease is by no means certain to be developed in children of leprosy parents; that it is, in fact, very rarely transmitted from one generation to another; that it has never been proved to have been so transmitted without actual contact; that it is not always transmitted when both parents are diseased; that it seldom affects more than one child in a family, and that only successively and independently of age. If leprosy has its microbe, science would make one of its greatest triumphs by discovering and isolating it. Perhaps this is the next field of medical conquest.

THE ARGENTINE Government proposes to issue \$50,000,000 of paper currency, which is about as wise as giving more rum to a man who is already dying with *delirium tremens*. The country is flooded with such currency.

THE STRIKE in Wales is as serious as it well can be. No words says the *Guardian*, can exaggerate the state of complete paralysis of trade of all sorts. Huge collier sailing vessels and steamers and great ocean liners are lying at the docks in absolute idleness, for there is not a ton of coal in sight to put into them. Meanwhile from the adjoining districts, such as are accustomed to be served by the now idle railways, come complaints of the shortness of the supply of provisions, diminished and dwindling trade, as well as grave personal inconvenience of the inhabitants. The markets are deserted, and the district is filled with police, while the military is held in readiness for any emergencies all along different points of the line.

TWO PETITIONS were recently presented to Li-Hung-Chang, the Chinese Prime Minister, relating to the opium business. One was signed by eight hundred missionaries, twelve hundred native preachers, many newspaper editors, and several thousand Christians, chiefly natives of India; the other signed by many ministers and members of Churches in Scotland. These petitions expressed sympathy with the Chinese Government in its endeavor to save the people from the curse of opium, and urged it to take the opportunity occurring this year of terminating the treaty with England, by which England compelled China to legalize the importation of opium. Li-Hung-Chang is said to have received the deputation most cordially, and to have expressed a great desire to see the ruinous trade extinguished. The Government, he said, felt the same way, and if the foreign importations

were prohibited, they would at once attempt to put an end to the home production of opium.

BISMARCK has given up smoking, after having been addicted to the habit many years. He says:

It is debilitating and bad for the nerves. An inveterate smoker, such as I used to be, gets through 100,000 cigars in his life, if he reaches a fair average age. But he would live longer and feel better all the time if he did without them.

Cigar smokers, who value life, good health, strong nerves and sound sleep, will do well to follow Bismarck's wise example.

THERE HAS BEEN much complaint of the non-attendance, often when they are most needed, of members of the United States Congress. The *N. Y. Tribune* makes a statement about the cause of their neglect of their duties which is greatly disgraceful to the parties concerned. It says:

"There has been suspicion that the cause of some of the absenteeism alluded to might be found in the attractions of a restaurant within a short distance of the Capitol, and the suspicion may be to some extent well founded. But another cause is alleged to exist, and to have been discovered; it is card-playing in some of the committee rooms when the House is in session. Poker and whist are the attractions, which are said to have become so seductive as to have made grave statesmen forget their duties even in times of emergency." Men of both parties, it says, are equally guilty. If this is the fact, it is an outrage on their constituents and the country; and the men ought to be followed and reported and dishonorably discharged by their constituents.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION of Brazil is better than may be generally understood, and shows that its framers have been careful students of the principles of free government. The following are some of its provisions:

The President is elected for six years, and is not eligible for the next succeeding term. The Senate is chosen for nine years, and is renewed by a third of its members every three years. A Cabinet Minister is not eligible to election as President. The judiciary will not be elective as in the States. Suffrage is not universal, but is restricted by an educational qualification. The Constitution can be amended by Congress after three discussions by a two-thirds vote in each house without the approval of the State legislatures. Religious worship is declared to be free; State aid to any Church is prohibited; civil marriage is recognized as compulsory; cemeteries are secularized and administered by municipal authority; instruction in public schools and institutions is required to be secular; and members of monastic orders and religious communities subject to vows of obedience are denied the rights of citizenship. The Constitution contains a clause prohibiting the Republic from engaging, either alone or in concert with other powers, in any war of conquest.

## Peculiar Sects.

Dr. Buckley, in his letters about the Holy Land, tells of two peculiar sects he encountered—the Druses and the Maronites.

These Druses are a sect of Mohammedans, founded by Hakem, a native of Cairo, a Fatimite Caliph. When he began his career he was a strict believer in Mohammedanism, establishing mosques and colleges, and was fanatical against Christians. On account of the disgraceful scenes attending the imposture of the holy fire at Easter he destroyed the Church of the Holy Sepulcher at Jerusalem, and tried to annihilate the tomb of the Saviour. Becoming unquestionably insane, he proclaimed himself the incarnate Deity, associated with himself two Persians, from which fact the name Druse comes. They claim to be Unitarians, but hold that the nature of God is incomprehensible, capable neither of expression in words nor of comprehension by the mind. Also, they hold that God has appeared in human form nine different times; the one who closed the series was Hakem, who became such a tyrant that his sister procured his assassination. The Druses expect him to return to distribute rewards and punishments.

I met a Druse, but could not draw much solid information from him. Throwing a mystical garb over all their forms, and employing exceedingly figurative language, they exert a great influence upon their followers by successive degrees of initiation. Among other strange things which they believe are the transmigration of souls,

and the notion that there is always the same number of men living in the world. Tobacco they utterly renounce and prohibit. They worship in solitary chapels, whose location is chosen in desolate places, and personally are very ambitious and brave, hospitable and amiable. Many of them have departed from the region through which we were passing, and settled in the Hauran Mountains.

## THE MARONITES.

These form a curious Roman Catholic sect, dating from 400, but they were not wholly subjected by the Roman Catholics until less than three hundred years ago, and have always demanded and received special privileges from the Pope. The lower clergy among them are allowed to marry, and instead of reading mass in Latin they are allowed to do it in Syrian. Intellectually they have attained very little development, but are energetic, and hate the Druses. I succeeded in procuring one of their catechisms, and it is upon a plan which leaves little or nothing to choose between them and their enemies. The Roman Catholics have been endeavoring to induce them to say mass in Latin, and the graduates of the Maronite College in Rome do so, with the exception of the gospel, which is read in Arabic.

In 1860 the Druses attacked them with the greatest fury, and though far inferior in numbers destroyed their capital and massacred many of them.

## Queer Things in Heligoland.

In Heligoland, the small island off the coast of Germany, which that power has acquired, by recent treaty, from England, there are some peculiar customs. The Sabbath always begins at 6 p. m. on Saturday, when the church bells are tolled, and ends on Sunday at the same hour. Formerly no vessel could leave port between these hours. Marriage cancels every other engagement, so that there can be no breach of promise brought against a man when once he is married.

The inhabitants have a strange custom on New Year's Eve. They then perambulate the streets with broken pots and pans, which they place before their friends' doors, and the man who has the largest heap before his cottage is considered the most popular. The people rarely lock their doors, but when they do they leave the key where it can be reached by anyone seeking admission.

The fisher-girls bait the hooks and carry them in a large wooden basket filled with sand to the fishermen on the beach. This is by no means a light burden; yet they may be seen cheerfully chatting with their companions as they march onward with woolen shawls over their heads. The streets bear English names, as Leopold, Berlin, Church, Augusta, Thames, Short, O'Brien, Prince of Wales, Princess Street, etc.; but the natives have their own names for them.

Heligoland has a small prison or lock-up, but they rarely lock anyone up, as they do not care to board the prisoners. There is also a small cottage hospital ready for use if necessary, but patients are few and far between. There is also a poorhouse. Here poor people live rent free. The plan adopted is for parents and children to go before the magistrate, when the former resign any little property they may possess to their children, who in their turn promise to find them in food. When the husband dies the wife takes his property, and at her decease it is equally divided between the children.

There are no horses or donkeys in Heligoland, for they would be useless there; but there are eight cows and about thirty sheep tethered and milked, the milk of the latter being considered superior to that of cows. There are three policemen, the junior being known by the extra amount of gold lace worn by him. The coast-guard consists of five Englishmen, who are not permitted to act as constables. There are also sixteen active native coast-guards, and sixteen in the reserve. When there is a wreck, the whole island claims the salvage. Most of the inhabitants are behind with their rates, but they are never prosecuted, for when a settling takes place after the season is over; what remains is left in hopes of being recovered next year. The debtors are engaged to work on wrecks, and then old scores are wiped off and the balance handed

over to them. The natives only are permitted to rent small potato patches, which are much valued, but the Government reserves most of the land for their own purposes.—*London Times*.

## A Farce And A Sham.

The story that the Pope had been outside the Vatican was published by the press of Rome inimical to Leo XIII., and also cabled to the newspapers of the world outside. These sheets wanted to have it inferred from this story that the holy father's captivity was a mirth and sham. The official organ of the Holy See, *L'Osservatore Romano*, thus disposes of this last falsehood of the Pope's enemies:

"The holy father, after examining the statue of St. Thomas Aquinas in the studio of the sculptor, Cav Aureli, ordered the carriage to drive to the garden. Being but two steps from the Zecca gate, which leads to it, the Pope drove past that gate. In doing so he never dreamt for a moment of getting outside the precincts of the Vatican. The best proof of it is that this very gate is closed every night by the Swiss guards, and that the station sentry can only get to the Zecca on a small staircase put up outside."

What is the captivity of Leo XIII. but a "farce and a sham"? This old man has shut himself up in the Vatican, the most extensive place of its kind in the world, and sulks, calls himself a prisoner, appeals to the sympathy of the world, and acts like a whipped schoolboy. He is as free to walk the streets of Rome, to go to Paris, to travel in Syria as any man on earth. The Catholics of the world should be ashamed of the farce, and call upon their ecclesiastical head to abandon this foolish course of conduct. A captive! yet sending his edicts all over the world, and monopolizing all the Governments of the earth! It is nothing but a farce and a sham. The Pope is no more a prisoner than would be any other crank who should shut himself up in his own house and call himself a captive.—*Chris. Inquirer*.

## WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSION SOCIETY.

"Rise up ye women that are at ease. Isaiah 52: 9.

[All contributions for this column should be addressed to MISS LYDIA J. FULLERTON, CARLETON, ST. JOHN.]

## Woman's Aid Foreign Mission Society, Seventh District.

The eleventh Annual Meeting of this Society, was held at North Head, Grand Manan, during the recent session of the Seventh District Meeting and was one of the most enthusiastic and interesting meetings ever held by this society.

On Saturday afternoon, Aug. 16th, the ladies met at the home of Sister McFarland and made arrangements for a public meeting. The house was filled by a large and interested audience. In the absence of the President of the District, Mrs. Kendrick, President of North Head Society, took the chair.

After the singing of the hymn, "Tidings, Happy Tidings," by choir, reading of Scriptures by Mrs. Kendrick, and prayer by Mrs. McFarland, the report of the Secretary was read by Mrs. A. C. Smith of Carleton, also the minutes of the last meeting, which were approved.

The report, the adoption of which was moved in an able speech by A. C. Smith, M. P. P., and seconded by Jas. A. Clark, Esq., was as follows.

DEAR SISTERS,—Though it seems but yesterday, that we last met, we are reminded that another year has reached its close, and we are brought face to face with the duty of giving a report of the work accomplished during that time.

For want of sufficient information, it is a somewhat difficult task to give a correct idea of what has been done in this District during the year, though we fear our report as a District is perhaps below that of last year.

From reports already received we find the Society in the Waterloo St. Church a notable exception to this.

The Secretary writes that a year ago the Society had twenty-three members, and though during the year, death has claimed four of these, they now number thirty-five, an increase of sixteen new members. This she says, has been accomplished by personal solicitation, a mode she would recommend to all auxiliaries.

The Treasurer reports, amount of money raised, Forty-three Dollars and One Cent (\$43.01).

North Head in the past, one of our strongest Societies (at least financially) has retrograded during the past year. We trust the weakness is but temporary and that very soon they may recover their former strength, and be as they have long been, a leading Society of this District.

Carleton Society has kept along the even tenor of its way not making much progress and yet not going far backward. No new names have been added to their list during the year.

The three Societies just named have all held regular monthly meetings during the year.

Beaver Harbor, though somewhat weak, we are glad to know is putting on new strength. They have collected between eight and nine dollars.

The following Churches, Portland, Castalia, Grand Harbor, Seal Cove, Fair Haven, White Head, Wilson's Beach and Chocolate Cove are yet to be heard from. Some will doubtless, report at the annual meeting, others will probably not do so.

To have all the women in every church in the District interested in this work, is the aim of the District Society.

Those who have listened to the reading of this report will plainly see that there yet remains much work to be done.

After the reading of the report the officers for the ensuing year were elected, Mrs. A. C. Smith, President, and Lydia J. Fullerton, Secretary-Treasurer.

The following made brief but effective speeches, Bro. Wm. Peters, Rev. Wm. Bruce of Eastport, Rev. Wm. Downey and Rev. G. A. Hartley.

The collection taken amounted to nearly fourteen dollars, half of which was given to the Men's Foreign Mission Society.

During the exercises several appropriate pieces were sung by the choir which added much to the interest and enjoyment of the meeting. The Benediction was pronounced by Rev. T. O. DeWitt pastor of the church.

## A Remarkable Clock.

The most remarkable clock in America, if we consider the place in which it was built, is the one which was made by a miner in the Hallenbeck colliery at Wilkesbarre, Pa. This clock was made out of bits of wood and iron, and with the roughest tools that can be imagined. It was made nearly half a mile underground, and it occupied the maker nearly nine years before he could say it was done.

The clock is nine feet high, and there are sixty-three figures which move by machinery. There are only twenty-two moving figures in the Strassburg clock. On the front of the Wilkesbarre clock—the one we are speaking of—there are three shelves, or balconies. Along the lower balcony a mounted general leads a file of Continental soldiers. The liberty bell rings, and the sentinel salutes the procession. A door in the upper gallery opens and shows Mollie Pitcher, who fires her historic cannon, the smoke of which is blown away from the interior of the clock by a fan. Then the portraits of the first twenty Presidents of the United States pass along in a kind of panorama, the Declaration of Independence being held aloft by Thomas Jefferson. On another of the balconies the twelve apostles go by, Satan comes out, and the cock crows for the benefit of Peter. When Christ appears a figure of Justice raises a pair of scales, while a figure of Death tolls the minutes upon a bell.—*Work at Home*.

## Temperance Notes.

Poor people chiefly support idle and drunken beggars, and those who have little money invest in "wild cat" schemes. Safety with small returns is the rule for those who would get on, instead of great promises with the risk of all.

It is reported that in Iowa no less than 15,000 saloons went into the "original package" business in the sale of intoxicating liquors, and that since the passage of the "original package" bill by Congress, nearly all of them have summarily closed up their business. The law has certainly brought great relief to that State, if such be the facts.

Drunkness is not always the worst effect of the use of liquors. Before that state is reached the judgment is affected and self-control weakened. Thus hundreds of bad bargains are made, unfortunate contracts made, bitter words said, and deeds of wicked-

ness done. Confidence men, gamblers and seducers of all sorts know this, and make others drink, while abstaining or taking but little themselves.

Statistics exhibit an increasing consumption of intoxicating liquors in the French capital, with a corresponding multiplication of the resultant evils. Within the last thirty years the consumption has been trebled, and in the past decade doubled. As the result of this enormous amount of liquor consumed, crime, disease, insanity and suicide have alarmingly increased. This is a sad picture. Paris has enough of demoralizing agencies without this demon of intemperance working her physical, mental and moral destruction.

Kansas has grown wealthy under prohibition. Property values have increased about \$18,750,000 annually, while the increase in population has been 85,307 annually up to 1880, or a total increase in population up to that time of more than half a million of people, and a total increase of value of nearly \$150,000,000. There are 1,691 more school houses than four years ago, and 1,969 more teachers. The school population has increased during the last four years by the addition of 120,760 children.

The seventeen States which during the past ten years have voted on the question of constitutional prohibitory amendments cast 3,559,370 votes, of which 1,642,912 were for prohibition. There were 830,759 voters who did not vote. When it is remembered in how unsatisfactory a form, to many, the question was put in several of the States, and under what inauspicious circumstances, the fact that forty-six per cent. of the votes cast were for prohibition makes it certain that a decided majority of the people of the United States are opposed to the saloon. If its opponents could unite against it, they are strong enough to abolish it.

To consider carefully the reasons why liquor shops are licensed even in our large cities is an interesting study. Look over the city and see the character and standing of the men to whom licenses are granted, consider how these men conduct their business, mark well their attitude with reference to the laws of the State and the government of the municipality, note the men who patronize and support these institutions, follow them to their homes and see how they live, take into account the effects of the traffic on the homes of the people and in the sections of the city where its influence is greatest, watch its work in politics and its relation to business, observe the results of this trade as seen in the police courts, the prisons, and the taxes which the people pay, and remember that these places are tolerated, yes, licensed, by act of Legislature and with the approval of the people. What returns do these rum-shops yield for the cost of supporting them? Do they contribute to the wealth of the community, the progress of science, the advancement of learning, the propagation of good morals? Let any one undertake to write down ten good reasons why they should be permitted to exist. He cannot produce five; no, not one.

## Among Exchanges.

### Too Much.

Too much money is now spent on vacation trips. Many families owe the fact that they are running behind or not getting ahead to the summer outing and the Christmas extravagance.—*Advocate*.

### Suspicion.

The last sin to be conquered by many good people is a spirit of suspicion. "Thinketh no evil" Paul crowns as one of the highest qualities of Christian love. There is something wrong somewhere, too, when the Christian persists in the inference that a personal criticism was intended where none was expressed. An indwelling Christ will expel such infirmities.—*Derald*.

### A Benefactor.

The man who keeps still when he hasn't anything to say is a public benefactor.—*Journal*.

### How To Get Ahead.

The man who spends less than he earns, will get rich, if he keeps at it and lives long enough. The man who spends two dollars and earns one is going toward an end where he will think a big mountain is on top of him. *Western Rural*.

### CAUSE OF CANCER.

A medical writer in one of the magazines contends that cancer is largely caused by mental trouble. Whether this theory is new to the profession or not it is certainly new to the general public. Most people believe that insanity is often caused by worry, but it will startle not a few to hear that cancer—the most terrible of all diseases—is largely caused by trouble. If the theory is correct it furnishes another reason for learning the great secret of easing our care upon Him who cares for us.—*Can. Presbyterian*.