

Religious Intelligencer.

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

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NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

THERE ARE REPORTS to the effect that the Queen's health is giving those nearest her some anxiety. Though not seriously ill, she is said to be visibly ageing.

THE SIBERIAN RAILWAY, as now sanctioned by the Czar, will be 1,967 miles long, and cost about \$91,500,000. When the line is built, and the American connection by way of Alaska and large ferry steamers across Behring Strait established, American travellers may go to St. Petersburg, Berlin, or Paris by rail.

A HORRIFYING TRAGEDY lately occurred in a western town. Says the *Standard*; a man was brutally lynched by an excited crowd for killing another man, and after it was too late the lynchers found out that the killing was in self-defense. The whole thing was shocking and shameful business, but the blame must rest partly, if not chiefly, upon the courts. People have lost confidence in the administration of justice. Criminals with money stand in no fear of the law, no matter what crimes they commit—so many people believe, and it is time the courts were showing the belief to be erroneous.

LORD SALISBURY has taken an important step in regard to the labour question in England. It has become evident within the last few years that this question will henceforth demand the closest attention from both political parties. Lord Salisbury has just appointed a commission which includes prominent members of both political parties. It will thoroughly examine the condition of the working classes, and will include suggestions and recommendations for their permanent amelioration. Reports from commissions like this very often form the basis for legislation, and much is hoped for from the investigations now being set on foot.

LORD WOLSELEY, according to the *Missionary Review*, "believes that the Chinese are the coming nation; that the great battle of Armageddon will take place between the Chinese and the English-speaking people; that a general is to arise among them who will train them in the science of arms, and prepare them for a great assault upon the Russian Empire. The Chinese are capable of wonderful endurance, have a stolid indifference to death, and he prophesies that before them Russia will fall; that then they will overrun India, sweeping the British into the sea, and at last English, Americans, etc., will rally for a desperate conflict. Lord Wolseley is an authority on military matters in Britain. Whether or not he is a prophet remains to be seen.

A FEW DAYS AGO a funeral ceremony took place at the top of the Statue of Liberty in New York harbour, which is thus described by the "Christian Standard":

"It was innocent enough of anything religious, or of any hope in Christ, to have satisfied the most advanced Unitarian preacher in the land. In pursuance of the request of Henry Meyer, late proprietor of the Puck Hotel at Port Richmond, four companions scattered his ashes from the top of the statue, with the words, 'Here goes the last of Puck Meyer. Happy days!' The ceremony appropriately closed with the drinking of champagne. Such a ceremony shocks our sense of propriety, but is it not more consistent one than to have the religious rites and clerical eulogies over the body of one who has lived in avowed infidelity and open immortality which we sometimes have?

THE RUSSIAN MINISTERS are said to regard the German colonies as the leading factor in the spread of the doctrines of Stundism in Southern Russia. The Stundists are a Protestant sect, formed in 1817 by colonists of Wurtemburg, and numbering in 1888 more than a million adherents. The formulas of the Stundists closely resemble those of Anabaptists. They repudiate the sacraments and demand an equal distribution of property. A synod of the Eastern Church recently anathematized the Stundists, and pronounced them guilty of blasphemy. The Russian Government now proposes to place special restrictions on the entry of German immigrants into Southern Russia, and to curtail the privileges allowed to those who are already residents within Russian territory.

CREMATION.—It is stated that the selling in favor of cremation is on the rise in Boston.

RUSSIA.

A series of notable events which have been taking place in the Russian Empire have drawn the attention of the world in an unusual degree to that country. The rule of the Czar, always despotic and severe, seems to have been increasing in stringency, and as a consequence, the condition of the Empire is undoubtedly restive and agitated. Foremost among the recent acts of the Czar has been the revival of the old restrictive law against the Jews, and the addition of new restrictions on that portion of the Russian population. A certain part of Russia is set apart where the Jews are compelled to live, and all the Jews who have resided in any town or village for less than eight years are forced, under the new regulations, to remove into this designated district. No Jew can be an officer, either of the army or of the civil service. He is not admitted to the universities. He is confined to certain mercantile occupations, and by the new law is forbidden to hold or own real estate, or to have it mortgaged to him. It is stated that the new restrictions, added to the old ones, will deprive two millions of the four millions of Russian Jews of earning their living. These startling facts have aroused indignation throughout the civilized world, and in some instances great public meetings have been held to protest against the persecution by law of such an immense number of human beings.

Another act of the Russian Government has been to curtail the ancient liberties of Finland, which is under the rule of the Czar as a conquered nation. The Finns are a sturdy, honest race, and have hitherto enjoyed a large degree of political freedom. But the Czar and his counsellors have, of late, shown a disposition to reduce them also to the same iron rule which holds the rest of the Russian dominions as in a vice.

The condition of the Russian peasantry is described by Stepiak, a Russian exile now on a visit to the United States, and a writer of note upon Russian subjects, as being deplorable. He states that the mortality of the peasantry in some Russian provinces reaches the annual rate of sixty-two in a thousand, which is three times the rate in some American cities; and that the cause of this large death-rate is want of food. The peasantry, according to this authority, have to pay one-half of their incomes in satisfying the demands of the Government. As a result they have had to mortgage their little plots of land in order barely to exist.

There seems, in view of these facts, to be no reason for astonishment that the state of the Empire is one of unrest and discontent, or that we continue to hear of plots and violent attempts of revolutionists against the Czar's life and authority.

Some Temperance Facts.

SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY.—A liquor-seller in Vermont was convicted of 715 "first offences" against the law of the State, and sentenced to 22,047 days, or over 60 years, imprisonment. If every liquor-dealer could be convicted of every offense he has committed against the laws under which his business is supposed to be regulated, and sentenced accordingly, there is room to believe that few would remain at large to go on with the trade.

THE BRITISH DRY K BILL.—The British national drink bill amounted last year to £139,500,000 sterling, showing an average expenditure per head upon intoxicating liquors of \$16. In 1889 the expenditure per head was \$15. The expenditure upon alcohol in 1890 was one-fifth of the national debt, one-twelfth of the estimated income of all persons in the United Kingdom, and between one-fifth and one-fourth of the annual value of all the property and profits upon which income tax was levied. It was 32,000,000 more than the whole capital of all the savings banks in 1889, and four and a-half times the amounts deposited in these. It was eleven times the capital of all the industrial and provident societies of the country. It was four and a-quarter times the gross receipts from passenger traffic on all the railways of the United Kingdom in 1889, and three and a-half times the gross receipts from their goods traffic, or

nearly as much again as the receipts from both species of traffic combined.

PROHIBITION VS. "REGULATION."—Rev. Dr. Hawthorne, in a recent address in Atlanta, Ga., replying to some of his critics said:

They say Prohibition in Atlanta did not prohibit. I say that Prohibition prohibits a thousand times better than regulation regulates it. How has regulation abated this evil? Here is a specimen of it. In the month of January, 1887, that Prohibition millennium period—we had 60 cases of drunks before the Police Court,—in the month of January, 1891, under the regulation system, we have 260 cases of drunks before the Police Court—60 to 260, a gain of 200. Now, that is all the argument an honest man wants—60 and 260. In 1887, under the millennium reign of Prohibition, we had 1,040 cases of drunks before the Police Court in 1890, under the regulation system, we had 3,500 cases. There is the difference—1,040 and 3,500. What is the logical conclusion? Is it not a demonstration of the truth that Prohibition prohibits incomparably better than regulation regulated?

Dr. Hawthorne also added:

A gentleman whose law office is on Peachtree Street, said, "I have stood at my window and counted not less than fifty minors in one day going into one bar-room." In one day! and yet they say, "Oh, you are doing the dear doggeries an injustice; you are indulging in unfounded assertions."

RUM'S METHODS.—Last fall the people of St. Paris, Ohio, rallied their forces and voted the saloons out of their town; and now the rum fiend has rallied his force, the incendiary's torch, and attempted to wreck vengeance on the citizens for voting their convictions and declaring at the polls in favor of "God and home and native land." During last week there were several incendiary fires, and on Wednesday night the stables of J. G. Tomlin and Dr. Faulkner were burned, and three men were caught in the act of firing the flouring mill of Wm. McClure. A dispatch says that all these men whose property was fired "were active in the Prohibition vote that drove the saloons from the town," and that the fires were clearly the work of incendiaries. Well, these tactics are exactly in harmony with rum's methods. In Nebraska it brutally assaults voters, in Iowa and the Dakotas it defies the law, in Illinois it attempts to blow up a distillery because it refuses to join the Whisky Trust, and in Ohio it applies the incendiary's torch to the buildings of those who were active in voting down the saloon. How long is this red-handed, defiant enemy of God and man to be permitted to continue its work?

ONE CAUSE OF DEPRESSION.—The people of the United States, Great Britain and Canada tax themselves much more heavily for strong drink than any government ever tried to tax them for purposes of peace or war.

The New York Witness says: Very few persons realize what an enormous drain the saloons are making upon the resources of the country. These dens are collecting an annual tribute of from \$12 to \$15 a piece on an average from every man, woman and child in the land, and in return for this immense revenue they are supplying their customers with that which is useless to them. As most of the money which passes over the saloon bar comes out of the pockets of persons of moderate means, it leaves them less able to purchase necessities for themselves and their families. The farmer, the tailor, the shoemaker and the general storekeeper, suffer directly in the loss of a market amounting to from \$700,000,000 to \$900,000,000 every year, on account of the money having been spent for liquor instead of going for bread and butter, eggs, milk, meat and clothes. The farmer gets back a percentage of his loss by finding a market at the brewery and distillery for grain and hops, but it must be only a small percentage, because one dollar's worth of grain will make a great many dollar's worth of beer or whisky at retail prices. To persons engaged in other businesses the money spent by their customers in the saloon is a pretty clean loss.

MR. NED WRIGHT, of London, England, is to arrive in New York this week for the purpose of giving lectures and holding evangelistic services. He brings with him commendations from Mr. Spurgeon, Drs. Thain Davidson, Donald Frazer and others. His unique experience among thieves for thirty years makes him an interesting speaker on the subject. He talks, it is said, with great facility, force and abundant personal reminiscences.

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.]

QUESTIONS.

- (1) Where is the F. B. Foreign Mission field?
 - (2) What is its size?
 - (3) Name its principal rivers, canals, and cities?
 - (4) Describe the face of the country?
 - (5) What are its products?
 - (6) Names of its animals and reptiles?
 - (7) Population?
 - (8) Names of its peoples?
 - (9) Number and names of languages used?
 - (10) How do the people live?
- (See issue of column March 4th.)

Indian Opium.

(Continued.)

A good average yield of opium is twenty pounds to the acre. Double this is sometimes realized. In 1874 the price paid to the cultivator by Government was one dollar a pound. Government sold the same for sixteen dollars a pound. In spite of the fact that the cultivator receives so small a fraction of the market value of the drug, the crop is a comparatively profitable one, and he engages at his own option.

Setting aside the moral phase of the question as something which if not already understood by our readers, could only receive justice by special consideration, let me add a few words as to the Government relations to the opium traffic.

Here are three propositions. First. The English Government in India must have a revenue. Second. Millions of people in India and China must have opium. Third. The man who cultivates the poppy, being a person of simple habits, can easily afford to contribute all but a fraction of his earnings to his government, who kindly assists him in its expenditure.

This third proposition furnishes the opportunity of Government, which steps in and controls the sale of opium in its own interests. In the province of Bengal, where in 1872 there were 500,000 acres under culture, the growth of the poppy is a government monopoly, and cultivators enter into annual engagements with government to sow a certain area. They receive advances of money at stated intervals during the growth of the plant, the final payments being made when opium is delivered. In case of the loss of crops from frost or drought, the advances are remitted. Each cultivator is bound to sell his entire produce to the government.

In Central India, under the rule of native princes, the cultivation is free, to secure the revenue on this, and at the same time prevent its sale at a price, injuring the market for government opium, there is a regularly established opium department, the duty of whose agents is to keep a watch on opium produced in these provinces, and see that it pays a revenue amounting to many times its value as it passes through the British Presidency of Bombay on its way to a seaport.

For local consumption, opium is cultivated in Rajputana, in Punjab, and to some extent in the Central Provinces, throughout the rest of India it is strictly prohibited.

NELLIE M. PHILLIPS, Balasore, Oct. 11th, 1890.

BALASORE, ZENANA WORK.—Miss Nellie Phillips in writing at the close of last year says: The zenana work employs ten teachers, and the number of pupils is one hundred and fifty.

JEWS IN AMERICA.—Jewish influence in the United States is increasing. The Hebrew population of New York is already sufficient to make a large city. The contribution of \$2,400,000 made by Baron Hirsch to be used for the education and improvement and assistance of the Jews in that city will stimulate immigration among this class. Russian persecution, which is driving the children of Jacob out of that country, will continue to send multitudes of them to America. The Rev. Jacob Freshman, pastor of the Hebrew-Christian Church in Boston, is doing a good work among this class.

THE "PRAYER WHEEL."—The *Churchman* has an article describing the Prayer-wheel used in India as an aid to worship ("aid to devotion," shall we say?), and it comments on it in this fitting style:

The mistake of the prayer-wheel is very simple. First of all, it puts material service in the place of human worship and utterance. A prayer-wheel may cost a good deal to make or build. Some of them are very beautifully adorned with costly decorations; carvings, lacquer, paintings and fringes are lavished on them. There is an elaborate machinery to keep them going, expenses to be met in preserving their efficiency. Then there is a great flying of flags about some of them, and a good deal of amusement in watching the way these gaudy appendages, each with a prayer written on it, flutter and flip as they catch the air. But there is no human feeling, no human heart, no sense of human need in this business. Yet how wonderfully it recalls the material service of some Christians who pay large sums to support a church which they seldom attend, and when they do attend it, listen only to the organ and the grand choir, or even the eloquent sermon. As to their heart, their religious devotion being engaged in the matter, it is as much out of the question as if they were Buddhists looking on at the gyrations of some gaudy, be-ribboned prayer-wheel.

Scientific Miscellany.

(Prepared for the INTELLIGENCER.)

MOTIVE POWER OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM.—Mr. C. H. Zenger claims to have first suggested in 1878 that the sun acts as a huge dynamo-electric machine, controlling the motions of the planets instead of by gravitation. Since then he has made various experiments, which tend to prove that all the motions in interplanetary space, on the surface and in the interior of the planets, are explained by this theory. It has been demonstrated that cyclones and tornadoes have an electrical cause, and reasons have been found for believing that not only cyclonic and magnetic storms and the northern lights, but also earthquakes and volcanic disturbances, have a periodicity corresponding to a semi-rotation of the sun. A copper sphere has been made to imitate, by the influence of electro-magnets, the motions of the planets around the sun; and a hollow glass sphere has been rotated on its axis by discharges from an electric machine. The appearance of the eclipsed sun, showing the protuberances and the discharges against discs of copper and tin foil on smoked glass plates; and an exact copy of the spots and other familiar characteristics of the sun's surface has been given by discharges on a hollow sphere of smoked glass or on a silvered mirror. Finally, the phenomena of comets' tails have been imitated by discharges on wrinkled surfaces.

PNEUMONIA FROM BLOWS.—Two cases of pneumonia as a result of concussion of the lungs have been reported by Dr. F. W. Burton. A boy of eleven, who was forcibly struck on the left side of the chest with a hatchet, began to cough about four hours later, and soon developed the symptoms of pleuropneumonia at the base of both lungs. A man of twenty-two, who strained his right side by trying suddenly to stop the fall of a sack of malt, developed all the signs of pneumonia in both lungs, and died.

EXPERIMENTS in a German technical school have yielded an excellent building material in a mixture of saw-dust and mineral refuse pressed into bricks. These are very light, impervious to wet, and absolutely fireproof.

PHOTOGRAPHIC FEATS.—Instantaneous photographs may be taken by means of a movable shutter, or by exposure to a flash of magnesium light or to the electric spark. From photographs of a rotating wheel, according to a recent lecture by Lord Rayleigh, the duration of the magnesium flash has been calculated to be from 1-10 to 1-50 of a second, while a simple spark from a Leyden jar lasts less than 1-25,000,000 of a second. Instantaneous photographs have lately been taken which show that a jet of oxygen on passing through water is at once split up into bubbles; and that a jet of water issuing into the air from a nozzle is at first cylindrical and then broken up into drops, each of which is momentarily connected with the cylinder by a ligament. The photographing of a soap bubble in the act of breaking, though this occupies less than 1-10 of a second, is made possible by dropping a weight from an electro-magnet, thus breaking the film and causing the spark simultaneously.

THE INTRA-MERCURIAL PLANET.—A mysterious circular object, about 1-32 of the apparent diameter of the sun, was seen by an English astronomer as it was crossing the solar disc on Feb. 5. While this could not have been the long-sought Vulcan of M. Lescarbault, Prof. Monck, of Dublin, thinks it is not less likely to have been a planet. He finds more evidence of transits of an unknown planet in February than in any other month, a remarkable fact

being that four of the recorded appearances—those of the years 1820, 1821, 1857 and 1864—were on Feb. 12.

A NUMBER of magnetic foci have been found in the Alps by Signora Sella and Oddone, the rocks with distinctly magnetic properties being magnetite, serpentine, diorite and aenite. A magnetic rock on Punta Giuffetti showed traces of fusion, as if it had been struck by lightning, and it is suggested that this circumstance has given the rock its magnetic properties.

SOME TIME AGO Prof. Parisi, of Athens, was surprised at being relieved of a tape-worm after a very free use of cocoonut. Since then he has tried this as a remedy with almost invariable success, and good results are reported from its trial in America.

OUR NEARNESS TO THE GLACIAL EPOCH.—Did you ever reflect, proud one, upon the narrow limits of the conditions that make human life possible? A little more heat and man and his works would wither into dust, a little more cold and the snows of perpetual winter would be heaped high above the mightiest of the earth's cities. Mr. C. Harding tells the Royal Meteorological Society, London, that the frost of the past winter has been more prolonged than any previous one during the last hundred years. From Nov. 25 to Jan. 22, a period of 59 days, the mean temperature of the southeast of England was 2° below freezing point, or 10° lower than the average, although in the extreme north of Scotland the cold was less than 1° greater than the average. This most remarkable period of frost leads Prof. T. G. Bonney to inquire what permanent fall of temperature would restore the glacial period. He concludes that a lowering of the mean by only 18° would again cover the British Isles and the northern United States with a sheet of ice, and that beyond the St. Lawrence the fall need be no more than 12° or 13°. An exchange of the present climates of the corresponding latitudes of the northern and southern hemispheres would bring England at least within the frozen zone.

ANOTHER FARADAY WANTED.—The steam engine returns in power scarcely more than 10 per cent. of the theoretical energy of the coal burned, and the most important problem on which Edison and others are now working is the direct conversion of heat into electricity, by which much of the loss of energy might be avoided. But it almost seems, Prof. Elihu Thompson declares, that we must wait for another Faraday to come forward and show us principles which are not now known, some relation between electric energy and heat energy whereby we can convert even 35 to 40 per cent. of the heat energy into electric energy. "Look what it means, should such a thing come about. The steam-engine would disappear. The apparatus to propel the steam ship would not be a steam engine with its reciprocating motions and rocking strain, but would have that quiet rotary motion which characterizes the modern electric motor."

Among Exchanges.

BETTER.

A common-school education, with common sense, is better than a college education without it.—*Exchange*.

TOO SLEEPY.

Some men who lie awake all night determining to do good work on the morrow, are so sleepy in consequence next day that they are not good for anything at all.—*Somerville Journal*.

THE DIFFERENCE.

John Toiler says that it is easy enough for a preacher who is settled on a \$5,000 salary to preach eloquently to his people on the importance of being cheerful and full of sunshine; but he would like to see him try it on a dollar a day, with a wife and five children to support.—*Telescope*.

INCONSIDERATE.

In the olden time they were more considerate concerning the preachers than some now seem to be in these days. They were reluctant to bother a minister with their business without taking him a present (1 Samuel 9:7). Nowadays a preacher will ride all day to the funeral of some person who never attended church, and not receive a penny or even a word of thanks.—*Herald*.

INDETERMINATE SENTENCES.

It is evident that "the indeterminate sentence" so much discussed and advocated by the friends of prison reform, is making considerable progress. Governor Fifer, of Illinois, has recently devoted a large share of his message to the Legislature on that subject. Instead of the fixed terms of imprisonment which experience often shows to have a dispiriting and hardening influence upon the offender, he recommends that the length of the sentence should not be arbitrarily fixed by jury or judge, but virtually by the prisoner himself. This means that if his daily conduct, as observed by the prison authorities, should evidence an intention to reform and lead an honest life, he should be released and helped in the way of self-support.—*Guardian*.