

# Religious Intelligencer.

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

VOL. XXXVIII.—No 35.

FREDERICTON, N. B., AUGUST 26, 1891.

WHOLE No. 1954

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

LORD SALISBURY thinks that female suffrage is within the reach of practical politics both in Australia and Great Britain.

GATHERING SPONGES is extensively engaged in the eastern part of the Mediterranean. About 5000 persons are employed in it. The business is carried on mostly by diving, and is one of much exposure and danger.

A REAL ESTATE agent in Washington, desiring to purchase a certain property cheap, hired a man to act the ghost in the house and depreciate its value. But a policeman, sent to look into the matter, spoiled the scheme by firing at the "ghost," who quickly surrendered.

THE POPULATION of Germany, according to the recent census, is 49,420,842. About 1,000,000 a year emigrate to America.

AN INVESTIGATION into the effect of the drinking habit on workmen and wages has been made by the *Voice*, of New York. Some of the great business firms interviewed have given very decisive and suggestive replies. Here is one from the proprietors of a large foundry and machine shop in Cincinnati: "A drinking man will turn out twenty to thirty per cent. less than a non-drinker, and in addition it is apt to be defective and require overhauling. This is especially true of heavy beer-drinkers. They become heavy, soddan, lack ambition, and seldom vary the mode of doing their work."

"CHINESE SECRET SOCIETIES" will form the subject of a novel paper by Frederick Boyle in the September number of *Harper's Magazine*. "This subject," says the writer, "is not only curious; from day to day it may become more so. The secret societies of China are innumerable; and although the very great majority have no concern with public affairs, since most of them are persecuted, not one, perhaps, is friendly to the government. But the great leagues are furiously hostile. Expulsion of the Tartar, and, as we should say, China for the Chinese, are their passwords and mottoes." The recent outrages upon Christian missionaries in China are directly traceable to these societies. In view of these facts, Mr. Boyle's paper, apart from its novelty, possesses a peculiar interest and significance and value not at first apparent.

THE PEOPLE of the mountain republic of Switzerland have just celebrated the 600th anniversary of its foundation. Switzerland is, in many respects, a model republic, governing her people justly and guarding their interests jealously.

THE PIKE'S PEAK RAILROAD was opened July 1. It is eight and three quarters miles long, the Peak being 14,147 feet above sea level, with a maximum grade of twenty-five per cent. A thirty-two-ton engine pushed a car with sixty-five passengers through a snow squall. A hotel is planned for the top, and the road will be lighted with arc lights.

THE STORY of how the Pope discovered that he was being systematically robbed by his servants, is told in the *Secolo* of Milan:

Leo XIII was born in Carpineto, and a farmer from that neighborhood, while on a visit to Rome, recently called upon his great co-citizen. He was graciously received, and in the course of conversation asked the Pope how he liked the provisions which his former neighbors in Carpineto sent him every month. With undisguised surprise the Pope asked, "What provisions?" and learned that each month a large quantity of the finest oil, eggs, game and vegetables had been sent to the Vatican kitchen. The Pope instructed Monsignor Angeli to investigate the matter, and it was soon learned that these provisions did actually arrive, but that the servants actually ate them, retaining the money. The Swiss guard, with their medieval halberd, were also in the conspiracy. The provisions were regularly sold to a hotel-keeper in the neighborhood, who never failed to make his monthly calls.

AN AMERICAN, who saw the German Emperor during his visit to England, writes: "I was wholly unaware of the unfortunate defect in the Emperor's left arm. I knew that it was incapable of movement except by lifting it with the right hand, that he had to eat with one hand, using a combination

knife and fork, and spoon, yet, with all this preparation the spectacle of that helpless, withered arm, hanging limp and dwarfed at the side of this stalwart man, came upon me as a painful shock. My heart seemed to stand still for one moment in profound pity. Presently the Emperor, with a deft movement of his right, raised the useless left hand to the hilt of his sword, where it rested gracefully, and the defect was no longer apparent.

## National Righteousness Needed.

Several influential journals in different parts of the Dominion have been making appeals to the pulpit and the religious press to come out boldly in denunciation of the political corruption that is being revealed in the Committees now in session in the Dominion Capital. The fact is that ministers in their political relations have rather a hard time of it. Like other estimable members of the commonwealth, they very likely have their own political affinities, and as most communities in the matter of politics are a little mixed, it follows of necessity that if the pastor is pronounced in his partisan leanings, trouble is sure to follow. As a general rule it is best for a minister not to seek special prominence in the political arena. He can best maintain his moral and spiritual influence by devoting his energies to his own special work. But is not the minister a man and a citizen? Has he to be silenced when questions affecting the well-being of the country, and especially those of a moral bearing, are being warmly discussed by citizens generally? Is the unscrupulous political trickster, the pachydermatous ward-heeler, to be permitted unrestrained freedom of speech and action, and the responsible minister of the Gospel alone to be excluded from all participation in the discussion of questions relating to the highest national interests? In ordinary circumstances it is best for the minister to leave the agitation of political questions to those who make them their specialty; but there are times when he can intervene with power and effect. The minister who is open to the charge of being a political pouter has so little influence that he had better, for his own comfort and usefulness, leave public questions severely alone. The so-called independent carry no influence, and command but little respect. Those who are known to be sincere in their convictions will always command a respectful hearing when duty prompts them to make deliverances on public affairs. The minister has a right to his convictions, and to the exercise of his privileges of citizenship. So long as he chooses to perform these duties in a straightforward and manly way, he can afford to disregard the carping criticisms of the captious.

The difficulty that ministers who occasionally take part in public affairs have to encounter is the virulent attacks of a partisan press. If their utterances are in some respects distasteful to either party, the side on which reflections are cast is sure to resent in no delicate fashion the imputations under which it feels uneasy. There is no doubt that while the present investigations are in progress there are many searchings of heart, and the best citizens throughout the Dominion irrespective of party sympathies feel keenly that the honour of some of the prominent men in public life has been seriously besmirched. Many however feel that to form an unbiased and correct judgment it is desirable to wait until those who have been accused are heard in their defence. When all parties have given what explanations they can then is the time for an impartial and a just judgment. There is every probability that a correct estimate will be formed by the Christian ministry and by all who desire to see righteousness triumph. It may be confidently assumed that no man who ministers in sacred things will attempt a defence of the gross corruption and moral degradation that has already been revealed.

It is an unmistakable fact that the public conscience has been hypnotized by the low tone of morality prevailing. Whatever may be the complicity or innocence of responsible cabinet ministers it is plain that reckless demoralization has been suffered to invade several of the administrative departments. How unscrupulous and

utterly selfish contractors and their creatures should have been permitted to have virtual access to the public treasury is a matter of wonderment to people who even have no very clear perception of a higher morality than that honesty is the best policy. Many well meaning people gloss over the shameful revelations with a shrug and say that all politicians are alike. But this is no answer worthy of intelligent and responsible citizens. Those who are swayed by corrupt and degrading influences wish for little more than that people should continue in this comatose moral state, most favourable to them in their career of scheming and plunder. It matters little whether a Conservative or a Liberal is caught in corrupt or dishonest acts. Let the offender, whatever his political stripe, be courteously but firmly told "Never more be officer of mine." The time for weak sentiment and mistaken leniency is past. So long continued and so wide spread has demoralization become that mild measures are no longer applicable. Stern rhadamanthine justice must have away until the conduct of those entrusted with the management of public affairs is above suspicion. It is not absolutely necessary that either of the great parties into which the people are politically divided should hold the reins of power at Ottawa, but it is essential that our rulers be men of stainless personal integrity. The fountain head whence a nation's legislative flows should be pure and uncontaminated. The men at the head of our national affairs should be such as we can look up to with respect, and not of the kind that upright citizens can only regard with undisguised contempt.—*Canada Presbyterian*.

## The Kingdom of Korea.

The future of the kingdom of Korea is fraught with a great deal of danger. It is an undeveloped peninsula of a hundred and ten thousand square miles lying on the borders of the Chinese empire and Siberia. China has long claimed a suzerainty over it, and although the claim has never been formally admitted by Korea, she has, nevertheless, paid a nominal tribute to Peking Government. Interest in the East is now centering on the Hermit Nation, and Russia, Great Britain, China, Japan, and even our own nation, are closely watching the turn of events. Of late years Korea has been disposed to assert her independence, and has sent an embassy to this country which has been cordially received. Russia has cast envious eyes upon her of late. She desires an outlet for her fleets on the Pacific coast of Siberia. Vladivostok, the only naval port of Siberia, is blocked with ice during the greater part of the fall and winter of each year, and in a war with Great Britain, the Russian war ships in the event of a disaster would be without a rendezvous in which to make repairs, while the enemy could control a number of ports in that region. Korea has a long coast-line possessing excellent harbors open the entire year, and on that account would be valuable to the Czar. The Japanese fear of Russian encroachments has prevented the latter from purchasing from her any islands that might serve as a rendezvous, and Russia has pretty well determined to annex Korea. Her political agents have been secretly at work trying to prepare the people for the change, and at the proper time it is believed her enemies will move down from Siberia, while her fleets will appear on the coast. In that event Korea will pass from the list of kingdoms and will become a province of Russia. England is sharply watching the course of events. She has even promised to aid China in annexing Korea formally to that Kingdom if the Chinese will prevent by arms the acquisition of any naval station by Russia on the Pacific coast. No Russian ship goes anywhere in the East without being preceded or followed by an English ship. China fears the descent of troops from Siberia along her whole northern frontier even to the capture of Peking, should she forcibly prevent the acquisition of Korea. Japan is deeply interested in the outcome, for she regards Korea as the barrier between herself and China and Russia. Korea is only one day's steaming from the richest and most populous part of Japan. It is regarded as a question of only a short time when the Russian flag will wave over Korea.—*Herald*.

## The McAll Mission.

The nineteenth annual report of this remarkable mission in France has been issued. Commencing in a very small way it has grown to large proportions. It has accomplished wonderful things, and its influence and blessed effects are steadily widening. This latest report is full of encouraging things. The following figures and incidents of the work are from it:

There are now 130 stations, 18,000 sittings, with from 600 to 700 who render more or less personal assistance. The Mission has from 90 to 100 Sunday schools and young people's associations, comprising at least ten thousand juveniles, who would otherwise, for the most part, have been without religious training. There are large mothers' meetings, a medical mission with five dispensaries, numerous reading rooms for soldiers, and many other agencies. Dr. McAll not only rejoices in many helpers, but acknowledges the good work of the various agencies whereby the Gospel is spread and its principles illustrated among the people of France. A Bible woman in the wild district of La Villette, in her report, introduces us to the workshop of an industrial family. As she enters all are busied in their daily toils. They propose to suspend work for a little and so call in the neighbours. Quite a little congregation is formed. Our friend reads God's Word and comments on it; and then "amidst the tools and shavings" all kneel down in prayer. These working people are not satisfied with having obtained the blessing for themselves; they try to lead those in their employment into the truth. One of these, an infidel, bitterly opposed to all religion, was thus led to the mission-hall. The Biblewoman visited him in the hospital during his last illness, and he died evincing a simple trust in Christ.

Another remarkable story is that of a woman who, during a series of years, showed strong opposition to the Gospel work in the Gare d'Ivry, Paris. She was the wife of the concierge of a building which had to be entered by those who attended the mission-hall. She even used to let a savage dog loose upon the people, several of whom were bitten. The evangelist M. Sagnol, bore with her, and persisted, in spite of her rude treatment, in often paying her short visits, though he could not succeed in putting in a word for Christ. Several of the friends, however, agreed with him to make the woman a special subject of prayer. One day she surprised the evangelist by saying, "You cannot imagine how wicked I am." "That is a good sign; when we begin to know ourselves there is hope of amendment." "Ah! sir, you mistake. I shall never never be changed; the evil is too old, it has taken too deep root." For a long time she seemed hopeless. After Luke xv. had been read to her she only cried, "I am lost, I am lost!" M. Sagnol then asked her to attend the hall, which she had never once entered for any meeting. "Come in," he said, "I will pray with you, for the Good Shepherd is seeking to save." She wept much. On his next visit, a week afterwards, a mighty transformation had taken place. "All is well," she said, "I am in peace. He has found me." But already she was laid on a bed of sickness from which she was never to rise. From that time the Holy Spirit was her teacher. She even strengthened the missionary's heart by her prayers. When hard, seemingly hopeless cases among the hearers were spoken of, she would say, "Go, M. Sagnol, speak in faith tonight. The Lord can convert—for he has found me."

A few weeks ago a respectable looking man, after being assured that there would be nothing to pay, entered the Hall on the great Boulevard. At the close of the meeting he heartily thanked the door-keeper for inviting him in, and declared that he would never forget what he had heard. The next day the pastor received a letter from his unknown hearer, stating that, as he roamed along the Boulevard, penniless and hopeless, the bright gas drew him into the room, and when he knew that all was gratuitous, he entered. "Misfortune and folly had brought me so low, that I had resolved to take away my own life; I thought there was no hope for me. Your words have arrested me on the brink of despair, and I am encouraged to look for God's help and mercy."

The work in the provinces is also full of interest. A Roman Catholic, on learning something of the truth, said to an evangelist, "I had no idea that Protestants were that sort of people. Now, I, too, wish to follow the Gospel."

## Railways and Temperance.

The railways of the United States employ 689,912 persons, not counting those who mine the coal and iron, make the rails or locomotives, or build the cars and carriages used by the roads. The freight and passenger traffic of the country is practically controlled by 600 of these corporations, and of these 600 no less than 375 prohibit the use of intoxicating liquors by their employees, among the number

being most of the largest companies. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers uses its influence in the same direction. "Whenever a member of the order is known to be dissipated," says Mr. Arthur, long the head of the organization, "we not only expel or suspend him, but notify his employers," and during the last year, 375 members were expelled for this cause. This is only one illustration of the way in which practical business considerations are operating to promote the spread of temperance. It is purely a matter of business with the railway companies. They simply cannot afford to employ a man who is liable any day to get drunk and precipitate some terrible disaster. In like manner, other employers find that it pays them much better to hire a man who is not in the habit of drinking than one who may be intoxicated when his services are most needed, and between two applicants they give the preference to the one upon whom they can depend. The average workingman thus comes to see that it is "money in his pocket" in more senses than one, if he keeps out of the saloon, and the moral is not lost upon him.

ARE YOU WEAK SPIRITUALLY? Exercise your spiritual muscle by doing the will of the Lord. Is your appetite for spiritual things all gone? Exercise in doing good will restore it. Hence, go to work immediately, and stick to it. Indolence in the church is enfeebling and spiritually killing many who might enjoy the best of spiritual health if they would only go to work in the Lord's vineyard. Spiritual weakness is the direct result of spiritual laziness, and for that there is but one remedy; namely, work. Feed on the truths of the Bible on Sunday, and exercise yourself by doing what the Bible commands during the week, and soon your spiritual health will be in excellent trim, and, with David, you will feel that you can run through a troop and leap over a wall.—*Telescope*.

## Scientific Miscellany.

(Prepared for the INTELLIGENCER.)

FOR PRIZE VEGETABLES TRY ELECTRICITY. Astonishing results in electric culture have been reported by a Russian agriculturist, M. Speckneff. He planted seeds, such as peas, beans, rye, etc., through which a current was passed for two minutes, this electrification being repeated ten times, and found that most of the plants were developed with about double the usual rapidity. He then tried electrifying the earth. Plates of zinc and copper, 28 inches high and 18 inches wide, were sunk deep into the ground at the extremities of flat iron bars, and connected above the surface by an iron wire. The effect upon plant growth was prodigious. A radish reached a length of over 17 inches and a diameter of 5½ inches, and a carrot grew to 10½ inches in diameter and 6½ pounds in weight—both vegetables being of good quality. The total crop was 4 times the ordinary for roots, and 2 or 3 times for plants.

CURIOUS HABITS OF MOOSE.—According to Mr. J. G. Lockhart, moose generally lie with the tail to windward. In this position, their senses of hearing and smelling, which are extremely acute, may be depended upon to warn them of danger approaching from behind, while with their eyes they may keep watch to leeward. When they are sleeping or chewing the cud, their ears are in perpetual motion, one backward, the other forward, alternately. They show remarkable intelligence in the selection of a sleeping place, making a short turn and sleeping below their fresh track, so that if their trail is discovered and followed the pursuer is sure to be smelt or heard before getting very near.

A GASOMETER now being built for a London company will doubtless be the largest in the world. It will be 300 feet in diameter, 180 feet in height, when fully elevated, will have a capacity of 12,000,000 cubic feet, and will require 1200 tons of coal to fill it with gas. Its total weight will be 2220 tons. It will be the first six-lift gas-holder ever erected.

NEW METEOROLOGICAL RECORDS.—In January of last year, the systematic observation of snow was commenced in Russia at 428 stations in the European portions of the Empire, at 21 in the Asiatic, and at 55 in the Caucasus. At first the record simply stated daily whether the ground was covered or not, but last winter the inquiry was extended to the depth and general behavior of the snow. In a report for European Russia for the early months of 1890, Herr Berg has mapped the southern and western limits of the continuous snow-covering for the first and fifteenth of

January, February, March and April. In the west, the snow extended steadily until the beginning of March, the limit being then close to the Baltic; in the southeast, there was steady advance until February, and as far as the coast of the Caspian; in the south, the advance was fluctuating, there being a maximum in the middle of January, and the middle of February, both reaching to the Black Sea coast. The retirement of the snow-limit began in the south and south-east in the middle of February; in the west about half a month later. On April 15 the limit passed through Onga on the White Sea, Wetloga, and Katherinenburg. By the first of May, all European Russia was free from snow.

TEACHINGS OF THE SPECTROSCOPE.—Stars have been divided by Secchi into four types, the different spectra being supposed to represent different stages of development. Sirius belongs to the first, or hypothetically hottest, type, and sun to the second. Stars of the first type have been assumed to be the largest, but Prof. Pickering has lately found that the Milky Way, an aggregation of small stars, is made up chiefly of stars of the first type, and it is now suggested that the difference of spectrum may be due to chemical composition rather than to stage of development. Prof. Pickering's discovery has an interesting bearing on recent photographic work. These stars of the first type, being rich in photographic rays, have given pictures of increased magnitude in the Milky Way, while in other parts of the sky the magnitudes by photographic and by eye observations have shown a very fair agreement. Dr. Gill regards these observations as of probable far-reaching importance, but as indications at least that the Milky Way is a separate creation from the rest of the stellar universe.

TESTING THE CAPACITY OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.—Better adaptation of studies to pupils may be reasonably hoped for in the school of the future. In a paper read before the Bromley Naturalists' Society, Rev. H. A. Soames states that he has given scientific measurements of children, taken every term, to be a good guide as to whether his pupils are in condition for hard work or not. "If," he says, "the increase is regular and the weight fair, according to the height, I do not fear to press them; but if, on the other hand, the weight is low, or if the height increases and not the weight, or if the increase in height is too rapid, I think it a very fair excuse for laziness, and take great care that too much work is not expected."

AN EXAMPLE OF HAIL MAKING.—The interesting phenomenon of hail in actual process of formation has been witnessed by Prof. Tosetti in Northern Italy. In the afternoon of a squally day, he was looking eastward from a house which, with two others enclosed a court, when he saw the rain, which was streaming from the roof to the right, caught by a very cold wind from the north and driven back and up in thick drops. Suddenly a gust of wind from the south struck the drops, and tossed them in all directions, transforming them into balls of ice. This formation of hail ceased when the south wind ceased, but was repeated three or four times in ten minutes.

THE MOST BRILLIANTLY colored alloy yet known has been revealed in a recent investigation by Prof. Roberts-Austen. Its composition is about 78 per cent of gold, and 22 of aluminium. It has a rich purple color, and bright ruby tints are obtained when light is reflected from one surface of the alloy to another.

THE NORTHERN BORDER of the Great Sahara Desert—made accessible by railway communication across Algeria—is becoming a winter resort for European invalids and other persons seeking a mild and equable winter climate.

A STANDARD of color has become necessary and is being sought by the London Society of Arts.

## Among Exchanges.

WILL BE POPULAR.

The preacher who preaches that there is no hell is sure to be popular with mean men.—*Telescope*.

THREE CLASSES OF BANKRUPTS.

In Russia the law recognizes three classes of bankrupts: the unfortunate, the negligent, and the fraudulent. The fraudulent receive an enforced pass to Siberia forthwith; the negligent have their estate administered for the benefit of the creditors; the unfortunate practically make their own terms. In this country, if such a law prevailed, and a place of penal transportation for the fraudulent existed, the population would rapidly increase there. There are many unfortunate bankrupts, more negligent and wasteful, and far too many fraudulent. Two Scripture maxims, "Provide things honest in the sight of all men," and "Owe no man any thing, but love one another," would remedy the condition of most, and the rest would nearly all be made secure by being "not slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord."—*N. Y. Advocate*.