

Religious Intelligencer.

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

VOL. XXXVIII.—No 34.

FREDERICTON, N. B., AUGUST 19, 1891.

WHOLE No. 1953

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

THE EMPEROR OF GERMANY is interesting himself in a bill dealing with drunkenness, which is to be introduced into the German Reichstag next session. The Austrians are also becoming alarmed at the spread of inebriety.

THE SWISS UNIVERSITIES are evidently the Mecca for women students. The four schools of Zurich, Basel, Berne and Geneva have 183 of these on their roll, 72 being in Zurich alone, which first opened its lecture-rooms to women. Of these, 132 are in the medical department, 45 in the philosophical, and 6 in the law. The Russians are represented by 107 women, Switzerland by only 15.

THE NEW ORLEANS MINT has been set to work at coining dimes, and for several weeks will turn out 100,000 daily. The special demand for dimes has been caused by the introduction of a dime-saving toy which has withdrawn so many of these coins from circulation that the number now remaining is quite insufficient for purposes of change and trade.

AN ACCOUNT of child-flogging at Warsaw, given by a correspondent of the London Times, sends a thrill of horror through one. It is of a little boy of ten years of age, of delicate and nervous temperament, who, for a mere childish quarrel in which he had the misfortune to be mixed up, with the little daughter of a Russian general, is sentenced by General Gourko, Governor of the Province, to receive twenty-five lashes. The punishment was administered at two different intervals, and at the end we read "insensible, covered with blood, his flesh torn from his back, and in a state of violent convulsions, this young boy was brought back to his mother." Cases of this kind make us doubt after all the civilization of the Russians, even of the upper classes, and to accept still the old proverb, "Scratch the Russian and you will find the Tartar."

MOHAMMEDANS are able to retort with force against Christians on account of the implied sanction which the latter are alleged to give the rum traffic in Africa. Islam does not distinguish between the Christian system which denounces the traffic and the agencies which do destructive work under the protection of Christian civilization. Most people will agree with that. At a Mohammedan anti-rum conference lately held at Khartoum, it was declared that the liquors of Christendom are to-day more destructive of life and happiness in Africa than the slave trade for which Mohammedanism is responsible.

THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS in Great Britain, after a steady decline for many years, is said to be increasing and showing signs of a slow but sure revival.

THE POPE has but recently waked up to the fact that he was being robbed of his Peter's Pence. An exchange tells us that he was accustomed to keep it in little bags in his own private room, not daring to entrust it to any one. But some of his servants got at it, and before the old man was aware of it, some \$4,000,000 had been abstracted. The result of the discovery is the dismissal of several prominent personages from the service of the Vatican. A year ago, the frequency of such "irregularities" induced the government to take the charity institutions out of the hands of the church, greatly to the disgust of those who had been accustomed to benefit by the handling of the money. The Pope is said to contemplate the reduction of the salaries of his cardinals, by one-fifth, thus saving \$60,000 annually.

THE NUNS known as "The Burned Alive," who were some time ago removed by the authorities, under the force of strong public feeling, from their convent in Naples, have it is now stated, been sent to other and less rigorous institutions. The ecclesiastical authorities, who were at first opposed to the change as interfering with the vows taken by the nuns, consented to the transfer. The nuns lived in almost perfect seclusion. Each wore a thick veil and was confined in her cell. Except in urgent cases they held no communication with anyone. The municipal inspectors declared that the cells were living graves. The building is now to be changed into an elementary school for poor girls.

Cremation, Desiccation, or Burial—Which?

Through all the ages the dead have been buried. Here and there, embalming, or cremation, for the wealthy or the royal classes has obtained. They have been the rare exceptions, and not the rule. Even in countries where, and in periods when, these exceptions occurred, the greater part of the people have been laid in the silent earth-bed by their survivors. Thus Abraham laid his beloved Sarah to her rest "in the cave of the field of Machpelah before Mamre; the same is Hebron, in the land of Canaan." So "Isaac gave up the ghost and died and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days, and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him." So "Rachel died and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem." Burning or embalming has been a pagan usage; it was never a Jewish or a Christian practice. Christians hold that cremation diminishes reverence for the dead, and that it is apparently repugnant to the doctrine of the resurrection; it forbids to survivors the visitation of the sacred places where their dead rest; it does violence to the precious memories of the dead.

Recently, still another way of disposing of the dead has been suggested. It is that of desiccation, which consists of removing all moisture from the dead body by forcing through it heated air currents, rendering subsequent putrefaction impossible. This differs but slightly from the ancient Egyptian practice of mummifying the dead. They added to the drying process the injection of resinous and aromatic substances, and wrapping the dead in linen or cotton folds. Desiccation has been selected in this country as being more likely to become popular than cremation, which has always been repugnant to the average American.

In Europe cremation has never been approved by the ordinary classes. In the International Congress of 1890, in Berlin, which sought to promote cremation, it was proposed to urge upon the civil authorities of all countries the enforcement of cremation by law—at least in densely populated cities—as a sanitary measure. This provokes the unpopularity of cremation; and it proves, also, that if left to voluntary action, it can never become prevalent. A mode of treating the dead that so violates men's religious feelings, their natural instincts, or even their superstitions, as to need legal enforcement, is not likely to become general. The sentiments of respect and reverence for dead are too deep and strong to be trifled with and to be overborne by sumptuary enactments.

If properly done, interment in the grave is as free from objections as to sanitation as burning or desiccation. In large cities the cemetery may be so far removed from the living, and the remains may be so deeply buried, or in such way by using corrosives or otherwise, as to obviate all injurious, antisemitic effects.

The religious instincts and reasons which have hitherto prevented cremation from becoming prevalent, are not likely to be less potent in the future. They hold, also, with fully equal force against desiccation as against cremation. It has been held that a few eminent examples of cremation, as in the cases of the Dukes of Bedford and of Kinglake in England, and also of Emma Abbott in this country, who were cremated pursuant to their wishes as found in their wills, will assist to overcome prejudices and to induce the new modes. We strongly dissent from this view. The time-honored, Scriptural and Christian form of burial will be kept up. Since the incineration of the Duke of Bedford's remains, ugly rumors have been current that he was poisoned. His body having been burned, the detection of the cause of his death, by chemical tests, is made impossible—another strong argument against cremation.—*Zion's Herald.*

India's Hour of Trial.

On the crop outlook in India the London Times is gloomy. The hopes of averting the impending famine in the northern and southern provinces have for weeks depended upon the chance of a large rainfall in the retarded monsoon. Despatches from Madras on Thursday are calculated to intensify the worst alarms, and to verify the prophecy which the Times indulged in

ten days ago. Crossing the ocean from Zanzibar the monsoon came at last, but its precious freight of cooling moisture was short. The telegraphic news is briefly stated, but it tells all that is necessary to know in the light of past famine experiences in India. Some districts have been saved by the prayed-for rains, but in others more isolated the grain is entirely burnt up; food is getting more and more scarce; deaths are occurring from starvation; streams are drying up under the terrible heat, and the stock, horses, cows and donkeys are dying in large numbers.

It is a terrible tale, but is only the beginning of the end. According to the Times, when the last mails left Madras the horrors of famine were already settling upon the city. Horses were dropping on the streets, while reports from the provinces told of armies of locusts marching across the northern districts; the green crops burning in the parched ground; in short, all the unmistakable evidences of famine, driving towards the town the pauper population of the threatened regions.

Famine in India is a periodical visitation determined by climatic conditions at the other side of a vast ocean. There are four factors of famine, "(1) the failure of the periodical rains; (2) the absence of a sufficient reserve or staying power on the part of the people; (3) the tardy or insufficient action of the Government in the early stages of distress, and (4) the isolation of the stricken tracts."

The Government has not been idle in India in endeavoring to lessen the second and third of these factors, but it is believed that in the fourth which is visible in the present situation it is next to impossible to do anything with the people. The Times writer says the isolation of an Indian province may any year cost half a million of lives.

Strategic railways to guard against this evil factor of isolation are in course of construction in some provinces, but it cannot be supposed that whatever measure of protection they now afford is more than very partial. But perhaps the principal outside feature of Indian famine is the demand for restriction upon grain exports. This year there will be treble reason for holding back the wheat. The shortage of the crop in Europe and the failure in Russia and other countries have already had a marked effect on the Indian market, whereas native journals utter loud complaints that the food which might save thousands of lives in India is sent to Europe because of an advance in prices produced by the unusual drain on the British wheat reserves. Russia is accustomed to deal in quite a different fashion with a restrictive policy of this kind, which the Government of India is powerless to follow, in compliance even with the most urgent popular demand. For India the whole situation is sad enough at present, and how much more terrible the unrestricted exports of grain may make it is impossible to estimate. In any event, the result must be a quicker and higher demand for the crop on this side of the Atlantic, upon which Europe will have to depend largely till next year's harvest.—*The Empire.*

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.]

What the Gospel has done for Women.

PART II.
Condition of Heathen Women in the Early days of Christianity.

Let us now inquire what was the condition of woman at that time in heathendom. Was she regarded as the companion of man? Were her intellectual faculties developed? Were her sympathies evoked? Was her operation sought in any good or great work? Was she at all trained? In few, very few, instances, women then occupied high and influential positions requiring education and intellectual power, but in the vast majority of cases woman's life was loveless, dark and dreary, a life of dense ignorance and deepest degradation. Among the few notable women of ancient heathendom may be mentioned Cleopatra, the

highly accomplished and beautiful queen of Egypt, who when only a girl of nineteen summers held captive at her feet so great a warrior, statesman and man as Julius Caesar; and who in after years exercised such a strange and fatal influence over the misguided Anthony. Hypatia also may be mentioned. Her features were, we are told, as exquisitely moulded as any of the statues of their goddesses, and her eloquence thrilled her little band of devoted students. But these bright stars only render more visible the surrounding darkness. The great mass of heathen women had no means whatever of cultivating either the head or the heart. And just as the muscles of the arm, from lack of exercise, become weak and soft, so do the intellectual and moral powers of woman, being entirely undeveloped, become weak and childish. Hence, with a few solitary exceptions, we do not find that any of the women of the ancient heathen world ever wrote or said anything that has been prized by succeeding generations. Her condition was degraded indeed. She could be given in marriage without her consent. Should she have no friends but those chosen for her by her husband. She could be in dependency there was no one to speak a word of encouragement; should she be groping or in darkness drear, there was no one to point her to Him who is the light of the world. Should she be sorrowful there was no one to dry her weeping eyes and offer the words of sympathy and consolation which a womanly nature so much longs for. In short, she was her husband's slave, not by any means his companion; and the marriage tie might be severed by him at his will. Her privileges were few indeed. The word "home," around which in Christian lands so many pleasant associations gather, and which fills hearts with joy, was to her a thing unknown. She knew not how soon she might be sent adrift upon the cold charities of the world—charities that much more cold than now.

GLEANINGS.

Miss Lucy Guinness, a cultivated young English lady, consecrated her life recently to missionary work in China, and writing of the great needs of that country says: "Shall we not lift our eyes from the often narrow world in which we live, to God's wider world that lies beyond us, to the whitened fields that have waited so long, and that he is calling us to reap? Shall we not pray him to enlarge our limited sphere of existence, and open our hearts to care for those whose lives are less rich than ours, and other hearts less happy, that into these lives and these hearts, may come through us a knowledge of Jesus Christ?"

Another young English lady who gave her life to India says: "We happy women who can read, write and enjoy countless different studies,—we are debtors to every woman who cannot. We, who are free, who are honored and loved, we are debtors to every zanaana captive, debtors to all secluded, degraded and down-trodden women. We women who have comforts and alleviations in sickness, we are debtors to all who suffer unrelieved, who groan unheeded, who die un-pitied."

What can American girls, (we may say instead New Brunswick) who have such good times, whose lives are so sheltered, whose surroundings are delightful, whose Christian privileges are so exalted do for those whose lives are such a great contrast to theirs?

You can aid by your loving sympathy, your earnest prayers. Your very studies are preparing you for broader service, both at home and abroad. Be a missionary in spirit just where you are, and you will be led to help those who need you most. You need not silver nor gold to do the work, but a loving heart. Reach out in every way to give these darkened souls some grand truths that will make their lives rich, and that will give them a true idea of womanhood, and a knowledge of Christ, and let some of you consecrate your lives to service in the foreign field.

A LITTLE MORE FOR OUR FATHER.

Since the first of April, on each ten pounds of granulated sugar the buyer saves twenty-five cents; in a little while a dollar is saved. Will not each housekeeper in the W. F. M. S. lay aside one or more of these dollars for the Lord's treasury? These little, if carefully saved, will amount to thou-

sands of dollars before the next annual meeting, and the money would be such a help! Just to think that last fall the appropriations had to be reduced! Come, let us unite, and do this thing, and give our dollars as thank offerings to our Lord. I will; will you?

LAEL.

The above clipping was taken from the June No. of the "Heathen Woman's Friend", (M. E.) But is there not a thought in it for us?

A FRUIT OF FAMILY WORSHIP.—Near a public road in Afghanistan stands a solitary grave of godly missionary who was shot down by his watchman 27 years ago. He was a Polish Jew who was driven to New York when quite young and commenced the life of peddler in the country. One day he called at the house of a Presbyterian Minister drenched with rain and suffering with cold. He was invited to stop all night and afterwards spent a few weeks with the minister. Then invited to join the household at family worship he reluctantly consented but after listening for a time to the minister's earnest supplication he became interested in his soul, soon he made a profession of his faith in Christ, graduated at Princeton Theological Seminary, and labored nine years as a faithful missionary in Afghanistan. This interesting lad's conversion should lead parents to persevere at the family altar.—*Pres. Witness.*

Scientific Miscellany.

(Prepared for the INTELLIGENCER.)

SCIENCE IN FARMING.—It is only during recent years that scientific farming has taken a place of importance, as is shown by the development of places for its study. The agricultural experiments of Mr. J. B. Lawes were begun in 1834, and in 1843 he associated with himself Dr. J. H. Gilbert in the establishment of the now world-famous Rothamstead experiment station. The first government experiment station, however, was established at Mooker, Saxony, in 1851. A second followed at Chemnitz in 1853. In 1855 there were 5, in 1866 there were 30, in 1873 there were 63, while there are now 110, in France and Germany alone. The first experiment station in America was opened at Middletown, Ct., on Oct. 1, 1875, scarcely 16 years ago. There were 17 stations in 14 States when, in March, 1887, the Hatch Act passed Congress, giving each State \$15,000 annually for the support of agricultural experiment stations. This led to a rapid increase of stations, so that there are now 53 in the United States, or 69 if branch stations are counted. The 423 persons employed at these stations include chemists, horticulturists, botanists, entomologists, veterinarians, meteorologists, biologists, microscopists, physicists, mycologists, viticulturists, geologists, etc.

LITTLE WORLDS.—In the ring of asteroids more than 300 tiny planets are now known, of which the largest, Vesta, is 230 miles in diameter, and the smallest, Agathia, 4. A French astronomer, M. L. Niesten, calculates that if these were all combined into one they would form a body not quite 514 miles in diameter, and that 8575 such bodies would be required to make a planet equal to the earth in size. Future discoveries are not likely to change these figures materially, as all asteroids having considerable size must be already known.

AN INVESTIGATION in Switzerland shows that mortality from organic disease of the heart decreases as the altitude of the habitation rises, and that it is greater in towns than in the country.

A NEW BALANCE.—The manipulation of the delicate weights required in chemical analysis is a tedious operation which M. Serrin, inventor of the electric light regulator bearing his name, seeks to avoid in a new balance of precision which was exhibited the other day to the French Academy of Sciences. By this apparatus weighings may be quickly made with an approximation of 1-10 milligram (about 1-650 grain.) The weighing is first made by the ordinary method to within about a decigram, then the operation is completed by moving a sliding point along the upright of the balance. To this point is fixed one end of a little chain, of which the other end is attached to one of the two arms of the balance. The weights supported by the balance vary with the height of the movable point, and a graduated scale gives an accurate reading of the amount of the variation.

PHENOMENA OF SLEEP.—As a result of modern research, it is asserted that in falling asleep, the sight ceases first to receive impressions, the sense of taste next, then smelling, then hearing, and touch retains its susceptibility longest. The senses appear, moreover, to sleep with different degrees of profoundness. Touch is the most easily awakened, hearing next, then sight, and taste and smelling awake last. Sleep does not begin in different parts of the body simultaneously, but proceeds from the ex-

termities toward the centre of nervous action. Dreams may be due to imperfect sleep, one or more senses, or one or more parts of the body being awake.

A LAYER of compressed vegetable parchment is being adopted by German engineers as a lining for bearings. The parchment is impregnated with mineral oil after frequent lubrication, and lasts a long time.

A NUMBER of observations by two Italian microscopists justify the belief that trees exert considerable influence in filtering out bacteria brought by the wind.

THE FRENCH Society of Physiological Psychology proposes to investigate the phenomenon in which one imagines he sees or hears an absent person.

MODERN ALCHEMY.—The romance of science probably embraces no more striking story than the oft-cited history of coal-tar. From this troublesome waste of a few years ago, according to Prof. R. Meldola, about 300 coloring matters are now made, 30 of them being fast dyes of general utility, and 30 more fast enough for all practical requirements. The value of the coal-tar colors annually produced in Great Britain and on the Continent has reached some \$25,000,000. From the same original source are also derived such explosives as picric acid, medicines such as antipyrin, sweets such as saccharin, and perfumes resembling vanilla, bitter almonds, etc., not to mention hydroquinon and aikonogen, used by photographers and others.

A NOVEL ELECTRICAL MACHINE.—One of the most widely known generators of static or frictional electricity is the Wimshurst influence machine. A new form of this apparatus, lately exhibited before the London Physical Society, presented the remarkable quality of being unable to charge a Leyden jar. Though the current seemed to pass in a steady stream of sparks to the jar, no trace of electricity could be detected in the latter. The conclusion is that the electricity developed is alternately positive and negative, and that the current of sparks is really the oscillation of a small charge which flows with great rapidity backward and forward between machine and jar.

A MAGNET carried by Newton in a finger ring is said to have been capable of raising 746 grains, or about 250 times its own weight of 3 grains, and to have been much admired in consequence. A magnet formerly belonging to Sir John Leslie, and now in the Physical Collection at Edinburgh, has still greater power, however, weighing 3½ grains and being able to support 1560 grains.

ELECTRIC LIGHT or power is now used in nearly 40 American mines, and with such success that a rapid extension of electric mining is anticipated.

A JAPANESE recommends cleansing the hands with tartrate of ammonium to avoid poisoning from white lead.

Among Exchanges.

PRECIOUS TIME.

An hour a day, faithfully and wisely used from the age of fifteen to twenty-five, will make one proficient in any chosen line of study. The young especially should consider this. They can make themselves wise men and women if they will.—*Free Baptist.*

ABOUT SO.
The Belleville Standard is of the opinion that it avails little for a man to hold family prayers while he is indebted to his paper. Eminent and correct; the basis of religion is honesty as it is of good citizenship, and a man who will not pay his debts when he can will never pass.—*Colorado Citizen.*

BAD DENOMINATIONALISM.

All reputable Christian people should specially guard against the rabid denominationalism that aims chiefly at making proselytes. Honorable rivalry among congregations is not a bad thing. Any congregation is the better for being stirred up, and one of the worst things that denominationalism ever does is to break down Church discipline. If an offender knows that one or two neighbouring Churches are waiting to receive him it is impossible to do anything with him. One of the main ends of discipline is to benefit the person disciplined. This benefit becomes an impossibility if the refugee is welcomed with open arms by a neighbouring Church. Lincizing him confirms him in his iniquity and makes him a more hardened offender. That any Church should welcome a refugee from discipline is a scandal and disgrace, but all the same the thing is done every day. Another evil of insane denominationalism is the magnifying of conceited village Nabobs by two or three weak Churches bidding for their presence and financial support. The more they are bid for the more conceited and arrogant they become. These admitted denominational evils might easily be overcome if professedly Christian people would act as Christians should.—*Canada Presbyterian.*