

Religious Intelligencer.

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

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WHOLE No. 1966

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Our ministers, on whom we gladly do and must depend for new subscribers, are urgently requested to press the canvass.

Now.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

DR. KOCH has been trying to purify his consumption remedy, "tuberculin," by separating its effective and curative principle from the deleterious ingredients. So far he has only got it "almost pure," and is rather disappointed. But he is going on with his experiments.

THEODORE BENT, who was sent to investigate the famous Zimbaro ruins in South Africa, writes home that these ruins are undoubtedly of Phoenician origin, and that the inscriptions and other evidences he has found unmistakably indicate the form of worship, the manner of decoration and the system of gold smelting practised by the vanished people who erected the structures. They are relics of a people far advanced in civilization, though the present inhabitants are mere savages.

WITH THE COMMENCEMENT of the cold weather, the distress in the famine districts of Russia has grown more acute. One estimate gives 20,000,000 as the number of people who are without food. A number of Moscow merchants went to St. Petersburg to ask permission to form a relief society, but this was refused, and they were told that anyone visiting the distressed provinces for the purpose of giving relief would be arrested.

BIRMINGHAM, England, has made arrangements for a supply of water on a magnificent scale. Two rivers in Wales, eighty miles distant, are to be purchased, a huge dam built and an artificial lake constructed that is to be over three miles in length with an area of 497 acres, and a total capacity of 7,540,000,000 gallons. The ultimate cost is estimated at £5,500,000, the £3,300,000 will suffice for the present.

HERE is a Maine item which is floating about: Captain Benjamin Thompson, of Kennebunkport, Me., 98 years old, had occasion to fix a pulley on the ridgepole of his barn the other day. To perform the work it was necessary to pull a ladder up over three stagings, and then place it in position on the roof; but the old gentleman did the job, being afraid, he said, to entrust it to his son Horace, aged 60, as the latter was stiff and clumsy and might fall.

ONLY A FEW years ago a Rev. Mr. Baxter, whose favourite theme was "the end of the world" delivered frequently a lecture in which the "Standard" says, he predicted that this event would take place in the year 1901, and that Gen. Boulanger, who would then be at the height of his power, would be the anti-Christ foretold in the Apocalypse. A scoffing secular newspaper in the West now says: "Nothing has been heard from Mr. Baxter since the death of Gen. Boulanger, but it is probable that he has taken in his prediction for repairs."

THE ROYAL FAMILY of Spain is as little weighty in avoidpous as it is in politics. While at San Sebastian, a summer resort, with her three children, the Queen had all the members of her family weighed. The result was that she herself could be credited with 121 pounds; the eldest daughter, the Infanta Donna Maria Theresia, with 57; Princess de Asturias with 46; and the little six year old king with only 33. The total family avoidpous was thus only 237, which is considerably less than that of their mother-in-law and grandmother, the ex-Queen Isabella alone.

THIS STORY of a ruined career teaches again the lesson so often taught and so often disregarded: One of the best Greek scholars in New York is a guard on the Sixth Avenue Elevated road. Not long ago a famous professor in one of our leading universities published a volume on certain features of the ancient Grecian dialects, of interest only to scholars. The L guard, referred to above, wrote to a New York newspaper, pointing out several errors made by the professor. He signed himself, "Sixth Avenue Elevated Guard No. —." For a month, writes the Pittsburg Dispatch's New York correspondent, I watched the badges of the guards on that road, as I made my daily trips back and forth. One morning I was rewarded by finding the learned man I sought. "How does it happen," I asked, showing him my card, "that you, a Greek scholar of first rank, should be doing such work as this?" He looked at me sadly, and his red face grew more flushed than usual. "I was the best Hellenist of my year in Dublin," he said. "My Greek is still what it used to be, but my career has been ruined by whisky."

Competitive Prayer.

At a recent Conference of Presbyterian ministers in Scotland there was a discussion of a somewhat extraordinary kind. The question was whether candidates for the ministry should be required to display their power in extemporaneous prayer before being licensed to preach. Those who opposed it did so on two grounds, that "prayer would be profanity if provided as a show exercise," and that "competitive prayer is irreverent, while competitive preaching is not." The other side held that "prayer is an important part of the business of the minister," and that "many ministers have often wept in secret over the mistakes they made while praying in the churches, which they would not have done if they had been taught how to pray when students." The meeting adjourned without coming to a decision.

The Christian Advocate has these sensible words of comment:

To read prayers from a liturgy is a proper matter for instruction and criticism. General discourses on public prayer are right, and the invitation to students to lead in prayer at the opening of classes, and on other suitable occasions, and privately correcting any of their errors, is unobjectionable. Also, the composition of prayers and the submission of them to professors for criticism. Prayers that are thus written are not directly addressed to the Deity, and not profane because they are designed for improvement; but to call upon a man to pray, addressing God with a view primarily of being subjected to criticism by man, is an impropriety, and it seems strange that anyone should advocate it. The address in the case of the sermon is to men, in the prayer to God. To address Him while thinking of the effect upon men is incongruous. To address Him in spirit when thinking of men, under such circumstances, no student, perhaps no professor, is capable.

Extemporaneous prayer depends much more upon tone and feeling than upon words. An American theological professor was always very severe in criticizing the written prayers sent up by the students, who generally believed his criticisms unjust. One of them, a stenographer, determined to test the censor, and knowing he was to preach in a certain city journeyed to the place, and made a stenographic report of the prayer, which he subsequently sent up as his own for criticism. The professor was merciless, and declared the person who offered such a prayer as that was unsound in theology, irreverent in feeling, and did not use the English language correctly. If we did not hear so many absurd debates in theological assemblies we should be inclined to think the summary mentioned herein a hoax.

Effect of Moderate use of Alcoholic Drinks on Longevity.

DR. M. L. HOLBROOK, in a paper read before the American Medical Temperance Association, on the "Effect of Moderate Use of Alcoholic Drinks on Longevity," affirms that the abnormal action of alcohol, even in moderate quantities, upon the vital organs, tends inevitably to shorten life. He concludes his paper as follows:

1. Insurance companies, I think, universally prefer, other things being equal, abstainers to even moderate drinkers, and some societies have classes for such at least cost.

2. In an English society, which has been in existence for over a quarter of a century, the death-rate per 1,000 annually among the abstainers is only a little over one-half that among the non-abstainers, who are usually moderate drinkers.

[The same general result is shown by the figures of the Sons of Temperance Beneficial Society of England.

Dr. Alexander, in a lecture on life insurance in Bombay, makes the following statement:

"Abstainers had not yet received proper recognition for the undoubted superior value of their lives as proved by vital statistics. This arose, no doubt, partly from three causes,—the absence of data establishing the exact degree of superiority, the absence of any guarantee for lifelong abstinence, and the experience of reformed drunkards, whose lives might have sustained permanent damage already. But due recognition of the advantages of abstinence was only a question of time. The experience and practice of life assurance societies was decidedly adverse to the temperate."

3. I have myself had since 1864 a very large correspondence and acquaintance with persons who have lived to be very old. It would tire you to go into details, but it may surprise some doubting ones that among them the number of total abstainers who have lived from 90 to 100 years and some over 100 is very much larger than the number of moderate drinkers. Indeed, I know only a very few of the latter who have passed the 90th year in good working condition. I can today count up a dozen total abstainers from 85 to 95, some still doing good work, and only one at 90 still hale and strong, who, while he was never drunk in his life, drank a little every day.

In conclusion, let me say that, while excessive drinking is a devil of devils, doing a monstrous amount of evil, moderate drinking is a little devil paving the way for the larger one. As Horace Greeley once said: "That some men live long in spite of moderate drinking, no more proves the practice safe and healthful than the fact that some soldiers who fought through all Napoleon's wars are still alive proves fighting a vocation conducive to longevity."

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 Mrs. Jos. McLeod, Fredericton.]

Report of the Home Secretary of the F. C. B. W. F. M. Society for 1891.

Dear Sisters,—One can hardly realize that a year has passed since our last annual gathering. But it is even so, and to-day we have met to review its history. We are glad to say that financially at least, there has been little or no retrogression. It is to be regretted, however, that to date, only five reports have been received. This is a point in which there is room for much improvement. If the district secretary sent in their reports promptly, the Home Secretary could give a much more concise and clear report to the annual meeting. However, year by year, we are making advancement in this, as in all other lines of our work, and perhaps sometime in the future we shall have reached the ideal.

FIRST DISTRICT.

No report has been received from this district but incidentally we have learned that \$29.02 was raised which is \$7.62 more than last year. Of the number of societies and members, we cannot write. Since coming we learn that the report has been sent but has gone astray.

SECOND DISTRICT.

This society reports progress, one new society organized, though the secretary regrets that so few of the societies hold regular monthly meetings. She reports nineteen societies, viz.

Lindsay	\$ 3 73
Hartland	7 25
Woodstock	38 23
Tracy Mills	30 10
Lower Brighton	15 05
Somerville	10 00
Jacksonville	1 00
Bristol	1 75
Brookville	1 59
Connell	7 25
Charleston	2 60
Upper Brighton	1 00
Gordonville	4 14
Knowlesville	4 00
Knoxford	6 00
Windsor	3 00
Rockland	1 00
Victoria Corner	7 75
Waterville	5 40
Mrs. B. Rideout (Ludlow Ma.)	50
One half collection	7 25
One half collection	3 02

Total amount received \$161.61 for Foreign Missions. Beside this there has been raised \$25.00 for Home Missions. Aggregate \$186.61. The Secretary refers to the importance of missionary literature and advocates the appointment of some one to visit the churches in the interest of the work.

THIRD DISTRICT.

From this district we received no

report but they have contributed \$33.25

FOURTH DISTRICT.

This society has made a decided advance during the past year. One new society has been organized, and another church visited with a view to organizing a society. Four societies sent reports and small amounts were collected and sent from two churches where there were no societies.

Upper Gagetown	\$ 8 00
Blissville	47 22
Fredericton Junction	28 46
Patterson Settlement	15 10
Three Tree Creek (new)	5 67
Rusagornis (Mrs. T. Mercereau)	5 67
Oronocto (Miss Kinney)	1 20

Total amount raised \$115.55, an increase of \$29.60 over last year.

FIFTH DISTRICT.

The Secretary of this district reports the work in a somewhat low state. They have five societies.

Second Wickham	\$ 8 35
Fourth Hampstead	7 72
Sixth Wickham	1 30
First Hampstead	10 10
Second Johnston	1 00
Collection at Annual Meeting	4 35

Total amount raised \$32.82

Upper Hampstead 2 00 |

Third Hampstead 2 00 |

Total amount raised \$43.52

The members of Fourth Hampstead society made up a box and sent to Mrs. Boyer.

SIXTH DISTRICT.

Reports eighteen societies, five of which hold regular monthly meetings. Societies are as follows:

Penobscot	\$13 80
Snider Mt.	3 25
Newtown	3 00
Midland	7 00
Apoahqui	11 00
Lower Ridge	7 25
Corn Hill	12 50
Sussex	24 00
Portage	1 50
Graves Settlement	1 60
Dover	9 45
Taylor Village	7 50
Moncton	15 00
Coverdale	8 57
Petitcodiac	4 35
Dutch Valley	6 50
Lower Millstream	15 25
Norton	5 45
Lower Millstream, Mission Band	3 56

Total amount raised \$167.53

At the annual meeting a sister was appointed to visit the churches and she has already organized one new society, and reorganized another that had ceased to be active.

SEVENTH DISTRICT.

Six societies were reported at the annual meeting in this district. One having a membership of twenty-one was organized during the year. Another new society was organized at the annual meeting making seven in this district.

The membership is something more than 100.

St. John (South)	\$51 86
St. John (West)	43 46
(New) St. John (North)	43 12
North Head	21 10
Wilson's Beach	10 00
Chocolate Cove	6 25
(New) Fair Haven Soc.	3 86
One half collection at annual meeting	3 06
Mrs. F. Babcock	1 00

Total amount raised in this district during year \$175.71.

Total number of Societies reported 53.

Total money raised for F. M. \$746.70.

We have thus briefly gone over the work of the year, and while much more might have been accomplished had we been more earnest and devoted, yet we are thankful, that we have been permitted, even in a small measure, to hasten the time when the heathen shall be given to the Son for his inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for a possession.

Respectfully Submitted,
MRS. F. BABCOCK.

Edison's Latest.

SOME weeks ago public curiosity was excited by the report of a conversation between Mr. Edison and a newspaper correspondent, in which the former asserted that he had solved the problem of electrical traction for street cars without trolley or storage battery—by simply using the rails as conductors. The statements published at the time were too meagre to enable the reader to understand how rails not insulated could retain motor power, and also how, in case it were possible, they could be kept free from danger to those coming in contact with them. Fuller information has since been given. Mr. Edison proposes to send his current through one track and make it pass through the motor on the car to the other track. He keeps the current on the track by a low voltage—a voltage of 100, while the average trolley system is over 500. This low intensity will require but little insulation, and neither snow, mud nor dirt will draw it from the metallic circuit provided for it. Further, and contrary to the usual idea, upon the

subject, there is no material loss in a current of low voltage because of the length of line along which it must run, nor is there a sacrifice of speed. High speed and adequate power are found to be possible with a current of reduced intensity; while, most important of all, not merely is great expense saved, but the danger to life by contact, or even by short-circuiting, is utterly eliminated. An exchange affirms: "A remarkable feature of this invention is in the 'pick up' that takes the current from one line of rails. It is credited with the power of doing its work satisfactorily through six inches of water, slush or mud. The invention has passed out of the experimental stage, and is now to be adapted to practical work. It has been for some time on trial on a track built for it at West Orange, N. J., where Mr. Edison's laboratory is situated. This track is believed to present all the conditions of use. One part of it there is a grade of 300 feet to the mile. There are sharp curves, and at one place it traverses a depression which represents swampy ground. The new system is found to meet all the difficulties here presented to it, with perfect success." Herald.

GENERAL BOOTH of the Salvation Army is doing something, at least at relieving the London slums. He has bought 1,250 acres land, situated so as to have cheap water transportation to London by the Thames. Already 150 men, rescued from the slums, are at work gathering the crops, and building houses for the colony of 600 people who are to be employed on the premises. In addition to the cultivation of the land, brick making, carpentry, cabinet-making, tailoring, and shoe-making are to be carried on. A large dairy is already in operation, and it is said that the men are steady, sober and under excellent discipline. As fast as families are fully reclaimed and confirmed in good habits, they are to be transferred to other and larger colonies abroad, and take their places under the rigid discipline of this training colony at Hadleigh. It does look as if this would work, and if other philanthropic bodies shall follow the example, it may be the beginning of an adequate remedy for the pauperism, misery, and sin of our overgrown cities. Ch. Standard.

THE SLAVE TRADE.—The slave trade of Africa is approaching its end. It has in not a few instances destroyed its own resources; and as the whole continent is becoming more and more under foreign influence we may hope that the day is not distant when it will be a thing of the past. The recent definite arrangements between England and Germany in East Africa are an omen for good. Sir C. Euan Smith defended the Sultan of Zanzibar against those who declare his antislavery decree an imposture. He says: "In season and out of season those who have been responsible for the conduct of affairs in Zanzibar (including the Sultan himself) have kept the all-important fact of this all-important decree before the eyes of the Arabs; and the Arabs themselves know and thoroughly appreciate the intention of this decree, and, of course, the inevitable results of that decree. But more than this, I say that the records of the British Agency will show that since that decree has been promulgated throughout Zanzibar, Mombasa and Pemba, it has been constantly put into force in the face of the determined opposition of the Arabs, whom it affects. In regard to the legitimate slave-holding Arabs (not the slave-dealing Arabs), we are bound in justice and right to treat them with all the consideration we can legitimately show. To put such a decree as that in force and to give it full effect to it, must, in all wisdom, be a matter of time, and it must be heralded by many measures that take time to prepare."

Jews.—There are now twelve millions of Jews; these are the remnant left of Jacob. In this century alone three hundred thousand have become converted to the true faith. Amongst this number there are now three hundred ministering in the offices of religion. Hegel, the greatest philosopher of modern Germany, who has written much on history, and especially has dwelt much upon the meaning of history, has declared that the existence of the Jewish nation is a mystery to him, and he cannot in any way account for it; never to have become mingled with any other people, so ancient yet so distinct. He writes as a man of the world, looking only at the subject with the eyes of a modern savant. He cannot, he says, understand the singular fact of the Jewish nation. No, it is a miracle to be understood only when read in the light of God's Word of prophecy. Other notions are lost or

merged in others or, if not last, have no longer any of their ancient vigor; but Israel remains because, and because only, God has said, Israel shall be preserved amongst the nations, a scattered people, but ever distinct, until the time that his covenant with time shall be fulfilled.

HIGH BUILDINGS.—In this day of steel girders and swift elevators there is no reasonable limit to the height of buildings in our cities. They are already running up to fifteen and twenty stories, and one is projected in Chicago of thirty-four stories. One tall, overshadowing building almost necessitates the building of others, and where these multiply the little five or six story house is as much overwhelmed as a bush in the dense forest. It will soon be that going through the business part of a large city will be like treading mountain canons, except that the roaring and dashing streams will be of fretted humanity instead of fretted waters. But really the height of buildings should be limited by authority.—Standard.

THE REVISION of the Westminster Confession is not the only broadening change going on within the Presbyterian Church in the United States. There is also being prepared a simplified statement of Christian doctrine, with the object of expressing the belief of Presbyterians everywhere. Minor varieties of doctrine are omitted, and only that which is thought to be held in common by all Presbyterians will be retained. The Advance says: "Should the eighty or more various and differently named Presbyterian bodies throughout the world be surprised at finding themselves substantially at one in the acceptance of this simpler yet comprehensive statement of the faith, they might, it is hoped, presently be puzzled to find a respectable excuse for keeping up their subsidiary denominational barriers."

Telegraphy without wires is said to have been accomplished in England. Mr. Greece, the head electrician of the postal system, succeeded in establishing communication across the Solent to the Isle of Wight and telegraphed across the river Severn without wires, merely using earth plates at a sufficient distance apart. It is now proposed to make a practical use of this system in communicating with light-ships.

Among Exchanges.

BRIGHTEN THEIR HEARTS.

A minister may not always be able to brighten the brains of his congregation; but, if he can brighten their hearts, he will make life gladder for their neighbors as well as for themselves.—Chris. Register.

A REAL DIFFERENCE.

Some men sneeringly remark, "No woman can pass a millinery store without looking in;" to which all woman might truthfully reply that many men can not pass a saloon without going in. Rel. Telescope.

SINCERITY NEEDED.

We think it would be well if the average confession of sin and general deprecation pervading the talks and prayers in social worship had a larger proportion of sincerity in them. As it is, they savor too much of 'cant.'—Chris. Intel.

UPS AND DOWNS.

The most difficult ups and downs in this life are keeping expenses down and appearance up.—N. Y. Temperance.

NOT QUITE ENOUGH.

If you haven't got religion enough to make you anxious that somebody else shall get to heaven, you haven't got quite enough to get there yourself. Ram's Horn.

THE "DEAD LINE."

A writer in an exchange inquires why grey hairs are a help to a doctor, a hindrance to a preacher. Why is the "dead line" in the ministry and not in the medical profession? In the first place, we deny the fact. There may be some churches under the control of the girls who delight in young men, but in the churches which men rule as God directed, experience is valued in a pastor. They ask, What is he and what has he done? and not the color of his moustache.—Recorder.

"DEN I WATCHES HIM."

Bragging about being holy is one thing, living a holy, humble, useful life is another; and in real merit and practical usefulness an ounce of the latter is worth a ton of the former. Well did the philosopher of the Limekiln clasp say: "I like and trust a good man, but when I run across a giddy goody man den I watches him." Telescope.