

Religious Intelligencer.

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

VOL. XXXVIII.—No 28

FREDERICTON, N. B., JULY 8, 1891.

WHOLE No. 1947

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

Belgium leads all the countries of Europe in producing scholars, if the percentage of students relative to the population is to be taken as the criterion. In Belgium there are 823 students to 100,000 inhabitants; in Norway, 76.6; in Sweden, 57.3; while in Germany there are only 48.1. Austria, Italy, and Switzerland also outrank Germany in this respect.

The Leprosy Commission appointed some time ago in England have been prosecuting their inquiries in India, and according to statements just made have been very painstaking in their researches. Microscopic examinations, it is said, have led to important and surprising results, and the hope is entertained that methods of treatment may be devised that will remove this peculiarly loathsome and fatal disease from the list hitherto found to be incurable. Whether this is an over-anguine estimate time and experiment will determine.

This word of explanation and admonition from the Free Baptist will suit very well some INTELLIGENCER subscribers: Most of a newspaper's expenses are in advance; hence the custom among all of asking the subscription money in advance. The many times which "90" or possibly "89" still occur on the list from which our labels are cut, indicate that some one has advanced the money to pay for the paper on which many will find this sentence printed. Why not just now send on the dollar or two necessary to pay the debt and make us in debt to you?

The Professor of Athletics in Yale College is authority for the statement that the students who use tobacco are inferior both in physical vigour and mental ability to those who abstain. He bases his statement on the observations and investigations of eight years. His conclusions are—

That smokers have less lung-power, less chest-inflating capacity, are of less height, and their muscular and nervous power is notably less; also that in intellectual ability they are inferior to the anti-smokers. Of those students who within a given time have received junior appointments above dissertations, only five per cent. were smokers, and very few smokers received appointments of any kind. So thoroughly convinced is he, and so convincing are his demonstrations, that he is able to say that seventy per cent. of the senior class do not smoke, the leading athletes do not, and "not a single candidate for the rowing crew is a smoker."

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.]

Second District Society.

The Eleventh Annual Report of the Woman's F. M. Society of Second District, held at Victoria Corner, June 19th.

It is with mingled joy and sadness that we review the work of the past year with its varied changes—joy that we have been enabled to do something for the promotion of God's glory, and the advancement of His Kingdom, and that our faithful missionary has fallen by the relentless hand of death. We are left in the field to carry forward this great work. May this dispensation of Providence teach us to do with our might what our Master bids us do, for we, too, will soon hear the summons, "Come up higher."

The Secretary of Woodstock Society writes that they have held but six monthly meetings, owing principally to special services being held in the church. The mission band has held meetings regularly every two weeks, excepting during summer vacation. They held one concert, part of the proceeds, of which, and the dues collected were deposited in the Savings Bank to form a mission fund, the balance is for Home Missions. Last summer they sent a box containing patchwork and dolls, etc. to Mrs. Boyer for distribution among her pupils. They have a similar box ready to send this year. The Dorcas Society raised \$28.00 besides food and clothing which were distributed among the poor of the church. The amount contributed for Foreign Missions, forwarded to me, was \$37.23. They also raised \$15.80 for Home Missions.

The president of Tracy Mills Society writes, "Believing it right and profitable, we have sustained meetings every month in the year. She sends \$30.10. From other places the receipts are as follows:

Hartland	\$ 7 25
Jacksonville	1 00
Lower Brighton	15 05
Third Tier	12 60
Somerville	14 40
Bristol	1 75
Brookville	1 59
Connell	7 25
Charleston	2 40
Upper Brighton	9 25
Lindsay	3 75
Gordonville	4 14
Knowlesville	4 00
Knoxford	6 00
Windsor	3 00
Rockland	1 00
Victoria Corner	8 75
Waterville	6 40
Mrs. B. Gallop, Maine	50
Half the collection at Mission meeting	3 00

The total amount being \$180 61. Last year we raised \$170.24. Of the amount received this year \$20.00 is for Home Missions, viz.,

Upper Brighton	8 25
Somerville	4 40
Victoria Corner	1 00
Waterville	1 00
Third Tier	5 35

This amount I have forwarded to Mrs. J. W. Clark, president of the Home Mission branch of the work, with the request that it be expended in this District.

At 2 p. m., Friday, the meeting was opened by devotional exercises, the president in the chair. The time was principally occupied by receiving the money and discussing the needs of the weak churches, and also the need of sending the gospel to destitute places at home. A number of stirring addresses were made on this subject. While these important questions demand our sympathy and our money, it is not for us to abate our efforts or enthusiasm, or take less interest in our foreign work, while those millions of heathen sisters are calling to us for the light and liberty which the gospel alone can give. But when we contribute a dollar or, what is better, lay by each week as the Lord has prospered us, can we not also contribute the same for Home interests? It is evident that in order to secure the greatest success in the foreign work, the home churches must be in a prosperous condition.

On Saturday at 2:30 p. m. there was a large attendance. The president being absent, the chair was occupied by Mrs. M. Boyer. After singing, reading Scriptures, and prayer by Mrs. C. Vanwart, the Vice-Presidents were called upon to relate what had been done in the various societies. The fact was brought out that we have not been working as faithfully as we should have been. But two of our societies have held monthly meetings. The society at Gordonville sustained a woman's weekly prayer meeting, in which they sometimes talked of missions. Would it not contribute to our spiritual well-being if each church would follow the example? Let us try it. Persevering and believing prayer would help us carry out the suggestion of the constitution, that each woman feel a responsibility for her own church. It was suggested that each sister take sufficient interest to attend and assist in holding public meetings in the churches near them. We are expecting that much will be done along this line this year. The president and Sec. Treasurer were retained in their offices.

On Saturday evening a public Union Mission meeting was held. Mrs. C. T. Phillips was president pro. tem. Singing by the choir, reading Scriptures prayer by Rev. J. W. Clark. Mrs. C. T. Phillips gave an interesting address upon the mysterious dealings of Providence with respect to our missionaries and their work. The Secretary's report was spoken to by Mrs. C. Holmes and adopted. Mrs. J. J. Barnes and Mrs. Barker were called upon and responded in a way to interest and profit the meeting. Mrs. Barker, speaking of our service for God, expressed thankfulness that we may serve God with our means, and she always intended to give him this service. A letter from Miss Hooper was read by Secretary. Rev. J. W. Clark then took charge of meeting. Interesting addresses were given by Rev. J. J. Barnes, and Rev. F. Hartley. Beautiful music was rendered by the choir. All the meetings were helpful and stimulating. One sister remarked that "when she came, she had fully resolved

she would never attempt to collect again," but now, said she, "I intend to do all I can, so long as God spares my life." May our motive be, "Souls for Christ, and in the great harvest day, we will come 'bringing our sheaves with us.'"

R. J. ALEXANDER.
Sec. Treas.

Hon. Geo. E. Foster on Prohibition.

Moving the resolution for the appointment of a Royal Commission to obtain information bearing on the prohibition of the liquor traffic, Hon. Mr. Foster made a speech which does credit alike to his ability and to his loyalty to his life-long convictions on this great question. The position he takes in this speech is not different from that taken by him in all his discussions of the question, whether in Parliament or out of it, and the views he expresses are those he'd by leading prohibitionists throughout the country.

Our space does not permit us to give the whole of his speech, but we print the chief portions of it. It is good reading, and will, we think, stimulate the friends of the prohibitory movement.

Mr. Foster said:

It is not altogether in reply to the exceedingly kind and somewhat seductive invitations from the other side of the House that I should make known my views on this question before the House comes to a final vote that I rise for the purpose of asking the indulgence of the House for a very few moments. For two or three years past, although almost every year the question of prohibition in one form or another has been before the House, and has been discussed, I have not had very much to say, and for reasons of my own. During that time I have been subjected, of course, to a great many criticisms and to a great many misrepresentations. I do not complain of that. Every person in public life has to be subjected to these criticisms and these misrepresentations and it would be impossible for me to keep the track of either one or the other and reply to all. I do not intend to-night to reply to Mr. Lister. I leave that to some other person whose quality of mind will better fit him for the purpose than my own. I have, however, to thank him, although he unwittingly did it, for the service which he has done me. He has quoted from speeches which I have made. I hope he has received a deal of benefit from the research and reading which has been necessary in order to acquaint himself with these speeches and excerpts. I am quite sure that he has selected the very strongest utterances I have made, and those most opposed to the question which is now under consideration, and I propose to use that as a text for a little explanation in the few remarks that I ask this House kindly to listen to. The hon. gentleman has read from certain speeches of mine, delivered, he says, 15 years ago, delivered later than that but a few years ago, and he has done me the service of reading a newspaper report of my answer to the delegation which waited on the Government a few weeks ago. I have occasion to say here that that newspaper's report does not exactly convey the ideas that I tried to express. In the main the ideas are what I did express, but the conjunction is not the same, and a different sense could be taken from them than what I proposed they should bear. That always happens, or very often happens, when newspaper reports of what one says are made hurriedly. However, I desire to say this, that with reference to the question of prohibition I have not changed my views as to the principle from the time that I had views upon this subject, whether it be 15 years ago or whether it be later. I to-day believe in the principle of prohibition just as strongly and more strongly than I have in any other previous part of my life. I believe also in the feasibility of the principle of prohibition, and in this I will not differ with a great many gentlemen on both sides of the House. I cannot help that, I have my opinions. I propose to keep them, and I now here to-night before the country, that I am of the opinion, from the light and knowledge that I possess upon it, whether it be sufficient to give a proper judgment or not, that the principle of prohibition is a feasible and practicable one in its application to the country; that it is a feasible and practicable one under certain conditions. Now, I desire to say, in the next place, that any hon. gentleman who reads my speeches in the past will find that I never barked or blinked the difficulties that were in the way of successful carrying out of prohibition in this country. Neither was I ever so dishonest with myself or with my audience as not to tell them first what I thought were the difficulties that were to be encountered, and what I thought was the battle to be fought before the victory was won, and if the hon. gentlemen inside of this House, and if people outside of this House, and many of them too, profess to be very strong temperance men, and I do not doubt their profession—would be honest enough to quote all my speeches

and to take me fairly on this point for criticism, what I state to-night would be found to be amply carried out.

What I have stated to be the difficulties in the way of prohibition, and what I believe to-night to be difficulties in the way of the practical realization of prohibition, are mainly these: There is first the desire for intoxicants, the desire for stimulants, which exists in a great proportion of the people of this and of other civilized countries. There may be a difference of opinion as to why this is. Some gentlemen say that this is a natural appetite in men, others say that it is an artificial one, and that it is bred by circumstances and by custom, or that it is transmitted by inheritance. I am one of the second belief and not of the first. However, I am not here to-night to discuss this point, but simply to say that that is now, and has in the past more than now been, one of the great difficulties to be encountered in the practical carrying out of the prohibition principle. I stated as well, and I hold to the same belief now, that the power of custom is another of the great difficulties which stands in the way of the practical realization of prohibition.

Any man who studies history, any man who has gained experience, any man who observes it to-day knows the power of custom and what a yoke it places even upon intelligent men. That power of custom, draped in all the allurements of hospitality and of genial fellowship, is one of the adjuncts of the drinking habit and one of the incentives to the drink custom in the country, and that these will have to be reformed and overcome before the principle of prohibition is practically realized. I have always stated, and I state to-day, that the moneyed interest is another great difficulty to be overcome. The man who makes intoxicating liquor does it to make money from it; the labor he employs is paid by this money; the man who sells the liquor by wholesale has his profit; the man who retails it has his profit; the municipality, the province, the Government has its share, and before the man who manufactures can profit by his gains he has to divide with all these different classes; and when you talk prohibition, and before you get prohibition to be an accomplished practical fact, you have got to fight and you have got to conquer that interest. (Cheers.) I have stated as well that another strong difficulty in the way of prohibition was the difficulty of its enforcement. Any person who has had practical knowledge and experience of license laws and of prohibition in any country, knows the difficulties to be met with in enforcing a law of this kind. We may say they should not exist; we may shut our eyes and declare they do not exist, but all the same they do exist, and they have to be overcome, and they are a factor to be encountered in the ultimate carrying out of the principle of prohibition. I have always stated, and I state to-night, that another difficulty has to be overcome. Coming specially to the point as to the difficulty of the adjustment of revenues, Mr. Lister misrepresented me in this matter. Mr. Macdonald also misrepresented me. Neither of them probably I will do them jointly the courtesy to believe, intended to do so. Anyone who states that before that deputation or any other deputation, I gave as a reason why I could not favor a prohibition law that the \$7,500,000 of revenue stood in the way, states what is not true, and states what I did not state. I want that to go as wide outside as it goes inside of this chamber, and I want gentlemen to be careful on these points of criticism of the reputation of another, even though he be nothing but a public man. They ought to be careful of their criticism of men even in public positions, and ought to be sure of the grounds of their criticism. I never said such a thing. I am here to make another statement. I do not count a gold dollar one single moment in the balance against one single ray of light or happiness that comes into the humblest home in this country. I do not count your handful of dollars against the happiness or well-being of one single man, if it is attacked and in danger, and I am here to-night to state that I do not look at the \$7,500,000 as worth one moment's argument if it is put in the balance against the strong demand of the people to-day to do away with what I consider to be an evil and to bring about a state of things which I consider would be better for the homes, the happiness and the material prosperity of the country. But I did not meet that temperance delegation, and I do not propose to meet any other temperance delegation and say to them: True, \$7,500,000 of the necessary revenue of the country will be taken away, but do not let us think about that; that is no difficulty. Do not let it be a difficulty. Was I not honest in stating that it was a difficulty? Would not I be dishonest if I did not say, as a practical man, that it is a practical difficulty, and that we must ascertain how to get rid of that practical difficulty? *

* But, Sir, if this country and this Parliament agree to it, I am here to state that no better thing could be done in this country than to exchange the \$7,500,000 of revenue to the country for a country blessed with the sobriety and peace and consequent plenty that I believed would come from a well ordered and well-enforced prohibitory law. That is simply my position.

Criticize it as you may, criticize it fairly as I place it before you, and any man who has been Finance Minister, or who wishes to be Finance Minister, will know that he has a practical difficulty to face when he is asked to come down to the House and provide for \$7,500,000 of taxation by giving it up for any cause, no matter how good it may be. It has been stated that that would be saved to the country, and it has been said that in speeches formerly made by me I had declared that. So I have declared it, and I believe it would be saved to the country, and the country would be so much the richer for that saving, it none the less is a difficulty to provide for the financial needs of the present, and this is to be done by increased taxation and by some method other than that which we have now for raising our taxes.

So much with reference to that point. I said I believed in the feasibility of a prohibitory law under certain conditions. What are those conditions? I will name but one, that is the condition which follows as a logical sequence, as a necessary deduction from what I have just been stating, that before a prohibitory law ought to be enacted and before it can be maintained so as to do good to the country, there must necessarily be the basis of a strong and preponderating public sentiment in its favor, in order not only to lead to its enactment, but to tend to its maintenance and enforcement as well, and I say again what has been quoted as a reproach to me, and I say it boldly and earnestly, that that man is no true friend of the temperance cause and the prohibition movement who will enact a law to-day and who does not firmly believe in his heart that that law finds its reflex in the overpowering conviction of a preponderating and active majority in the country, in favor, not only of its enactment, but its maintenance as well, and that he would do the worst possible service to the cause of prohibition to snatch a verdict for the enactment of the law, and find afterwards that if it were not a reflex of such a preponderating sentiment in the country, it would become a dead letter on the statute book, a by-word in the community, and a reproach to the very temperance men who favored its enactment of a prohibitory law and a basis for the maintenance of it is the strong preponderating conviction in the majority of the people of the country who are to be subject to the law, and who are to maintain it by virtue of that strong and preponderating conviction. Now, let us be honest with ourselves to-night. Do we in our heart of hearts believe that this country from British Columbia to Cape Breton has that strongly preponderating and actively co-operating sentiment in favor of the enforcement of a prohibitory law? If we do let us vote for it and enact it. If we do not let us be honest with ourselves, honest with the cause and honest with the country.

Mr. Foster then referred to the petitions presented this session, and to the proposal for a plebiscite. Of the latter he said: "I have great sympathy with one of the strongest and best prohibitionists in one of the Provinces, who is the representative of the strongest prohibition sentiment in his province, who, writing to me a couple of weeks ago said:

Looking over the field I have my doubts as to whether the sentiment of the country is strong enough to uphold a prohibitory law if it were enacted to-day; but for God's sake give us a chance to vote for it outside of other questions.

But he pointed out the difficulties, which is the fact that the Dominion Alliance, as represented by Mr. Jamieson, declares that it does not want a plebiscite. He said:

"Under the plebiscite the people would be asked to vote: 'Are you in favor of prohibition or not?' and they would mark their ballots yes or no. But who have they pledged. When Parliament assembles we see the representative from the country who is pledged to prohibition. There is a general expression of opinion from the great mass of the people, but you have not concentrated that opinion in the individual representative meet in Parliament, unless they have a mandate from their constituencies to vote for prohibition, or have pledged themselves specially to do so, they will not feel the responsibility resting upon them of carrying out the intention generally expressed. That is one of the strongest reasons why the strong prohibitionists of this country are opposed to this referendum.

While he believes that circumstances might arise with reference to this question making it necessary that it go to the people in some such way, he thought the practice once adopted would bring evil effects in its train.

He went on to say:

I do not stop for one moment to reply to some mean insinuations which have been thrown across the floor, that once I was a prohibitionist and temperance man, and that now I am not, and that the reason is that I get \$7,000 salary a year. If any gentleman has the pleasure and the anxiety of holding a seat on the treasury benches, and goes through his work fairly well, he will find that at the end of each year he has had as many difficulties

as he could desire to contend against; that he has had as many clothes as he can wear and as much food as he can eat, and the chance to do as much work in one year as in any other capacity he would attempt to do in five and that is about the sum and substance of it. It is not worth while for me to repel that insinuation. I do not propose to lower myself by doing so. What I was about to say was this: The Montreal Witness is a temperance prohibitionist paper, and the Dominion Alliance is a temperance reform body, representative to a certain extent; but when the Witness proposed, as it did a few days ago, to say to a member of parliament: I have my eye on you, this is a resolution which I put in the hands of the member for North Lanark, and I am going to watch every man, and every man who does not vote for that resolution I am going to mark as opposed to prohibition. Well, I believe in every man having his own opinion; as I believe in the Witness having its own opinion; but the time has not yet come when I, occupying a seat in this Parliament, propose to put my conscience and my judgment in the keeping of any paper or set of men. I propose to do what I think is honest and fair on this question.

We never can have too much information. My hon. friend (Mr. Jamieson) does not believe that the whitest and strongest light that can be thrown on this question can be too white or too strong for it. The man in this House who is a temperance advocate and has not read widely and studied deeply in regard to this subject—and it is not to the credit of anyone who has not done so—if he prefers to deal honestly with this question—as I know members on this side of the House intend to deal—must come to the conclusion that it is time to stop playing with the prohibition question; that members must make up their minds in regard to the facts of the case in regard to what course is to be followed, must then say what they will do and must do what they say. In order to do that we need the fullest information. In 1872 and 1873 there were very large petitions presented to both Houses. They came to the Government which was led by hon. gentlemen opposite; they prayed for prohibition, select committees were appointed by both Houses; they made their investigation, and both of these committees reported in favour of immediate and total prohibition. But the House and the Government were not satisfied with that and a commission was appointed to investigate the matter. The commissioners went to different countries and made a year's study of the subject, and embodied their views in a report to the Government. Another resolution was presented to the House, and the great temperance convention, which met in 1875, passed a resolution in favor of prohibition. After all that the Government did not pass a prohibitory liquor law, and I think Mr. McKenzie stated as his reason for not doing so that he did not think the country was ripe for such a measure. Since that time 16 or 17 years have passed and the world's experience has ripened and the history of temperance effort and of prohibition legislation has taken a wide stride forward, so that now it occupies a significant and important position, which it did not at that time. How many men in this House have studied what has been done during that period, and followed it closely? I think that every man in this House wants to know what has been done, and to get at the results of experiments which have been made in other countries if he desires to give an intelligent expression of opinion on this subject. During that time Kansas has been added to the roll of prohibition states. These laws have remained in force, and I believe with great benefit to the countries which have adopted them. It is true that some people dispute that; but that is not the question. Why should we not learn the results of the world's experience in all these years. What I propose is not for the purpose of shelving the temperance question or the prohibition question, but for the purpose of getting information as to the most approved, the latest, the most reliable data. I propose that a royal commission shall be appointed to embody the results of the world's experience in regard to this question from 1874 up to the present time, and make research and collect all the facts and all the experience they may gain and lay before this Parliament the result of the experience of other countries and the data which they can obtain from them, which will be of the utmost advantage to the members of this House and will be grateful to the country as well. That will form a better basis for the consideration of this question than anything we now have before us, and will enable us to arrive at the conclusion upon it. I have said more, perhaps, than I thought I should at the beginning. What I have said I adhere to. These are my convictions, and I place them before the House and the country.

He then moved the resolution for the appointment of a commission, which we published last week, adding, "I hope the House will carry this. I hope the Commission will be appointed, and I hope good results will come, and speedily come, to the cause of temperance and sobriety from the most of the Commission."