

# Religious Intelligencer.

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

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## February Renewals.

A large number of subscriptions have expired, renewals of which are now in order, and are desired.

Many due in January have not yet come. We trust they will be sent at once.

Another large number of subscriptions expire this month.

Prompt renewals will greatly help our work.

February ought to bring us not only renewals of those subscriptions now expiring, but also of those which expired last month or earlier, and which have not already been received.

We hope each one whose subscription is due will remit promptly.

Let each reader of this whose subscription has expired, or will expire this month, send a renewal by the next mail.

Prompt payments will help the work of the paper much. Do not delay your help.

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

THREE WOMEN have been appointed on the High School Board of Toronto.

A RUSSIAN, named Balahouk, has recently started on a walk which will occupy about three years. He goes from Kiev to Constantinople and Jerusalem; then by the coast which skirts Syria and Africa, arriving at Morocco; thence he will travel through Spain, France and Germany to Kiev.

THE MORMONS are said to be withdrawing their children from the public schools, and placing them in Mormon schools, where their peculiar doctrines are taught.

REFORM IN INDIA must be gradual. The first marriage of a widow among the Pokarna Brahmin caste took place the other week in Bombay presidency under the auspices of the association for encouraging this reform. The widow was married at the age of eight and became a widow at ten; she is now twenty. The husband, a contractor, made a present of five hundred rupees to the bride as dowry at the conclusion of the marriage ceremony.

STANLEY says that certain portions of Africa will always be worthless on account of the grasshoppers. In one instance he saw a column of young grasshoppers ten miles broad by thirty long marching down a valley, and when the grass was fired against them they were thick enough to smother the flames.

Next!

WHAT IS TO BE DONE in Ireland's great distress is a question constantly recurring at these times. Were the government to stop distilleries and the breweries, the whole famine-threatened people in Ireland would have enough and to spare of the staff of life. When her distilleries were stopped in 1809 and 1813—years of famine—the change for the better was so great that if these liquor factories had stopped and never again gone on, the state of Ireland at this hour would have left no room for complaint.

A BAD RECORD is that given to Washington by a writer in one of the papers. He says:

One thing should be constantly borne in mind, that there are more liars and characterless gossips in Washington than in any other place on the American continent. Not a public man of any prominence escapes the foul slanders of these filthy fellows, and most anything can be heard of anybody.

RUMOURS are current in Polish circles that Russian Nihilists are preparing for another political murder. If the rumours are to be believed, the next blow which the Nihilists will strike will be an assassination similar to that of General Seliverskoff, on account of which the police of the entire world are hunting for Padlewski, the man charged with killing the general. Russian refugees now in Bulgaria are suspected of being engaged in the preparation of the details of this plot. Russia's police throughout Europe and elsewhere have been notified to exercise extra vigilance. Similar instructions are said to have been issued to the police in the Russian Empire.

SINCE JANUARY 1st of this year more than ten thousand Jews have arrived at New York. In four months of last year 20,000 arrived there, and during the whole year 32,300. And the *N. Y. Advocate* says the prospect now is that the number will be greatly increased, as 400,000 or 500,000 are ready to come as soon as they get the means. Baron Hirsch gives \$10,000 a month toward their expenses, and gives \$2,500,000 in bulk. In Boston and Philadelphia there are not many Jews. In Chicago, 12,000; San Francisco, about 10,000; New Orleans, 8,000; and in this city considerably more than 75,000. Most of them are both able and willing to work. Those that come from Russia have been under such oppression that many of them do not understand trades, but are extremely anxious to learn. Investigations have been made by Jewish philanthropists in the Argentine Republic, Brazil, and Mexico, but the Jews prefer the United States.

IN JAPAN last year the marriages numbered 340,445, and the divorces 104,478, or nearly one-third of the marriages. This indicates that, after all, the heathen are not so much superior to Christians in their morals as some would have us believe.

THE LEGISLATURE of Victoria, Australia, recently passed a law which gives the wife the right of divorce if the husband is found to be an habitual drunkard. If, after marriage, she discovers that he is an inebriate, she can also get a divorce. The husband can do the same with the wife, if she is proved to be an inebriate.

PROFESSOR HENOCK, the great authority of Berlin University on children's diseases, expressed a very unfavorable opinion of Koch's treatment. In spite of every precaution in the use of the fluid not one cure has been effected out of twenty-two children's cases in his hospital. Only one patient showed temporary improvement, while in several instances the children became worse. The professor has, therefore, resolved not to make any more experiments with the lymph, and the danger to the children and the responsibility incurred by the physician are too great.

NEWS COMES from China by San Francisco of the terrible floods and famine which have prevailed recently in the interior districts of northern China. The people of Schuan have suffered terribly by floods which destroyed temples, bridges and walls in the ten districts. In Wen-Chuan the loss of life will reach fully 1,000. Immediately following the floods at Pie-Chang a fire broke out and destroyed thirty-five houses. In three other places houses were burned to the number of two hundred. The suffering among the poor is something terrible. The roads are difficult of passage, and crowds of starving wretches are on their way to Shanghai, and how to deal with them will be a difficult problem for those in power to solve.

RUSSIAN MERCHANTS in Central Asia are demanding that the Jews be expelled from the region. The sole pretext for that demand is that the Jews outwit the Russians in trade. It is thought that the desired order for expulsion of the Jews will be issued, if, indeed, it has not already been sent quietly to the Czar's representatives in Central Asia.

## Dr. Pentecost's Work in India.

A letter from Rev. Dr. Pentecost gives an encouraging account of his work in India. So far his work has been in Calcutta, and he has been very busy addressing meetings etc. He says:

We have every reason to be encouraged by the results. It is said that no religious meeting was ever so well and so long sustained in this city. There have been between fifty and sixty open conversions, and we have reason to believe many more, who, for various reasons have hesitated to make declaration of their faith, principally perhaps because they are already members of some Church, particularly the English State Church. Of course I am speaking of the Europeans now. We have kept a daily prayer-meeting going, and though not largely attended it has been a power and has served as a testimony. I have been in daily communion more

or less with inquirers, and have given addresses to them on their own ground.

During the latter part of last week and the first three days of this one, there has been in session what is known as the National Indian Congress. It is made up entirely of native gentlemen from every part of the empire, representing every one of the many distinct people that form the heterogeneous population of this country, and also every different religion—Brahmin, Hindu, Parsi, Jain, Buddhist, Mohammedan and Christian. The object of the Congress is agitation for a voice in the government of India. The members of it are all educated men, many of them, men of great wealth and commanding influence. I attended several of their sessions and heard as many fine speeches in English as I have listened to in assembly of Americans, one or two of them magnificent pieces of oratory and couched in matchless English. It is a remarkable fact that there is no language (that is no one language) in which the proceedings of this Congress could be held but the English. Another astonishing feature of the Congress was that there were lady delegates present, and on the last day one lady, a pure native of highest caste, appeared on the platform unveiled, and delivered an address, extemporaneously, in purest English. This is an innovation so marked that it will do much toward abating the foundations of the hateful and terrible *zenana* of India. Once the women are set free in India, then away go the iron fetters of caste, and the whole empire will be freed from superstition. There were about 6,000 in daily attendance upon the Congress, all of them educated gentlemen.

There were some Christians among the delegates (about sixty,) and they invited me to give some addresses at the close of the Congress's daily sessions in the compound of the Bishops' college near by. I did so, and we managed to get some two or three hundred delegates to come. They were of all classes as to religion and nationality. I spoke to them apologetically concerning the claims of Christ upon their thoughtful attention, upon their hearts and consciences. The addresses were carefully listened to, and apparently well received. Thus I have had a kind of Pentecost opportunity, but oh, that the Holy Ghost might have descended in power upon them! Perhaps he has done so, who can tell? On Sunday I addressed about five hundred of them in the town hall on the reasonableness of Christianity as seen in the history of the Man Christ Jesus, in his marvelous doctrine, and in the new moral and spiritual life which he has communicated to the world through the faith of his disciples, giving eternal life to every one that believeth. I believe God helped me to preach that day, though the address was in the nature of a discussion. At the close of the address I was introduced to many of the distinguished men present. There was one gentleman of about sixty—a fine looking man—whose evident interest in the address had attracted my attention. He lingered behind after almost all the rest had gone, as if he wished to speak to me. So I approached him and, holding out my hand, said:

"Are you a Christian, sir?"

"No," was his reply, "I am a Hindu."

"But you are not without interest in this matter evidently; I wish you were a Christian," I ventured to say.

"No, I am not a Christian. I am a Hindu, and I suppose I will die a Hindu; but I am certainly interested in what you have said, and in everything appertaining to the Christian religion, for," he added with emphasis, "we see that Christianity is coming to this Land, and it is right that we should be intelligent about it, even if we do not embrace it." Then he went on to say:

"I would be very glad to see you in our part of the country, and if you will come, I will undertake to gather the leaders of the community together to hear what you have to say to us about Christ."

My own judgment is that the native religious leaders are vastly more impressed with the fact of Christianity, and of its having come to India, than we ourselves are enthusiastic in our hopes of its sure progress. With five to seven millions educated and English-speaking natives in the land already

and the number rapidly increasing every year, I would suggest that many of our ablest and best men come out to India on a year's leave, if nothing more, and spend a week or two in the different great centers of population and preach Christ or deliver a series of historical and apologetical lectures, such as Peter and Stephen delivered to the Jews. What greater service could some of our great churches do than to send their pastors for a year to India and let them go through the land preaching and testifying the Gospel and then go home and tell our people what they have seen and heard. What an awakening there would be among the churches! It only needs a great onward movement to carry India for Christ, I am sure.

I am to begin a series of daily meetings with the Bengali students of the various colleges in Calcutta next week. I hope to speak to them daily for two or three weeks. Such a continuous meeting has never been held with them, and I have great hopes that some substantial result will come out of it.

## Insurrection in Chili.

The frequency of revolutions in the South American republics shows at least that there is a vigorous political life in progress. These children of old Spain have, without exception, adopted the republican form of government, and they have shown a desire to preserve and strengthen it. The latest evidence of this is the revolt in Chili, which shows a very clear intention on the part of the people not to allow unconstitutional violation of their rights. Chili has for a long time had internal quiet, and only the most pronounced wrong-doing by public officials could have produced the present disturbance. President Balmaceda, who has for some time been the head of the faction which monopolizes the chief offices and emoluments of Chili is the chief offender, having attempted to set aside the regular legislative action of the National Congress, and to substitute thereof his own will. The immediate occasion of the revolt was his course in regard to the budget. The Congress refused to pass the budget, whereupon he dismissed that body, and declared the bill passed. This high-handed act at once arrayed against him nearly the whole army and navy of Chili, and has placed the country in a state of siege. The rebels, who in this instance are the upholders of constitutional right, have blockaded Valparaiso, Valdivia Port and other important stations, and have gained the ascendancy on both land and sea. There is little doubt that Balmaceda will be compelled to resign, and that a constitution respecting head of the Government will take his place. The progress of the Spanish republics ought to be of special interest to the English-speaking people of this continent, because it is a record of the growth, among a people sprung from conservative and inquisitorial Spain, of democratic ideas and constitutions. It is to be hoped that each year will witness an increasing tendency toward sound and honest popular government. It is worthy of note that the numerous disturbances thus far have been caused by popular movements in that direction.—*Guardian*.

## 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.]

## A Suggestion.

God's ships of treasure sail upon the sea Of boundless love, of mercy infinite; To change their course, retard their onward way, Nor wind nor wave hath might.

Prayer is the tide for which the vessels wait E'er they come to port; and if it be The tide is low, then how canst thou expect The treasure ship to see? —Anna Temple.

## A Great Burning.

I wonder what you would think could you sit where I am now, and hear the wailing that comes from the house at the back. Shall I tell you what it is for, and why? Two young ladies stand over the coffin of their dead mother, and cry and wail for her spirit

to come and partake of the many dishes of food that are placed beside them. This same wailing has been going on, morning and evening, during the last six weeks. The heart-broken girls are nearly worn out with the constant mourning, but no! they dare not rest until the spirit of their mother is satisfied, and released from purgatory. How your heart would ache to see the sacrifices they have almost daily made since her death. Many elegant silk and satin garments, together with much embroidery, have been burnt for her use "over there." Only the other day they were so busy embroidering tiny silk shoes for their mother that they could not then learn. These shoes were burnt with other things.

One day the family invited me to go with them to a temple half a mile distant, and witness the burning of a paper house that had been prepared with great labor and expense. The house was constructed in six parts, making eighteen rooms in all. Each one of these was furnished completely with everything that one sees in the best Chinese dwellings. Besides, there were many things represented that the lady was specially fond of during life. For instance, she had a little white, curly pet dog, and the very first thing I saw upon entering this phantom house was an exact representation of this dog, sitting on a stool in the "guard-room." There were tables, chairs, benches, stools, clocks, writing utensils, and, in fact, everything one could think of needed in the house. In the bedroom the dressing-table was covered with toilet articles, such as brushes, combs, looking-glasses, powder-boxes, etc. The bed was about four feet in length, and was hung with beautiful white silk curtains, prettily fastened back at the sides, and had three or four thick silk quilts neatly folded across the back, Chinese fashion. In the kitchen was a Chinese cooking-range, with saucepans, kettles, teapots, bottles, and all necessary utensils for cooking. A sedan chair, with coolies attached, stood near the door, in readiness for use. There were many boxes in the side rooms made to represent those in which Chinese ladies keep their clothing. These were filled with the tin foil, which is burned to represent money.

The procession was headed by the servants of the household, dressed in unbleached cotton for mourning. Then came six shaven-headed, gray-robed priests, and, lastly, the chairs of the mourners. The husband of one of the girls came first, and bore the tablet of his deceased mother-in-law. A table was quickly brought out of the temple, covered with tiny dishes of food, and the tablet was placed upon it. A terrible wailing began, and the poor girls were dragged out of their chairs and helped to knock their heads three times upon the ground in front of the tablet. The young man, who was covered in coarse sackcloth from head to feet, took up the table and carried it into the house, followed by the two daughters and their maids. The doors were closed, and the six priests struck up their musical instruments, and, chanting, began to march in single file around the house. At every step one of them sprinkled the sides of the house with something he carried in a small bowl in his left hand. When they had gone around three times in this manner, all stepped back; the table was removed, and a blaze shot up from the back, and in a moment the whole affair was in flames. The slender bamboo frames, cracking, fell to the ground, and soon the spot was marked only by a pile of ashes. The air was filled with burnt paper, which the wind scattered in every direction.—*The Missionary Link*.

## Scientific Miscellany.

NEW USES FOR AN OLD MATERIAL.—Peat, used for fuel from the earliest times and long known to be of great value as a fertilizer, now finds so many other applications that its preparation has lately developed into quite an industry. Peat powder is serviceable not only about stables but elsewhere, on account of its absorbent and somewhat antiseptic properties and low cost. A few years ago, a French surgeon introduced this powder, treated with antiseptic solutions and contained in a cloth bag as a dressing for wounds. The idea, said to be a very old one among the working people of some places, was improved upon by another medical man of Paris, Dr. Redon, who made a soft and pliable wadding of peat. Other dressings have since crowded these out of hospitals, though the peat applications are coming into use and gaining in favor among veterinary surgeons. Dr. Redon's wadding has yielded important results by leading to many efforts to produce woven fabrics, so that peat is now made into mattresses, coverings, carpets, etc., which are esteemed on account of their power of absorption.

NON-INJURIOUS BLACKING.—A patented shoe-blackening which contains no acid is made in Germany by dissolving casein in a solution of borax or soda and adding resinates of iron, besides the usual bone-black, grease and sugar. A brilliant luster is imparted by the casein, and the resinates of iron gives a deep black color.

A WRITER on mosquito bites declares that common soap is as effective a remedy as ammonia, chloroform, or any of the many articles recommended. The lather is allowed to dry over the affected part, when all burning and pain soon disappear.

A SUGAR 15 times sweeter than cane-sugar, and 20 times sweeter than beet-sugar, is reported by a German chemist from cotton-seed meal. It cannot be sold to compete with the ordinary article.

THE MICROSCOPIC FUNGI.—The term bacteria or microbe, states Prof. Samuel Bell, refers to particles of matter, microscopic in size, which belong to the vegetable kingdom, where they are known as fungi. All these different organisms have become familiar under the generic term bacteria, which is a very unfortunate application, as it really applies to only a single class of fungi. Cohn calls them *schizomycetes*, and makes these classifications: 1. *Spiro-bacteria* (microbes, or micrococci), which are the simplest of the fungi, and appear as organisms of spherical form, which multiply by fission, a single coccus forming two, these two producing four, and so on. They are seen singly, in pairs or fours, or as clusters or chains of hundreds. They are very active, and are almost omnipresent, abounding wherever fermentation or decay is in progress. Not all of these germs are the cause of disease, but certain species are always associated with diseased conditions. 2. *Bacteria-terro* (or bacteria), which are slightly elongated, and, inasmuch as they multiply by division, frequently appear coupled together, linked in pairs and in chains. They are generally found in putrefying infusions. 3. *Desmo-bacteria* (or bacilli), rod-like organisms, occurring of various lengths and thicknesses. In a slide of the bacillus of tuberculosis or anthrax may be noticed at intervals dots which represent the spores from which, as the rods break up, future bacilli are developed. 4. *Spiro-bacteria*, including the spirilla and the spirochetes, the former having short-open spirals, and the latter long and closely wound spirals. They multiply by spores, but little is yet known of their life-history. They are often found in drinking water. The various forms of bacteria grow only in congenial soil, the cholera bacillus, for instance, failing to multiply in the stomach or the blood, but developing with wonderful rapidity on gaining access to the intestinal tract.

A MATERIAL closely imitating malachite is made by precipitating a solution of cupric sulphate by potassium or sodium carbonate. When the precipitate has settled and cohered, it is dried with gentle heat, and may then be cut and given a beautiful polish.

GRATIFYING A PLANT.—It is odd to think of plants as seeing, but Mrs. Robert King describes an experience in India that she regards as confirming her husband's theory that creeping plants have some faculty akin to sight. Mr. King was seated with one foot against a pillar, when a kind of convolvulus growing near was seen to turn toward his leg, which was then kept motionless until, at the end of an hour, the tendrils had laid themselves over it. He then went to breakfast, and on returning found that the plant had turned away in disgust. A pole was procured and placed against the pillar about a foot from the nearest sprays of convolvulus, and in ten minutes they had begun to curve toward it, and in a few hours the tendrils had twisted quite around it. The pole was on the side away from the light, and the observers find it difficult to account for the phenomenon except by assuming that the plant could see the pole.

INFLUENZA AND WEATHER.—In a study of the London records of influenza and the weather from 1845 to 1890, Sir Arthur Mitchell and Dr. Buchan have found the disease to belong chiefly to the winter season, but to be connected with unusually warm weather rather than with unusually great cold. In no case has extreme cold during an epidemic been attended with any increase of the death-rate. Other diseases which have prevailed most extensively during epidemics of influenza are diseases of the breathing organs, consumption, diseases of the circulatory system, rheumatism, and diseases of the nervous system. At these seasons there have been less than the average of deaths from diarrhoea and dysentery, liver disease, measles, scarlet fever, typhoid fever and erysipelas.

EXPERIMENTS made by M. Ponho with one of the star-fishes—*Asterias glacialis*—show that the animal is guided to food by smell and not by sight; and that the tentacles near the eye-spot—useless for locomotion—are the seat of the sense of smell.