

Religious Intelligencer.

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

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SPECIAL OFFER

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NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

THE WORK of constructing the Canadian ship canal at Sault Ste. Marie is now being rapidly pushed forward. It is a gigantic enterprise, and the interest attaching to it is patriotic as well as commercial. The contractors hope to have the canal completed by the close of next year, and claim that the work can be done within that time without serious difficulty.

THE REPORT now is that China is indignant at the law requiring the Chinese in the United States to be registered; and that if the law is enforced the Chinese Government will retaliate by putting similar indignities upon Americans over there. A Chinese paper in San Francisco rises to remark that "China has plenty of wealth, plenty of guns and ships of war of modern construction, and plenty of soldiers. China can cope with the United States in war, and is not afraid of her." We suppose the Chinese have as much right to avenge a national insult with the cannon as their more highly civilized fellows.

COMPRESSING TIMBER by means of enormous force is becoming an established industry. It is said that the hardest woods can be reduced one-fourth in bulk, and that any wood after compression will take on the most beautiful finish, and allow most perfect effects in carving. It is possible that wood may be so compressed as to render it a first-class paving material. Wood is an incomparable paving material while it lasts, but all sorts hitherto used have been too easy a prey to water and frost. Meanwhile it is reported that the Australian forests furnish certain hard woods which, as experiments show, will last always, or nearly so, in pavements.

LAST MONTH an old Crimean soldier was hanged in London for killing his wife. It was shown at the trial that the wife was an habitual drunkard, and that the killing was done in a fit of rage when the man came home one night and found that his wife had pawned his clothes for drink. This started inquiry. Thousands of women are sent to prison in London every year for drunkenness. The clerk of one of the police courts gives this as one case out of many: "Four young girls are sent to a public house to get gin for their mother. They are treated to ale, and, with this start, when they get into the street they begin on the gin, and they are all soon found helplessly drunk, sprawling about in the middle of the road." In our own country the drink demon has not invaded the home in just that shape, but that it will come to this is certain unless the traffic can be abolished.

THERE ARE NOW over 100,000 Jews in the Holy Land. The Jewish population there at present is larger than it has been at any other time since the end of the first century of the Christian era. Nearly four-fifths of them all have gone thither from other countries within the past few years, and they have been going thither this year more steadily than ever before. In former times only a small number of Jews were permitted to live in the country; but the restrictions upon their settlement in it and upon their ownership of land have been removed, and they are now at liberty to repopulate it and take possession of it.

SENTIMENT is not strong at the Admiralty. Nelson's flagship, the *Foudroyant*, has been sold to a German contractor for breaking up for £1,000. Dr. Conan Doyle has indited an indignant poem 'For Nelson's Sake,' of which this is a stanza.

You hucksters, have you still to learn
The things that money will not buy?
Can you not read that, cold and stern
As we may be, there still does lie
Deep in our hearts a hungry love
For what concerns our island story?
We sell our work—perchance our lives
But not our glory.

IT IS A SHAME that that mockery of government known as Morocco should be allowed to continue, right under the very eyes and nose of European Christendom. Not only does slavery exist there, but slavery of the most brutal type. A few weeks ago, the Sultan's chief eunuch put to death a slave by pouring boiling water upon his head. Although this was the fifth slave which this monster has killed thus, and the Sultan has not interfered, although his attention has been called to the matter, still this barbarian's reign is allowed to exist because of international jealousies, much as abuses are allowed to exist among us because of party jealousies.

Christmas in 1892:

The miracle of the manger of Bethlehem comes under more impressive illumination as the years and centuries go by. The measurement of its importance is the achievement of the ages. Only things utterly empty are like the bubbles on a river.

"A moment here, then gone forever."

The great realities which belong to God's purpose for the world abide and fill time. And they are progressive to their consummation.

What the Bethlehem event signified was little understood the year it occurred. The prophetic announcements which foretold it were but dimly read. It took over thirty years of providential unfolding, through the ministry, sufferings and resurrection of Jesus, to reflect upon that event the light in which a few disciples were able to see even the identity of the Child of the manger with the promised Messiah of the Old Testament dispensation. The miracle of Pentecost had to occur to open to the minds of men anything like a true view of what God had given to and for the earth, in the event of which the angels sang in the night skies above the Judean hills. Then, the only in the little area of the infant Church, that divine "Advent" came to mean the unspeakable reality of "God manifest in the flesh" and the establishment in human life and history of the presence and power of an ever-working supernatural redemption. The mighty truth of "Immanuel," God-with-us, the point and power of reconciliation with God, filled and anchored the heart of the Church. Despite the "going away" (John 16: 7) He who had come was seen to be the permanent Presence for the redemption of the world until the end of days.

As Christianity, born in the incarnation, is seen in its enlarging power and blessings through history from its beginning down to the present; at first throwing off the Judaistic limitations of its emergence, and going forth into Gentile world; winning its way everywhere by its divine adaptation to the deep and crying needs of humanity; awakening the people to a new and higher life wherever received; closing the heathen temples and overthrowing their debasing worship; ascending the throne of the Roman Empire; creating a new brotherhood of souls and a new order of goodness and charity; breaking the fetters of slavery, elevating woman, bringing to nations a new civilization in which personal, family, social and national life rises to before unknown order and blessings; becoming the quickening power for intelligence, science, philosophy, learning and culture beyond the best that man has otherwise and elsewhere found—all, taken together, a mighty movement with varied degrees of prosperity and adversity indeed in its conflicts with the earth-forces of evil, yet, on the whole, extending its benign and enriching influence in wider supremacy down the centuries—as all this is thrown before the view of mankind there is reflected upon the first Christmas event ever-explaining and ever-

magnifying light. The ongoing and widening power of Christianity adds ever fresh demonstrations to the divinity and glory of the occurrence which involved in itself from the first all these things for the benediction of the earth.

An illustration how God's meanings are only gradually discerned and measured is furnished in connection with the divine calling and grace to Abraham. From Ur of the Chaldees the movement emerged, with the promise attached: "In thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed." In this was put into time and history a force that guided, as it created a providential ordering which shaped Oriental history for thousands of years, both in the life of the chosen people and in the nation that touched upon them, and converged its lines to the star of Bethlehem and the Child of the Virgin. It pierced through that scene of the "fullness" of the old dispensation and penetrated the onward course of history down to the present. From that point in Ur of the Chaldees, there was an open vista in the divine purpose, down to our days, presenting a continuous fulfillment of the promised blessing to the nations of the earth. It was an almost imperceptible thing at first—a divine word spoken to a seeker after God amid a distant tribe of idolaters. How much for the world was in it from the beginning is seen only when ages of history have shed their illumination on it. As time elapses and the panorama of history is ever further and further enrolled, it is impossible not to see that the coming of the "Seed" of Abraham, "the Christ," was something not incidental or extraneous to the plan of the world, but central and deep in the whole counsel of God and effective for human history.

Never has there been a time when the Christmas event stood under so impressive illumination as it does in the Christmas-tide of 1892. The seed then put into the world is showing a harvest grander than ever before. The birth of Jesus is, this year, a larger fact for the thought and life of the world than in any year till now. The phenomenon of the life of Jesus and his power in the world form the summit question in the thinking of our times. Tho there are some mournful defections from the divine truth of the manger event, the aggregate state of Christendom exhibits the still conquering power of the grace that then and there came to seek and save the lost. No period has ever seen such wide circulation and study of the Holy Scriptures as the present. None ever witnessed greater or broader missionary activity, or a more rapid evangelization of the earth than now. The evangel of a Savior come thrills more hearts this Christmas than in any other year of this dispensation. Both the past and the present are lighting up the future. The still onward movement—the movement that is lifting up the very mountain ranges of humanity's progressive elevation, welfare and happiness—is giving now, as never before, promise of a worthy consummation to the fretted commotions of time in the

"One far-off event
To which the whole creation moves."

From this year's Christmas the future is lighted up with rainbow promises as never before, and we can enter with the fullest and most joyful confidence into the conception which Kéble connects with the angel's song over Bethlehem's hills:

"Like circles widening round
Upon a clear blue river,
Orb after orb, the wondrous sound
Is echoed on forever;

Glory to God on high, on earth be peace,
And love toward men of love—salvation and release."

The songs that first filled that Judean night with joy shall continue to be heard by wider and vaster audiences with ever-growing appreciation, as new centuries shall come and pass, till the harvest of the earth shall all be gathered in.—Independent.

THE DECISION reached by the French Cabinet to prosecute the directors of the Panama Canal will result, it is believed, in one of the most memorable criminal trials of the century. The powerful official and other influences which have succeeded thus far in preventing a searching investigation into the affairs of the company, or, at least, the pushing of the most gigantic fraud

of the age, are of no avail, and the public outcry for justice can no longer be disregarded. Even at the last the cabinet had a heated discussion, and the Minister of Justice threatened to resign unless the trial should proceed. The facts against the company are no secret, but there has always been some interposing power to choke off investigation. It seems that the company sold stocks and bonds amounting in cash to \$495,000,000, and incurred obligations of more than \$425,000,000. Substantially all the money is gone, and there are left a few pieces of rusty and worthless machinery and an excavated ditch which is rapidly returning to its original condition. Only a little more than one-third of the vast sum of money received was actually used in the work of the Canal. The French press was lavishly subsidized, so that, with one honorable exception, there could be obtained no true account of what was being done. M. de Lesseps and M. Eiffel of Tower fame are the most prominent directors. It is charged that the latter received \$12,000,000 for work and material not furnished, though this has been denied. It is certain that there has been the most unparalleled extravagance and that fabulous sums of money have been misappropriated. Even when applying for the government aid the company positively refused to show its books. The best estimate gives \$100,000,000 as necessary to the completion of the Canal—a sum absolutely impossible to raise; and it is believed that if ever finished it will be by the United States. This, however, will not be done unless the Nicaragua Canal is proven an impossibility.—Zion's Herald.

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.]

Home Life in India.

NINETY-NINE per cent of the inhabitants of India are poor, miserably so. Thousands of them lie at night with no other shelter above them than that which nature provides. Many of them think themselves well off if they have one meal a day, seven days in the week. Their food consists of the coarsest, cheapest kind. There are myriads in Hindustan who never know what it is to have their hunger satisfied or a roof to cover their heads.

We hear much of the seclusion of India's women, and it is indeed sad; but it is their separation from all that is pure, good, and true that should cause us to feel the most sorrowful. Monkeys are worshiped and made of; cows are treated with respect and reverence. They are gods; a woman is only a woman.

In India the houses are around the yard; not the yard surrounding the houses, as here. Into this court, from ten to forty feet square, the various sisters-in-law with their numerous progeny meet day after day. Hence you see they are not altogether prohibited from seeing "the blue vault above." When a son is married he does not leave the parental roof, but brings his bride home. If necessary, another room is added or a new partition built. These apartments are low, dark, and poorly ventilated; many of them dirty in the extreme. They are almost utterly devoid of furniture. Perhaps a low, rough bed—no bedding—may be seen. In one corner of the room there is usually a home-made mud stove, fashioned somewhat like a common office chair.

The pieces of charcoal or bits of wood are placed on the "seat," then the vessel in which their food is to be cooked is placed on the fire.

Except during the rainy season the cooking is usually done out of doors. When the stove is within, the people are often compelled to betake themselves out of the house until the smoke escapes—there being no chimneys.

There may be a box in which their better clothes are kept, if they are so fortunate as to possess any. There will certainly be the mill, two circular flat stones, with which the wheat for the daily bread is ground.

The zenana, which is the general term for the entire house, is built of sun-dried brick or mud, the floor invariably being of the latter material.

The building is two or three stories high. If there are not rooms enough to go around the square court, a high wall is erected so as to exclude the public gaze. Hundreds of thousands of women never go beyond this enclosure. Others are permitted to go in closed carriages, closely veiled. When they travel on the railroad a separate car is reserved for them. This exclusion extends to all the higher castes—to one-third of the women of India.

A mohallah is the name applied to a collection of mud huts occupied by near relatives belonging to the lower castes. They are often built in long rows, "city style," on either side of the street, although without any regularity or plan they are more often seen. These rooms—a room is a house—are very low, very rough and insecure. During heavy rains whole villages are swept away.

Mohallah women work hard each day, at home or abroad, wherever their caste occupation leads them; hence are often seen on the streets or in the market places.

Were I a Hindu woman I scarcely know to which I would rather belong, a high or low caste family. Those of the high are kept in "purdah," while those of the low castes work so deplorably hard. I think, nevertheless, I should prefer being a low-caste woman. Too much work is better than none at all. We would better wear out than rust out.

The poorer classes have no time to train children; the more wealthy don't know how. Indian women, of whatever rank, are inveterate scolds. For some trifling cause they pour forth the vilest abuse. It is impossible to explain the vile expressions which a mother will sometimes use toward her daughter. As the Tamil proverb puts it: "As the thread is, such is the cloth; as the mother is, such is the child." At the time when the child should be taught to distinguish between right and wrong she is indiscriminate in showing her approvals and disapprovals. If she is pleased she smiles and pets her child, although it may have stolen something at the time. If she is angry she whips the child for the very act, perhaps, at which she before smiled.

Another objectionable practice is that of frightening the little children. They tell them the demons and imps are after them. Fear takes possession of the child. Imagination is stirred; hideous, uncouth figures rise before the child's mind. Thus the children early lean on the side of superstition, and all the incredible tales of their hero gods and goddesses are readily believed.

The use of obscene language before children is frightfully common. The grandmother often teaches her grandson a whole vocabulary of epithets and phrases of questionable character, and laughs heartily when he applies them to his parents in his lisping manner. Such is the home life of this people.—Ella B. Simmons, in the Epworth Herald.

Scientific Miscellaneous.

SUMMER-SLEEP.—Many animals pass the cold season of the year in sleep, while the similar phenomenon of a summer-sleep is known in serpents and crocodiles of tropical regions. Even in the temperate zones, it appears, there are reptiles and amphibious animals that spend the hot days in sleep. According to Dr. Franz Werner, these animals will be seen in July and August in noticeably fewer numbers than during the spring; and search will reveal them, in a condition very similar to sleep, hidden under stones, brush, or leaves, or in the edges of marshes and ponds. The frogs sit huddled together, and make no attempt to flee. Lizards and salamanders lie almost motionless, with their tails over their heads; and snakes are coiled in spirals, with their head concealed. Unlike that of the land animals, the summer-sleep of the water animals is not always at the time of the greatest heat, but occurs only when their usual dwelling place is dried up. Contrary to general supposition, reptiles do not always thrive best in hot weather, but many, such as lizards and snakes, succumb very quickly under a hot sun, and only turtles can bear the exposure for any considerable time. The summer-sleep of these animals varies with the character of the hot season, and does not appear at all in animals kept in a comparatively even temperature in captivity.

THE FRESHWATER FISHES of Switzerland number 51 species, as enumerated in a new work by M. Victor Fatio. Of these 42 are found in the Rhine, and

5 in that river only. Only 5 species exist above a height of about 3,200 feet, but the trout has been successfully introduced into lakes up to 8500 feet.

THE BEE AND ITS VOICE.—In a recent work on the bee, Mr. T. W. Cowan states that the insect can draw twenty times its own weight, can fly more than four miles an hour, and will seek food at a distance of four miles. By a beautiful mechanical adaptation, its wings bear it forward or backward, with upward, downward or suddenly arrested course. Its threefold voice organs are the vibrating wings, the vibrating rings of the abdomen, and a true vocal apparatus in the breathing aperture or spiracle. The buzz is produced by the first two, and the hum—which may be "surely, cheerful, or colloquially significant"—by the vocal membrane. A number of the bee's notes have been interpreted. "Hummm" is the cry of contentment; "Wuh-nuh-nuh" glorifies the egg-laying of the queen; "Su-u-u" is the note of young bees at play; "S-a-s-s" means the muster of a swarm; "B-r-r-r" the slaughter or expulsion of the drones; and the "Tu-tu-tu" of the newly hatched young queen is answered by the "qua-qua-qua" of the queens still imprisoned in their cells.

COLOR-BLINDNESS FROM FATIGUE.—A Russian physician, Dr. M. Reich, has reported the interesting case of a locomotive engineer, 40 years of age, who was dismissed from service on account of color-blindness. The man was able to distinguish colors correctly and with confidence up to the summer of 1891, when over-work and loss of sleep gave him a violent headache for two weeks, after which for three months all objects appeared red, and then all sensation of color disappeared. In May 1890, he again came for examination, and had fully regained the power to distinguish colors.

SCIENCE AT SEA.—A steam yacht of a displacement of 650 tons has been fitted up by the Prince of Monaco for the study of Oceanography. It is arranged to give a large reserve of steam power for scientific work, and its engine room contains, in addition to the engines, a dynamo, an ammonia freezing machine, a water still, and other apparatus. Electric lamps are provided for illumination, together with a 10,000 candle-power search light for night observations of the sea. Other special fittings include a refrigerating chamber and a cold chamber, several laboratories, winches, and cables for deep-sea soundings. The Prince has already made considerable progress in the study of the direction and velocity of ocean currents. During the last three years he has been recording the picking up of numbered floats, which to the number of 1700, he has thrown overboard in three distinct regions between Europe and America, and has been making a very accurate chart of Atlantic currents from the data thus supplied. In the course of these operations interesting zoological discoveries have been made, adding many new species to those before known.

A LYONS ANATOMIST has examined the skeletons of 86 monkeys—chimpanzees, gorillas and orang-outangs—and has found diseases of the bone to be as frequent as in man, and of a strikingly similar character. There were several cases of epiphyses, 5 of deformed joints, and 8 of ossification. Fractured bones had knitted together perfectly.

A GERMAN FACTORY supplies all of the chemically pure sugar that is used in the world.

Among Exchanges.

TO END IN DESPAIR.—Human existence without immortality is a long, weary climb up a steep, rugged trail only to be dashed over the precipice of an endless despair.—Religious Telescope.

SPECIAL OFFERING.—The wise men who came to see the child Jesus "presented unto him gifts; gold and frankincense and myrrh." Amid the gifts of the Christmas season it is to be feared that in many households there will be none offered to Him. The gift which is made to the poor and needy he accepts as made to himself: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto Me." In view of the needs of the missionary cause would not some brethren find fresh joy in the Christmas season if they made a special offering to Christ for his work in the world?—Ez.

GET THE CRIMINALS FIRST.

We read frequently of the arrest of members of the Salvation Army for disturbing the peace in the larger towns and cities. We have seen these people time and time again, and while we can not approve all their methods, we believe they accomplish much good to classes not easy to reach in the ordinary ways. We have never seen an exhibition on the streets that would justify an arrest, and we protest that they should not be subjected to the pains and penalties of law, when criminals and law-breakers stalk abroad in every city.—Journal & Messenger.