

Religious Intelligencer.

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

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NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

Have you renewed your subscription for 1892? If not, please do so without delay.

ICELAND has sixty-six thousand population, and yet a murder that has recently occurred is the first in fifty-six years. The island is in great excitement about it.

A BLUE BOOK on the use of opium in India shows an increased consumption in Bombay Presidency from 10,730 lb. in 1881-2 to 20,477 lb. in 1889-90. The authorities allege that this arises from the measures taken to substitute licit for contraband opium. Sir Joseph W. Pease, in *The Times*, submits that the figures of prosecutions for contraband sale do not bear out this contention, and that there has been an actual increase of consumption.

THREE THOUSAND WOMEN of Greece have petitioned that public schools of art and industry be established for women, which has been presented to the Government. The women argue, and doubtless with justice, that the reason why their country fails to meet the expectations of its friends is because the welfare of its women is neglected, and they are not allowed to participate in public affairs.

THE DEMAND for platinum for use in science has raised its value to three-quarters that of gold. Three years ago it was worth \$80 a pound. It now costs \$160, or eleven times more than silver. It is found in small quantities in Peru, Columbia, Brazil, the Ural mountains, California, Oregon and Borneo. The yearly output has never been more than four tons and is now three.

BURMA is proving a profitable addition to the British Empire. Since the annexation of Upper Burma in 1886 there has been less difficulty in the government of the country; and with good harvests, and a quiet and settled state of the country, revenues have increased. Upper Burma does not pay expenses yet, but will soon do so. The most unfortunate feature is the revenue derived from opium.

WHILE SO MANY European countries are under the clouds of bankruptcy or impending default in their financial engagements, the ray of sunshine we get from Egypt is welcome indeed. The past year has produced a surplus of £1,100,000, the revenue of 1890 having increased by £400,000 over that of 1889, which itself showed an increase of £900,000 over the receipts of 1888. Better still, this result has been obtained without an increase of taxation, and in spite of actual remissions affecting the revenue to the extent of £800,000 annually.

THE SPONGE TRADE of the Bahamas employs from 3000 to 6000 persons, most of them coloured people. The sponges are gathered by means of iron hooks attached to long poles. By using a water-glass the fishermen can readily discover the sponges at the bottom, hooking up the larger ones, leaving the smaller ones untouched. The vessels are fitted out for a voyage of about six weeks. Of the larger sponges, a catch of 5,000, or of the smaller ones 7,500, is considered an average one. It is supposed that a healthy sponge will reach a marketable size in from twelve to eighteen months.

THE LAST DUTCH CENSUS returns have just been published. They show that the population of Holland, which is about 4,500,000, is composed as follows: Protestants, 2,810,000; Roman Catholics, 1,500,000; Jews, 100,000; Jansenists, 8,000; not classified, 82,000. The 2,810,000 Protestants are thus classified: National Reformed Church, 2,250,000; Christian Reformed Church, 189,000; Netherlands Reformed (Doleerende) Church, 181,000; Lutherans, 84,000; Mennonites or Anabaptists, 53,000; Remonstrants or Arminians, 10,000. The census of 1891 shows that during the last ten years there has been a very visible diminution of the Roman Catholic population. According to common opinion, the Roman Catholics were about two-fifths of the population—say 1,800,000; as a matter of fact they number only 1,500,000—that is one-third. This discovery has astonished every one.

RUSSIA is said to be almost bankrupt. English investors refused their bonds years ago. Berlin has given them no money since 1889. Holland refused their loans in 1890. Now Paris has declined to help them farther. The Russian budget for 1892 promises a deficit of thirty-seven millions. To this must be added one hundred millions which will be required for famine relief. The finance minister talks of drawing on the gold reserves which once amounted to one hundred million but are now exhausted. Paper money has been issued to the last extreme. But they have nine hundred thousand soldiers, non-productive, but able-bodied consumers, ready for war. America can not afford to help Russia very long unless they disband their army and put them to the plow.

A NORWEGIAN NAVIGATOR, Dr. Nansen, is intending to start in a few months "to find the North pole." Like all others, he means to make sure of it this time. Says the *Standard*:

He says that a current sets from Siberia right across the Pole to the north coast of Greenland, and that is the continuation of this current which flows down the east coast of Greenland. Various objects have been discovered on the Greenland coast which it is believed could only have been floated from Siberia or the sea to the north of it. His expedition will be away between three and four years, as the progress will be necessarily slow, and, moreover, the current is believed to oscillate. His specially constructed vessel is now nearly completed. Its net tonnage will be about 250, and Dr. Nansen is confident that it is indestructible by any amount of ice-nipping. The accommodation on board will be ample for the twelve men who will compose the expedition. Provisions will be taken for six years, and care will be taken to select these in such a form as will give the greatest amount of nourishment with the least bulk. Of course it is expected that a certain amount of fresh meat will be obtainable on the route. Among the matters of importance to be settled, as we imagine, or whether there is really any pole there, and if there is, whether Jerusalem is to the south-east of it as some sophomores said.

BRITISH COLUMBIA deep sea fishermen are constantly discovering the presence, in large quantities, of species not known in other waters. The latest find—says one paper—is a fish which, for lack of a better name, has been called the "skil". Few people have seen, much less eaten this fish, but it makes a very delicious dish, and is probably destined to become very popular. The "skil" is found north of the Queen Charlotte Islands, and is obtained in from 50 to 80 fathoms of water. It weighs from four to twelve pounds, and in shape is more like a pickerel than any other fish, but it is in no way allied to the pickerel. The head is flat and the body round, tapering to the tail, which is very thin. The skin is black and the flesh of the most beautiful white. The fish is extremely fat—in fact it is the fattest fish of any known either in the Atlantic or the Pacific waters. It is indigenous to the North Pacific ocean. The first time that this fish became known to white fishermen was about three years ago, and its excellence was at once recognized. It rapidly gained a reputation among connoisseurs, and for delicacy and richness of its flesh it is now regarded as the finest article in the market.

THE DEADLY effect of morphine are not sufficiently understood. The following from the *N. Y. Advocate*, may be a needed warning to those who tamper with it:

In a trial in this city the counsel, cross-examining a witness, read a statement from a work of Dr. Da Costa, of Philadelphia, which said that one-sixth of a grain of morphine could cause death if kidney trouble existed, even if this disease was latent so that the patient did not know that he had it. "Did Dr. Fowler believe this?" "Yes, he did." He read from another work, by Professor Alexander S. Taylor, a statement that "some persons have a peculiar intolerance for morphine, and may be killed by an ordinary medicinal dose which would not harm an ordinary person." The witness admitted it. One of the greatest allopathic physicians said: "If I were convinced that a patient would die without it I would administer it, not otherwise." Yet it is actually used as a domestic medicine by many families. One of our pastors had the melancholy duty to conduct the funeral service of two children, whom he believed, without being able to prove, were unintentionally killed by their mother, who administered morphine because she could not bear to see them in such pain. The physician who was

called, in one of the cases, was strongly of that opinion, but, not being certain, shrunk from having a legal investigation. An error in administering it to one of our ministers, an *alumnus* of Wesleyan University, drove him into a wild delirium, in which he dashed his head against the wall of his room with fatal result. Many popular soothing syrups have in them the potency of death, and soothe the unconscious infant out of life, or, if it survives, leave it with a nervous system which becomes a real Pandora's box.

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.]

Women And Their Work.

In the Methodist Magazine Rev. F. W. Bourne writes of women and their work.

What have they done? The only possible answer is, Almost everything that men have done. Most things they can do as well as men, many things they can do better, some things they alone can do. Dr. Charles Stanford says: "Cardinal Manning has spoken with stately eloquence about the primacy of Peter; but I think something might be said for the primacy of Dorcas." The lady of Joppa knew how to make the very needle evangelist, and she did such beautiful kindnesses with it for the women and children, that with grateful delight they fondly lingered on her name, calling her "Gazelle." For ourselves we are, I hope, content to follow Florence Nightingale's advice—"Keep clear of all jargons about man's work and woman's work, and go your way straight to God's work in simplicity and singleness of heart; each one to do what each one can do best."

Women are not required, as a rule, to lead the "sacramental host of God's elect," to launch the lifeboat, or to save the State; and yet they have done each one of these things, and a thousand similar ones, when the necessity has arisen. Women have prophesied, for that the Word of God declares; they have spoken to edification, as the famous Quakeress preacher, Rebecca Collier, did, and thereby removed the prejudices of John Locke, the author of the "Essay on the Human Understanding," to a female ministry; they have visited prisons, to the lasting spiritual good of their unhappy inmates, as did Elizabeth Fry. They have proved themselves to be the true friend of the navy, the soldier, the sailor, the outcast, the drunkard, as the names of Marsh, and Daniel, and Robinson, and Hopkins, and Havergal and others, "familiar in our mouths as household words, will testify. And yet, speaking for myself, and using again the words of Dr. Stanford, I would say, "Some things that women can do right nobly at a crisis, are not best for them to do when men are to be had. As a rule, I think it is not best for women to man a lifeboat; but we have been told that one black night at Teignmouth last year, when the men were all out of the way, or else were not sharp enough, the women got the lifeboat out. With shrill, quivering cheers they carried it through the battling breakers, dragged a vessel off the sand-bar and saved precious life. When we hear that they did all this without any help from the unfair sex, who can help saying, "Well done?" I go further, and say that, as a rule, in my private opinion, it is not best for women to preach in public; but where in exceptional cases, and with extraordinary gifts, women like Mary Fletcher and Priscilla Gurney go out of their way, and, all by themselves, publicly launch the lifeboat of the Gospel to snatch souls from the sea of sin, and from the rocks of death; again I say, to the praise of grace, "Well done!"

As a rule, the chief work of woman, never unimportant, never without influence, will be found in the home and in the school, in visiting the poor, in conducting mothers' meetings, in aiding the temperance reformation, in leading classes, in nursing the sick, in collecting funds for missionary organizations, and it may be in India, and in some other countries, in direct missionary work among the female part of the population. And women possessing the spirit and character of those we have mentioned and of many others that we might name—Ann Cutler,

Hester Ann Rogers, Lady Maxwell—are always true helpers in the Gospel of Christ.

One kind of work that the women have done during the last few years may be specifically mentioned as a stimulus and an incentive to those greater exertions in many directions which are so imperatively required. The Woman's Missionary Societies have collected many thousands of dollars, and sent out hundreds of missionaries, and supports and assists scores of schools, hospitals and dispensaries.

Ye mothers, especially, our appeal is to you. And in your own homes every one of you may be a "gentle Monica," and before your children leave the nursery they shall take their "first degree." You have only to make your explanations of the sacred story as delightful as did the mother and grandmother of Timothy, and sweeten as well as simplify the sacred truths, and there will be a succession of young Timothys in whom aged Pauls will delight. So train your daughters that, should they become the wives of ministers and missionaries, they shall lead classes with the same success as did Mrs. Rogers, and thus fill our sanctuaries and increase our members, or be in our homes what Mary Moffat was in the home of Livingstone, "the best spoke in the wheel;" or if of our merchants, that they may, by their simple tastes and self-denying habits, influence their husbands and consecrate their great wealth unto the work of Christ; or of our senators and statesmen, that they may exhibit a courage and a devotion and a persistent faith; pray, oh, continually pray, as did Ann Cutler, and even such men as Bramwell shall testify that there is an amazing power of God attending your prayers, and the Lord shall make use of you to promote genuine and extensive revival of His work! Oh, cherish and cultivate such rare, constant communion with Jesus as did Mrs. Fletcher, and to many a man, eloquent as Apollon, shall you teach the Word of God more perfectly; only speak of the grace of God with Christian simplicity, and other John Bunyans shall be enlightened and saved; and with that sweet, persuasive grace which is all your own, you may improve your opportunities, especially those which are the most private and precious, your influence will be more and more widely felt, and the blessings that come to others shall be your reward.

"For what delights can equal those Which stir the spirit's inner depths, When one who loves, but knows not rears A truth from one who loves and knows."

A Good Example.

The "N. Y. Advocate" gives the case of a young man, connected with a Methodist Episcopal church, which shows what can be done in Christian beneficence by one who "has a mind" to do it, and goes about it systematically.

His name is Mortimer Thompson. He is a blacksmith and earns \$3.00 a day; he has a wife and five children, and regularly saves and gives one-tenth of his earnings to the cause of Christ and philanthropy. To the current expenses of the church he gives \$25; to the Missionary cause, \$10; to each of the other benevolence of the church, \$3. He puts \$1 every month in the collection for the poor, always has something to give to a worthy cause, and subscribes to various other causes about \$20 per annum. Nobody ever found this out by any thing Mr. Thompson said, but by putting several things together the trustees of the church and the Sunday-school superintendent found out that he gives systematically more than \$90 a year out of the 900 he earns. Mr. Thompson lives economically, and has sense enough not to give away all he earns. He is supposed to be worth now about \$1,500 besides the little house in which he lives and which he has paid for. He does not use ardent spirits or tobacco, always looks neat on Sunday, but throws away an extra money upon clothes, and wears an overcoat until it is worn out. He would have no surplus for the Lord, or be able to save a dollar if he did not apply all the powers of a sturdy brain to get the most for his money, and to expend the least compatible with good health upon himself. Mrs. Thompson is of the same way of thinking, and often says: "Mortimer, have you your money ready for the collection?"

Experience of a Nun.

Last September a great sensation was caused in England by the publication in the *London Times* of a letter from a prominent lawyer who had been summoned to France by an English nun to deliver her from her convent life. He encountered much difficulty; but with the sturdiness of the Briton he succeeded in delivering the nun. After he had taken her to England, she made a statement, which was published in the *London Standard* and widely copied. The following extract from her statement is from the *Converted Catholic*: "You are obliged to say prayers for hours, and these you have to repeat while you are teaching your pupils in the school. If you do not say them you are punished. When school is over you have to scrub the floors, wash linen, iron, cook, make the beds. It is labor—nothing but labor. If you disobey you are punished. Punishment consists in what is called 'sore throat.' Some decoction is given you in your food—you do not know when or where—and this is continued. Your throat gets parched, the next day you are feverish, the following day dizzy; the cold settles on your lungs, you take to bed, and then you are told to prepare for death. 'All the sisters die in this convent between thirty and forty,' say the priests. 'Oh, we never live after forty here, say the sisters; and with almost all who die consumption is the cause. You see nuns going about with death stamped on their faces. I said to one sister, 'why don't you rest?' 'Oh, I must work,' replied she. That night she went to her little bed; without saying a word, she drew the curtains, and in a few hours was found dead. Nobody cared. Another sister was teaching her scholars. 'Make haste, little ones,' said she; 'gather your things together.' Then she fell back dead at her desk, never finishing her sentence. These are but examples. Many times I was made ill for refusing to do work which I told them I was literally too weak to do. I taught in one convent forty-eight children English, forty-eight music, thirty singing, and twelve drawing every day. * * * When my money interest arrived it used to be jingled before me, and then looked up. 'Wouldn't you like it? Ah, but you will never get it; you will die,' said an elder sister. Spies are everywhere. When I posted the letter to my solicitor, a child went and informed the Lady Superior. It is a terrible life. Now I regret that I have wasted my youth and early middle age in it. But I was determined to get out alive, and I have done so, thanks be to God."

WHY HE WAS BEATEN.—An Irish prize-fighter was beaten the other day in a fight near New Orleans. He accounts for his defeat by saying that "it was Ash Wednesday, and he neglected to go to church in the morning." He seems to think that if the fight had been on some other day, or if he had not neglected his "religious" duties that morning, he would have been successful in the brutal contest. What an idea of christian life and duty!

C. P. R.—A "folder" recently issued by the Canadian Pacific railway company gives the price of a trip round the world, \$610, all first-class accommodation, and the traveller can take a year to make the entire round, or he may do it as quickly as steam on land and sea can carry him. There is a great deal of tempting information about these trips in the new folder, and the intending traveller should consult it.

NO MORE FRANKING.—All the departments of the government at Ottawa were given notice several days ago that after the 15th inst the private correspondence of civil servants will not be allowed to be sent free of postage. Letters received at the department and addressed to clerks personally, on which the postage is due, will not be delivered until such postage has been paid. A special letter carrier will be delegated to carry round mail matter addressed to individuals in the service and collect the postage. The notification created quite a stir in the departments. From all that can be learned the Government is simply taking steps to approximate the Canadian regulations in the matter of the forwarding of official correspondence to the practice which prevails in the mother country. All official correspondence will hereafter be despatched in special envelopes stamped "on Her Majesty's service," and if any clerk is detected using one of these envelopes for the transmission of his private correspondence suspension or dismissal may follow. It may be of interest to state that even on the Queen's private correspondence the postage is prepaid, so that the civil servants need not look upon the new regulation as making a great exception of them.

QUEBEC.—The overthrow of Mercier in Quebec is complete. The elections last week left him with scarcely a following. The rebuke of his maladministration is more emphatic than was expected. It is a good sign. Would that like rebuke might be administered to all public men who are guilty of dishonesty and corruption.

Since the election Mercier has issued a letter to his friends in which he signifies his intention of retiring from public life.

Dominion Parliament.

Mr. MacDonald (Huron) moved for a return of all contracts made since 1867.

Sir John Thompson said that the return would include four hundred thousand contracts, and would take three years to prepare; wherefore he asked that the motion be amended. Seventy thousand contracts during the year mentioned had been entered into by the post office department alone. The motion was allowed to stand over for the mover's consideration.

Mr. Flint introduced an amendment to the Canada Temperance act, providing for the sale of liquor by druggists under restriction.

Mr. Kaubach was promised that all correspondence relative to negotiations with Newfoundland would be brought down as soon as the imperial government's consent, which was expected soon, was received.

It is rumored that the government will remit part of the duty on binding twine.

Hon. Mr. Tupper's act amending the Fisheries act was introduced. It places the lobster fishery under license. The minister said he found it impossible to enforce regulations by fines, but the fear of forfeiture of license would lead to enforcement of the law, without which the lobster fishery would be destroyed. Mr. Tupper also introduced a bill amending pilotage so as to exempt vessels of 120 tons from obligatory pilotage.

A bill was also introduced by Mr. Tupper to consolidate the department of marine and fisheries under one deputy.

Petitions were presented asking that the Canadian section of the world's fair at Chicago be closed Sundays.

Many similar petitions are expected. Hon. Mr. Tupper gives notice that he will move to impose a fee of ten dollars for each inspection of barge, boat, bateau, scow, or undecked vessel required by the Steamboat Inspection act.

He will also move that it is expedient to impose a fee of fifty dollars for each license granted by the minister of marine to can or preserve lobsters or to keep them alive in ponds or other places. Second, that it is expedient to impose a fee of one cent for each case containing four dozen one pound cans of lobsters, to be paid to the person directed by the minister to mark the label or stamp such case.

A report presented to the house shows that 2,637 Chinese immigrants entered Canada from the 1st Jan., 1890, to the 1st July, 1891, paying \$132,000 as head money; that 2,107 return certificates were granted, and that 6,000 Chinese now reside in the dominion. The United States government, as correspondence shows, requested Canada to police the boundary line so as to prevent the Chinese from crossing into the United States, which cool request Canada refused to comply with.

Mr. White of Shelburne has given notice that he will ask several pertinent questions relative to the Newfoundland embargo, and considerable light is expected to be thrown on the situation by the replies.

Mr. Fraser, N. S. has called for a statement of the number or prohibition petitions presented to Parliament last session, in the following form:

- (1.) Total number of petitions presented.
- (2.) Total number of signatures to these petitions.
- (3.) Number of (1.) petitions; (2.) signatures:
 - (a) Presbyterian church;
 - (b) Methodist church;
 - (c) Baptist church (separate figures for Free Baptists);
 - (d) Episcopal church or Church of England;
 - (e) Salvation Army.
- (4.) Number of (1) petitions; (2) signatures from each province and each territory; name of figures for each province and each territory separately.
- (5.) Number of separate petitions from Church, courts and temperance societies, or any other bodies signed by officials, giving name of church, court, temperance societies, etc., sending such petitions, with number of signatures.

A deputation of maritime province members interviewed Sir John Thompson and Hon. Mr. Tupper concerning a bill imposing a fee for licenses to pack lobsters, and a fee for labelling and branding cases, and also concerning the Newfoundland embargo. Objection is not made to the principle of the license and the official labelling, so much as to the fees charged. On the Newfoundland matter the delegation was assured that no settlement would be made which did not protect maritime interests.