

Religious Intelligencer.

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

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NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

MR. AND MRS. GLADSTONE have been married fifty-four years.

HIS IMPRESSIONS.—A gentleman, going to the World's Fair, promised to write his "impressions" to a friend at home. In a few days the friend got a sheet of paper filled with a series of exclamation marks (!) only.

THE VATICAN, the magnificent 4,000 roomed "prison" of the Pope, shelters at present 1,027 persons, who all belong to the papal household. Of these 118 constitute the Swiss Guard and 85 are papal police. The majority of these are scions of Catholic noble families.

HERE IS A SUGGESTIVE fact. It is stated that in all the panic that swept over the mining states, not one irrigation company has failed. After all, the world's prosperity rests on the cultivation of the soil. Farmers can always have enough to eat. They are less affected by hard times than any other people.

THE DEATH RATE in France is 28 per 1000 per annum; in Paris it is 40 per 1000. The density of population in Paris is double that of London. In London the deaths from consumption are 202 per 100,000 per annum. In Paris the number is more than double, namely 450 per 100,000. There is a place licensed for the sale of strong drink for every 82 of the population. Taking France as a whole the death rate is higher than the birth rate.

OLIVER WENDEL HOLMES has just passed his eighty-fourth birthday. He is in excellent health, and is enjoying a mellow and serene old age. He says: "I am feeling quite well, but of course one cannot expect to be quite as rugged at eighty as at half that age. But I am enjoying very good health indeed. I eat, drink, and sleep quite well, walk a good deal, and ride about more or less." His mind is still active, and he keeps up his interest in literature and public affairs.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS ago it was discovered by official inquiry that fifty-nine per cent. of the British marines, and more than twenty per cent. of the sailors on British war vessels were unable to swim. Eleven per cent of the officers could not do so. This was followed by the adoption of a regulation requiring all who enter the navy to learn this art. In Parliament the other day it was stated that the great numbers who lost their lives in the Victoria disaster did not perish because they had not been taught to swim, as at first reported, "but were drowned because they jumped into the water in such large groups that they were unable to use their limbs."

THE HORRORS OF FAMINE are indeed dreadful. A late Shanghai despatch concerning a widespread famine in the interior of China, says that the people are driven to such desperate straits that the sale of women and children in the affected districts is a daily occurrence, that in some places even male children are being sold by their parents, and that in one prefecture more than 70 female children have been devoured by the famine-maddened people. This is shocking to contemplate. Yet the perpetual drink tragedy in many of its details, in the continual "murder of the innocents," is scarcely less appalling, only we become so familiar with it, that we cease to be shocked by it.

DR. STARK, a well known Scottish scientist, has gathered a mass of statistics showing that matrimony is one of the most important aids to longevity. "In 1853 the unmarried men throughout France between the ages of twenty and eighty died in much larger proportion than the married. For example of 1,000 married men between twenty and thirty years of age, 11.3 died annually; while of 1,000 married men between ages just mentioned, but 6.5 died. In 1863 and 1864 similar statistics were gathered in Scotland, when it was found that in every 1,000 unmarried men between the ages of twenty and thirty 14.97 annually died; while of the married, only 7.24 died. Dr. Stark contends that bachelorhood is more destructive to life than the most unwholesome trade or a residence

in an unwholesome house or district where there has never been the most distinct attempt at sanitary improvement. He also finds in France as well as in Scotland that widows and widowers suffer in comparison with the married a heavy rate of mortality. His facts make an urgent appeal to both widowers and bachelors to haste to the wedding, if they would live to a good old age.

TO OVERCOME the uncertainty of steam communication between Port Said and Joppa, which has hitherto been the great obstacle in visiting Palestine, it is proposed to build a line of railway from Joppa through the country of the Philistines to Port Said. The distance is a little under two hundred miles, and when the road is completed Port Said will be but twelve hours by rail from Jerusalem. The natural advantages which from the earliest times have made Damascus the centre of the overland trade between the Euphrates and the Levant are still showing themselves by its being the point upon which converge four railway lines which at present are either proposed, or under construction.

Rum Traffic Notes.

Public Safety.

Temperance is not a question of sentiment but of public safety.

Wants Him Sober.

A Pawtucket, R. I., saloon-keeper advertises for "a partner who is sober."

Not That Way.

No drunkard was ever saved by the advocacy of moderate drinking.

Only Eighty Thousand.

Chauncey M. Depew, whom no man will call a "fanatic" or a "crank," says that 80,000 young men of our country are destroyed annually by the saloon.

Which One?

Vote for license and then decide, if you can, which one of your boys you are willing to give as a regular customer to the saloon.

In One Day.

A gentleman affirms that in watching one public house in London during one day he observed some 4000 men, 2,500 women, 1,400 children and 340 babies enter.

Flour vs. Beer.

Baron Liebig, the German chemist, says that as much flour as will lie on the point of a table knife contains as much nutritive constituents as eight pints of the best beer made.

"Beezness."

When some one remonstrated with an old saloon keeper for enticing in the boys, he replied, "Oh, it is beezness, beezness—the old drinkers will soon be dead and where will my beezness be if I don't get the boys?"

Unfit for Service.

Medical Statistics show that 50 per cent. of the young men in Switzerland, who would otherwise be eligible for military service, are rendered unfit for that service owing to the marked physical deterioration produced in them by excessive drinking.

Four Ways.

The *Tennessee Methodist* puts it this way: High license is selling the right to murder and debauch at a high price. Low license is selling it out at a low price. Free liquor is giving this right free of charge. Prohibition is the refusing to consider any of the devil's propositions.

They Flourish.

It is noticeable that among the many failures one seldom sees the notice of a saloon failure. Large profits, the backing given the saloon by the breweries, and the fact that, no matter whatever else the working man goes without, he will not deny himself his glass may account for it.

In Scotland.

The fearful extent of intemperance in Scotland has so impressed the church members with the need of active efforts to reform that in the Scottish Free Church alone there are between seven and eight hundred who are personal abstainers, and 92 per cent. of the students are teetotallers. The younger ministers are specially interested in the temperance cause.

A Crael Robber.

"There is a robber that takes not only men's homes, their farms, their bank accounts, their reputation and their friends, but their manhood as well; which robs women not only of all the beauties and comforts of life, but of their womanhood as well; and which robs innocent little children of their childhood before they are out of their first swaddling clothes. Who is that robber? There is hardly any reason to name him. Describe him, and the civilized world recognizes him at once as the drink traffic—the Great Robber on Earth."

What It Swallowed.

According to the *Australian Review of Reviews*, the question of trade depression and drink in much the same as in England, only worse. New South Wales has accomplished the astonishing feat of pouring down its own throat during five years more than the sum total of all its loans, or the cost of all its railways. "All the gold, and coal, and iron which this richest of colonies produces in fifty years, it drinks in ten!"

A Notable Record.

It is well worthy of note that a placard has been ordered by the Belgian government to be hung in every school-room. It reads as follows: "Of one hundred and twenty-five thousand deaths, as many as twenty-five thousand, or one fifth, are the result of alcoholism. In a period during which the population has increased by 14 per cent., the consumption of alcohol has been augmented by 37 per cent., cases of madness by 45 per cent., crimes by 74 per cent., suicides by 80 per cent., and vagrants and beggars by 158 per cent." It is well to instill it in the minds of the young as a due horror and detestation of intoxicating drink.

A Conference Resolution.

At a recent Bible Christian Conference in England the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

That we hereby affirm our solemn conviction that the liquor traffic is a chief obstacle in this country to the welfare and happiness of the people; that it hinders the work of the church to an alarming extent, and that in a Christian nation such an evil traffic ought to be prohibited; and we appeal to all our churches to labor to that end. That we heartily thank the Government for introducing the Liquor Traffic Bill, and strongly urge them to place it among the measures which must speedily be passed into law; that a petition in favor of the bill be officially signed and forwarded for presentation to the House of Commons.

He Was Disgusted.

One woman determined that her husband should know how he looked when he was drunk. She knew how he looked well enough, and needed not that any man should tell her. Her children also knew by sad experience, but the man himself had a very imperfect idea of the state of the case. So once, when he came home and fell into a maudlin slumber, she sent for the photographer to come forthwith; and, on his arrival, she set before him his work. She ordered the photographer to photograph her husband as he sat in his chair. The photographer did his work, and did it well; and, when the photograph was finished and laid beside the husband's plate at breakfast, it was a revelation, and the sobered gentleman experienced a decidedly new sensation. There was no need of explanation: the thing explained itself. There was no chance for contradiction: the sun tells no lies. There was no room for argument. There was only one thing to do, and that was to quit; and it is very fortunate that the man had courage and sense enough to do it.

Voice of Young People.

The National Baptist Young People's Union in convention at Indianapolis adopted, with great manifestations of approval, the following: *Resolved*, That the 240,000 saloons in the nation, which employ more than a million of men and waste more than a billion of money every year, together with the breweries and distilleries, all of which are compactly organized, are an aggregation of the most stupendous enemies to civil and religious liberty, the Christian Sabbath and our Republican institutions.

Resolved, That we believe in the absolute abolition of the liquor traffic in the State and nation, and pledge ourselves to wage against it a truceless war, until the whole business, root and branch is entirely annihilated.

How They Lie.

Alcohol as prepared for drinking is food in its most condensed form.—*Commercial Advertiser*.

This is an excellent specimen of the ignorant or wilful misstatement infesting the press with reference to alcoholic drinks. No wonder thousands are led to drink imagining in so doing they are taking "liquid bread." Just compare this statement with the following analytical report of the *London Lancet*: "In every 1,000 grain measures of the clarets and burgundies tested the mean amount of albuminous matter (food matter) was only 1½ grains, whilst in 1,000 grains by weight of raw beef there were no less than 207 grains of such matter. That is, the quantities being equal, beef-steak is 156 times more nutritious than wine." Or with this from Dr. A. Baer, the Berlin scientist: "Alcohol contains neither albumen nor fat, nor any other substance either present in the animal organism or arising by changes in the body and replacing a part of the same." Hundreds of similar testimonials could be given: The editor of the *Commercial Advertiser* had better go to school again, or else learn common honesty.

Christianity Compared with Mohammedanism.

The World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago is, and will be, the most problematic of the series of congresses held during the World's Fair. It is absolutely unique. The three great divisions of the world, religiously considered, are Christianity, Heathenism and Mohammedanism. Judaism is classified as a prefix and prelude to Christianity. Most churches of the religious world will be represented. Catholicisms and Judaism have promised representation in force. Prayer and praise become problems in such an assembly. If the difficulties are overcome, so that peaceful sessions shall be held, masterly diplomacy will be shown. We anticipate the precipitation of debate after the Parliament, if not during it, over a multitude of religious questions. Professor Max Muller, of Oxford, now in Turkey, has given a good sample of what may be expected. He has written to the managers as follows:

"People unacquainted with any religion but their own are apt to think that all other religions are false, mischievous, if not the work of the evil spirit. Having lately spent some time in Turkey, I have been greatly surprised to see the spirit of hatred between Mohammedans and Christians; and yet how little difference is there in any essential points between the two religions in their original form?"

It is with the Professor's suggestion that there is little difference in any essential points between the two religions in their original form, that we wish to deal. It raises questions of fact and history. If there is one subject on which, more than any other, he is supposed to be informed, 'Comparative Religions' is the subject. That he can see little or no difference between primitive Christianity and original Mohammedanism is a phenomenal fact in the history of obliquity of vision and obscurity of the power of reasoning and discrimination.

There was world-wide difference between the founders—Jesus and Mohammed. Jesus we know, and Mohammed we had thought we knew. Who was he? He was a child of the sixth and seventh centuries (570-632), a reactionist from the idolatry and polytheism of his native Mecca, who married a widow Kadijah. She turned his epilepsies and trances into pretended revelations and inspirations. He was utterly wanting in originality. He borrowed from rabbinical Judaism and from Christianity, chiefly from sacred and profane Judaism, his ritualism and doctrinal and ethical creed. Then he disowned the debt. Worship by rule was his mandate, prayer five times a day, and a monthly fast every year. Polygamy was favored, and the power of absolute and arbitrary divorce lodged with the husband. Propagandism by force and war was encouraged, and original and permanent Mohammedanism has been extended by such means. Damascus, Antioch and Jerusalem fell, Syria and Persia were brought under Saracen sway, and 79,000 volumes in the Alexandrian library were burned. The conquerors boasted of having taken thirty-six thousand cities, towns, and castles, destroyed four thousand Christian churches and several thousands of

idol temples, and built fourteen hundred mosques. Mohammed once relapsed into heathenism. Sir William Muir, principal of Edinburgh University, and a scholar comparable with Prof. Muller, says that "even from Judaism the divergence is wide."

Judaism and Christianity as book religions were founded on a plurality of books; Mohammedanism on one book, the Koran. Mohammed claimed to have received his revelations miraculously. Bishop Hurst says: "The Koran is a medley of legend, history, Jewish patriarchal traditions and asexual doctrine.... Fatalism abounds throughout the system." State churchism, the bane of churches in the several continents of the world wherever established, was championed by Mohammed, and he ranks second only to Constantine in the early centuries as favoring it. There is no essential difference, we are soberly yet strangely told. There is the greatest difference, in general and in detail, in form and in substance. Dr. Dörner, the great German theologian, said that "Mohammedanism exerts a pernicious and restrictive influence in regions which the Christian Church occupies or is on the point of occupying.... It can only be regarded as on the whole a means of preparing heathen masses for Christianity by the instrumentality of law and monotheism." The Mohammedan people, who now number 173,000,000, do not take kindly to the proposed Parliament, and the Sultan of Turkey, the recognized head of the Moslem faith, has repeatedly refused his permission to some prominent Moslems who have desired to attend. On the whole, their absence will be quite as endurable as their presence, for Christian America has nothing to learn from them nor from their apologists, although it has much to teach, and thus their coming might be advantageous.

Our attitude toward the whole subject is that of wonder and nervousness over the possibilities of discord rather than of agreement, which such a Parliament will afford, notwithstanding Tennyson's noble sentiments, echoed by every Christian, concerning a federation of mankind.—*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.]

Missions to Chinese Women and Children in California.

Those who visit among Chinese women and children, as teachers, missionaries, and volunteers—all say, "we reach the hearts of these secluded people by showing kindness." "One says, 'I wash and dress a poor sick baby, go for the doctor, settle a quarrel, go to the police, listen to their tale of woe, invite them to my house, watch for half an hour to make a signal of sympathy to some poor slave, while a friend with me will engage the mistress in conversation; and in many cases where all religious teaching has been refused, the response, after these repeated acts of kindness is, 'I wish you to come and teach us, we want to see you every day.'" The writer heard one Chinese woman in an underground room where no ray of light entered, the woman not having been outside that room for ten years, sing in a sweet voice, "Nearer, my God to Thee." Who can tell but that one hymn may fit that soul to shine as the stars forever.

There are one hundred pupils in Chinese schools in San Francisco under care of the Occidental Board, and hundreds who have gone out from them in years gone by. One Chinese woman is doing evangelistic work in China, another in San Jose, Cal., another in Portland, Ore.; and Metu, our Japanese girl, is organist in the church and in many ways assists. We have missionary and temperance societies, and social and industrial meeting where Christian Chinese women give lessons in the Gospel.

In San Francisco, over one hundred families are visited. In Los Angeles, prayer-meetings in the homes have been greatly blessed. The husband of a Chinese woman fitted up a room in their house with new carpet, lamp and lounge, then said to his wife, "This

room for your Christian friends, have prayer-meeting here." In San Jose, one of the Chinese girls from the Home in company with a lady visits from house to house. This girl having the love of Christ in her heart and the power to communicate it in their own language, we hope great good will be done. In Sacramento, the work has doubled within a short time. Prayer-meetings are held with the women. Several lead in prayer, and can read the Scriptures intelligently. May we, Christian women, realize our responsibilities and privileges in being permitted to carry the sweet Gospel of peace to the Chinese in our land. In San Francisco, work has already been begun on our new "Home" for Chinese, Japanese, and Syrians, who are appealing for our help, and already the enquiry comes, "Can we not furnish a room for some poor soul fleeing from a slavery worse than death?" The cost of furnishing the girls' rooms will be from fifty to seventy-five dollars apiece.

ABOUT DANCING.—Here is what a purely secular paper, the *New York Journal of Education*, says: "A great deal can be said about dancing; for instance, the chief of police of New York city says that three-fourths of the abandoned girls in this city were ruined by dancing. Young ladies allow gentlemen privileges in dancing, which taken under any other circumstances, would be considered as improper. It requires neither brains nor good morals to be a good dancer. As the love of one increases, the love of the other decreases. How many of the best men and women are skilful dancers? In ancient times the sexes danced separately. Alcohol is the spirit of beverages. So sex is the spirit of the dance; take it away and let the sexes dance separately and dancing would go out of fashion very soon. Parlor dancing is dangerous. Tippling leads to drunkenness, and parlor dancing to ungodly balls. Tippling and parlor dancing sow to the wind and both reap the whirlwind. Put dancing in the crucible, apply the acids, weigh it, and the verdict of reason, morality and religion is, 'Weighed in the balance and found wanting.'"

THEY ARE COMING.—A Montreal despatch says that six Vermont farmers' delegates just returned from a trip through the Northwest, examining the country as a place for settlement, have taken up twelve homesteads in Prince Albert district and will settle there with their families. One of the delegates said that he would not take a thousand dollars for a farm for which he had only paid ten dollars, the registration tax.

WOMEN VOTERS.—The *Canada Presbyterian*, evidently, does not believe in woman suffrage. After the Toronto vote on the Sunday cars question it said:

Those amiable enthusiasts who think that giving women votes would be a cure for all the ills that afflict the body politic, should revise their theory. Women not only voted for Sunday cars, but some of them went upon the platform and argued, in so far as they could argue, in favour of the innovation. The statement so often and so confidently made, that women would vote in favour of prohibition, is sheer assumption. Some of them would and some would not. If women can be found, even in Toronto the good, who will go upon the public platform and advocate Sabbath desecration, let nobody suppose that all women would vote against the liquor traffic.

Among Exchanges.

HUMILIATING.

One of the most humiliating sights in church or state is to see men go bagging, or fawning and truckling for office. Better be the humblest and most secluded citizen or church member than a timeserving, toadying office holder.—*Telegraph*.

NOT MUCH GOOD.

The "revival" which simply consists in an addition of names to the communicant roll of the church is a revival more in name than in fact.—*Mid-Continent*.

DO NOT JUDGE.

Never underestimate the grief of those who have suffered bereavement or disappointment, by reason of an apparent lightness of their demeanor. Nathaniel Hawthorne once said, with his usual profound knowledge of men, "Next to the lightest heart, the heaviest is apt to be most playful."—*Morning Star*.