

# Religious Intelligencer.

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

VOL. XLI—No 27.

FREDERICTON, N. B., JULY 4, 1894.

WHOLE No. 3002

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

It is stated that the cigarette is responsible for nearly two-thirds of the rejected applicants at West Point and Annapolis Military Academies.

A proposal, which originated among the Socialists and extreme democrats in Switzerland, that the Government should be obliged to provide work for able-bodied and willing workmen out of employment, was referred to popular vote on the referendum principle, and was defeated, June 10, by a vote of 300,000 to 85,000.

The present Cabinet in France is noticeable for the youth of its members. The Prime Minister, M. Dupuy, and the Minister of the Colonies, M. Delcasse, are the oldest, and they are but forty-two; the Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Hanotaux, is forty; the Minister of Public Instruction is thirty-seven; the Minister of Finance is thirty-three, and the Minister of Public Works, only thirty-one. Mr. Hanotaux is a noted scholar, especially in Assyriology and early French history.

An interesting piece of translation work—the translation of part of the Russian liturgy into the dialect of the Yakuts of Northeastern Siberia, has just been accomplished by some Russian scholars. It seems that the language of the Yakuts is so poor that it can only reckon a total of two hundred root words. They have no word for body, as distinguished from flesh, and none for "bread." The Lord's Prayer even could not be translated literally.

The girls are going ahead. This year four young ladies took the degree of Bachelor of Arts at Sackville; at Wolfville, four; at the University of New Brunswick, seven. This is by no means discouraging either from the educational point of view or that of women's rights.

A Circular signed by 105 members of the British House of Commons has been sent to the editors of the prominent daily papers throughout the country, asking them to cease demoralizing the people by reporting sensational stories of immoralities and brutalities, and in other ways appealing to the lower nature of man. This is a reform needed in some other countries as well as in England.

A systematic examination of the incidental information furnished by the census returns leads to the discovery that divorced persons in the United States constitute but a small fraction—that is just one-fifth of one per cent. of the whole number of people who have married.

Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher does not believe in woman suffrage. She says: "I am unalterably opposed to woman suffrage. I cannot understand why women will not be satisfied with being women, without aspiring to man's estate."

By irrigation 25,000,000 acres are made fruitful in India alone. In Egypt there are about 6,000,000 acres. The United States have just begun the work of improving waste area and have already about 400,000,000 acres of irrigated land.

The triumph of Miss Kate Winschied in being graduated from the old University of Heidelberg with the title of Doctor of Philosophy, is a triumph for all German women. She is the first woman to win this distinction in Germany, and she won it from the proudest and oldest university of the Fatherland, and against prejudice and traditions which had heretofore been insurmountable.

## Popular Talks on Law.

The Right of Petitioning.

BY WM. C. SPRAGUE.

When our English ancestors landed on the shores of the new world they brought with them the letter and the spirit of the laws of their native land, and from the first the right of petitioning was recognized and frequently put to practical use.

The first amendment to the constitution of the United States declares that

Congress shall make no law abridging the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances. . . . By the word "people" here is meant not only those who have a share in the government, but the whole people, including those who are not electors. . . . The exercise of the right of assembly always was, and still is, subject to reasonable regulation by law. The English parliament has been compelled to interpose strict regulations when a great tumultuous body of people threatened to appear at its doors to present a demand for a change in the law.

The right to petition is not co-extensive with the right to assemble, for in its nature it can have no place in merely social affairs, though it has a limited range in religious and industrial organizations. Petition is for the redress or prevention of grievances, and is addressed to some person or body having in respect to the matter in hand superior authority. It applies to all recommendations to office, or public position, or privilege, as well as to remonstrances against them, and to appeals of every sort and for every purpose, made to the judgment, discretion or favor of the person or body having authority in the premises. Judge Cooley says, a petition is nevertheless merely a privileged publication and the right to be heard by means of it may be so abused as to take away the privilege. One must not resort to it for the purpose of visiting his malice upon others through the publication of false charges; but when the action is proper for petition good motives in presenting it will be presumed. The petition must be for something within the authority of the person, or body, addressed, to grant, or must in good faith be supposed to be. . . .

There can then be no question but that upon a proper occasion and in a proper manner, the people, whether voters or not, have the right to peaceably assemble and petition for the redress of grievances either actually existing or in good faith believed to exist, and which the Legislative body has the power, to remedy. The moment, however, that the petitioning body steps beyond the bounds of its right to peaceably present its petition, either by threats of violence or show of force for the purpose of intimidation, or by the actual use of force, or in the carrying out of its purpose, disobeys or disregards the law of the land, that moment may the petitioning body be looked upon as forfeiting its right and liable to apprehension and punishment. The right of petitioning, although a fundamental right, and one dear to the people, is one to be enjoyed subject to restrictions just as are all other elementary and fundamental rights of the individual.

## THE OPIUM COMMISSION.

### A Missionary Imprisoned.

A Royal Commission, appointed by the British Government, has been investigating the effects of opium in India. From reports of its proceedings, which are received from time to time, it is apparent that the purpose of Government officials, high and low is to prove that opium is one of the greatest blessings ever bestowed upon the human race, and to deprive the people of it would be an act of most unjustifiable oppression. The Commission's report is not yet made up, but the general impression is, that although the official testimony is almost entirely against the use of opium, yet the majority of the Commission will take the official view of the case, while the small minority, led by the Hon. Henry J. Wilson, M. P., will pronounce strongly against it. This is scarcely more than was expected from the first, from the make-up of the Commission itself, it being understood that certain members of the majority had large pecuniary interests involved in the opium question.

The Independent has an account of the arrest and imprisonment of a Methodist missionary for testifying against the opium traffic. Opium dens in India are very like rum shops in this country, in the grip they have of officialdom and in the protection they receive. The following is the account of the arrest referred to:

There are a number of missionaries in Bombay who have, from the first, taken a very aggressive part in the anti-opium contest. Their persistent investigations have brought to light many facts which the Department itself would fain have hidden in obscurity. For example, in response to the popular demand apparently, the Government, some months ago, published widely and ostentatiously, the order that the public opium-smoking dens in Bombay should be closed on a certain date, and their licenses should be canceled. Only a few days afterward it was found that these same opium dens were still in full operation, only with some slight changes, such as the removal to another room in the same house. When the occupants were questioned about it they said that they were no longer acting under the license system, but that they had organized social "clubs" like the great "Byculla Club," which is composed of Europeans. Thus while openly declaring that the licensed "dens" were "closed," the opium department were conniving at the same thing under another name, and those who exposed the deception were marked men, on whom vengeance would fall at the first opportunity.

Some months later there was a great festival held at Mahim, a suburb of Bombay, where large numbers of people were congregated. The agriculturists discovered, as they supposed, that there were certain illegal shops for the sale of opium on the ground, and that these were allowed by the opium farmer on condition that they purchased all their opium from him. Satisfying themselves that they had sufficient evidence of this they published an article in the *Bombay Guardian* giving a statement of facts, and calling upon the Government for an investigation. This article was signed by three European missionaries. Here was the opportunity! The opium farmer was allowed (encouraged?) to bring a suit against the three missionary signatories and the proprietor of the *Guardian* for defamation of character. The case has been in court for two months or more. The prosecution failed to prove the charge of "conspiracy," and that was thrown out. Hence the proceedings were directed against the four defendants individually. The first case was closed last week and the Rev. A. W. Proutch, of the American Methodist Episcopal Mission, was sentenced to pay a fine of 201 rupees or, in default of payment, to one month's simple imprisonment in the House of Correction. Mr. Proutch declined to pay the fine, and is now serving his term of imprisonment in Bombay. The other three defendants were offered the privilege of apologizing for publishing the article in question; but they declined to do so, and the suit will therefore proceed against them in turn.

In reading the evidence which was presented by the defense it seems to us that the truth of the statements which were objected to was abundantly proved, and it is difficult to understand the ground of the conviction and the harsh sentence. We do not believe that the friends of justice and right in England will receive with complacency the tidings, that a Christian missionary in Bombay has been imprisoned for exposing what he believed to be the illegal procedure of the opium farmer. In this case as in the well-known unanimous official testimony in favor of opium, we think the department has gone a little too far, and that it will enact upon them to their injury. It must be confessed that some of the methods of our anti-opium friends in Bombay are such that many, perhaps the majority of missionaries in India cannot approve of them; but for all that there is an innate sense of justice which demands fair play for those who are honestly trying to do what they believe to be their duty.

SEVENTH DISTRICT MEETING.—All persons going to the above meeting, should be particular to read the clerks' notice as given in this week's paper, as much depends upon concerted action. It is understood that reduced fare can be had on the steamers of the International Line if tickets are bought together. Information can be had from William Peters of St. John.

## 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.]

### Second District Meeting.

The Annual Meeting of the Second District Woman's Mission Society was held at Knoxford, C. Co., June 16th. The following is the report of the Secretary-Treasurer read at the meeting:

It is with thanksgiving to God that we are permitted to meet in this fourteenth anniversary of the W. F. M. Society of the 2nd District. Since the organization of our Society at Victoria Corner, on the 30th of June, 1879, when a few sisters, whose hearts were touched with the urgent needs of our heathen sisters, met in the vestry of the church to organize, there have been twenty-two Societies organized. Who can estimate the good that has been accomplished during those years, both in the Home and Foreign field? To day we have reports from twenty of the societies, some telling of their discouragements, but all hopeful, and doing work for the Master. Woodstock society numbers thirty-five, and holds monthly meetings. How our hearts were cheered when we received a cheque for \$45.50. Surely we can expect God's blessing upon a church that will give so generously for the uplifting of the perishing. From Hartland the Secretary sends a cheering report. She says, "Although we number only eight, we sustain the monthly prayer-meeting, sometimes but three meet. Yet the Lord meets with us and we always feel encouraged. They made their own mite boxes, and their contents were \$6.65. The collection taken at a public meeting, \$3.50, is given for Mrs. Boyer's special work. They contribute \$20.25.

Lower Brighton	\$ 13 00
Tracey Mills	23 70
Third Tier	7 70
Pembroke	6 00
Rockland	3 45
Gordonville	3 80
Knowlesville	8 11
Waterville	14 85
Jacksonville	50
Lindsay	4 20
Brookville	3 45
Connell	15 46
Knoxford	5 95
Somerville	3 82
Victoria Corner	3 00
Charleston	1 35
Windsor	2 37
Upper Brighton	3 00
Total	189 46

Owing to some difficulty in procuring mite boxes, they were not distributed until late in the year, so that most of the societies have not used them but they expect to another year. We would suggest that each sister, in addition to her dollar, would add the contents of her mite box. And like the precious box of ointment with which Mary anointed the feet of Jesus, so may the fragrance of these boxes, consecrated, reach far over the sea.

On Saturday afternoon there was a large meeting of the sisters. Mrs. McFarland, Hartland, was appointed President. Mrs. S. Shaw, Woodstock, was appointed to distribute mite boxes. Any society wishing them will please apply to her.

In the evening there was a missionary meeting. Mrs. McFarland opened the meeting by appropriate remarks, referring to the encouragement given by having our missionary, Miss Gaudin, in the field. After devotional exercises, reading and adoption of the Secretary's report, there was a solo by Mrs. Shaw, and stirring addresses were also made by Mrs. J. J. Barnes, Mrs. Milbury and Dr. McLeod. It was a successful meeting. That the Lord may bless us, and use us for the advancement of His Kingdom in the world, and especially that the iron chains of oppression which now bind the women of India may be broken, and that they may rejoice in the glorious liberty of the Gospel, is our earnest prayer.

"From the prison like Zenanas, From the lowly heathen Kraals, From the poor down-trodden Orient, From old China's crumbling walls, Fainting, hungering, thirsting, dying, Women, just like you and me, Still are calling, sadly calling, Sister, they are calling thee."

Let us respond by more earnest, energetic work, during the coming year.

R. J. ALEXANDER.

Farmington, C. Co., June 27, 1894.

### FOR HOME MISSIONS.

Mrs. A. W. Rideout was last year put in charge of the Second District Woman's Society work. The following is her report at the meeting held this year.

Dear Sisters:—There was put in my hands at our last District Meeting \$16.93. We had \$24.14 for 1892, in all \$42.09.

Now for the year.

Hartland	\$ 3 00
Upper Brighton	3 25
Seventh Tier	3 35
Windsor	2 25
Woodstock	6 10

Balance from '92. 17 95

42 09

This money was to be spent in destitute places. As we could not get the minister we wanted I consulted with several of the sisters, and brother Noble, that it was best to divide it up. As brother Connor was doing all he could we gave him \$10 to help him on his way; and as brother Grey was not getting much salary we gave him \$10, and brother Hart \$10; brother Swim was visiting Riverbank, and to supplement his salary we gave \$15.00, and the remainder to brother Noble, who spends all his time in the field with no salary. By giving these grants these brethren are enabled to spend more time in the field, and some places that would otherwise have no care, get some labour. Hoping, dear sisters, that you will approve of the way the money was expended.

Yours in the work,  
MRS. A. W. RIDEOUT.

There is a balance now in Mrs. Rideout's hands \$3.00, and she is continued in charge of this branch of the work.

### Russia's Contradictions.

Russia is evidently a most singular country. Statements apparently of the most contradictory character are put forth on excellent authority. The existence of a famine last year was asserted by eye-witnesses to the suffering caused by it, but was denied by an imperial proclamation. The intense and agonizing cruelties practised on the exiles to Siberia are known to all the world, but the Russian officials say they do not know of them. The persecution of the Stundists, the Baptists, and other dissenters have been spread abroad throughout all civilized lands for several years, but the Czar and his advisers are ignorant of them. Pabodonstzeff, the official who is charged with being the author of these terrible persecutions, is an ardent worker in the temperance reform.

Two members of the Society of Friends visited Russia to make representations to the authorities regarding the sufferings of the dissenters from the Greek church. They were granted the audience they asked with the highest officials, and although coming as private persons, and without any government authority, they were treated most courteously and given every facility to aid them in their investigations. On all the testimony it seems impossible to believe that the Czar is not genuinely interested in the welfare of his subjects, yet the terrible sufferings of a large portion of the Russian people continue. This strange and contradictory state of affairs appears to be due to two causes; the brutality of many of the subordinate officials, and the lack of a proper and efficient system of supervision and responsibility. While the higher officials appear to be really desirous of ameliorating the condition of the people, the system of the Russian government is one of the worst and most inefficient in the world, and permits outrages on innocent people, and sufferings among certain classes which cannot be paralleled in any other country at the present time. In spite of the amiable character of the Czar and many of his advisers, the atrocities endured by the dissenters and by the political prisoners and exiles is a disgrace to civilization, and calls for the thorough reform of the present system of government in Russia.

## A Notable Conference.

The colonial conference which begins business at Ottawa to day, (Thursday) marks the beginning of a new chapter in the relations of the colonies to the empire and to each other. Apart from the subjects to be discussed and the direct results of the meetings in respect to these matters, the fact that statesmen of all the more important self-governing colonies are together discussing subjects of common interest is a great thing. It is a remarkable object lesson, showing the unity of the British empire. These men from Great Britain, the Australian colonies, New Zealand, South Africa and Canada cannot come together in conference without having in view a time when delegates from all these countries shall meet at regular and stated times as an organized representative body with some power to act. To this issue the empire sooner or later will come. One business of constructive statesmen in the future is to determine under what conditions. It is not good policy and it is not the English method to force these movements or to construct constitutions in advance of public sentiment. Rather the nation effects changes by many and short stages and by a process of development. The colonial conference may contain in itself the rudiments of an imperial legislature or council. Whatever it may reach in the process of development, it is to-day an imperial federation meeting.—*The Sun*.

### An Odd Will.

The eccentric testator in Lord Lytton's "Money" certainly did not play a more cruel trick upon his expectant relatives than a Polish landed proprietor named Zalesky, who died in March, 1889, in the province of Taurida, says a correspondent of the *London Daily News*. This man left a will in a sealed packet, marked, "To be opened after my death." When the envelope was torn off, another one was found underneath with the words: "To be opened six weeks after the first envelope has been opened." At the end of six weeks it was found that there was a third envelope with the inscription: "To be opened in a year." After waiting impatiently for another twelve months the relatives found yet another envelope, which said, "To be opened in two years." Finally the will was opened, when it was found that the testator bequeathed 100,000 roubles, or one-half of his fortune, to that person among his relatives who should be proved to have the largest number of children. The other half was to be invested for 100 years, at the end of which time it was to be divided, together with the interest, among his descendants.

It is not to be wondered at that this has become the subject of a lawsuit, the family, with one exception, declaring the testator to have been of unsound mind.

KOREA.—Evidently there is a serious trouble in Korea,—China and Japan alike seeking to gain some advantage. Trouble began in consequence of popular jealousy and hatred of foreigners. A rebellion against the king was organized. The king applied for foreign help. An American man of war hastened from Japan to Chemulpo, the port of Seoul; the rebels were over-awed and it was hoped peace was secured. A serious outbreak occurred in Northern Korea, and that also has been suppressed. It seems, if we are to trust late accounts, that there is now a general rising and that a strong force of Japanese and Chinese occupy the most important points of the country. The king is said to be with the Japanese.

### Among Exchanges.

WHEN.

When angels see church pillars on their way to the parsonage with wormy hams and crooked wood, they are probably puzzled to understand why God holds the judgment back. —*Ram's Horn*.

IT WOULD BE LARGE.

Just one new religious denomination is needed, the Church of the Ugly Disposition. If it could get all its own it would draw heavily on all the others. We should lose some esteemed brethren ourselves.—*The Interior*.

"BARGAINS."

There is a prevailing propensity among many persons to obtain things cheaply, and they are ever on the alert to secure "bargains." But it is a painful reflection that often the bargains are the result of wronging the poor.—*Lutheran Observer*.