

Religious Intelligencer.

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

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WHOLE No. 3052

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

In the public schools of France 24.2 per cent. of the pupils are shortsighted, of Germany thirty-five per cent., and of the United Kingdom twenty per cent. Lack of exercise seems the chief cause.

The Czar of Russia is twenty-six years old; the King of Spain is eight; Queen of the Netherlands, fourteen; King of Serbia, eighteen; Khedive of Egypt, twenty; emperor of China, twenty-three.

The various committees for the emigration of Russian Jews to the Argentine and elsewhere are about to dissolve, as Jews desirous of changing Russia for South America are not coming forward to any considerable number. There seems to be a growing disposition on the part of the Jews to remain in Russia with the evils they know of rather than trust themselves to a new country where the evils are unknown.

An odd collection of ideas is brought about by the news that a railway station has been opened at Gehenna. The line from Jaffa to Jerusalem has its terminus in the Vale of Hinnom, or Gehenna, to use its Greek equivalent. This is the place where for ages fires were kept perpetually burning for the consumption of the offal of Jerusalem. The word Gehenna is several times translated 'hell' in the New Testament.

The commissioner of public works in Chicago has done an unprecedented thing in appointing four or five ministers on the force of street and alley inspectors. The ward politician and political hanger on are dumbfounded. Preachers in office, and the 'beelers' left out! There's nothing left in politics, sure enough, from their point of view. But the decent people will find much of encouragement in these and other acts of the reform administration.

From time to time we hear encouraging reports of the progress of profit-sharing, as one of the devices for lessening the friction between labor and capital. It is founded on the idea that the work of the employee, which contributes to the profits of the owner, is entitled to something more than fixed wages, and has a right to share in the profits also. It is an encouragement to the workman to do his best. A number of manufacturing firms in England and the United States report most satisfactory results in the working of this principle.

Some valuable discoveries were made by Count von Goetzen, the German explorer, in his recent trip—the thirteenth that has been made—across Africa. He hunted up Kirunga, the only active volcano in the Dark Continent, rising above the plain to a height of about 11,000 feet, and having an almost circular crater nearly a mile in diameter. He also found, at the base of this mountain, Lake Kiru, a large body of water, flowing into Tanganyika and Lake Albert Edward. These fresh discoveries can be quickly noted on our maps of Africa.

The most extraordinary precautions are taken in Spain to provide for the safety of the sovereign at night. His slumbers are watched by the Menteros de Espinosa, a body of men who for 400 years have enjoyed the exclusive privilege of guarding their royal master or mistress from sunset to sunrise. They are bound by tradition to be natives of the town of Espinosa, and to have served with honor in the army. They lock the palace gates with much ceremony and solemnity at midnight and open them again at seven o'clock in the morning. Their fidelity to the person of their sovereign does not admit of question.

A tragedy full of pathos occurred in Jefferson Market police court, New York, May 1. Mrs. Ellen Sullivan, aged sixty-one, took her son John, aged thirty-one, to the court-room, and asked that he be committed for a month because of hard drinking. When the complaint was made out and the prisoner called to the bar, the old woman staggered back from the judge's bench and clutched at her side. She was led staggering back into the corridor, where she fell on the floor, and efforts to revive her were fruitless.

She had died of a broken heart. Her son was discharged by the justice, when he was told the poor woman was dead.

England's death-rate from liquor increases yearly. In 1869 there were 764 deaths caused directly by intemperance, or a rate of 34 per million of population; in 1893 the rate went up to 73 per million, the number of drink victims being 2,174. The British government has always treated the traffic as legitimate. The first step towards its limitation is the proposed local option measure submitted by the House of Commons by Sir William Harcourt, by which the voters of any parish can either veto the sale of intoxicants entirely, or reduce the number of public houses at which liquor can be bought. It will be a happy day for England when public opinion condemns the traffic as immoral and banishes it altogether.

A Severe Indictment.

AN ENGLISH JUDGE'S OPINION.

A striking letter upon the ruin wrought by strong drink from Mr. Justice Denman has been read at a meeting of the Liverpool branch of the Church of England Temperance Society, from which the following extract is taken: "The sort of evident I can give only goes to prove what no one denies, viz., that intemperance is the greatest curse and the most potent cause of misery from which this nation suffers. Twenty years of judicial life and forty-six years of constant attendance in the criminal courts as an advocate or judge are enough to enable any man to form an opinion as to the extent of the mischief caused by drunkenness. Not a day passes in the criminal courts without some evidence of it. I suppose between 1872 and 1893 I must have tried many thousands of cases of violence and cruelty, murders, manslaughter, murderous and savage wounding, kickings, and assaults. Of these I am sure I speak well within the mark when I say that more than one half were directly connected with excessive drinking. But beyond this, I have painful recollections of ruined homes and separations of husbands and wives, constituting too large a portion of the work of even civil tribunals, arising from indulgence in drink and the consequent demoralization. I can recall miserable histories without number of men and women who have, by yielding to temptation in this respect, lost everything that was worth keeping—character, money, health, and even life itself—old schoolfellows ruined and disgraced—clergyman driven from their parishes—soldiers and sailors degraded and dismissed after having served their Queen and country for a time—domestic servants losing good places—drivers of public and private vehicles unable to obtain employment for want of a character for sobriety, or tried for manslaughter by reason of bad driving while drunk—babies smothered to death by drunken mothers—children shivering in fireless lodgings for want of clothing and coals, which might have been bought with money wasted in whiskey, brandy and gin; more than one member of my own profession, whose abilities and prospects have seemed to destine him for high performance, dragged down to penury and degradation, disease and premature death, or worse, by this fatal habit acquired early in their career. Of all these things I could have spoken, and not half exhausted the instances in which I have had proof of the terrible effects of drinking to excess."

The Fall of India.

Rev. C. B. Ward, a missionary in India for eighteen years, writes to the Gospel in All Lands: "There are indications to-day that the great smash in front of the fabric of this world's heathen systems will be India at no distant day. When India falls it may not be long till one after another of the remaining nations that know not Jesus Christ shall quickly cast away their idols. The year 1900 may see us with 1,000,000 Methodists in India. There are indications of such an upheaval there as the world has never seen. Indian heathenism represents the consecration of Satanic cunning and power. With his overthrow there we shall see the rest of the world soon redeemed. There is wisdom, therefore in concentrating force and power there. Thousands of preachers must be trained for the coming church. Not to go out and win the heathen—they are now coming in. The struggle henceforth is to be over taking care of the incoming multitudes. We have been doing the going a long time, and the time for disciplining and teaching is upon us."

The Smallest Republic in the World.

San Marino has an area of seven hundred square miles. Its population is 8,000, the capital claiming 750 souls. The "Arringo," composed of heads of families, was its first political society. This developed into the Sovereign Council, a body of sixty elected by the people. The Council is represented by two captains-regent. These hold office for six months, and are not eligible again for three years. One stands for the professions, the other for the agricultural classes. To avoid favoritism, justice is administered by a stranger. The army is made up of all male citizens from sixteen to sixty years old. This consists of nine companies of 140 soldiers each, or 1,360 men in all. The receipts and expenditures about balance, each being a little over \$20,000. Of this amount \$6,000 are devoted to the army. There is no public debt. There are a public library, a hospital, a cathedral, and a university.—*Hurst's Bishop.*

Bad for France.

Recent investigations show that in France the actual consumption of alcohol to each inhabitant has more than trebled in the last forty years. In a suburb of Rouen, where exact information was obtained, the average daily consumption of alcohol by each inhabitant is one-half litre, or eighty-eight one-hundredths of a pint to each person. By this is not meant either

wine or malt liquor, but pure alcohol. Throughout France, there are 55,000 more liquor shops than before the war of 1870; but there has been little or no increase in the population. There are 32,000 liquor shops in Paris, and 425,000 in the departments, one to every eighty-five inhabitants. In the country departments, the number of minors under sixteen years of age brought up before the courts for intoxication is frightful.

The Life Insurance Mania.

It is remarkable how many cases have occurred recently in which persons have been accused of insuring the lives of others or property as a means of obtaining money, which they desired but could not otherwise obtain. In several instances murder and arson have been charged upon the persons who were advantaged by the insurance. No one will deny that the insurance of the life of the father of a family as a provision for his wife and children in case of his death, is a wise and proper thing. It may have all the force of a duty. In a vast number of cases a provision of this kind has saved a family from want and suffering, to which they would otherwise have been exposed. But when life insurance is resorted to as a scheme for getting money, even without any criminal intention, there is not so much to be said in its favor. We agree with the *Daily Globe* that "when the breadwinner insures the lives of his dependents, it is at best an indelicate line of speculation."—*Guardian.*

Their Father's Sons.

—James A. Garfield is a candidate for a seat in the Ohio Senate from the district which his father occupied many years ago when he began his political career which ended in the Presidency of the United States.

—The *New York Observer* says: "Mr. William R. Moody, son of the evangelist, Dwight L. Moody, has won the favor of the members of the Young Men's Christian Association in Brooklyn by his practical addresses. It is said that he resembles his father in many respects, possessing a large fund of anecdote and a straightforward way of making home truths tell."

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.]

Mrs. Dang Ging Dong.

THE LITTLE WOMAN WHO DID SO MUCH.

From an extended article by Rev. F. Ohlinger, in *World Wide Missions*, *Zion's Herald* condenses the following exceedingly interesting narrative:—

A Chinese missionary and a traveling companion have sought entertainment and rest at the humble home of one of their helpers. Hardly have they entered the domicile, when a very plain little woman, without a word, without a smile of recognition, without even a look at either of the guests, dashed into their apartments, and, in less time than it takes to write, had turned their baskets inside out, taken the soiled and slightly soiled linen out for the needed airing, carried off a plateful of half-bleached chicken bones, and meanwhile supplied them with half a dozen articles more or less needful to their comfort.

"A plucky little body that," said one of these missionaries to the other, after the bustling, indomitable intruder had finally left the room. An interest attaches to that energetic, self-possessed little woman that prompts me to sketch a few points of her remarkably eventful history.

Early in life she became a servant in an officer's family. It was while here she acquired the silent, stolid, independent manner which, in a slight degree, she exhibited on the above occasion. That she had had the small-pox, or, rather, that the small-pox had had her, was sufficiently evident from the manifold traces which the distemper had left upon her face.

In early life she became the wife of one Dang Ging Dong. Soon after their marriage the couple followed their master into one of the northern provinces, eight hundred miles from home, where, after a number of years, the husband lost his eyesight. Then, accompanied by her son of nine years, this little woman undertook the task

of leading her blind husband by hand back to their native city and to their friends. What a long and weary journey! How fraught with adventure and hardship! Meanwhile, what a test of pluck and of perseverance! What an exhibition of womanhood, and of wifehood, and of motherhood—and in a heathen!

They settled in the city of Foochow, near a Methodist chapel. Dang and his son began to frequent the chapel. Sia Sek Ong, the preacher, thought that they came there for what they might get in the way of alms, and at first was disposed to pay them little attention. He soon discovered his mistake, and Dang presently gets converted. The little wife and son soon follow him. The medical missionary performs an operation on Dang's eyes, and he partially recovers his sight. He is soon sent out to preach, and the little woman by his side is also heard from.

One of the most prominent families connected with this Foochow Mission away back in the seventies was named Daing. The two sons did pioneer work on the Yeng Bing District for more than a score of years. The older was drowned on his way to Conference a few years ago; the younger is presiding elder of the district. They have wrought nobly, as did also their mother before them, who, under God, led this family to Christ. Let the following paragraph from the Annual Report of the Missionary Society for 1881, tell the story:—

"At Chiong Hu Bwang, Mother Daing died on the 17th of April, in the parsonage of her son, Gieng Ing. Mother Daing was seventy years of age. She was born of wealthy parents, betrothed and married in a wealthy and influential family. But one of the ever-recurring rebellions of this country swept over the land. Their property was all destroyed, and they fled for their lives. Soon after, the husband and father died, and the widow and children toiled on. The eldest son sought business in Yeng Ping city, where he resided a dozen years. Our Mission opened a little chapel there, next door to where Mr. Daing was living. The preacher's wife, Mrs. Dang Ging Dong, told the woman of the next house about Jesus. This woman in turn told young Mr. Daing."

What a monument to the value—the vast importance—of personal effort for the conversion of souls! She told them about Jesus.

One incident more, and this by way of illustrating the truly invincible, evangelical energy of this little woman, must suffice:—

In the spring of 1879 Mr. Ohlinger made a tour through the Yeng Bing District. In the love-feast at Saging a man arose and gave the following remarkable testimony:—

"I am a stranger to most of you. I am ashamed and yet happy; sad, and yet I rejoice. My story is one of three simple words: *grace, disgrace, grace!* I heard the Gospel when a boy, and was educated in the Anglican Mission School. The missionary sent me out to preach, and paid me a good salary. I won his confidence, and he entrusted a large sum of money to me with which I was to buy mission property in Iong Bing. I followed the footsteps of the Prodigal. For months I was not heard from, and the missionary thought I had been killed because of the money I had on my person. Finally, hunger and nakedness drove me back. I decided on a lengthy account of my absence, and felt some hope that I could meet and face the missionary. This consolation soon left me. I had to admit the truthfulness of the missionary's suspicions. When he left the room for a moment, a fit of desperation seized upon me. I broke the cup from which I had been drinking tea with the missionary, and with the sharp, jagged edge proceeded to cut my throat. You have noticed these ugly scars on my neck. The missionary came back in time to save me, and the missionary doctor sewed up the gash. One day I was despondent almost to the point of committing suicide, and again, the next, steeped in all manner of sin and vice. My wife found employment in the Mission, and supported the younger children. I took my eldest, because he could sing and dance, and became a wandering minstrel. I have been lost to my family for three years. A few months since I was taken sick at Songjiong,

forty miles north of here. I came near starving. When I left the inn my son had to support me, because I had no strength. It took us a week to come here. I did not know there were Christians here; I did not think there was any one here who knew of me. When the preacher Dang came and invited me to his house I could not resist. It seemed like heaven to hear one speak to me in the Foochow dialect—and I was so hungry and weary! I was ashamed to go near Mrs. Dang because of my ragged condition. She gave me wholesome food and clean clothes, and—best of all—not only the native Christians have forgiven me, though it was a sore disgrace I brought on them by my fall, but God has forgiven me! Mrs. Dang not only nursed me back to physical life, but she has led me back to the source of spiritual life. I do not know which is more interesting now—the story of the Prodigal Son or that one about the Good Samaritan. They are both wonderful! wonderful! I am the Prodigal, the returned Prodigal."

While this story was being told, our little woman, who was present, occasionally, though very quietly and modestly, assisted the narrator's memory; but it was very evident she was thinking far more of what she could do for the "prodigal" in the future than of what she had done for him in the past.

Dang died at his post after many years in the ministry. Seng Ting, the eldest son, graduated from our Biblical Institute, and has been preaching for a dozen or more years. The second son, a manly, serious boy, in due time matriculated at the Anglo-Chinese College. Coming from such a home as his mother had made for him, it was no wonder that he at first became homesick. In due time, however, he completed the college course, and has entered upon a career of honor and usefulness. Ask him, or his brother, to whom under God they consider themselves most indebted for the characters they have built, and they will doubtless both unhesitatingly answer, "to mother."

Meantime, as we think of the two brothers Daing, and of these two cases, with what vividness, what impressive distinctness, there comes before us the image of this little, old, pock-marked, quiet, silent woman, who yet has done so much!

THE OLD STORY.—The *Christian Standard* says: Here it is again, sent broadcast over the land by telegraph and newspaper. This time it is laid to the Drunkards, and put away down in Maryland, and comes in this shape: "A young man lying at the point of death was carried to a stream on a cold day and ducked (as the dispatch says) three times. Three days later he died, and the state's attorney proposes to institute proceedings." If the young man was "lying at the point of death" it would seem that the immersion must have prolonged his life, for he lived three days after he was "at the point of death." No doubt some correspondent "has been lying at the point of his pen"; but what if, instead of some dying man passing away three days after immersion, it had been some strong young man dying by violence, or tremens three hours after drinking three pints of whisky in some saloon? Such things often happen without the state's attorney bothering himself about it.

JAPAN.—In abandoning the permanent possession of the Liao-Tung peninsula, including Port Arthur, which she has done at the demand of Russia, Germany and France, Japan has acted not only with the gentleness of the dove but with the wisdom of the serpent. As we pointed out at the time, the Liao-Tung peninsula would be a source of inevitable embarrassment and trouble to Japan, just as her Continental possessions and the possessions of her sovereigns in Europe were to England; as these weakened England, possessions on the mainland would have weakened Japan. By acquiring them Japan has had it in her power to make friendly concessions to Russia and the European powers, and she has gained more than she has lost by her wise and discrete course. Of course, China will be very glad to pay an additional indemnity on recovering such a possession as the Liao-Tung peninsula. It is to be hoped that otherwise Japan will be allowed a pretty free hand in forcing civilization upon Corea and China.—*M. Witness.*