

# Religious Intelligencer.

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

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## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

A state colony of imbeciles or a farm for idiots is projected in Ohio. There are known to be at least 7,000 persons in that state who should be made members of such a colony.

A sign of the growing distrust of legislatures is, that in fifteen different states of the American Union, Bills will be introduced this year for the adoption of direct legislation by the people, on the plan of the Swiss initiative and referendum. The 'practical politicians' are to a man the determined enemies of all such movements to strip them of power.

The "Times," in an article on the liquor question in West Africa, declares that the time has come for the traffic in spirits in that part of the world to go the way of the slave trade. It says: "There is not a doubt left in the minds of intelligent, experienced, and practical men that the supply of intoxicating liquor to the native races is equivalent to the demoralisation and degradation of the races concerned, and that the first condition of progress in the habits of orderly and industrious existence is to keep the poison of alcohol out of their reach." Sound doctrine, to be sure: as applicable in Great Britain, and in Canada as in Africa.

The care of the British Government for the protection of her subjects in every part of the world, and her anxiety and determination to further the ends of justice at home and abroad are well known, and are a source of confidence and strength to every Briton to what ever part of the earth he may wander. An interesting illustration of this is found in the Supplementary Estimates for the closing financial year, which were recently issued in the House of Commons. A vote of \$35,000 is required for "expenses incurred in the proceedings taken to obtain the extradition of Jabez Balfour and Cornelius Herz."

It is just possible that the long-standing trouble between Sweden and Norway may soon assume the shape of war. The Norwegians have long been restless under the exacting and overbearing rule of Sweden. A few weeks ago the Swedish King was in Norway, but for some reason cut short his stay and abruptly returned to his capital, and now orders have been given for the "mobilization" of a large part of the Swedish army, and the place of rendezvous is suspiciously near the Norwegian border.

New York will follow Detroit in applying the "labor test" to the needy. Mr. William Steinway has offered to the Charities Conference of that city the use of a large acreage of suitable land, to be ploughed, harrowed, divided into lots, and temporarily assigned by a committee to unemployed men for raising potatoes for the support of themselves and families. Others, doubtless, will make similar offers—there are 17,329 vacant lots in that city below 145th Street and the Harlem River. The *Tribune* points out that this scheme, which has worked so well in Detroit, is not only productive, but also non-competitive. Also, it does not break up the laborer's home, and is free from the uncertainty and expense attending agricultural colonizing.

The oldest newspaper in the world, of course is in China. It is the *King Pau*, is the official journal of the empire, and was founded in 911. Originally it was published intermittently, but after 1361 it appeared regularly every week. In 1804 it was converted into a daily, and now issues three editions a day and sells at about a cent a copy. The morning sheet, printed on yellow paper, is devoted to commercial news. It has a circulation of about eight thousand copies. The midday issue contains official documents and general news. The evening edition, printed on red paper, gives the latest intelligence and extracts from the two previous editions. The paper is conducted by six literati appointed by the state.

Japan is frequently spoken of as "little Japan." Among the nations of the earth Japan is neither specially little in area or population. The area of Japan, 147,655 square miles, is larger by 27,000 square miles than that of the United Kingdom. Furthermore

there are 41,000,000 people who are subjects to the Mikado, against 38,000,000 in the United Kingdom, taking latest census results in both cases. Japan's population is larger than Italy's by fully 10,000,000; while her area is 37,000 square miles greater. No one speaks of Italy as "little Italy," although she is not so populous as Japan. Japan has nearly ten times the area and almost twenty times the population of Denmark. Japan is not a "little" country save as compared with such unwieldy masses as the Chinese Empire or such a giant as the United States. That she is big enough to hold her own and more she has evinced in battle to the amazement of her great antagonist.

It is stated that a commission of officials from the Russian Holy Synod will shortly be appointed to proceed to the Southeastern provinces to inquire into the beliefs and organization of the numerous sects which have sprung into being in that region. Some of these bodies profess most extraordinary notions, self flagellation and self-mutilation being tenets frequently met with. The most diverse sects are said to live side by side along the Volga. One of the most notorious of these is a body which has as its leading doctrine the supreme virtue of self-immolation. A great number of these miserable creatures have been proceeded against by the police, and those who are left are under close surveillance. Another awful sect on which the police have their eyes is the "Redeemer" Community. Now and again members of it mysteriously disappear and are never more heard of. The general opinion is that they are enticed into some isolated and deserted dwelling and there murdered by other members of the body. The notion underlying and compelling all this murder and suicide is the belief that the reign of Antichrist is about to begin shortly and that it is the duty of the true Christian to escape before he comes. The speedy coming of Antichrist is a belief held among many sects of Russians and among the peasantry generally.

A Chicago professional faith-healer is reported to be gathering in about \$1000 a week from two or three "homes for incurables" which he has established. He claims that by the faith process, organic diseases, such as cancer, have been healed instantaneously. Doubtless nervous diseases are to a great extent curable temporarily, if not permanently, by lifting the patient into an expectant and exhilarated frame of mind. But to seek to cure 'consumption in its last stages,' or 'desperate cases of hernia,' by suggestion—for that is what the process amounts to—is to court failure by willingly surrendering whatever scientific remedies are available. The practice of medicine involves no lack of faith. Rather do the reverent study of the human body, and the diligent search for cures, involve the strongest confession of faith in the means provided. It is quite conceivable that 'faith-healing,' far from encouraging faith, may seriously weaken or irretrievably destroy it in cases where the patient is disappointed with the result of the process.

## England and Egypt.

In view of the great improvement that has taken place in Egypt under English rule, one would think that France would not allow small jealousy to prevent it acknowledging the facts. But not so. Whenever the young and indiscreet Khedive Abbas makes some new splurge, the French papers join the chorus of condemnation of England. The French declined to unite with England when they had the offer, and now they are vexed that the English have possession. England drifted into her present position, and finds she cannot safely withdraw without great injury to the country. The N. Y. Observer says: "That the British occupation of Egypt has been beneficent is indisputable. An administration at once just and economical has been established, the huge debt refunded, the burden of taxation reduced, and the Egyptian people given a measure of liberty and safety which makes life endurable, and which would have been wholly impossible under the rule of plundering and oppressive pashas."

## The Oriental War and the Work of Christian Missions.

BY PROF. ERNEST W. CLEMENT.

When the present war between Japan and China broke out it brought discouragement to the hearts of Christian workers in Japan, Korea and China. It was anticipated that the war would, in many ways, both directly and indirectly, prove a serious distraction to mission work of all kinds. Churches and schools were gradually depleted and weakened by the departure of members, either to the scene of war, or to the various garrisons of the empire. The deep interest felt and manifested by this intensely patriotic people in what they deemed "a righteous war," and the excitement over the repeated successes of the Japanese army and navy, naturally interfered a great deal with evangelistic work, growth in the Christian graces and the full development of a true Christian spirit in the individual believer and the churches. To many, from this aspect alone, the war seemed exceedingly deplorable. But

"God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform."

For while the war has certainly hindered tremendously the prosecution of the regular and ordinary work of Christian missions, it has proven in the providence of God a means to the opening of an extraordinary work in all three countries. The history of this new movement was told simply but eloquently the other day to a number of Tokyo missionaries by Rev. Henry Loomis, of the Bible Society of Yokohama; and is hereafter related briefly.

The beginning of the marvelous work was in connection with the hospitals. At Nagoya, an old and large city, permission was unexpectedly obtained to visit the hospital there, and distribute portions of the Scripture among the wounded Chinese. These poor men received the reading matter so gladly, that it was resolved to extend the work, if possible, among other hospitals. Those in Osaka and Hiroshima were next visited with similarly successful results.

In visiting these hospitals, Mr. Loomis was impressed with two things, besides the appreciative reception of the Scriptures. He was glad to see that there was a great demand for Christian nurses, who were acknowledged to be the most careful, gentle and skilful; and that, therefore, Mrs. Niishima and her band of nurses from the training-school in Kyoto were kept busy from early in the morning till late at night. He was pleased to observe the constantly, careful and gentle treatment of the Chinese, who, having expected torture or neglect, were delighted at their happy lot, and were not in the least anxious to get back to their native land! In the hospitals, indeed, it was generally impossible to distinguish the Japanese from the Chinese patients; the latter had to be pointed out to the visitors by an attendant. This lack of discrimination and unselfish care of the wounded enemy certainly redound to the honor of Japan. Yesterday I overheard a missionary (save the mark!) sneeringly remark, that "it would take a good many Red Cross hospitals to wipe out the stain of the massacres at Port Arthur." True it is: but it is yet more certain that "it would take a good many Port Arthur massacres to wipe out the glory of the Red Cross hospitals. The massacres were horrible and regrettable, but represent only a temporary lapse under severe provocation in time of war; while the hospitals represent the abiding spirit of mercy even in time of war.

When Mr. Loomis visited the Red Cross Hospital in Tokyo, it occurred to him to make an attempt to get the privilege of doing such work of Bible distribution among the (unwounded) prisoners confined in a temple in Asakusa. This privilege likewise was readily granted and quickly improved, much to the delight of the imprisoned Chinese. Thus again has been shown the futility of trying to draw a distinct line of demarcation between home and foreign mission work. For as a Home Mission Society may labor among foreigners in America, and a Foreign Mission Society may labor among foreigners in their native lands, and each may send converts to help the

others work, so these missionary labors among the Chinese in Japan will most likely be of great assistance to the cause of Christianity in China.

Later, when access was so easily obtained to the Chinese, it came into Mr. Loomis' mind that there was no harm in at least making an attempt to reach the Japanese soldiers in garrisons throughout the empire. Application was accordingly made to General Kodama, acting minister of war, and at once granted. And even such important information as the number of men in each garrison was not withheld; the secrets of war could safely be entrusted to the keeping of the foreigner, because he is a Christian. The next step was toward the imperial body-guard, whose commander-in-chief is Prince Komatsu, of the Imperial family. From this prince of the blood Mr. Loomis received a cordial reception, and obtained the desired permission. And finally, to make a long story short, official permission was obtained for the distribution of the word of God among the officers and privates of the entire army and navy. Up to date almost 1,500 New Testaments and more than 70,000 portions of the Bible (chiefly one of the Gospels) have been distributed; and, when the work is completed, it will mean the distribution of 120,000 portions of Scripture. "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

This work has, of course, had its ludicrous incidents. In one instance, when it was impracticable to gather together the soldiers of a certain garrison to listen to an address, the commander said to Mr. Loomis: "You just tell me what you want to say to the men, and I'll tell them." And from one place came the report that sixty of the men, having read portions of the Scriptures, at once became Christians! But while there may be many mistakes and misunderstandings, "testimonies are abundant that a deep impression in favor of Christianity has been made upon many hearts and lives by this timely and effective service;" and much seed must have been sown in "good ground" to spring up and bring forth fruit somewhere, somehow.

## Chinese Soldiers.

Was General "Chinese" Gordon wrong when he prophesied a great future for China? Were both he and others in error when they affirmed that there is the possibility in the Chinese of great military effectiveness? A rat scarcely eats into a cheese more easily than the Japanese overcome the resistance of the Chinese soldiery. What is the explanation? In a word, it is lack of proper organization and capable leadership. Rev. Dr. Ashmore of China, in an article in *The Journal and Messenger*, speaks of the large hordes now being gathered to prevent the advance of the Japanese on Peking as scarcely more than a rabble under but little discipline. "Such men," he says, "do not carry strength. And yet, let it be noted, Chinese can fight; but it is only when well officered, and when properly disciplined, and when properly treated. The day will come when they will be soldiers. We have ample proof which we could adduce to sustain this view. There is a new army coming forward, or at least, has been, under the lead of Li Hung Chang. Much of it has been broken up by the war. The lack of that army has been of good leaders and of a great motive. Corrupt officialism has handed them over to the Japanese." China is behind Japan in copying the arts and methods of Europe, but she will "get there" some day, and the inertia of ages will be over; strength will take the place of weakness.—*Ex.*

BELIEVE IN GOD. Do not let mistaken conceptions prevent your doing this. The Roman emperor Hadrian said to a Jewish rabbi, "If God really exists, I would like to see him." The sun shone in the mid-heaven. "Look toward the sun, O Emperor," said the rabbi. Hadrian did so, but immediately turned away with his hand covering his blinded eyes. "I cannot look upon such splendor," said he. "Verily," replied the rabbi; "nor can you see God as you ask to see him." How much wiser than Hadrian was Garibaldi, who, on being asked if he had seen God, exclaimed, "Yes. I have not lived forty years in deserts and the solitudes of the ocean without seeing God; I have seen him and I believe in him."—*Ex.*

## 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.]

## Miss Gaunce's Letter.

Dear Sisters.—This is mail-day, and I am reminded, that it has been some weeks since I last wrote you.

I have been alone for some days as Mrs. Boyer is in Ujunda attending the Quarterly Meetings. These, I believe, have been the first meetings of the kind held with the church there. We have been praying that it may be a season of refreshing and that souls who are hungry and thirsty may be brought to Christ, who is the Bread, and also the Water of Life.

A letter received from Mrs. Boyer on Saturday informs me that God is indeed blessing them, and that many Hindoes attend the services while the magic lantern brings crowds, in the evenings. She says, she is proud of the people of Ujunda, because of the hospitality, they have shown towards the friends, who have come. I hope the time will come when, there will be a mission house in that station and missionaries stationed there. It is a grand field for work, and so far the work has been carried on by New Brunswick.

Now, a few words about my work on Sundays. About a quarter to seven I accompany one of the boys to a Hindu Sunday School. Unlike the S. S. at home, we have to call the children, or send some one for them after we arrive. This school has an average of twenty-three. At the close of the session bright-coloured cards, usually advertisement cards are distributed. Delicately tinted cards they do not appreciate.

For some mornings the men and women have come and listened at the door and windows—more properly an opening in the mud wall. Whatever be their motive for coming, I pray that God, by His Spirit, may direct the truth with each darkened and superstitious mind.

As soon as I return from this school, with the assistance of two native women, I conduct a Children's Service. Over fifty children of our native community, attend this meeting. Sometimes it is trying on one's patience to keep them in order, but last Sunday I noticed there was an improvement. They are very fond of music, and some of them sing very nicely, in Oriya. At the close of this meeting, I go to another Hindu school, this is a new school, and having only a few pupils, I seem able to get nearer to them. Among the number is a pretty little girl, about seven years old. By the vermilion on the forehead and middle of her head, where the hair is parted. I knew that she was married, she has not gone to live with her husband yet, who I am told is much older than she is.

Yesterday I tried to teach them a song, I know it must have been somewhat laughable to an outsider to hear the inharmonious sounds, but I was very much pleased at their persistence. It is only by repeating over and over again, that they seem to grasp a truth, and then it may be only partially, and can we wonder when we consider that the darkness, and superstition of generations has been handed down to them?

The cold days have been succeeded by milder ones, which are gradually getting warmer and warmer, especially in the middle of the day.

It is nearing four o'clock, when the mail closes therefore I must hasten and finish.

I remain  
Yours sincerely,  
L. E. GAUNCE.

## A Warning to France.

It was distinctly stated in the House of Commons last week by Sir George Grey, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Foreign Office, that "the advance of a French expedition under secret orders from the west side of Africa into territory subject to British claims would be regarded as an unfriendly act—a *casus belli*, in other words. If rumor be true, there is reason for this warning. The upper Nile is certainly being menaced by a French force—and this revives the old grievance.

France has never forgiven England for the latter's seizure of Egypt in 1882. It is French intrigue which is at the bottom of the Khedive's occasional spasms of rebellion against English rule. And it was probably in the hope that encroachment in the remote district of the Nile sources would be unnoticed or unchallenged, that the secret expedition referred to was sent forth. It has long been known, however, that the upper Nile controls Egypt. The people of Sennar long ago boasted that by damming the Nile they could turn lower Egypt into a desert. The Delta of the river and its fertile banks are largely indebted to the rich sediment which its Atbara tributary brings down from the Abyssinian highlands; but a hostile force could easily divert that tributary and rob the Nile waters of their annual enrichment. Hence the sensitiveness of England to any interference in the Sudan and her claim to the whole valley of the Nile, "in trust for Egypt"—to use the language of the Parliamentary Secretary. The French government will doubtless heed the warning, which includes the Niger as well as the Nile.—*Ex.*

## Temperance Notes.

Of the four thousand criminals who have passed through the Elmira Reformatory, 38.7 per cent. were the children of drunken parents, with the probability of 11.1 per cent. to be added, making 49.8 per cent. of the criminals who had been prisoners there the victims of hereditary alcoholism.

A royal commission is taking evidence throughout Great Britain on the subject of "Habitual Drunkenness." The commissioners are to suggest remedies for this national vice. These suggestions will be embodied in the Habitual Drunkards' Bill which is promised at the next session of Parliament. The legislation is sorely needed.

The total cost of the World's Exposition was \$25,000,000, the gate receipts \$10,000,000, and the appropriation of the city of Chicago \$5,000,000. And yet, stupendous as these figures are, the money annually paid to the Chicago saloon-keepers is nearly twice the combined construction and general expenses of the World's Fair, about five times the total gate receipts, and nearly ten times the city's appropriation. During the six months of the Fair the saloons of the city received not less than three times the gate receipts, \$3,000 going to them for every \$1,000 paid to the Fair.

In an article in the *Strand Magazine* on Sir Andrew Clark, the following incident is recorded as an illustration of the attitude of the eminent physician took in regard to the use of stimulants:

"A clergyman complained to him of feeling low and depressed, unable to face his work, and was tempted to rely on stimulants. Sir Andrew saw that the position was a perilous one, and that it was a crisis in the man's life. He dealt with the case, and forbade the resort to stimulants, when the patient declared that he would be unequal to his work and ready to sink. "Then," said Sir Andrew, "sink like a man!"

The present commander-in-chief of the Queen's Army in India, Sir George White, has become president of the Army Temperance Association in India, and recently delivered a straightforward and valuable address to soldiers. About one third of the British troops in India, or 23,363, are total abstainers, the number having increased from 13,587 in 1890.

The boy Peter Columbus preached a whole temperance sermon in the district court. In cross-examining him in a liquor case Judge Richardson said:

"You are mad with the defendant, are n't you?"  
"Yes, sir," answered the boy.  
"What for?" asked his honor.  
"Because he sells liquor to my mother and father," was the prompt reply.

As a general thing, the proof of the ill-feeling of a witness against a defendant helps the latter's case; but this rule was reversed on the occasion in question, and he was fined and imprisoned.