

# Religious Intelligencer.

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

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## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

Thirty-nine verdicts of "died from starvation" were pronounced in London, last year, averaging ten to the million of its inhabitants.

A society to check the decline in population has been formed in France. It proposes to attain its object by legislation. Families containing more than three children are to be free from taxation, while those having no children will be taxed heavily. The legacy duties are to be revised and the laws regulating the division of estates among children reformed.

The Christian Evangelist, published in that city, speaking of the St. Louis cyclone, says: "Not counting such minor damages as broken windows and partial roofings, there were one thousand three hundred and fifty buildings wrecked in St. Louis alone. There were three hundred persons killed, fifteen hundred wounded, and property damaged to the extent of about \$25,000,000."

Perhaps the largest residence in the world is the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg. It has 700 rooms, many of them of enormous size, and some of them so large that the White House at Washington could be erected in them, portico and all. It is said that 5000 soldiers have been sheltered under this roof. The stone rooms of the Winter Palace are filled with the china of the Russian Czars as far back as Catherine the Great.

In one town of Michigan, as we learn from *The Woman's Journal*, the women seem to have everything their own way. In Decatur, with a population of 1,500, all the town officers are women, with the exception of the dog-catcher—no woman wanted that office. The leading physician is a woman; two women conduct the principal restaurant; the proprietor of the largest dry-goods store is a woman; there are women shoemakers, painters, harness-makers and florists, and a woman post-mistress. Of course the saloons have all been shut up.

An American resident of the Transvaal writes as follows: "The Transvaal's title of Republic commands more sympathy from people in the United States than it deserves: for it is only a title, a label. There is no reality behind it. If a republic is a government for the people and by the people, then the Transvaal is not a republic—it is an oligarchy. As an intelligent Swiss missionary said, yesterday: 'President Kruger is more of a monarch than the Queen of England.' England is far more of a republic than the Transvaal. There, public opinion makes itself felt instantly in politics. Here, the will of the majority of the population is entirely ignored. If once a race war should begin between Boer and Uitlander, the whole of South Africa would be embroiled, and the final outcome is uncertain. The race sections are said to be pretty evenly divided in numbers, taking the whole of South Africa together,

The following, from the "Independent," should be carefully read and heeded by every boy:

A sound lesson was given in Rome, N. Y., last week, to three boys, which we wish might be heard by every boy in the land. These three boys were guilty of wrecking a railroad train and causing the death of several people. It was a case of sensational literature and parental neglect. One of these boys was convicted of murder in the second degree and sentenced to Auburn prison for life. The two others pleaded guilty of manslaughter in the first degree, and were sentenced to Auburn prison for forty years. Before they were twenty these boys have ruined their whole lives. They have proved themselves enemies of the world, and the world has declared that they must be put where they can do no harm. If they had not been lazy and vicious, if they had been willing to study at school or work for their living, they might have made reputable members of society. For such boys society ought to have no compassion except as prisoners. Three young lives are ruined. Possibly in a higher state of society, in which penalties are more finely adjusted, the parents also would not have gone unwhipped of justice.

During a discussion of the question of giving seats in the Conference to women, Dr. Lowther, of Kansas, gave the Methodist Episcopal Conference some posers on the Woman question. In view of the controversy as to

whether the word 'layman' should be construed as to include women in the Conference elections, he asks the opposition: Are women included in our articles of religion, which read "Man is very far gone from original righteousness?" He wants, further, to know whether women are included or excluded in the language, "Every man in his own order" in Paul's chapter on the Resurrection. For the benefit of the sticklers for the letter of Scripture he suggests that the women of the church be ordered to obey the Apostolic injunction: "Let your women keep silence in the churches." That they also be required to refuse the knowledge which comes from books, papers, magazines, lectures, lyceums and reading circles, "and if they would learn anything let them ask their husbands at home." It looks as if, judiciously handled, Paul will turn out to be a witness for the sex after all.

That part of the coronation ceremony at Moscow referring to the Czarina has been described as follows: The monarch then called upon her Majesty, the Empress Alexandra Feodorovna to approach, and she knelt before her august spouse on a velvet cushion richly embroidered with gold, which had previously been placed at the foot of the throne by one of her august assistants for the coronation ceremonies. His Majesty thereupon solemnly lifted the crown from his own head and touched with it the forehead of the Empress. He then replaced the crown upon his own head. His Majesty afterward took from a cushion upon which it rested the crown of the Empress, presented to his Majesty by the dignitary who had it in charge, and the Emperor placed it on the head of her Majesty. When these details were completed, her Majesty arose and took her seat on the throne, while the Emperor again took the sceptre in his right hand and the globe in his left. The Czarina and the Dowager Czarina during the coronation ceremony had their hair hung in braids, over their shoulders, in two long plaits. After the Czar had crowned the Czarina he drew her to him and kissed her lips.

## Church Finances.

There is no more vexing problem connected with present-day church work than that of securing sufficient funds to promote the religious interests in hand. Every church that is fulfilling its mission has a pastor, its local expenses, and besides missionary and other organizations, which require a regular income in order to meet weekly obligations. That some churches succeed better than others in solving this problem is well known. They have more wealth, or are better organized, or have more tactful workers, and so have a larger measure of success than others.

As a rule we believe churches of moderate wealth succeed spiritually about in proportion to the interest that is taken in their financial support. If the treasury of every department of the church is not properly supplied, there is not likely to be spiritual prosperity. The two go hand in hand. A church whose financial interests are well provided for is likely to have a membership with an active and growing spiritual life.

One of the best ways to keep the treasury of the church supplied is by a system of weekly offerings. Subscriptions taken on which weekly payments are to be made provide for small payments. In these times of small means usually find it very difficult to pay much, unless they do it in this way—the installment plan. And, by the way, this was the apostolic system, (1. Cor. 16: 2). A better one has never been devised, not even in these inventive years in the closing of the nineteenth Christian century.

church has on them in a business way there would be no trouble in regard to this matter. How is this problem to be solved?

First, we would suggest a campaign of education. People must be educated to an intelligent and systematic support of the church and its enterprises. Pastors and church officers have imposed on them important obligations respecting this education. It should begin with converts. They should early be taught that they are expected to help in the support of the church in proportion to their ability. They should be made to feel that none are exempt from giving, and that while all cannot give equally, all can and should give something as God has blessed them.

Every Christian needs to know that it is not enough to give after all personal desires are gratified. The Lord's claims are not second to his. To give when an income is scanty, when funds are limited, will require oftentimes careful planning, with economy and self-denial, to have anything to give. It is for the church, through its ministry and officials, to show people how they may give even when they have little at their disposal.

Giving to the church does not depend on large wealth; for some very poor people give regularly, and some with wealth at their disposal give very little. Giving is a question of dispositions and habit, a grace of the heart. This must be emphasized and clearly understood, or the problem of church finances will never be satisfactorily solved.

Then Church business should be managed in business-like way. Careful records should be kept, frequent reports should be made, and everything should be managed with such openness and honesty as to inspire the fullest confidence. Care in regard to these things will have far more to do in giving a church a healthy financial standing than a thousand 'begging sermons' or the continued exhortations, 'Give, give!'

Faithful officers can do much in solving the perplexing problems of church finances. They are the servants of the church. They should carefully study the whole problem. They should read books on the subject so that they may themselves be properly informed, and then they can go to the members of the church and instruct and lead them. Their duty in helping to train the people to give for the love of Christ's cause is not the least of the obligations laid on them.

The churches of our day will not be what they ought to be in responding to financial demands till Christians generally learn that 'God's service itself does not need the money half as badly as our souls need the benefits which accrue from truly spiritual giving.' *The Telescope*

## Cholera in Egypt.

The contempt for sanitation displayed by all Orientals is one of the earliest experiences of the traveller in Eastern lands. No surprise need be felt, therefore, at the incident reported from Cairo, where a European official engaged in disinfecting a house in which a cholera patient had died was set upon by the native burial party on their return from the cemetery, and severely burned with the sulphuric acid he was using. In another part of the city a riot took place owing to Moslem objections to sanitary inspection: the police had to fire on the rioters, of whom one was killed. To the uneducated Oriental mind disease is a special visitation of Providence against which it is useless, if not impious, to take precautions. Yet it must not be forgotten that a considerable number of Hindus and Mohammedans in India have emancipated themselves from this fatalistic superstition, and many have passed through the medical schools and hold official positions as doctors in the Indian Medical Service. The spread of Western ideas about sanitation only requires time to completely revolutionize Eastern habits. Instead of preferring filthy tank water, swarming with bacteria, the Calcutta natives now show their good sense by drinking pure water supplied by the municipality, and the same beneficial provision is being made in other cities and towns in India. At present, however, the destruction of infective clothing is a sore point with all Easterns. Their poverty makes

them cling to the few rags they possess, and until Government sees fit to give compensation for loss caused by enforcing sanitary laws, such scenes as that at Old Cairo will be repeated.

## 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.]

## Letter From Miss Gaunce.

Dear Mrs. McLeod,—I intended to have written before, but did not seem to find time. Mrs. Boyer's preparation for her voyage home, disposing of her household effects and packing such things, as she could take with her, kept her very busy. For a week or more, native dinners were the order of the day. She probably will tell you what, and how many times per day, she ate. On Friday evening before she left there was a farewell meeting. The boys beautifully decorated the hall, in the High School, with palms, flowers and potted plants. There were addresses from the church, the Sunday school, the Orphanage and from several students of the High School. Oriya's songs were composed for the occasion. I think I would have been obliged to have made my exit, before the meeting closed, if it had not been for the address, in English, by one of the High School boys, which had the effect of turning my thoughts from the sorrowful to the humorous. The steamer, which was due Saturday, did not arrive until Tuesday. On Wednesday morning a number of us went down to the steamer to see Mrs. Boyer off. Her stay here has endeared her to very many of the people, so the parting on both sides was not without a pang. May her visits among the churches at home bring great blessings to them and to the work here.

After Mrs. Boyer's departure, I began to prepare for Darjeeling. I did not expect to go so early in the year, but it was thought best for me to spend the hot month there, and return after the rains set in. I left home last Thursday afternoon, and arrived here Saturday morning. This afternoon I will leave for Darjeeling, and, if nothing prevents, will reach my destination to-morrow afternoon.

We have been having some hot days in Balasore, although not so hot as last year. The strong winds which have prevailed, made us feel the heat less.

I am glad to write you that our C. E. is increasing in members. Within the past three weeks five new members have been enrolled. The meetings have been and are a blessing to us.

Lately I have occasionally gone out with the Bible women. At some of the homes we find women who are ready to listen to the teachings of the Bible. Sometimes it seems to me that Christ has, in some of the households, a few who believe in Him. One old woman, expressed a great desire to have a Bible, so I told her I would bring one the next time I came. She cannot read, but her daughter-in-law said she would read it for her.

In one home we entered, the women said they never had heard anything about our religion. They had not been interested enough to make inquiry and no one, until then, had taken it to them. They showed an interest in what the women told them about worshipping trees and stones, and asked some very intelligent questions. "Yes," they said, it does us no good to worship idols, we have not gained anything by it. Then it is that the Bible women bring in God's own word, teaching that we should have no other gods but Him. Sometimes, at some houses, the women are too busy with their cooking to listen, so we go on until we find some one who is ready to hear; or, if it is getting too hot, we return home. In this work one gets an idea of Hindu homes, and learns much about the lives of the women. They seem to think it a great honour to have Europeans visit them. They are fond of asking questions. A common one is—"Why have you come to this country?" Knowing nothing about the love of Christ, they cannot understand how one can leave home, parents and friends to come to this land, because of Him.

When this reaches you the District Meetings will probably have begun. May each be a rich season of blessing to all.

Yours sincerely,

L. E. GAUNCE,

Caledonia House, Calcutta, May 11th, 1896.

## FIRST DISTRICT SOCIETY.

The secretaries in the Societies in the First District are kindly requested to forward their contributions as promptly as possible.

Will not all the sisters in this District remember this cause, and not only be prepared to contribute towards it but pray that God's blessing may attend it. The annual meeting will be held on Saturday afternoon, July 4th, at Arthurette, V. Co., in connection with the District Meeting.

P. F. MILBURY.

Wicklow, C. Co.

## The Red Cross And The Missionaries

The following letter from Miss Clara Barton, received at the office of the Chicago Armenian Relief Committee, sets at rest all reported misunderstandings between her and the missionary relief movements. They are cordially co-operating, the Red Cross men distributing agricultural and medical supplies, while the missionaries furnish food and clothing.

Constantinople, 5, Rue Mezarlik, May 21, 1896.

S. M. Moore, Esq., Chairman Arm. Relief Com., Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Moore:—A letter just received from our faithful Dr. Hubbell, Field Agent of the National Red Cross, writing from Harpoot, and telling of the weary and busy journey of his expedition through from Marash and Malatia, contains the following paragraph: "When within a mile of Harpoot, Dr. Barnum, Dr. and Mrs. Gates met us on horseback, to escort us to the city; a little later the other Americans came, the college students and professors. Mr. Wistars party, that had arrived two hours before, and several thousand natives crowded the streets and roofs of the houses, and filled the windows, to welcome the Red Cross. They say that we are the second party of Americans that have visited the place (who are not missionaries) and that we must understand that they are all glad to see us."

This was the first meeting of our relief expeditions since parting at Antab. One had gone by way of Orfa and Dairbekir—the other by Marash and Malatia, and had so timed their movements as to meet in Harpoot, only a few hours apart. You will have seen before this, through dispatches which I have sent, that these two expeditions formed three at Harpoot, taking in other assistants, the one going to Tcharandjak, another to Palou, and Dr. Hubbell, with a double expedition, one medical and one agricultural, to Arabkir, where they are all working to-day. Thousands of houses were burned, people are shelterless, unable to obtain lumber for their roofs, which our people are providing so far as they can, trying to give a yoke of cattle to each village, and tools sufficient to cultivate the seed grain, which they are also giving.

Mr. Wood went to Palou, and reports that they need 1000 cattle, oxen and cows. I must not lengthen this letter to you, I only thought to write you of the beautiful incident of your charming daughter, having mounted her horse and ridden out to meet our faithful tired men and bid them welcome. I am glad they met and that you told me of her. I hope that some day I may meet her and you also.

Faithfully and gratefully yours,

CLARA BARTON,

P. S. You will see, by this, that my expeditions are not engaged in giving food, especially, but rather in trying to create it. The prospect of the necessities of the future for the desolate, require your sympathy and mine.

## More About Tornadoes

Prof. W. L. Moore, Chief of the United States National Weather Bureau, tells of the movements of tornadoes, and gives some advice. He says that they move invariably in a northeasterly direction, not southeasterly, as is commonly supposed.

Their path is narrow, that is, the acute action is confined generally to a narrow strip of country, although the disturbance may be several miles wide. He advises those who can run to run always in a northwesterly or southeasterly direction. By so doing they may escape the greatest fury of the storm, although the coming of the tornado is generally so sudden as to give little or no warning. The roar of the coming storm can be heard often ten miles away, but the ten miles are covered almost in an instant. The only other safety lies in cellars and caves. A cellar under a frame house is considered safe, except in case the storm hurls debris on those in hiding. The one place of absolute safety is the cave, which is covered with earth above and which protects the inmates even when debris is piled on them. In the open country there is no escape. Clinging to a tree is folly. The safest place outdoors is in a ditch; if the ditch be narrow, so much the better; but even out of the ditch the storm may lift a man and hurl him to death.

## In The Transvaal.

It is clear that the Transvaal will be held to its agreement with England, and that England does not intend to give in an inch in the struggle for supremacy in South Africa. That great undeveloped country, with its magnificent resources, will fall eventually into either English or German hands, and at this point there seems no reason to question the final supremacy of the English. They have, in many respects, the advantage of the position, and although the Germans are pressing them at many points and are developing an astonishing capacity for colonization and trade—astronomical as compared with their activity in these matters a quarter of a century ago—the English genius for getting hold of new territory and civilizing it is not likely to be eclipsed. Moreover, English pride is aroused, and the English Government is definitely committed to the maintenance of English authority. Whatever may happen, therefore, in connection with the trouble in the Transvaal will be only incidental to the larger struggle that is going on between Germany and England for the possession of the southern part of Africa. *The Outlook*

## The Potato Patch Plan.

Mayor Pingree's noted plan of allowing the poor to use the vacant lots in Detroit for potato patches has been copied with success in nineteen leading cities. In this way in 1895 Boston gave employment to 54 persons; Brooklyn, 31; Buffalo, 560 families; Cincinnati, 37 families; Detroit, 1,546 persons; Duluth, about 300; Minneapolis, 226; Seattle, 141; St. Louis, 120 families; St. Paul, 118 persons, Toledo, 72 families. There were eight other cities for which statistics have not been given. New York furnished tools, the sweepings of the streets as a fertilizer and a practical instructor. As the poor were slow to apply at first, a cooperative farm was started, the workmen being paid ten cents an hour and a half interest in the product of the farm. The crops on the farm of forty acres brought \$1,067, and after all expenses were paid there was a surplus of \$53. Edward Everett Hale's magazine *Lend a Hand*, from which we gather the above facts, says that the workmen have taken a warm interest in the work and have been surprised at their own success. Many were so encouraged that they moved to the country and engaged in farming, which is perhaps the most gratifying of all the results of these experiments. Tramps and other idlers unwilling to work have moved on, while worthy poor people have been given a chance to try what Mother Earth can do for them, have developed a love for growing things, and soon the vacant lot workman has longed for a garden patch of his own, a new country home is established and the problem of the city poor is lightened. Mayor Pingree's potato patches have been the subject of hilarious newspaper ridicule; but results seem to have vindicated him.—*The Advance*.

A WOMAN'S PAPER.—The women of Nova Scotia who are interested in woman's suffrage have resolved to publish a monthly paper to disseminate information concerning the success of woman's suffrage where it has been obtained, and to agitate for its adoption in Nova Scotia and elsewhere. Mrs. Archibald is to be chief editor. The first issue is expected to be out about the middle of July.