

Religious Intelligencer.

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

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WHOLE No. 2207

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

Since the beginning of this century no fewer than fifty-two volcanic islands have risen out of the sea. Nineteen disappeared, being submerged; the others remain, and ten are now inhabited.

The latest "penny-in-the-slot" is a phonograph which utters a blessing from the Pope. An American has produced a machine with the inscription: "Put a penny in the slot and you will get a blessing from the Pope, in the Pope's own voice, per Phonograph."

The horseless carriage will become a familiar sight before long, it is believed. The *Cosmopolitan* offers \$3000 in premiums to be awarded to motor carriages presenting the greatest number of points of excellence as exhibited in a trial trip to be made from its New York office on May 30.

Sir Wilfred Lawson, in a recent speech, said, "The Bishop of Chester had spoken of drink as 'a good creature of God.' Of course it was—so was a tiger. A tiger was created by God, but just imagine one walking into Bishop of Chester's palace! The Bishop, on seeing it, would say, 'Take the creature away to the dissenting minister's house.'"

The financial condition of the Province of Manitoba is eminently satisfactory. The Provincial Treasurer, in his budget speech, announced that there was a surplus in the treasury of eight hundred thousand dollars. The Manitoba Government must have devoted some of its energy to other matters than the public schools.

A London paper estimates that the cost of all the great wars of the world for twenty-five years, from 1852 to 1877, has been \$20,000,000,000. An American journal figures out that the cost of intoxicants in the United States for the same period was at least \$15,000,000,000. The latter item should be included in the first category, as representing one of the "great wars" against the peace and welfare of the world.

A large number of women in Pittsburg, Penn., have adopted a resolution pledging themselves not to use in their homes any refreshments containing liquor and not to patronize any caterers that use liquors in their ices and desserts. A pledge is also being circulated against attendance at any banquet or social function in a restaurant or hotel known to add liquor selling to its other business, and so far as possible to avoid patronizing such hotels while travelling.

The "Western Watchman" is a Roman Catholic paper, published in St. Louis. Father Phelan is the editor. He is a man of frank, if not refined, speech. The *Herald* and *Prophet* finds that Father Phelan wishes Abdul Hamid, "damned," success in his work of trampling Protestant Missionaries from his bounds: "These itinerant idiots should get their walking papers without further parley or delay." These sweetly sentimental views reflect honor on the tender heart of Father Phelan.

The "Popular Science News" says that it has been estimated that electric railways have displaced in the United States no less than 275,000 horses, and the movement has not yet stopped. That many horses would require about 125,000 bushels of corn or oats a day, enough to appreciably effect prices of those grains. It amounts to 45,000-000 bushels a year. Furthermore, the loss of this commercial demand for these coarse grains in the city means an enormous loss of tonnage for the railroads—about 62,500 carloads. In addition to this, it is well to remember that the horseless carriages which are coming in vogue, and bid fair to be a success, will reduce still more the importance of the horse as a factor in the present age.

The United States Treasury keeps an account entitled the 'Conscience Fund.' Remittances are frequently made by persons who explain that they feel bound to make restitution of sums of which they have either wittingly or unwittingly defrauded the Government. These sums vary from a few postage-stamps to large cheques, the

largest ever received was for \$8,000. A cheque for \$465 was received during the past year. Among the people heard from are some who have evaded payment of duties at the Custom House. These receipts are always acknowledged by a notice in the newspapers of the place where the remittance was postmarked, the signature being generally fictitious. The Treasury officials believe that many of the remittances to the Conscience Fund are from feeble-minded persons who are under a hallucination that they owe something.

A Winnipeg minister, Rev. Mr. Christmas, in a recent sermon, made some quite startling prophecies, drawing his deductions from the book of Daniel. He said this year, or at the latest the spring of 1897, there would be a big European war; Turkey would be dismembered, and France by conquering Germany would retain her lost provinces up to the left bank of the Rhine. By Passover week, April 11, 1897, the Jews will all have returned to Palestine and will be recognized once again by all the great powers as a nation. In 1900 Christ will return to the earth with all the apostles and saints and reign here 1,000 years. There is great difference of opinion as to whether there will be any death during this period, but one thing is certain that a man 100 years old will be but as a child in the matter of years. He predicts home rule for Ireland.

Too Many Politicians.

That it costs altogether too much to govern Canada must be plain to every man who gives any consideration to the matter. An article in a recent number of the *Montreal Star*, under the above heading, states the facts in a way that it must make it clear that we are over-much and very expensively "governed."

A few comparisons may serve to throw into relief the ridiculous and burdensome manner in which Canada is over-governed. We have a population of, say, five millions; and we pay 580 legislators—not counting the Senate or the Legislative Council—to govern them. Great Britain and Ireland have a population of thirty-eight millions, and they are governed by 670 legislators, who are not paid. That is, we have one legislator for every 8,600 people, while Great Britain manages to get along, and govern her Empire as well, with one legislator for every 57,000 people. The fact that the British legislator is not paid is mentioned merely to indicate which country could best afford to multiply uselessly its rulers. Taking the two Houses of Commons alone, it will be seen that Canada has a member for 22,477 inhabitants, while the United Kingdom has one for every 56,431 inhabitants. The United States worries along with a Congressman for every 170,016 of her people—and there are Americans who say they have too many.

Take western Canada for a pretty specimen of how to run a new country cheaply! We want to get immigrants to go up there and settle, and one of the inducements that we ought to be able to present is cheap government—low taxes. The Federal Government is all the time being abused for over-taxing those people—and it is not wholly undeserving. But it is marvellous how lavishly they spend their money on politicians. British Columbia has 31 members in its Legislature, and sends only six down to Ottawa. Its population was at the last census 98,000. That is, it pays a local legislator for about every 3000 people. The Territories have an Assembly of 29 members for a population of 98,000, while Manitoba elects 40 legislators to represent 152,000 people. We in Quebec have our legislative extravagances as our monumental debt of thirty millions abundantly testifies. We have two Houses, and we pay them both extravagantly, but we do not, at least, give a member to every three thousand people—to every six hundred heads of a family. If we did the Quebec Legislature would consist of 4962 members—a largish body to get into the chamber. Prince Edward Island, lying at the other end of the Dominion, has a legislature of sixteen members and a population of 109,000, which is a lower ratio, but still not likely to leave the Islanders lonely for lack of politicians.

These facts are not set down in a carping spirit. . . . But it is surely time that the taxpayers united to "call down" the politicians. They have been making altogether too many salaried opportunities for themselves. It is natural that they should feel tempted to do so, especially when they have to deal with so submissive a people. But this all costs money, and we are paying by direct and indirect taxation. . . .

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.]

Who Is Miss Barton?

The name of Miss Clara Barton has been so much in the papers recently that our readers, especially the women, may be glad to read a brief sketch of her life and work. For the sketch we are indebted to the *Watchword*.

Clara Harlowe Barton was born in North Oxford, Mass. In childhood she had an experience that seemed to prefigure her future work. When but eleven years old she became the attendant and nurse of a sick brother, and remained in his room night and day for two years, with a respite of only one half day in all that time. Growing up, she taught school several years, beginning at a very early age. Her voice failing her, she secured a position in the Patent Office at Washington, through the influence of a relative in Congress. She was the first woman to be employed in the Patent Office, and was for some time persecuted and insulted by the male clerks. She was in Washington when the Sixth Massachusetts Militia, which was so brutally treated by the mob in Baltimore, April 19, 1861, reached the city. The soldiers were quartered at the Capitol, and Clara Barton, herself a native of the Bay State, and the patriotic daughter of an old soldier, from her own scanty means provided food and dainties for the sick and wounded soldiers. Many were from her own neighborhood, and as they thronged about her she read from a paper the account of their departure. She visited them daily, and wrote letters for those who could not write for themselves.

After nursing her father in his last days, her place of duty seemed to be at the front, amid the din of battle, and for two and a half years she moved and labored with the principal armies in the North and South. It mattered not whether the suffering man wore the blue or the gray, he received her sympathy and service.

In 1869 Miss Barton went abroad to rest. She accepted the call from the Grand Duchess of Baden to organize aid for the relief of the soldiers in the Franco-Prussian war. The morning after Strasburg had surrendered, with just one woman as an attendant, she walked through its streets. On her sleeve above the elbow, there shone an embroidered scarlet cross. The sentinels grounded their muskets as she passed. People sent her money, and in forty days there was food and clothing enough to supply the wounded and sick. She next appeared at Paris, traveling as the common soldier would travel, and at last walking seven miles to get into the city, for the famished people had eaten 90,000 horses. Neither the French nor the German soldiers dared molest her, protected by the red cross on her sleeve. For nine months she did there what she had done in Strasburg. After her labors there she returned to America, to lie on a bed of sickness for nearly two years, praying for Congress to sign the treaty of Geneva.

The treaty of Geneva was adopted by a conference held in Geneva, Switzerland, being signed by sixteen leading nations. It was the first formal organization of the Red Cross Association, and was the result of a book written by a Swiss named Henri Dunant, who was horror-stricken at the condition of the wounded on the battle-field of Solferino in 1859. The book pleaded for relief, and the Geneva conference was the result. While this was the formal organization of the work, it was not the first work of the kind that had been done. When Florence Nightingale went to the Crimean war in 1853, with three hun-

dred women nurses, and proved that civil service was absolutely necessary if those wounded in war were to be properly cared for, and proved also that much of the suffering attendant upon war is preventable, the real Red Cross work began. The sanitary commission in our late war did a grand service to the country, but there was no accepted code, so that the supplies for the sick and wounded were not adequately protected, and no previously trained workers were available.

It was in the Franco-Prussian war that Miss Barton saw the real working of the Red Cross Association, and she earnestly pleaded with the American Congress to join this humane international arrangement, and after long delays it was done in 1882. She had suggested that to adapt the Red Cross to our needs in this country a change should be made in the articles of agreement, and this has since been known as the "American Amendment," which adds service during such calamities as fire, flood, famine, pestilence, and earthquakes, and includes war on the sea. Twelve great national calamities have been relieved by the Red Cross in this country; the Michigan fires, the Ohio and the Mississippi floods, the Mississippi cyclone, the floods of 1884, yellow fever in Florida, an epidemic in Virginia, the Texas drouth, the Charleston earthquake, the Mount Vernon, Ill., cyclone, the terrible disaster at Johnston, Pa., the tidal waves of the Sea Islands off South Carolina, besides ministrations to the famine sufferers of Russia.

The flag and badge adopted to mark the members and property of the society is a red cross on a white ground. Forty nations are now pledged to hold all the materials and stores of the Red Cross and its followers neutral in war and free to go and come as their duties require. Notwithstanding her more than fifty years' service in benevolent work, Miss Barton has gone in person to Armenia to direct disbursement of the funds subscribed for the Red Cross relief. She is described as being of about medium height, her form and figure indicating great powers of endurance. Her dark, expressive eye possesses great powers of fascination. Her voice is soft and low, and of extraordinary sweetness of tone. She is modest, quiet, and retiring in manner.

Parliament.

Monday.—Nearly the whole time this afternoon was taken in discussing the question of the duration of parliament. Mr. Edgar, protested against any reference of the question to the supreme court, as the life of parliament would expire on the 25th of April.

Mr. Dickey said that there was nothing so uncertain as law, and while not expressing an opinion on the subject there was possibly some force in the contention that parliament could legally run along until the third of June.

Dr. Weldon said the present parliament began making laws on the 29th April, 1891, and so at most could not sit beyond April 28th, 1896.

Mr. Dickey informed Mr. Casey that the government had chosen an improved rifle for the use of volunteers on the report of experts, and after mature consideration the Lee-Enfield magazine rifle had been selected.

Tuesday.—Sir C. H. Tupper resumed the debate on the Remedial bill. He was followed by Mr. McCarhy. He said there was no question of the power of the house to pass the remedial bill, though he did not by that mean it could pass this particular remedial bill. Primarily the duty and responsibility with reference to education lies with the provinces and parliament should not interfere unless there was positive evidence it had not properly discharged the duties or wantonly disregarded them. Mr. Foster, who had made the only good speech delivered on the conservative side of the house on the question, had said separate schools had nothing to do with the case at all, that they were bound in the rock bed of the constitution. Proceeding, he showed that no saving clauses with respect to education were put into the confederation resolutions drawn up at the Quebec conference, or passed by the house of parliament, but were introduced in England. The clause on which the present question turned was not found in the original resolutions, or even thought of. He was willing to be bound by the constitution. But what had the British North America act to do with Manitoba? The courts had decided it had none. As long as not interfering with the separate schools of Ontario or Quebec there was no interference with the constitution. He took exception to the claim that there had been compacts by which separate schools were guaranteed the people of Red River and held the limiting clause

was put in, not because it was petitioned for, but put in here through the influence which has been felt in the other legislation of parliament. Was it to be said that Manitoba was not doing its duty in passing the law of 1890? Should it be said without evidence that Manitoba, in 1890 should not review the legislation of 1870 by which separate schools were established. The decision of the judicial committee did not compel the government to act, as claimed, but simply decided that the minority had the right to appeal and the government to deal with the appeal. He did not agree with Mr. Laurier's claim as to the necessity for investigation. Proceeding, he scored the government for the conduct evinced towards the province. He challenged any one to show that treatment had ever before been shown one friendly civilized country by another. At some length he explained the workings of the present Manitoba school system to show that it entailed no hardship on the Catholics. Was it just, politic or wise to pass this bill? In his judgment it was not.

Mr. Haggart followed. After a discussion at the opening of the house today between Messrs. Laurier and Foster, it was decided to close the remedial bill debate at tomorrow's sitting.

Wednesday.—The debate on the remedial bill was continued by Mr. Mills of Bothwell.

Dr. Weldon followed in opposition to the remedial bill.

Mr. Costigan desired to say that the rights of the Roman Catholics in New Brunswick had been taken away as ruthlessly as those of the minority in Manitoba. Mr. Edwards followed in opposition to the bill.

Thursday.—The sitting which began Wednesday continued without adjournment till Friday.

There were many speeches on the Remedial Bill, but little that was new was said. Dr. Weldon dealt with the legal aspects of the question. In his judgment Manitoba's position was identical with New Brunswick's. It was claimed this was not a question of the establishment of separate schools. It was his judgment that he declared himself an out and out opponent of separate schools as detrimental to the best interests of the country. If the school act of 1890 was so harsh to the Catholics of Manitoba why did not the government exercise its undoubted right and disallow that statute? He called the attention of the house to clause 74 of the bill, which dealt with the question of provincial aid to Catholic schools, and he asked if Manitoba failed to grant pecuniary assistance, was it proposed to supplement this bill with further legislation. Was it a final bill or a part of a bill. He believed in remedial legislation, but not in remedial legislation which established separate schools in Manitoba. He wanted to see the Catholics get fair play. He disclaimed the idea that those who opposed this bill were bigots. He was still a firm believer that the liberal conservative party had taught the people large ideas and made them capable of sustaining the administration in large achievements. He regretted, however, that this administration had taken this course on the school question, a course which not half the liberal conservative party in the country, in his judgment, endorsed. Even if he were to be drummed out of the party or out of his country he would always remember with pride speaking in favor of national schools. Sir Donald Smith told of his long and intimate connection with Manitoba affairs. He was appointed special commissioner, the government practically leaving the terms of settlement to his judgment. At the convention which took place, he assured them settlers that all their rights and privileges would be protected and justice done to them in every respect. At the time there were Catholic and Protestant schools, and the government of the country gave a grant of money and land to each. If there was but little discussion on the schools, it was because they thought discussion unnecessary. The settlers felt sure all their privileges would be preserved, the evidence that they considered separate schools, among these rights was the separate school bill of 1871 passed by the Manitoba legislature. The majority then, who are the minority now, were entitled to all the privileges, at least the majority now have. He had gone to Winnipeg recently, not at the request of the government, but at the suggestion of the governor-general, who was sincerely desirous of seeing the question amicably settled. By his conference with the Manitoba government he gathered that Mr. Greenway was disposed to do what was right, and he had great hopes that the conference with the dominion would result. He would like to see the second reading of the bill carried by acclamation. He did not think there would be any necessity for a third reading.

Friday.—Mr. Foster resumed the Remedial bill debate. He began by stating that in his opinion the question now before the house was not intrinsically either the greatest question since confederation or the most difficult of solution. What gave it importance were the side issues raised. One of them was the issue of federal interference. The question had taken the form of a popular cry of "Hands off

Manitoba." It had been said this was but the first step in a separate school movement, which, if successful, would mean the inauguration of an aggressive separate school campaign through all the dominion. He held that there was no reason for making such a statement. It was not a question of Catholic and Protestant, but a question of rights to minorities under the constitution. Good faith and a broad and generous toleration were necessary to its solution. As to the separate schools, the clause in the constitution guaranteeing them to the minority was not there as a result of the demands of the Roman Catholics made at confederation, but as a result of the demands made by the Protestant minority of Quebec. The Manitoba arrangement was a compact. He said that special provision was made in the Manitoba act for the retention of educational rights.

The first action of Manitoba in establishing the school system was to loyally adhere to the compact made with the minority. It was argued the separate schools had not been efficient. The province had the power to have made the separate schools efficient without abolishing them.

Laurier, while declaring himself in favor of the rights of the minority in Manitoba, said he wanted investigation. Mr. Laurier bewailed that the demon of discontent had been unchained and was roaring throughout the land. Who was responsible for this? It was the liberal party that had unchained the demon and that party was the most important factor in preventing a settlement by the province. The government had done its best to get the province to settle the question, but without avail. Now after six years it was time justice was done to the minority. The final settlement of the question must be reached this session. The government had staked its existence on the bill. The bill would not disarrange the present public school system, but make the average of efficiency greater and also remove the grievance of the minority.

The only difference between the two parties on the question was one of time. The liberals mostly pleaded for delay. The conservatives said six years had been long enough delay. My word to the conservatives is simply this: For eighteen years we have supported a certain policy. For eighteen years we have seen progress and development in this country under that policy and under the administration of the liberal conservative party, and we believe that a continuation on the same lines is the best for the future of this country. You see the compacts of 1867 and of 1870, and know how they arose. They are written into the constitution; they voice your government as well as yourselves. They would have tested any government that would have been in power. By circumstances over which they have no control this policy was thrown upon the government for decision. Are there not other parts of the liberal conservative policy of some importance as well as this? Is it not well for conservatives in this house, and outside of this house, to take a broader and wider interest in the consideration of this matter, and at the same time to ask themselves whether it is worth while for a point of well held sentiment, for a point, may be, even of well held principle on a single position, to go against the party and the policy which they have supported for eighteen years, and which they believe has been and is today the best party and policy for this country?

After six years, sir, we come here under circumstances such as I have detailed. What is it, then, for this parliament to do? History is making itself in this eventful day. Shall the chapter be a record of nobleness and adequacy, or a record of weakness and inefficiency? Shall we stamp ourselves as petty and provincial, or shall we be recorded in future ages as magnanimous and imperial? Let us do justice to a weak and patient minority, and thus settle forever the question of the sufficiency of the guarantees of the confederation. Let us prove ourselves now, in the thirtieth year of our existence a people worthy of nationhood, and worthy to rank amongst the best and greatest of nations. Mr. Davies spoke at some length and was followed by Mr. Powell.

It was a few minutes past five this morning when the Speaker said, "Call in the members," ten minutes later the vote was taken on Mr. Laurier's six months hoist amendment, which was lost, Yeas 91; Nays 115.

When the motion for the second reading was put, Tupper and Laurier wanted it carried on the same division, but several members called for the division, with the result that the figures stood: Yeas, 112; nays, 94. At six o'clock the members turned out to their homes, after a sitting of thirty-nine hours.

AN EDITOR IN LUCK.—The Bridge water (N. S.) *Bulletin* says: In our issue of Feb. 16th we asked subscribers in arrears to pay up, in order that we might be able to purchase a shirt for a collar button we owned. We take this opportunity of returning thanks to the party or parties who so generously sent us a beautiful shirt through the mail.