

Religious Intelligencer.

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

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NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

A petition signed by sixty thousand persons, it is said, has been prepared in Chicago, and will be presented soon to the Board of Education, asking that the reading of the Bible be restored to the public schools.

Of the one hundred and eighteen homicides in Chicago during the last year, the Inter-Ocean, of that city, says that whisky and jealousy caused most. If to the number credited to whisky be added those where jealousy caused the jealousy or aggravated it to the murder point, it will be found that whisky there as elsewhere was the chief cause.

Nathan Straus of New York, a practical philanthropist, helps the poor by buying coal at wholesale in large quantities and retailing it at cost, or a trifle less. He buys his coal at \$4.90 a ton, and furnishes the tenement house dwellers a heaping 20 pounds for 5 cents—the usual price being 14 cents. On some days 25 tons have gone from his coal yard in 5 and 10 cent lots.

In India last year the number of deaths from snake bites numbered 21,000, and in reprisal 120,000 venomous reptiles were slain. The "destruction of human life by all other animals was 2800, of which tigers were responsible for 1000, leopards 291, wolves 175, bears 121, and elephants 68. Ninety thousand cattle were destroyed by wild beasts, an increase of 9000 over the preceding year. The Indian Government gives bounties for the destruction of venomous reptiles and predatory beasts, but not enough to keep the supply from greatly exceeding the demand.

In various places in Cape Breton the time-honored "Scottish Sacrament" is still observed, the Gaelic melodies being sung by large congregations at services which are held on five successive days, viz.: Thursday, "Fast Day;" Friday, "Question Day;" Saturday, "Preparatory Service;" Sabbath, "The Communion;" and Monday, "Thanksgiving." It is feared, however, that under the influence of the modern day spirit of change these old customs will soon pass away.

Work on the Siberian Railroad was suspended by the advent of winter. Considerable progress had been made during the year, 1,385 versts of rails having been laid [a verst is a little over two-thirds of a mile]. The total number of versts completed is 2,500, and steam communication, both summer and winter, is now maintained between St. Petersburg and Krasnoyarsk on the Yenisei River. To complete the line to the Pacific 4,625 versts must be laid, some of it involving serious engineering difficulties.

An English clergyman, recently returned from South Africa, states that Johannesburg, which, ten years ago, was a place with twenty native huts, is now a town of 100,000 persons, 60,000 Europeans and 40,000 natives. The cemetery already has 4,000 occupied graves, mostly the graves of young men. The Presbyterian minister of Kimberley, during the time of the great boom, in three years buried two hundred young Englishmen, killed by fast life there. The Sabbath in Johannesburg is the day of pleasure. The effect of the life of the Europeans upon the natives is terrible.

In an address of Prof. Tobler before the London Geographical Congress, he stated that, "leaving out of account the very imperfectly known regions of Central Asia, and the interior of the northern parts of both North and South America, as well as the similar areas of Africa and Australia, there is an aggregate area of about twenty millions of square miles of the surface of the globe as yet quite unexplored. The aggregate is made up as follows: Africa, 6,500,000 square miles; Australia, 2,550,000; North America, 1,500,000; South America, 500,000; Asia, 250,000; islands, 500,000; Arctic regions, 3,500,000; Antarctic regions, 5,000,000; total, 20,000,000."

The cruel fashion of wearing the feathers and whole bodies of the world's most beautiful birds is again being attacked by the English Society for the Protection of Birds. In England ministers of all denominations have been, or are about to be, asked

to remonstrate with the ladies of the congregations on a practice that not only savours of barbarism but is in utter antagonism to the principles of tenderness and humanity, enunciated by the Great Teacher. Will the ministers have the courage to respond to the Society's request? Many well-to-do congregations are so betrimmed with feathers, that it is like sitting in the midst of a forest of waving plumes. If ladies must wear feathers, why not confine themselves to those of birds killed for food, or of the ostrich? Why depopulate the woods and hills, lakes and sea coasts of their most beautiful varieties of birds to gratify a caprice of fashion that is as cruel as it is demoralising?

A startling piece of Russian barbarism is reported from Lublin in Russian Poland. Some Polish peasants were celebrating marriage festivities in a small inn. Their dancing was kept up till late, and was probably noisy, for some Russian infantry sergeants who were lodging in the same house were disturbed in their rest. Two of them entered the company of the peasants and demanded an instant cessation of the dancing. The dancers refused, and thereupon the sergeants rushed off to their colonel and informed him that the peasants had beaten their comrades. The colonel at once sent a body of soldiers, he and his adjutant following soon afterwards. They entered the inn, a quarrel began, and the colonel gave orders to "shoot down the Polish rebels." Nineteen peasants were badly wounded and several others slightly. A number of arrests were also made. Of course the prisoners will be tried for resisting the authorities, and after a year or so in gaol they will be sent to Siberia, where they will be speedily forgotten.

Lifelessness In Church Work.

The fact cannot be successfully controverted that the great want of the church to-day is zeal and enthusiasm in prosecuting its work. Wisdom to plan and zeal and enthusiasm to execute are greatly needed. Half of the membership do nothing at all; and the other half (except a few noble, faithful souls distributed here and there) go at the work only in a listless, half-hearted, tired way that is in itself discouraging.

How unlike this is the manner in which successful business men push their enterprises. They are at it energetically, late and early. They advertise, they send out runners, they put not only brain and brawn, but money into their work unstintedly, and they succeed.

In like manner do politicians push their campaigns. They travel all day canvassing their districts and making speeches, and lay awake nights planning their work for the next day. Nor are they content with merely public efforts, but resort to personal solicitation, write letters, and arrange to see or have seen every voter personally in their interests.

Now contrast the practical, energetic course pursued by these with the listless, half-hearted, slipshod manner in which so many churches go about the work of carrying forward the efforts necessary to save souls, and note the difference. Surely if all who profess to be Christians realized the worth of an immortal soul as Christ did, the work of the church would be pushed with far greater zeal, energy, and wisdom than it is.

It is related of the late Hon. Thomas Corwin that he dropped into a meeting one evening in his home town of Lebanon, Ohio, to see what the church was doing. It was a meeting of the county Bible Society, and the business was done in a very lifeless way. The secretary reported that two hundred families in the county were without Bibles in their homes.

One man deplored the shameful fact, when Mr. Corwin rose and said: "Mr. President, may I be allowed to say something?" "Certainly, Mr. Corwin, we shall be glad to hear you."

"Well sir, I want to say that you are not in earnest. Your report says that there are two hundred families in this county without the Bible. This could not be if you were in earnest. In the great contest for the election of Harrison in 1840, we Whig members of Congress gave our whole salaries to

carry that election. We thought the salvation of the country depended on it. If you want to carry on this work, and really mean that every man shall have the Bible, you must be in earnest.

You must go to work and give every man the Bible.

The meeting was electrified. Some one immediately rose and moved that Thomas Corwin be elected president of the Warren County Bible Society. It was unanimously voted, and Mr. Corwin again rose and said:

"Sir, if I accept the presidency of this society it is on the condition that you go to work; that no such report as this ever be made again. When this society meets three months from to-day, the report must be that every family in Warren County has a copy of the Bible."

The work was done; every family was supplied, and nobody hurt by overwork or overgiving.

What would not a like zeal, energy, and determination throughout the churches accomplish in the next three months for the Lord's cause.—*Rel. Telescope.*

A Good Word From An Enemy.

United States Senator Frye, of Maine, does not love Great Britain. He enjoys saying what he thinks about things British, and occasionally tells what ought to be done with such a nation. In a recent speech, however, he said some good words about her, which are worth repeating. He said:

This little incident, with which you are familiar, is a marvellous illustration of the protection which Great Britain gives to her subjects. The King of Abyssinia took a British subject named Campbell about twenty years ago, carried him up to the fortress of Magdala, on the heights of a rocky mountain, and put him into a dungeon. It took six months for Great Britain to find that out. The Great Britain demanded his immediate release. King Theodore refused his release. In less than ten days after that refusal was received, 10,000 English soldiers, including 5000 Sepoys, were on board ships of war and were sailing down the coast. They disembarked, marched across that terrible country, a distance of 700 miles, under a burning sun, up the mountain, up to the very heights in front of the frowning dungeon; then gave battle, battered down the iron gates, and the stone walls, reached down into the dungeon and lifted out of it that one British subject.—King Theodore killed himself with his own pistol. They then carried him down the mountain, across the land, put him on board a white winged ship and sped him to his home in safety. "That cost Great Britain \$25,000,000, and made General Napier Lord Napier of Magdala. That was a great thing for a great country to do—a country that has an eye that can see across the ocean, all across the land, away up to the mountain height and away down to the darksome dungeon, one subject of hers out of her 38,000,000 of people, and then has an arm strong enough and long enough to stretch across the same ocean, across the same lands, up the same mountain heights, down to the same dungeon, and then lift him out and carry him home to his own country and friends. In God's name, who would not die for a country that will do that?"

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.]

India as a Bible Commentary.

(Continued.)

In I Kings 19: 19 we read, "So he departed thence, and found Elisha, the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth." There were not only twelve yoke of oxen, there were also twelve plows, and no doubt those plows were much like the little things that are used in India, a crooked stick with a little iron point to scratch the ground a bit on top. During the hot season the earth becomes like sun-dried brick, so of course no plowing can be done then; but, as soon as a little rain comes, one may see in the early morning the fields full of plowmen going one after another around their little plots of rice field.

"Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn" (Deut. 25: 4). A great deal of threshing is done in India by driving oxen over the

straw till the grain is all trodden out. I have seen hundreds of oxen threshing in this way, but I have never seen one muzzled. This is not because the people do not muzzle cattle, for they do. When rice is being brought from the fields on the backs of oxen, they are muzzled. One day I saw some shepherd boys tying something around the noses of their cattle. I stopped to ask what it meant, and found they had to drive the cattle through some rice to get at their pasture lands, and that they were tying their mouths with straw, so that they could not injure the rice.

"And when they came to Nachan's threshing floor," etc. When I used to read of the threshing floors in the Bible I always pictured the spacious barnfloors that I was familiar with in my childhood's home. But the Bible threshing-floor is not a bit like that picture. It is a high, dry piece of land, cleared of grass, pounded smooth, and washed with a preparation of cow-dung and water, to keep the dust from flying. These threshing-floors are to be seen all over the country.

"Behold how good and how precious a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious ointment upon the head that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard, that went down to the skirts of his garments" (Ps. 133: 1, 2). In another place mention is made of oil to cause the face to shine. It is not easy for us who have western ideas of good things to appreciate such unctuous blessedness, but in India such expressions are highly appreciated. The body is oiled by all who can afford it, just before the daily bath. I remember on one occasion, as I was getting ready for a journey, I broke a bottle containing coconut oil. The man who was loading the cart called his children and rubbed them with the paper that the bottle was wrapped up in. Then he wiped up the doorsteps and put the oil on them. It was amusing to see how carefully he collected every drop of the oil that he could find, and also to see the joy of the children when they became thoroughly greased.

"Behold, when ye are entered into the city, there shall a man meet you, bearing a pitcher of water (Luke 22: 10). This never seemed to be a very definite direction till we went to India. As a rule the women are the water carriers there, and to see a man bearing a vessel of water would be a thing rare enough to be noticed. So, no doubt, it was in Jesus' time; and he could have given no more definite direction to his disciples than to simply say, "Follow the man that you will meet bearing a pitcher of water."

"But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head" (1 Cor. 11: 5). The better class of women in India feel very much ashamed to be seen with uncovered heads. Of course high-caste Hindu women do not go out of doors, but those that do, as our Christian women for example, are very careful to keep their heads covered with the sari.

One testimony as to the efficiency of the word of God in saving souls in India. It is the experience of one who is now an old member of the Bhimpore church. When a young man attending school he came into possession of a gospel tract, which he enthusiastically read in company with a young friend. Being convicted of sin and convinced of the truth of the Gospel, he resolved to renounce Hinduism and worship the God of his new book. When he told his father he was very angry, and threatened to disown him, and took the book away from him, and, as he supposed, destroyed it. One day as he was crossing a rice field he saw the leaves of a book floating on the top of the water. He picked it up and was surprised to find his beloved book. He pursued it in secret after this, and it was not very long before he and several of his associates were baptized by the missionaries, and he became an eloquent preacher.

Another word and I am done. We found the Bible gave just the help we needed in teaching and training the converts from heathenism. To every question that naturally arises in the native church it has a satisfactory answer; and we were often gratified to see that the native Christians accepted its testimony in all cases as conclusive.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.—The Nova Scotia Sons of Temperance year Book, contains proceedings of the sessions of the Grand Divisions of Nova Scotia held in 1895. The reports contained in the Year Book show that there are 247 Divisions in the province with a membership of 13,247. Halifax appears to be the banner county as far as membership is concerned, for it has 28 Divisions and 1488 members. Hants comes next with 20 Divisions and 1401 members, and Yarmouth takes third place with 23 Divisions and a membership of 1368. Cumberland stands sixth on the list—21 Divisions and 895 members, the fourth and fifth places being held by Pictou and Kings counties.

Among Exchanges.

THE DIFFERENCE.

There is joy in heaven when a sinner repents, and there is howling glee in hell when a boy for the first time goes into a saloon.—*Telescope.*

STRONGER MEDICINE.

The "sick man of Europe" is certainly sick enough to need much stronger medicine than any which is now being administered by his neighbors.—*Chicago Record.*

GOLD BETTER THAN GLITTER.

Intellectual brilliancy in a minister is a good thing, but good common sense coupled with industry, goodness of heart and an earnest desire to save men will produce more permanent results.—*Chris. Conservator.*

ASKING ENGLISH HELP.

There is fine irony in the fact that a lot of the prisoners taken by the President of the South Africa Republic are Americans, some of them millionaires, and others mining engineers of high standing. Secretary Olney, the real author of the Venezuela war scare, had to ask Chamberlain to exercise the good offices of the British government in favour of the imprisoned American citizens. Chamberlain of course said he would.—*Can. Presbyterian.*

Parliament.

Monday.—Twenty-one private bills received their second reading, so that the different committees will be able to get down to work this week.

Mr. Foster replying to Dr. Landerkin, said that between the fourth and fifteenth of January of the present year, three senators had been appointed and there were others.

Mr. Foster informed Sir Richard Cartwright that 800 cheese were in store at Prince Edward Island.

The cheese products of the dairy stations in P. E. Island had been sold last year's make had been sold, and the amount realized will be quite sufficient to pay the government advances, charges, etc., and would leave a considerable amount for distribution among the patrons of the different factories.

Mr. Bowers moved for copy of all correspondence and petitions concerning the bounty frauds in the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick from the year 1891 to the present date, and of all correspondence between the marine and fisheries department and its officers and the parties accused of such frauds, and all others concerned. The case, as he stated it, was this: The fishermen in question, acting on the advice of Fishery Overseer Robert Bishop, sent in a claim for bounty and received it. The fish on which the bounty was claimed were trapped. The department had ruled that such fishing did not come within the bounty act. The fishermen, however, put in an application in good faith, and had no intention of defrauding the government. They were not asked to return the bounty paid, but action was entered against them in the exchequer court at Halifax. A criminal action for fraud was first entered, but it was not sustained. The action in the exchequer court was made up very largely of a bill of costs and Mr. Bowers wished that something should be done to relieve the fishermen from their costs, payment of which might ruin them. He said the civil action was entered without any demand having first been made on the parties for the return of the bounty money.

Mr. Costigan promised to investigate the case with a view to doing the best to see that justice was done.

Tuesday.—The afternoon was taken up discussing the insolvency bill introduced by Mr. Martin.

Mr. Foster moved the government notice of motion that government business should have precedence on Thursdays for the remainder of the session.

The discussion was continued until early midnight, when Mr. Foster amended his motion for the government to take Thursdays until the budget debate was finished.

It passed unanimously.

Wednesday.—The first order of business was the resolution of Mr. McNeill that, in view of the threatening aspect of foreign affairs, this house desires to assure her majesty's government and the people of the United Kingdom of its unalterable loyalty and

devotion to the British throne and constitution, and of its conviction that should the occasion unhappily arise, in no other part of the empire than the dominion of Canada would more substantial sacrifices attest the determination of her majesty's subjects to maintain unimpaired the integrity and inviolate the honor of her majesty's empire, and this house reiterates the oft expressed desire of the people of Canada to maintain the most friendly relations with their kinsmen of the United States."

Mr. McNeill who moved it, Mr. Davies who seconded it, and Messrs Cockburn, Cartwright, Foster, Laurier and others made patriotic speeches, and the resolution was adopted unanimously. The bill to prevent the adulteration of honey with sugar was put through the committee stage.

The bill to reduce the legal rate of interest to four per cent was discussed and referred to the committee on banking and commerce.

The senate: Senator Wood introduced a bill respecting certain female offenders in the province of New Brunswick. The bill enables stipendiary magistrates to commit Roman Catholic female offenders sentenced to imprisonment to a reformatory to be established by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in St. John instead of to the common jail.

Thursday.—Sir C. H. Tupper introduced a bill to amend the Dominion Elections act, making it a corrupt act for any one to publish false statements, reflecting on the personal character of any candidate without cause. It was not his intention to press the bill this session, but he thought well to place it before the house and country and possibly the government next year might feel poised to take it up.

Sir Richard Cartwright continued the budget debate. He called attention to the fact that with a deficit to meet the finance minister proposed to increase the expenditure.

Referring to preferential trade, he asked, was Canada prepared to pay the price? Suppose Great Britain should say she would admit our products at preferential rates, if we gave her the freedom of our markets in return, would the manufacturers of Canada be willing to pay the price? But until they were prepared to do so it was idle nonsense to talk of preferential trade.

Friday.—Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper resumed the budget debate. He referred at some length to Cartwright's letter in the Economist in 1891, which Sir Richard had re-affirmed the other day. He had said that the national policy was bleeding the agricultural laborers. Sir Charles read the statements of Sir Oliver Mowat and others who affirmed that there was no more prosperous and contented class of people in the world than agricultural laborers in Ontario. He could say the same thing of the agricultural laborers in his own province.

Mr. Paterson of Brant was the next speaker, occupying the attention of the house for two hours.

Mr. Powell followed. Taking up the liberal claim that the N. P. had not increased manufactures to any extent he gave statistics to show that the larger industries showed the most increase in capital, and wages paid.

How He Got There.

A HINT FOR THE BOYS.

Some time since, the Hon. Chauncey M. Depew, president of the New York Central Railroad, on visiting Cornell University, of which he is a trustee, on passing through the mechanical department, found at its head Professor Morris, who greeted him and claimed him as his superior officer. "How so?" said Mr. Depew. "Because I used to fire an engine on your road," was the smiling reply. "How did you get here?" inquired Mr. Depew. "Well," said the professor, "I fired on the New York Central. I stood on the foot-board as an engineer on the Central. While a locomotive engineer I made up my mind to get an education. I studied at night, and fitted myself for Union College, running all the time with my locomotive. I procured books, and attended, as far as possible, the lectures and recitations. I kept up with my class, and on the day of graduation I left my locomotive, washed up, put on the gown and cap, delivered my thesis and received my diploma, put the gown and cap in the closet, put on my working shirt, got on my engine, and made my usual run that day." "Then," said Dr. Depew, "I knew how he became Professor Morris." Boys, young men, here is a pointer for you. Be ambitious; have a purpose, and work up to that purpose! By study, application, and practice, acquire the ability to do something useful, and the world will have positions for you. The world does not care how you came by your proficiency, only so you have it. The question it will ask you is not, Where were you educated? or, How long did you go to school? but, What can you do?