

Religious Intelligencer.

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

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Your Subscription.

Is your subscription to the INTELLIGENCER paid? If not, we shall esteem it a favor to receive it during this week. Paper and wages bills accumulate rapidly, and we depend upon our subscribers for the means with which to meet them. Don't wait for an agent to call. Send it on yourself.

Notes and Cleanings

The census of Greece taken last October shows a population of 2,433,808, against a total of 2,187,208 in 1889. There were 1,266,816 males, and 1,166,992 females. Only twelve towns had a population of over 10,000.

What is said to be one of the most remarkable feats of memory is reported in a dispatch from Rome to have been accomplished in that city. Professor Edoe recited the whole of Dante's "Divina Commedia" without a mistake. He began at six o'clock in the evening and finished twenty hours later.

An old doctor, says "The Medical Record," had been called to see a drunken man who had been run over by the cars, and upon answering a good many questions became angry, and said: "I found the man in four different states—the state of intoxication, the state of mutilation, the state of unconsciousness, and the State of Ohio."

Every day we find paper being used for new purposes. Now jackets are made of it to support those weak spines that hitherto have been held in position by heavy plaster jackets. In view of the contrast in weight, we can easily believe the claims of its inventor that "it is the thinnest, lightest and strongest spinal support ever invented."

Among the students in the summer law school at Ann Arbor, Mich., is Edward Marsden, a full-blooded Eskimo from Alaska. He has the typical features and build of an Eskimo, but is good-looking. He was early converted to Christianity, and was graduated from the Sitka Industrial School. He served as a steamboat hand on the North Pacific for three years. He expects to return to his country, and use his knowledge of law to help improve the political and economic condition of his race.

Dr. Brown, of Columbus, Ga., a leading orthodox rabbi, is heading a scheme to purchase Palestine from Turkey, and dispatches say that the sultan has expressed his willingness to sell. The movement is said to be backed by leading wealthy Jews in this country and in Europe, and it looks as if the long-contemplated recovery of Palestine by the descendants of Abraham, prophesied in the Bible as an event foreshadowing the second coming of Christ, is to be accomplished in the not distant future.

From the government reports of the Inspectors of Factories for the Province of Ontario we learn that ninety accidents were reported in 1896, against seventy-five in the previous year. The increase is accounted for by a change in the Act requiring all accidents, from any cause whatever, to be reported if the person injured was kept from returning to his work within six days. Now an accident from falling, or from a machine worked by hand, is to be reported if it results in six days' abstinence from work, which was not formerly the case.

It seems certain now that cars will be running on the Trans-Asian route, across Siberia to the Pacific, within two years. The work is being pushed with wonderful energy. More than half—as far as Irkutsk—will be completed by the end of the present year. Lake Baikal will, for the present, be ferried in the summer, and tracks will be laid across the ice in the winter; the road will subsequently be built around its lower end. The Amoor section is still a problem, owing to the periodical overflow of the valley by the river, and the shorter cut to Vladivostok by the new Manchurian route will probably be finished first. The work was begun in 1891; in 1900 the line will be open from the

Ural Mountains to the Pacific. Its cost is estimated at \$231,000,000.

It is estimated that 20,000 people die annually in India from snake bites. An anti-venomous serum has been prepared which promises to be efficacious. In the current number of the Nineteenth Century the results of the treatment in twelve cases are given, and every one was successful. One of these was that a girl who had been bitten, and, relief being delayed for four hours, was in a state of collapse. The anti toxin saved her, and she was entirely restored in two days. The venom of the Indian cobra is used in preparing the serum, but it apparently succeeds in neutralizing the poison of all sorts of snakes, and of scorpions also.

A New York paper has been interviewing several Mormon ladies on the subject of polygamy, or as they prefer to call it in Salt Lake City, 'plural marriage.' A widow, whose husband had had ten wives, said she didn't envy a man who had ten women to please; it took 'a pretty good man' to live happily in plural marriage, though she stated that Mormon wives were 'helpmeets, not burdens; the more wives and children a Mormon has the more prosperous he and his become.' Another lady, who was a fourth wife, regarding plural marriage as the best way of 'managing' men, who are 'not angels,' but rather troublesome creatures.' She said, 'A man's better to his wives than he is to one wife. If one of them is stupid, he comes to her when he wants rest. When he's tired of rest, and wants amusement, he goes to the wife who can talk and sing and dance.' She also makes the rather astonishing statement, from which many women—especially married women—will dissent, that men are complex, many-sided creatures, while women are one-sided, and irritate men by their monotony. 'When a man has wives enough to fit all his moods he's happy, and so are the wives.'

The Pitiable State of France.

France has little religion. Protestantism—except the evangelical missions—is largely rationalistic, fortunately not quite wholly so. Rationalistic Christianity does not reach the people, and is little, often nothing, more than an intellectual diversion and social nucleus to the cultivated. Hence the only relief from the daily grind is exciting amusements, reckless relations between the sexes, gambling, and drunkenness.

Roman Catholicism does much for the devout among its members; it occupies them, it restrains them, and it consoles them; but for the great majority who are not devout, it does nothing but administer an opiate occasionally, when they go to confession or if they never do this, it lets them alone. This we have learned by observation, so far as that can go; but aware of its limitations we have sought and received the testimony both among the devout and the undevout French Catholics, and have read the homilies of pious bishops, archbishops, priests, and monks.

Solicitous not to traduce or mislead, we here bear testimony that France has some of the most earnest, pure, and self-denying Protestant pastors and priests, worthy of comparison with the best in the history of Christianity; their representations of the general state support the picture which we here draw.

It has often been said that there is little drunkenness in wine-growing countries. Until fifty years ago there was comparatively little in France, but there was also comparatively little intercourse with other nations. Then wine was cheap and brandy dear; then the peasantry seldom went farther from home than they could walk.

Still there was more drunkenness than the traveller would see unless he mingled in it or set out to find it. At last the fact was established that at certain seasons there was much intemperance, and usually on festive occasions.

But for thirty-five years it has increased, until France is now the most drunken nation in Europe—or at least unsurpassed in that vice by any other.

Let this should be supposed to be merely the vapouring of a total abstinence fanatic, the following is inserted from "The Lancet," the chief medical weekly of the world: This

great paper aims not at popular circulation, it is expensive, and it makes no pretense to total abstinence principles or to idyllic philanthropy. Hygiene and medicine, with all the sciences allied with or helpful to these, are its domain.

Dr. Brunon, in the "The Bulletin Medical," enters a protest against the increasing consumption of alcohol in Normandy, which in this part of France has reached the maximum. The quantity of alcohol drunk at Rouen is equal to an average per head of the population of seventeen liters of pure alcohol. In other centers of the province the consumption is even higher; it amounts, for instance, to nineteen liters at Lillebonne. Of course, it is cheap corn or maize spirit that is consumed; a brandy made from the grape would be much too dear, and the supply of real cognac falls far short of the demand. The chief consumers belong to the working class. Indeed, Dr. Brunon affirms that they only work so as to drink, and that they spend but a very small proportion of their earnings in food; all the rest goes to the publican.

In the department of the Seine-Inferieure—that is, the Havre district—there is a drink shop for every sixty-seven inhabitants. The women are also hard drinkers, and drink is supplied to them by the grocer, the green grocer, and even by the men who sell roast chestnuts at the corners of the streets. Young women and children refuse to drink their coffee unless it is mixed with brandy, and children begin to drink coffee when only two or three years old. Naturally the children very soon ask for the brandy which they see their seniors mix with the coffee, and parents are weak enough to very generally accede to the demands of their children. The agricultural laborers seem to drink nearly as much as the workmen of the towns. Alcoholism is also very prevalent among the trading class, and especially among grocers and café proprietors. It is the rule for commercial travelers in all branches of trade to drink over each transaction. A commercial traveler who refused to drink would not be able to do any business. Dr. Brunon relates a case of a traveler in the grocery trade who regularly consumed eighteen "doses" of vermouth before breakfast, and from five to eight of brandy in the afternoon. Later in life this traveler opened a grocery shop and found himself compelled to drink with almost every customer. On the other hand it appears that the wealthy and better educated classes, especially those who live in the towns, are drinking much less than they did formerly. In view of these facts it is important to note that in Normandy both wine and beer are imported, and therefore, are expensive luxuries. Cider is the only drink which the country provides. It is in the wine-growing countries that the least drunkenness occurs. Nothing has done more to increase alcoholism in France than the prevalence of phylloxera. Now, however, that new vines have had time to grow it becomes easier to make some effort to place wholesome wines on the markets.

Concerning the remark in the foregoing that "it is in the wine-growing countries that the least drunkenness occurs," it should be remembered that—while this may be true compared with Normandy—drunkenness has much increased in them also, and that it began to excite alarm prior to the ravages of phylloxera, and that already whole neighborhoods have been debauched beyond the hope of recovery in the present generation, and with certainty if leaving a posterity with a bad heredity.

The effects of all these things are seen in every sphere and, now that the rate of increase of population is almost at a standstill, the civil authorities have taken alarm.

But having dethroned God, bowed religion out of public, and remanded it to obscure corners in private life, sensuousness and sensuality have seized the reins and are driving the nation on a mad race down the steep incline toward the vast abyss in which the great nations of antiquity lie piled mountain high awaiting its coming.

Yet the nation laughs, coquets, dances, and drinks; and stranger than that is the fact that other nations (among them this) allow France to set their fashions in wine, in the nude in art, in the relinquishment of Sunday as a holy day, in relaxation of conjugal bands, in the obscuration of reality by pageants, and in a universal flippancy in the treatment of life, death, and what may come after.—N. Y. Advocate.

MILITARY COST.—Russia has the largest military expenses, \$260,000,000 a year. Britain follows next with \$190,000,000; France with \$180,000,000; Germany with \$130,000,000; Austria, \$90,000,000; Italy, \$85,000,000.

The Open Bible.

So far as, and so long as England remains true to that simple, unadulterated Word of God which has been purchased for us by the misery of exiles and the blood of martyrs; so far and so long as she stands fast in the freedom wherewith God has made her free, and is not again entangled with the yoke of bondage—so far and so long as she refuses to be either driven into indifference by disgust or seduced into delusion by false religion; so far and so long will she maintain the honor of this great people. All else—call itself by what sounding name it will—will prove to be but booming brass and tinkling cymbal. Let England cling to her open Bible, let her learn from it the broad truths of primitive Christianity, and be faithful to them; let her teach it to her children, and her children to their children, and their children to generation yet unborn, and then no wind that blows, no storm that beats, will shake her inviolable foundations, for she will be founded upon a rock! But let her apostasize from its pure lessons into humanly invented futilities, and I would not give fifty years' purchase either for her greatness or for the stability of her church.—Dean Farrar.

Christian Science.

The Nashville Advocate deals thus with the thing which calls itself "Christian Science":

"We have been asked by a friend to reason with a gentleman who has become inebriated with this silly craze. Excuse us. We should as soon try to reason with a whirlwind. The man who has reached the height of stupid conceit at which he can deny the reality of matter, affirm that pain, sickness, and death do not exist except in thought, and assert that sin is only a vain dream of the imagination—this man, we say, is beyond reason. Something is the matter with his headpiece, or else he is a conscious hypocrite. Every article in his creed is contradicted by the commonest facts of everyday life. One single throb of the toothache puts all his foolish pretensions to the blush. To call the silly farrago which he holds by the dignified name of 'science' is ludicrous; to call it Christian is blasphemous. Science is coordinated knowledge, and Christianity is that clear revelation which was made by Jesus Christ of a personal God. The fact that Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy has been able to gather disciples in every part of the country is a sad commentary upon the general intelligence of the age. We may also add that the moral consequences of adherence to the teachings of this thrifty New England woman are usually disastrous. We have not known a single instance that was not followed by a lowered moral tone."

SUPPOSE?—What would be the result if everyone remained away from all religious services on Sunday? Church doors would be closed. Public worship would cease. The ministry of the Gospel would become extinct. The Sabbath would be blotted out. There would be seven days of labor for six days' pay. You, by absenting yourself, and by not supporting ordinances are bringing about this result. Would you wish it? Would it be for the best interests of the country, or your own best interests? Would law be as much respected, life cared for, poverty relieved?

Of course you close every theological school, and blot out every religious institution. You abolish the Lord Jesus and all the officers of his religion. There will be no baptism. There will be no religious service at marriages. There will be no Christian funeral. No Psalm will be sung. No organ shall peal out a hymn of praise. As for prayer, you have abolished that with a light heart. So, the family—yours—shall be Godless, Christless, lawless, so far as a Divine law is concerned.

You who waste the Lord's Day in amusement, in bicycling, in driving, in needless sleep,—you by your own acts and your influence on others are bringing about a revolution which none of us are very desirous of seeing. Better call a halt. Consider your ways. Look at consequences. Think of others as well as of yourself. Do not act in such a way as to warrant others in charging you with being the cause of their destruction.—Pres. Witness.

Woman's Foreign Missionary 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 Will Go For Us?"

BY A YOUNG BRAHMIN LADY.

(Written in English by herself.)

Listen, listen, English sisters,
Hear an Indian sister's plea,
Grievous wails, dark ills revealing,
Depths of human woe unsealing,
Borne across the deep blue sea.
"We are dying day by day,
With no bright, no cheering ray,
Naught to lighten up our gloom,
Cruel, cruel is our doom."

Listen, listen, Christian sisters,
Show ye have a Christ-like heart;
Hear us sadly, sadly moaning,
Neath our load of sorrow groaning,
Writhing 'neath its bitter smart;
With no hope of rest above,
Knowing not a Father's love;
Your true sympathy we crave,
You can help us, you can save.

Listen, listen, Christian sisters,
Hark! they call, and call again;
Can you pass them by unheeding
All their eager, earnest pleading?
Hear ye not their plaintive strain?
Let your tender hearts be moved,
Let your love for Christ be proved,
Not by idle tears alone,
But by noble actions shown.

This is no romantic story,
Not an idle, empty tale;
Not a vain, far-fetched ideal,
No, your sisters' woes are real,
Let their pleading tones prevail.
As ye prize a Father's love,
As ye hope for rest above,
As your sins are all forgiven,
As ye have a home in heaven,

Rise, and take the gospel message,
Bear its tidings far and wide;
Far away to India's daughters,
Tell them of the living waters,
Flowing, flowing, day by day,
That they too may drink and live,
Freely have ye freely give;
Go, disperse the shades of night
With the glorious gospel light.

Many jewels, rare and precious,
If ye sought them ye should find,
Deep in heathen darkness hidden,
Ye are by the Master bidden,
If ye know that Master's mind;
Bidden, did I say? Ah, no!
Without bidding ye will go
Forth to seek the lone and lost;
Rise and go whate'er the cost.

Would ye miss His welcome greeting
When He comes in glory down?
Rather would ye hear Him saying,—
As before Him ye are laying
Your bright trophies for His crown—
"I accept your gathered spoil.
I have seen your earnest toil;
Faithful ones, well done! well done!
Ye shall shine forth as the sun."

Young People and Missions.

[CONTRIBUTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF W. M. SOC., WOODSTOCK.]

In the church of to-day young people occupy a prominent place, for in every branch of Christian work they are a lively engaged. Although they have done, and are now doing much, they are greatly in need of more intense interest in mission work. If we go into one of our young people's societies and question the members about missions and missionaries, the answers will show a lamentable ignorance and lack of interest. This is not the result of intentional neglect on the part of the young people, but is rather the result of circumstances. In these busy days, when home church work is done and home obligations are met, little time or strength remains for anything more.

Young people are not interested because they know so little of the work. That our church has mission fields in India, that our mothers have what is called a "Missionary Society" which meets once a month and has a public meeting occasionally, is probably the extent of the missionary knowledge stored in many a bright young head.

Perhaps some glance over the column of the INTELLIGENCER which is devoted to the work, and perhaps some have heard a returned missionary tell of the work. The majority are so employed they cannot attend the women's meetings, the special page of the church paper is not always read, so the occasional Christian Endeavour or Missionary Meeting is all many get. Is it any wonder young people have no interest in the work? They know too little about it to be interested. Of course this state of affairs should not be. Young people should be full of mis-

sionary spirit and deeply interested in the work, for into their hands it must fall; from their ranks must come the future missionaries, from their pockets the needed support, and from their hearts the prayers for the work. People cannot be expected to support or pray for, or offer themselves for a work of which they are in a large measure ignorant. It is natural for them to be most deeply interested in the work about which they have the greatest knowledge. Missionaries, contributions and prayers will all increase in proportion as the knowledge of the work increases. But the problem now to be solved is how to broaden the knowledge of young people along this line. A very effective means of increasing knowledge of the work is to circulate among the young people good books on the subject. No one can read

"Daily Life in India," by Griffin, or the "Miracle of Missions" the story of John Paton's work, and not feel a thrill of admiration for missionaries, a longing to help them, and a degree of interest in the work before unknown. Perhaps it may be difficult to get them to read these books. If so, make use of them in the missionary meetings, thus making it necessary that some read most of the books, while the rest must at least listen to a portion. If books are useful, the letters of living missionaries are more so, for they deal with present conditions. Mrs. Johnson read at our last ladies' meeting such an interesting letter from Miss Gaunce, and we all felt it such a help to hear from her personally. Such letters may be had in any society, for any missionary will gladly write to a society interested enough to answer the letters. In this way the young people might be given a more vivid idea of missionary life and work, and be brought to feel a personal interest in their correspondents. Above all if the young people could be brought to realize that the work is God's own, given into their hands to be carried on for his glory, that He expects them to honour Him by faithfully fulfilling this duty, that He has attached to the work a special blessing and only awaits to bestow it, then would they show not only interest in mission work but a deep concern about it. With hearts filled with a greater zeal and a more abiding love for Christ and His work they would pray as never before, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in Heaven."

"DEATH BED REPENTANCE."—The "Telescope" tells that Dr. Munhall, the celebrated evangelist, says he knew a minister who said he had kept a record of one thousand cases of repentance on what they thought was their deathbed, and who, afterward recovered, and only twenty-seven of them remained true to their sick-bed vows. What a pity (if their repentance was genuine) that those nine hundred and seventy-three recovered; for surely it would be impossible to renew them again. Read Heb. 6: 4-6.

SHE WON'T.—It is stated that Queen Wilhelmina of Holland flatly refuses to marry Prince Bernhard of Saxe-Weimar, whom her mother, the Queen Regent Emma, selected as the young Queen's husband. The little Queen declares she will remain single until 1899 (she was born August, 1880) and will then select her own husband.

Among Exchanges.

THE LORD'S REQUIREMENT.

He who always does his best may not even then do as well as some others can, but he always meets the Lord's requirement.—Telescope.

IT HAS COME.

We have felt that it must come at last. An "eminent physician" is one of the first victims. In the London Lancet he says that after a long ride on the bicycle he experienced "paresis" in the fourth and fifth fingers with impaired sensibility and paresis in the interosseus, lumbicals, and the adductor pollicis.—Morning Star.

SUNDAY REFORM.

It is reported that in Russia the Czar has joined forces in favor of Sunday rest by promulgating a decree prohibiting under severe penalty any form of labor on Sunday or on the fourteen principal Russian feast-days. More than this, children are not permitted to work more than eight hours a day, while eleven hours during five days of the week and ten hours on Saturday are to be the maximum working day of grown men.—Independent.