

Religious Intelligencer.

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

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WHOLE No 2346

Notes and Gleanings.

Paper made from seaweed is a growing industry in France. It is so transparent that it has been used in place of glass.

It is estimated that during his pontificate His Holiness Leo XIII. has amassed \$20,000,000, including presents of precious stones, gold and silver, to the value of \$10,000,000.

The Vicar of Gorleston, England in a recent sermon, stated that he believed in a future life for animals, and that he would far rather meet them in Heaven than he would some human beings of his acquaintance. This doctrine proved too strong for his congregation, most of whom rose and left the church.

The Roman aqueducts were marvels of architecture. The Anio was 43 miles long, the Martio 41, of which 38 miles were on 7,000 arcades 70 feet high. The Claudia was 47 miles long, the arches 100 feet high. The Roman aqueducts brought 40,000,000 cubic feet of water daily into the city, and the various sections of the metropolis were supplied with water by 13,504 pipes.

The eight women colonels of the German army, who draw swords only semi-officially, and whose salaries regularly are: The queen, the Empress of Germany; the dowager empress, wife of the late Frederick III; the Princess Frederick Charles of Prussia; the Queen Regent Sophia and Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands; the Duchess of Connaught; and the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha (Edinburgh), sister of the Emperor of Russia.

Chili was the first country in South America to construct railroads, and the government has always promoted, through large subsidies and wise legislation, the upbuilding of its railway system. At the beginning of the year 1896 the total length of the railroad lines in the republic was 2,080 miles. Of this length the state owned and had in operation 838 miles. Private corporations owned and operated 1,252 miles, represented by fifteen different lines.

The terror of lightning is probably as general and as deep-seated as the antipathy for snakes, and statistics are as futile an antidote in one case as in the other. Nevertheless, in spite of the fact that of 298 objects of which 1,707 persons confessed fear, lightning was dreaded by the great majority, the record of fatalities arising from this cause is small. According to the statistics of the United States Weather Bureau the average number of persons killed by lightning in this country for four years was 196, which is far less than the number of persons drowned each year in the waters about New York, or any other large city situated near an extensive body of water.

A demonstration of the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy was recently made at the House of Commons at London, and messages were sent from a room just off the terrace to St. Thomas Hospital, on the opposite side of the Thames. The wires used at each end were let fall from windows in both cases and connected to lamp-posts. Numerous messages were sent in the presence of the Speaker and members of the House. A more important test of this system of telegraphing was made at the Isle of Wight, where messages were sent and received by Lord Kelvin, who expressed his satisfaction of the commercial success of the method by insisting on paying the regular tariff of one shilling for each message transmitted.

The Philippine Islands furnish the hemp fiber used in the manufacture of Manila rope, which has recently been advanced in price on account of the scarcity of the raw material both in this country and Europe, and the uncertainty of the length of the war. The fiber is obtained from a plant that in many ways resembles the banana. It grows from seeds and also from shoots or suckers, reaching often a height of twenty to twenty-five feet, with a tuft of leaves at the top. The leaves are peeled off down to the bottom of the tree, and the fiber is

then separated, dried, and tied in bales. The hemp is shipped in bales of 270 pounds to Europe and America, being used extensively in this country for binder twine as well as rope. In 1897 there were imported into the United States from Manila 123,349,500 pounds of this variety of hemp.

Some Canadian Statistics.

The Statistical Year Book of Canada, for 1897, has been briefly noticed in our columns. As a compendium of facts and figures relating to the condition and progress of the country it is a very useful book. We append some of the facts taken from it by the Presbyterian Witness, and put in concise form for the general reader.

The revenue and expenditure of Canada have increased about three fold in thirty years. There has been almost a like increase in the number of post offices; and the number of letters posted has grown from 18 millions to 123 millions. Newspapers have increased from, say, 19 millions to 97 millions. The public debt has grown from \$75,757,735 to \$261,538,000. Railways in operation in 1868 extended 2,269 miles; last year the mileage was 16,550 miles, a seven-fold increase. The earnings of railways show a four-fold increase, from \$12,000,000 to \$52,000,000. Bank capital has more than doubled; assets have increased four-fold. Depositors in Savings Banks thirty years ago numbered 2,100; this year they are 135,737. Balances have increased \$204,060 to \$32,000,000.

The total area of Canada is 3,653,946 square miles.

Nova Scotia has the mildest climate of any Province in Canada. Average mean temperature in summer 65-1-5 degrees; in winter 25. In Ontario the summer average is 63°; in winter nearly 20°. P. E. Island, summer 61.9; winter 19.5; New Brunswick, summer 60°; winter 19°. British Columbia has the mildest winter, being 32-2-5°.

Rain in Nova Scotia has ranged in 30 years from 27.70 inches in 1879 to 43.82 inches in 1878. In 1875 we had 104 inches of snow; in 1879 we had 113 inches, and in 1882 we had 115 inches. The lowest figure was in 1889 when we had 37.7 inches. For 12 years of the 24 of which we have a record the snow fall in New Brunswick exceeded 100 inches, reaching one year to 139 inches. This was in 1882. In Ontario 97 inches is the largest record; in Quebec 155 inches. In 1882 P. E. Island had of snow 169 inches. In Manitoba the great depth we read of is 66 inches.

The present population of Canada is 5,186,000. The total area of the British Empire is 11,552,000 square miles; its total population is 385,000,000. Ravenstein makes the population 402,000,000. Of these 54,865,000 are Christians; 83,000,000 Mohammedans; 234,000,000 Buddhists, Hindus and Confucians, and 31,000,000 heathen. France has all in all about 80,000,000 at home and abroad. Germany has about 63,000,000; Italy 31,000,000; Russia 123,000,000.

It is a tremendous fact that the Empire of which we are a part and whose responsibilities we must learn to share, has within its limits one-fourth of the human race!

In 1891 there were in Canada 10,480 Churches. Probably there are now 12,000. Of the churches the Methodists own 32 per cent; Presbyterians and Roman Catholics 17 per cent; the Church of England 16 per cent, and the Baptists 12,—leaving 6 per cent for other denominations. It ought to be noted that the Roman Catholic Churches in cities and in the Province of Quebec are usually very large and accommodate a large population.

There is a church provided for every group of say 461 persons. The Roman Catholics have one church for every 1115 persons of their persuasion; the Church of England one for every 386; the Methodists one for every 251; the Presbyterians one for every 428; the Baptists one for every 240.

In Canada the R. O. Church has about 1500 clergy; the Church of England about 1000. The number of clergymen of all churches in Canada in 1891 was 7164.

Every year except one since 1868 one or more divorces have been granted

in Nova Scotia. In one year—1896—no fewer than 6 divorces were granted. In all there have been 84. In New Brunswick there have been 64. In one year the New Brunswick court granted seven! The total for the Dominion has been for thirty years about 240.

The Province of Manitoba has the largest excess of births over deaths.

This feast of figures must conclude with the denominational returns as to crime. There were convicted of indictable offences in 1897 no fewer than 5721. Of these 129 claimed to be Baptists; 2,374 Roman Catholics; 980 Church of England; 528 Methodists; 366 Presbyterians; 395 "Protestants;" 316 "other denominations," and 633 no religion given.

It would be well that those who gather these statistics should analyse "Protestants." We have inquired as to the meaning of the word under the circumstance, and we have been told that the word is equivalent in these statistics to "Church of England." But we have no means of testing or proving this statement and we ask the reader to take it with reserve. As to religion "not given" it probably covers the large and increasing number of criminals who do not claim any church connection. The tie that binds any criminal to his church is usually very slender until the clouds and storms of adversity gather round his head.

Does Being in Debt Excuse One from Giving?

This question has perplexed many good people. Answering it, the Foreign Mission Journal says, with emphasis, No! "If it did, then many of our people are excusable, and it is very easy to be excused. Being in debt is a normal condition with many. Probably nineteen out of twenty of those we meet are in debt. We do not stop here to discuss the reasons. But they are known to all. Some owe money because they have undertaken great enterprises; others owe because they have no enterprise. Some owe because of pride; others from lack of pride. Some are in debt because of extravagance; others because of suffering and adversity. Many churches go heavily into debt to build houses beyond their means, and then turn beggars to gratify their vanity and pride. Churches have been dwarfed for years by building houses and incurring heavy debts to gratify the pride of a few worldly members. Even pastors have to stand sore temptations on this very line.

In making debts it is always well to ask, "Is this for God's glory?" If one has gone into debt to acquire property, certainly that does not excuse him from giving. But how about it when debt comes from seeking pleasure, or if it is an account of negligence in our duties? Surely we ought not to withhold from God on these accounts. Even when adversity comes, this does not excuse us. Giving is an act of worship, just as much so as praying. You cannot imagine conditions where it would be out of place for the Christian to pray. It is his privilege. The same is true of giving. When trials and troubles thicken, give to God; it takes Him into your business. Share with Him, and see what a change will come.

We need to realize more that God calls on us to give, and doing so is worshipping Him. Satan tries to erect barriers to keep people from giving. He knows that when they give God is glorified and they are blessed. To give to the poor and needy temporal and spiritual good, in God's name, is the safest investment any one can make. It is loaning to the Lord, and He will pay back when we most need; yes, pay back manifold.

The following statement by Dr. Vincent, President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, shows Baptist and Nonconformist progress in the Motherland: "When the Queen's reign began, our membership in England and Wales alone was 125,488, it is now 327,989. The Rev. Howard Evans, a few days ago, in the 'Times,' gave the number of Nonconformist members of churches then as 736,000, now as 1,834,000. Our own new chapels have cost sixty thousand pounds a year, on an average, for many years past."

Roman Catholic Intolerance.

Another instance of the intolerant spirit of Romanism appeared recently in Irapuato, Mexico. There are a few native Methodists in that place, the result of missionary effort. This has aroused the ire of the Roman Catholics, and, as stated by the Western Christian Advocate, the brother of the priest distributed circulars, in which were the following words:

We must hate Protestantism with all our hearts, must abhor and abominate it as the greatest of all evils; we must hate and despise it as much as we must hold and confess love for our holy Catholic faith. As far as the persons are concerned, we cannot nor must not hate them, for that would be against the precepts of our holy religion. But we must abhor persons who show themselves to be Protestants by their words and by their acts. The Catholics must hate only error and sin; but that does not prevent us from always being on our guard against those who would seduce us. We must shun them with all our might, have no conversation with them, and must treat them with all the precautions we would employ were we to meet murderers or robbers.

This was soon followed by a circular sent out by the priest himself, in which he declared, among other things, that "the Protestant sect had appeared in that city, and that it was necessary to flee from it, and to be on one's guard against men of evil will, who by their vices had become so corrupted that no trace of human virtue, honor, or decency remained in them."

Soon after this, as was to be expected an outbreak occurred, as a result of colporteurs distributing Bibles, tracts, and fly leaves. Of this outbreak the Advocate says:

We had just one family of four in the place—husband, wife, mother, sister. Excited by the circulars, when the citizens learned that the sister proposed to have her marriage solemnized by one of the colporteur ministers, a mob quickly formed and stoned the family out of their house, shouting, "Murder the Protestants." The police dispersed the mob. The next day, the family having returned, the mob gathered again, bearing coal-oil and other inflammables to burn the house. They seized the sister and dragged her into the street, and were hardly dissuaded from burning her alive on the furniture and bedding they piled in the street and saturated with oil. Again the police scattered the rioters, and the family fled the town.

If the subjects of the pope do such things in Mexico, incited thereto by his ecclesiastical representatives, what may not be expected of them in Cuba, Porto Rico, and the Philippine Islands, when Protestant missionaries begin work there? The only remedy or preventive will be the bringing down of the strong hand of the Government in the protection of religious freedom. The priests who issue circulars like the above should be arrested and severely punished for inciting rioting and murder.—Religious Telescope.

Remember.

Remember that prejudice hurts the one who cherishes it much more than the one against whom it is aimed.

Remember that to give up the struggle when it is in part over, because you cannot get the chance you want, may show that you deserved no chance at all. Take what chance you can get and fight it through.

Remember that to keep chafing because fortune favors others more than you is the way to get even less out of for one. Be a man!

Remember that great yearnings and noble ambitions usually die away just about the time they are most wanted. Act on them now.

Remember that it is brave to be in the minority. That is where the strong usually are. Weak natures like to hide behind a majority.—W. L. Sheldon.

THE DEATH-HOUR.—At what o'clock do most deaths take place? The Paris Journal de Medicine has been collecting answers to this question. An Italian doctor, after noting 25,000 deaths, found that more of them took place after noon than before. But an Englishman, Dr. Beales, says that though women do thus die more often in the latter half of the day, he finds that the highest average of men's deaths take place between 5 a. m. and 7 a. m. Mr. Finlayson, of Glasgow, after noting 15,000 deaths, found 6 a. m. the most fatal hour for both sexes. Dr. Schneider, of Berlin, after noting 57,000 deaths, also pronounces that 5 a. m. to 7 a. m. is the period when they are most numerous.

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.]

About Mite Boxes.

In reply to the question asked by Mrs. T. McMullin concerning "Mite Boxes," I might give you the benefit of the experience of our little Society. About a year ago, at one of our monthly meetings, talking over ways and means by which to awaken an interest and raise funds for missionary work, it was suggested by one of our sisters that we try mite boxes. A committee of two was appointed to ascertain where they could be got, at what price, etc. After looking around, and making some inquiries that committee decided on the paste-board box, which can be opened easily. It has a text of Scripture on one side, and, with care, can be used for years. They were made by the D. F. Brown Paper Box and Paper Company, Ltd., King Square, St. John and cost \$1.50 per hundred. The committee, with some assistance, put a box in every home of our church and congregation, asking them to accept them and drop in just what they felt they could afford, and ask the children, or teach them to deny themselves occasionally for the sake of a cause that must surely interest them in the future. Before our District Meeting, held in July, a public meeting was held and the contents of the boxes called in. A large number responded, and the result was \$32.00. Half was devoted to Home Missions and the other half to Woman's Mission Aid Society. Feeling our efforts were quite satisfactory, we hope some other Society may benefit by our experience.

ANNIE J. SLIPP,
Secretary.

West End, St. John, Oct. 11th.

Woodstock Society.

The Woodstock Free Baptist Woman's Missionary Society held its monthly meeting, Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 11th, at the home of Mrs. G. W. Slipp. Thirteen sisters were present. After the usual devotional exercises, led by the President, a letter from Miss Scott, in the "Missionary Helper," was read by Mrs. Johnson. Then followed more earnest prayers for the work in India, and that more consecrated, strong men and women, who are so much needed there, may be found willing to labour in the fields already "white to harvest."

The wonderful results already achieved are a bright earnest of what may be legitimately expected in days to come. Nowhere has expenditure been better rewarded; nowhere is the horizon brighter with brilliant promise.

The hopes of our church in India have not been frustrated, still when we think of what the gift of God's dear Son means to us, and contrast our condition with that of those into whose hearts the light of the gospel has not shined, are we not filled with mingled feelings of gratitude and sadness?

Millions are perishing daily, without God and without hope in the world, and yet we do not speed the message of our King as we should. May God so bless us and show us our responsibility in this matter, that the coming days and months and years may witness such work done for the Master by all our auxiliaries, as we have never before accomplished.

Mrs. Phillips gave a very interesting and full report of the work at Conference, and told how glad she was to see Miss Wile, yet so sorry to find her in so poor health. It was unanimously voted that Mrs. Phillips correspond with Miss Wile and learn when we might have her speak to our Society and church. We need so much to know more about the work; to hear from the lips of one who has actually been in our field in India should awaken greater interest in our foreign work.

Each member present was to see how many visits to absent members each could make before next meeting, and report. Our great need is thorough consecration and an intelligent use of all God-given faculties. There is not a member in our auxiliary to whom

He has not given at least one talent, and to many He has given more. Let us use these talents in His service. Let us strive to make our monthly meetings so interesting and so inspiring that many more may be led to come up with us to "the help of the Lord against the mighty." If at the close of the year it could be truthfully said of every member of our auxiliaries, "She hath done what she could," what glorious results we would have! May each one of us resolve, with God's help, to earn that commendation. We meet next month with one of our new members—Mrs. Ed. Clarke.

Yours in the work
Mrs. G. W. SLIPP.

WHY DELAYED.—The foregoing communications have been in hand two or three weeks, but had to be held over till the reports and proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Society were published. We have another on hand, just received, which will appear next week. We hope to hear from our sisters often this year.

Acknowledgement.

New subscribers for the INTELLIGENCER, one each, have been received from the following members of the W. M. Society: Mrs. Jas. Patterson, Mrs. W. O. Slipp, Miss Vida Smith.

THE SECRETARY.

DIVORCE IN BURMAH.—If a Burmese couple find that they cannot live in peace, and decide that they would best separate, the wife goes out and buys two candles of equal length. These candles are made for this special purpose, and are the only "legal expenses" that need be incurred in obtaining a Burmese divorce. The wife brings them home. She and her husband then sit upon the floor, and, at a signal, each lights a candle. One candle stands for him, the other for her. The one whose candle burns out first rises and goes out of the house forever, taking nothing. The one whose candle burns longest, even by a fraction of a second, remains and takes everything. Thus the divorce is settled without any fuss or scandal, the general public is not annoyed by the contentions of the separating couple, and each is free to remarry. There are, indeed, some lessons in plain common sense that may be learned even from the blindness of the heathen who "in his blindness bows down to wood and stone."—Godey's for August.

The readiest and best way to find out what future duty will be, is to do present duty.

Among Exchanges.

WHAT ABOUT THIS?

You think hard of your pastor for not visiting you, but have you been visiting him much, either at his home or at the church?—The Phil. Standard.

IT HAS TO BE DONE.

The surgeon who puts his knife into a tumor will cause a bad odor, but the odor is the least of two evils. And it is the tumor that smells, not the surgeon. The same is a parable.—The Free Baptist.

DO NOT LISTEN.

Refuse even to listen to vulgar or slanderous stories. They are poisonous filth oozing from sewer pipes. Sometimes the ends of righteousness may require you to receive information that is not slanderous because true, but this is not to be confounded with gossip with a slander-monger. What a tribute was this to Mr. Gladstone: When some one had told a doubtful story, another said, "For how many thousand pounds would you be willing to tell that to Gladstone?"

THE HOBBY-RIDER.

The confirmed hobby-rider is to be both pitied and admired. Like Josh Billings's enthusiast, he is a man who believes four times as much as he can prove, and can prove four times as much as any other man can believe. His courage and zeal are admirable traits; but the freedom and positiveness with which he unchristianizes and denounces all who fail to chime in with his own narrow, inconsistent views awakens in the minds of sensible men feelings of pity and amazement. He seems to think that he alone is "the salt of the earth," and that all real good-ness will die with him unless he succeeds in bringing others around to his own peculiar notions. Poor fellow! The only way is to let him ride his hobby and be happy. He can never be convinced that he is wrong.—The Telescope.