

Religious Intelligencer.

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

VOL XLVI.—NO. 21

FREDERICTON N. B., MAY 23, 1898

WHOLE No. 23

Notes and Cleanings.

Australia has no orphan asylums. Every child who is not supported by parents becomes a ward of the State, and is paid a pension for support and placed in a private family, where board and clothes are provided.

Women are to the fore in educational matters in Colorado. Out of the fifty-nine counties in the State, twenty-seven have women superintendents of schools, and every school board has one or two women members.

To the average eye not more than 5,000 stars are visible; some persons having extraordinarily strong eyes can see about 8,000 stars. Through the Lick telescope and other powerful instruments about 50,000,000 stars are visible. There are believed to be stars in existence beyond the reach of any telescope yet constructed.

The largest farmer in England—curiously enough, bears the name of Farmer. His residence is at Little Bedwyn, near Hungerford, in Wiltshire, and he occupies the land for miles and miles, the entire amount of his holdings exceeding 15,000 acres. He milks at least a thousand cows, and has a stock of upwards of 5,000 sheep.

Not many years ago there was not a mile of railway in Japan, but now there are 1,000 miles of track in the Nippon system alone, and on February 26, 1898, the engineers and firemen "tied up" the Southern division of the system in the most approved style, by a strike, the first strike of organized railway employees in all Oriental history.

'This ain't payed for' is the peculiar inscription neatly chiselled on a family monument in the cemetery at Wheeling, West Virginia. The man who ordered the stone gave a note in payment, and died insolvent before the note matured. To obtain satisfaction the tombstone-maker added the above legend and is now being prosecuted as a criminal by the surviving members of the family.

An English paper claims the battle of Atbara as a great victory for Temperance, as well as for the English arms. Sir Herbert Kitchener, at the commencement of the advance, sent back all the beer that had been ordered to the front. As a result of this policy and of the excellent discipline maintained, the health of the army was superb, and the wounded are now rapidly recovering.

About 500,000,000 persons speak colloquially one or another of the chief modern languages. Of these about 125,000,000 persons speak English; 90,000,000 speak Russian; 75,000,000, German; 55,000,000, French; 45,000,000, Spanish (this includes Mexico and the South American republics); 35,000,000, Italian; and 12,000,000, Portuguese, the rest being scattered among the Danes, Swedes, Norwegians, Hungarians, etc.

The London correspondent of a New York paper says that Rybnowski, the electrician of Lemberg, asserts that he has discovered an electric fluid which he calls "electroid." He obtains it by electrolysis, but it is not identical with electricity. Its effects are declared to be startling, producing light and causing Geissler tubes to emit fluorescent rays. It works photochemically, rotates objects in midair, produces whirlpools in water, and kills bacteria. Metal and glass thereby can be charged with electricity, and the magnetic needle changes direction under its influence.

Minnesota has had a law to encourage tree-planting in operation for sixteen years. In that time more than 100,000 acres have been planted. Any tree may be planted except the black locust. A bounty of \$2.50 per acre is offered, and at least one acre must be planted, while no one person can collect for more than ten acres or for more than ten years. Last year bounties were paid to twenty-five counties for planting 9,524 acres. How much beauty could be added to the public highways, school-grounds, churchyards, and private homes in all localities by a little attention to

tree planting at this season of the year, to say nothing of the increased value added to the property thus beautified.

Wipe It Out.

A ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP ON PROHIBITION.

NO HOPE OF IMPROVING THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

Archbishop Ireland, of Minnesota, who is well known as a leader in the temperance reform in the United States, has spoken in regard to prohibition. He says:—

"We thought we meant business years ago in this warfare, but I hope God will forgive us for our weakness, for we went into the battlefield without sufficient resolution. We labored under the fatal mistake that we could argue out the question with the liquor-sellers. We imagined there was some power in moral suasion; that when we would show them the evil of their ways they would abandon the traffic. We have seen there is no hope of improving in any shape or form the liquor traffic.

There is nothing now to be done but to wipe it out completely. I have lost too much of my time striving in the past to repair the fearful evils wrought by the liquor traffic. I have lost too much time in speaking of total abstinence in hall and pulpit to men who, while listening were with me, but who out in the streets would be invited by the saloon-keeper to come and take a drink and forget their resolutions. Well, some of us are growing old, and do not intend to be throwing away our time in arguing with people who will not be converted, and I for one am going to go in with terrific earnestness in the future in this war against liquor in all shapes. I mean business this time.

Now, in order to succeed, I wish to enroll every man. We Catholics will unite with our fellow citizens of all classes and all denominations to do away with that terrible shame, sin and disgrace of the saloon. All those who violate the law and disgrace us go into the saloon first, and would we be patriots, would we be Americans, if we did not turn round and meet with our whole strength the spring of crime, the accursed saloon?

So come and say to your friends that you have enlisted for war, but meaning business this time, clean out the whole institution of dram-selling. We are blessed in every way. There is not in the world a country equal to our own, and what we have to fear is in emperance, the one curse in country or city."

The British Grumble.

One of a Briton's most cherished rights is the right to grumble, and he exercises it freely on all occasions. In the writings of Ruskin we have the highest expression of this national custom and characteristic. In the magazines and newspapers it takes a less philosophical and more practical form. In fact, the deep diapason of British grumbling never ceases. One day it is the royal navy that is all wrong; the ships are poor; the guns ineffective, the officers not what they should be, the tars degenerate. The next day the army is described as going to the dogs. Then the government is reminded every day of its alleged imbecility, and the chorus of grumbling rises into a roar when some more daring fault-finder proclaims that the empire is in danger. Yet, in spite of this continual depreciatory grumbling, the navy—ships, guns, officers and tars—perform every appointed task with promptness and ability, but rarely suffering reverse or misfortune; the army wins victories in distant lands under the most difficult conditions; then the government comes out of the diplomatic tangle with honor and advantage; finally, the empire is found to be all right. Nevertheless, the grumbling goes on. Some observers attribute this persistency to the climate; others to a melancholy disposition, deranged livers; others again to failure in the realization of ideals. It is really nothing but a manly expression of every Englishman's sense of personal accountability for the proper management of the nation. It is far better to find fault at a time when all goes well, than to rage over disasters with shriek that the nation has been betrayed. This pillory of merciless criticism is

certainly a wholesome stimulus to all officialdom, and its result is that public affairs are kept running with reasonable efficiency. In marked contrast to this British spirit of grumbling is the Spanish spirit of contentment. To a Spaniard everything Spanish is perfect. All the geese of the nation are swans. Nothing Spanish could be improved upon. All is grand, noble, glorious—till something happens like what happened at Manila, and then the nation goes into hysterics, which must be ministered to by a dose of Bull Fight, after which things go on as they went before. Perhaps a genial climate may have something to do with this national characteristic of the Spaniard, as his fogs have an influence on the Briton. But what appears a virtue in the one and a fault in the other produce results so plainly to be seen every day as not to need particularizing.—Mont. Witness.

Cuba.

This island belonging to Spain is the largest of the West India group. It is situated at the mouth of the Gulf of Mexico. It lies south of Florida, at a distance of 130 miles. In length 650 miles it lies about east and west, between the parallels of longitude 74° to 85° W. Its average width is about 50 miles. Its area 43,319 square miles, and it has a coast line of about 2000 miles. Its size is twice that of the Province of Nova Scotia, including Cape Breton. The climate of Cuba is tropical, the latitude being from 20° to 23° N. The coasts of Cuba are in general, exceedingly foul, presenting reefs and shallows which extend from 2 to 2½ miles into the sea, and make its approach both difficult and dangerous. Within these reefs there is often a good sandy beach; but for the greater part of the circumference of the island there is a belt or zone of lowland, very little raised above the level of the sea, subject to floods and inundations and wet at all seasons of the year, rendering communication between the interior and the sea next to impossible in the rainy season. There are, however, good harbors and bays on all the coasts, including Havana, one of the finest harbors in the West Indies. The climate is hot and dry during the greater part of the year. The hottest months are July and August, the coldest December and January. In the hottest months the thermometer seldom rises above 86°, and it is rare that in winter it falls below 50°. Rain often descends in torrents from July to September. No snow is ever known to fall, but on the highest mountains there may be frost. The vegetation is exceedingly luxuriant. Forests of mahogany, ebony, cedar, fustic and other useful woods abound. Two crops of Indian corn are obtained in one year, and this is the principal cereal cultivated. Rice is also produced in considerable quantity. A portion of country is devoted to cattle breeding and to farms on which are raised vegetables, maize, mallochia grass, cassava, onions, garlic, poultry, wax, and honey. The principal fruits of the country are oranges, pineapples, shaddockes, plantains, bananas, melons, lemons and sweet limes; figs and strawberries. The domestic animals are the ox, horse and pig; the sheep, goat and mule are inferior in quality and numbers. Alligators, crocodiles and iguanas abound. There are plenty of centipedes, scorpions, chigres, ants, mosquitos, and a spider with a poisonous sting. Snakes and reptiles are not very numerous. Sugar, coffee and tobacco form the principal objects of cultivation. Of sugar the produce is a ton to the acre. Coffee is grown on the north side of the island. The principal exports are cigars, leaf tobacco, sugar, molasses, honey, wax, coffee, mahogany and other woods, and copper ore. The greater part of the island is covered with dense forests. There are about 400 miles of railroad, and communication is difficult except by it.

The dominant class has hitherto been the native Spaniards who hold most of the public offices. The planters are generally of Spanish descent. The labouring class is composed in part of those who are of African blood and in part of Chinese coolies. The Roman Catholic religion alone is tolerated. Education is in an exceedingly backward condition. Slavery was abolished in 1886. The population was about one and a half millions in 1890. About a million of these Spaniards, 450,000 negroes and 50,000 Chinese. The British Island of Jamaica is about one fifth the size of Cuba, and lies 90 miles to the south of it. The authority for the foregoing facts is Appleton's Gazetteer.

The Kingdom.

Said Robert Freeland at a recent anniversary of the British and Foreign Bible Society: What changes since 735!—when the sainted Bede on his dying bed dictated to his amanuensis the translation of John's Gospel. "Write as fast as you can," said Bede on coming to the closing chapter. "Now, master, it is finished!" "I finished?" asked Bede, "then lift up my head where I have been accustomed to pray. Now, glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost." With that utterance his work was done. What changes since 1380!—when Wycliffe carried out his heaven-inspired purpose of translating the entire Bible into English, laboriously copied out, to give to his countrymen, that they might read for themselves and ponder over God's message of mercy to a benighted world! What changes since 1524!—when Tyndale began his mighty task of printing his Scripture translations, making himself an exile from the land he loved to carry out his purpose, and when many of his English Testaments only reached London to be publicly cast into flames at the instigation of church and state. What changes since 1789!—when Wilberforce stood up in the British Parliament, his heart throbbing with Bible principles, as he went on pleading for three hours, the champion of the oppressed, and urging the abolition of the slave trade. This act cost \$20,000,000, but it gave freedom to 770,280 slaves throughout the British colonies, and abolition soon followed in the East.—Missionary Review of the World.

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.]

To Visit St. John.

Pandita Ramabai, of whom mention has often been made in our columns, who is so widely known and justly celebrated on account of her work in behalf of the child-widows of India, is to be in St. John on May 31st. She will address a meeting. The place and hour will be announced in the city papers. All our sisters in the city should be sure to attend the meeting, and hear this interesting India woman, and have their missionary zeal quickened.

Women's Methods of Christian Work.

[A paper read by Mrs. S. G. Alcock, of Vancouver, B. C., at the last convention of the Baptist Women's Mission Society.]

Since the days when Mary anointed our Lord with precious ointment, and Dorcas made clothing for the poor, women have ever had a place in the Christian Church throughout the world. It is well, therefore, for each one of us to make sure that the motive that actuated those women of old—love to Christ—is the motive power in all our work for Him now. "Not by works of righteousness which ye have done, but by His mercy He saved us." Our work for Him must be the spontaneous offering of grateful hearts.

And what is our work? In a general way we might answer, "Whatever thy hand findeth to do." The duty that lies nearest is not always the most agreeable, neither does it always seem to us to be that for which we are best fitted, but if we do it to the best of our ability for Jesus' sake, it is all He asks of us, and "obedience is better than sacrifice." To many of us God has entrusted young lives to train for Him. Think you he will not hold us responsible if we let our work, no matter how seemingly important, come between us and our duty as Christian mothers. Still there are few of us who cannot in some way or other, do some work outside our own circles.

We meet this afternoon to consider what we women of British Columbia can best do, individually and unitedly.

In the first place I think there is a great need that each sister should find the work for which she is best fitted, and, whenever possible, try to serve her Lord in that way. In our everyday life a man seeks to enter that trade or profession for which he is most suited. If our work for Christ is to bring forth the most satisfactory results, we must make use of our natural talents. . . . In this way our individual work will help to form the united, harmonious whole. Let us look at the possibilities—I might almost say, necessities—lying before us. Foreign missions is a subject in which we are all more or less interested, and in the future, as in the past, there is a large field of work for women here. Heathen women in many countries would never hear the "old, old story," if their Christian sisters were not prepared to go and tell it. It is a comparatively small sacrifice for us to give what we can to send those who are ready to take the glad tidings. What sphere of life is open to a woman in which she can do as much for God and her fellow creatures as in that of a medical missionary? But there is one phase of that subject that touches us very closely. I refer to the Chinese around us. What are we doing for the heathen right among us? Would it not be possible to have texts or small portions of Scripture printed in their language to give John when he brings home the washing, and so awaken an interest which may ripen and bring forth fruit?

Home missions are demanding our urgent attention, and though our brethren may have the greater amount of responsibility, here our women's work may come in. The Women's Circles of Ontario support about seventy-five student missionaries during the summer months. Who can estimate the amount of good done through their labors? Much may be accomplished by correspondence, which would be a benefit to the home missionary on his field, and to the Society at home. We need to keep in close touch with our missionaries and their work. Our own time and money would be used to better advantage, and they would work with better heart, for the constant assurance of our prayers and encouraging, intelligent sympathy. Mission Bands should be established in connection with every church. If the children's help and interest are gained now, the next generation will have more intelligent workers. About a year ago a Mission Band was started in connection with our Sunday-school. They have contributed about \$10 in cash, but the greater gain has been in the awakened interest of the children, and their desire to do all they can to help. They save all their Sunday-school papers and every two weeks a large bundle is sent to a Roman Catholic settlement in the interior of the province, and distributed from the day school among thirteen families.

Just here let me speak of paper missions, which I believe should form a department of every women's society. In the more isolated parts of this province there are many homes where the papers and magazines that we too often carelessly throw aside after reading, would be much-appreciated luxuries, and the seed thus sown may bring forth fruit to the Master's glory. Sunday school teaching is a branch of Christian work in which women have ever been successful. Visiting strangers and sick ones amongst us is peculiarly women's work, and "inasmuch as ye did it not unto the least of these my brethren, ye did it not to Me." In this Western land where so many young men are far away from home and mother, they are only too likely to drift away from all good influences, and here is another opening for Christian women to fill. Let those of us who can, consecrate our homes to the Master's use and thus provide some counter-attraction to the saloon.

Now as regards ways and means of carrying on these different branches of work. The Women's Baptist Foreign Mission Union, have set as their standard "two cents a week and a prayer" from every woman in every church, but admit they fall far short of their ideal. My experience is not large enough to enable me to speak

with certainty, but it seems to me the best and most Scriptural way, is at each mission meeting to have each sister put in the box "as the Lord has prospered her." And after all what are we working for? What is our object? Is it not that souls may be brought to the feet of Jesus, and that His Kingdom may be extended in the earth? Surely "she that winneth souls is wise." So whether it be in one branch of work or another, or as opportunity may offer in our daily lives, let us never be backward in sowing the seed though it may be for others to reap the harvest. God alone can give the increase, and who knoweth which shall prosper, whether this or that. So in times of discouragement which come to us all sometimes, let us never forget that we are not alone, that we have blessed privilege of being "laborers together with God," and work done with an eye single to His glory can never be a failure, but must, sooner or later, have the certainty of reward.

THE VALUE OF DEBT PAYING.—Some time ago a United States minister, who had just completed his pastorate in a Congregational church, was about to become pastor of a Presbyterian church, and as a preliminary was to be received into the Presbytery.

His papers of dismission were all right but he was required to produce one certifying to his membership in a minister's association and transferring him to the Presbytery. He had brought this with him, as he supposed, and produced it when called for. The Moderator looked at it and smiled, then handed it to the clerk, who smiled also. It was a receipted bill for furniture. The Presbytery smiled and was puzzled. The missing paper for which this queer substitute had been accidentally presented was far away. Happily there was no insistence on technicality. A member rose and said: "If the bill has been paid, I move that the brother be received on the strength of it." And it was done. As a hint of the importance, to ministers especially, of St. Paul's counsel to "owe no man anything," it seems to have been neatly given.

MOODY'S PRAYER.—Mr. Moody prayed: "O God, let thy blessing rest not alone on America, but God bless Spain. Take hate out of our hearts, and let us show the spirit of a Christian people as it has never been shown before."

The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, elected two new Bishops last week. Bishops Drs. Morrison and Candler.

The funeral of Mr. Gladstone is to be on Saturday next.

Among Exchanges.

WHAT HE NEEDS.

It is said that an editor should have the "patience of Job, the courage of Paul and the gentleness of John." Any one of our readers having these qualifications can get a job by applying at our sanctum.—Chris. Messenger.

SAW THE BEAUTY.

Joaquin Miller tells of his strolling through a most forlorn Mexican village, and seeing a poor old colored woman come out of a house with a broken crock tied together with a rawhide, containing a plant in flower to grow by her door. He stopped and watched her set it down and carefully arrange it. He said to her: "Good evening, Auntie; it's a pretty evening." She slowly straightened herself, looked at him, and then away at the beautiful sunset and said softly: "Oh, it's a pretty world, Massa!" One of the King's daughters, probably!—The Church Union.

CRUEL, OBSTINATE, SELFISH.

Cruel men are cowardly. Obstinate men are irresolute. Selfish men are generally held in bondage to their lower ambitions. The cruel man fears to face his enemy in open battle, but he does not hesitate to waylay and assassinate him in the dark. The obstinate man hesitates when prompt decision is essential; but he holds to his unreasonable notions and preferences with the persistence of a balky mule. The selfish man is controlled in his choices and acts by the clamorings of his baser passions rather than by reason, righteousness, and judgment. His preferences must be catered to, and his likes and dislikes consulted no matter what else or who else may suffer. How much better to be under the dominion of that "chari" which covereth the multitude of sins.—Rel. Telescope.