Religious Intelligencer.

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

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Notes and Gleanings.

The population of London includes 60,000 Germans, 30,000 French, 15,000 Dutch, 12,000 Poles, 7,500 Italians, and 5,000 Swiss.

Russia's estimated population is 106,800,000; the combined population of Germany and Austria is 98,400,000, and that of the United States is 72,300,000.

Five years ago a farmer who had on his farm a thorny little ravine of no value, set it with balm of Gilead shoots. He now gathers every spring from $80 to $100 worth of buds from the ravine, selling them to pharmacists.

Henry L. Dorsey, who has just died at his home in Pawtucket, R. I., spent the greater part of his life befriending prisoners It is said that he once was unjustly arrested, and that he thereupon made a vow to help any man in a similar position.

The Czar of Russia, so the story runs, has among his household an understudy, singularly like him in appearance, who shows himself at the windows of railway carriages and the like when his imperial majesty does not wish to disturb himself.

The male birth- exceeded the females by nearly 17,000 in England during 1897, which looks, at first sight, as if the alleged excess of females in the population were being corrected. But as the male deaths exceeded the females by over 19,000, the old inequality will still prevail.

The Ladrone Islands, discovered by Magellan in 1521, and so named by him because of the thievish propensities of the natives, were renamed Marianne Islands by the Jesuits in 1667 in honor of Queen Marianne of Spain. The islands number twenty, and have a population of 10,000

The two New York lawyers who charged a client $4,859 for collecting $5,000, seems to have overvalued their services, for the supreme court ordered the return of the greater part of the fee. The objection of the client to receive $141 out of $5.000 was perhaps ungrateful, but some people make it a rule to kick at doctors' and lawyers' bills.

A new kind of paper by the name of pegamoid has been introduced into use in England, which nothing, it is said, can penetrate; while stains or dirt of any kind can be sponged off from it, leaving the material looking as good as new. For book-binding purposes the paper gives great satisfaction, as neither wet nor damp affects the covers of books bound with it. Pegamoid is also used for making various fancy articles.

A somewhat novel sensation, even in these days of woman's move to the front, is given by the application of a young woman, and her father at the same time, for admission to the Bar in Hampden County, Massachusetts The young woman Miss Young, is a graduate both of college and of the law school at Cornell University. In the State of Idaho, among the Rocky Mountains, where Woman Suffrage has been established, two cases in court have recently occurred where women put on trial have been granted the right to be tried by a jury of their own sex, with satisfactory results.

One of the most remarkable salt mines in the world is at Wieliczka, near Warsaw, Poland. It has been worked since 1252, and at one time furnished the principal revenue of the kingdom. A vast number of people inhabit the subterranean passages of this mine, and are governed by laws and magistrates of their own. Each miner is allotted a little cell, where he dwells and rears his family. As many as eighty horses are kept in this underground republic to carry to and fro along the immense corridors, which are supported by pillars of salt. When the light falls down the long vistas, it makes the mine like a crystal palace, of which the walls and pillars are tinged with delicate green.

The Russian petroleum trade in 1897 is described in the last issue of consular reports by our consul at Batum, J. C. Chambers. The production in the Baku territory of 657 wells was about 139,000 barrels, which, though the largest output up to that time, is mounting to 200,000 during the present year. Signs are not wanting, however, of the coming exhaustion of the Baku territory, and efforts are being made to find new oil fields, so far without success. With the larger production there has also been an immense increase in the demand for residum for fuel. Great Britain took the most oil, 44,000,000 gallons, India and Turkey taking the next largest amounts. The largest prodnuction of petroleum in the United States was 57,887,596 barrels for 1896.

Straight to Jesus Christ.

BY THEODORE L CUYLER, D. D.

While the public mind is so intensely absorbed with the present war for the deliverance of Cuba there are multitudes of souls in which a conflict is going on that is to them of vastly greater moment; for it decides their character in this world and their eternal destiny in the next world. The conflict is whether they shall remain under the dominion of their besetting sins or whether they shall be delivered from their sins and begin a new life. This battle for time and eternity can be won in only one way and by taking one decisive step, and that is straight to Jesus Christ.

I once said to an old friend who attended my church: "I have hoped that long before this you would have taken your stand for Christ." His frank reply was: "So I would if I were not a coward" He had not only enemies within, but was surrounded by irreligious associates whom he was afraid to face; he has never become a Christian yet. The famous Charles G. Finney, who had a deep insight into human nature, always aimed to bring awakened sinners to the crucial point—Will you give up your sins and follow Christ, or give up your salvation? He once had a man who was in deep distress kneeling by his side, and as he repeated over the various surrenders to be made he came to this one: "Lord, I will serve thee in my business." The man was silent; and when Mr. Finney asked him why he hesitated at this point the poor man stammered out "I'm in the liquor traffic." He was willing to go a certain length; but when it came to deciding between Jesus Christ and the profits of his sinful trade he drew back and, rising from his knees, he sullenly left the room. Like that young ruler whom the loving Jesus invited to follow him, he refused to yield, and he "went away sorrowful." If the eye of any unconverted person is resting on these lines, I would most kindly say to him or to her: You have made a great many decisions during your life. Whenever you read in your Bible or hear from the pulpit an invitation to come to Jesus, or whenever your conscience tells you that you ought to come to him, you decide one way or the other. You become the better or the worse. Every time you refuse Christ you incur fresh guilt, you weaken your own moral purpose, you resist the divine Spirit, and you diminish your chance of salvation. Every lost battle with temptation leaves you the weaker, and will do so until you set your face like a flint and go straight to Jesus Christ.

The Savior once said: "No man, having put his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the Kingdom of God." That word "fit" is not a happy translation; for the original Greek word signifies well put or well placed. It means firmly set, with a determined and unchangeable purpose. There is no wavering and no half-way work, with the mind utterly divided. John Bunyan's pilgrim, when he stopped his ears and ran eagerly toward the wicket gate, crying, "Life! life! eternal life!" was well put for the straight road to the Celestial City. My old friend in the theological seminary, Thomas Shields Malcolm, was deeply agitated, when a college student, about his salvation. He tells us in his popular tract, "One Honest Effort," that he went to his room and fastened the door, determined to remain till he had obtained the pardon of his sins and reconciliation to God. He fixed his eye on Christ and gave himself up to Christ as his Savior and Lord. He found peace, and on the next evening he confirmed his resolution by rising before his fellow-students and telling them what joy and strength Jesus had given to his soul. Other students were moved, and they, too, set their faces Christward. Malcolm was "well put" for the Kingdom of God when he locked that door and determined that he would never retreat until, by the divine help, he had won the victory.

My friend, you have probably made but small progress toward that life which your conscience tells you you ought to lead. You often think about this vital matter; you often make good resolutions, and, perhaps, offer some earnest prayers. You have made no headway because you are holding fast to your sins, unwilling to cut loose from them. I have seen a steamer at the wharf start its engine, and while the propelling screw was churning the water at the stern the vessel did not move. A stout hawser held it to the pier; as soon as the rope was cast off the steamer started. That vessel was not "well put" for its voyage until it was detached from the wharf and could use its motive power unhindered. It is of little matter what may be the sin that holds you back, so that it keeps your soul from a full, sincere surrender to Jesus Christ. Cost what it may, make a clean breast of it in confession to God, and clean work of it in renouncing the sin. You cannot cling to your sins and cling to your Savior too. Ud to this time you have failed, and you will continue to fail as long as you try to "serve two masters."

At the very point where the Holy Spirit is pressing upon your conscience to take a stamp or perform a duty, right there you must yield. That is the decisive point. When Christ pressed closely on the young ruler to quit his estate and come and follow him, the young man drew back, because he would not cut loose from his selfishness. That poor rich youth was not "well put" for the noble career of discipleship which Jesus held out before him. He would not secure heavenly treasures by abandoning earthly treasures, and so he made the great refusal. Compare him with Matthew, the tax collector, who quitted his tollbooth, and won afterward his place of immortal honor in the forefront of the New Testament. It was short work with him. He "left all, rose up and followed Jesus." He left his old business; he left his spiritual errors and blindness; he left his worldly aims and worldly heart behind him. He found a new calling, and peace of conscience and a field of amazing usefulness as a disciple and sacred chronicler. He found a friend, and, finally, an everlasting crown.

Here is a model for you, my friend, if you are willing to obey the call of Christ and to begin a new style of acting and living. Matthew was moved by the divine love that appealed to him; his reason and conscience were convinced; his heart was in the step when he went straight with Jesus into a new life. Nothing but your own sinful and selfish will has kept you so long from becoming a Christian. All the surrender that is required of you is to give up what is wrong; all the duty that is required of you is to do what is right. To abandon your sins will cost you some struggle and self-denial; but God will help you through. The first thing that Jesus bade that tax collector do he did, and that was to follow Jesus. He chose to go in Christ's way; and precisely so it must be with you if you would be a Christian in this world, and find a Christian's home in the next. Go straight to Jesus, praying for light and help You will find his directions in your Bible; study and obey them He will open to you lines of usefulness; enter them; begin to live for others. If you have to bear some cross for Christ you may so bear it as to turn it into a crown. Your life up to this time has yielded you only chaff; follow Christ, and you may open a new life that will yield golden grain.

Sometimes a single passage of God's Word comes as a Heaven-sent message for the emergency. Here is one for you: "For the Lord God will help me; therefore I shall not be confounded; therefore I have set my face like a flint; and I know that I shall not be ashamed." As soon as you turn from sin and set your face toward Christ you are a changed man or woman; as long as you keep it in that direction you will grow stronger and stronger. Let your hand be "well put" into Christ's omnipotent hand, and every footstep will bring you fresh peace and joy and usefulness.

Brooklyn N. Y.

Spain's Harvest.

Spain is reaping what she has sown. Her defeat, humiliation, and impoverishment are the fruit of six centuries of bloody rule. She yields up to freedom and Christian civilization her last possession on the American Continent From being one of the first she is reduced to being the sixth or seventh among the civilized nations of the earth.

In all this we see only a righteous retribution and a fulfillment of the divine declaration that whatsoever is sown must in due time be reaped; and that this law applies to nations as well as to individuals God's judgments may slumber for a time, but the day of reckoning does come The harvest time for the sowers of iniquity may be long deferred, but it does come. God, speaking in the Fiftieth psalm, after specifically naming the sins of which Israel had been guilty, says: "These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes. Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver." God's judgments are often delayed, but sins, both national and individual, persisted in and unrepented of, are never forgotten by him. Sooner or later the harvest time comes. What has been sown must be reaped. The whole record is set in order before the eyes of the impenitent.

Toward the close of the fifteenth century, when Ferdinand and Isabella were on the throne Spain reorganized the bloody Inquisition. It had existed as an institution of the Romish Church for crushing out heresy, with more or less severity from the eleventh century. But it remained for Spain, under the direction of the bloody Thomas de Torquemada, to carry to the extreme the use of this monstrous engine of cruelty and murder The most indisputable authority asserts that in sixteen years nine thousand Protestants were condemned and publicly burned at the stake in Spain, while many other thousands, guilty of no crime whatever, lingered in filthy prisons where they died of disease, melancholy, exposure, and actual starvation.

The moral effect of such acts could but benumb the conscience of the nation guilty of perpetrating such outrages on its citizens And this was exactly the effect. An author, as quoted in the Christian World, well says:

Intellectually and morally the Inquisition stopped Spain in the Middle Ages. The march of modern thought went on and left Spain as she stands to day, a helplessly medieval power, amid the advance of modern civilization. The great experiment of compulsion in religion had been tried on the grandest scale and tried in vain. The world has swept by the Inquisition, and left it a wreck on the receding shore. Spain has never recovered from the far reaching and wasting effects of the system fastened upon her by her own monarchs, in the early days so full of glory and unfulfilled promise.

The spirit that instituted and enforced the Inquisition in Torquemada's day permeated and adhered to the whole nation. Hence, Spain's rule in all her colonies, once so rich and vast, has been a rule of religious intolerance, plunder and oppression. She has governed, not for the benefit of her colonial subjects, but to maintain her oppressions, and that her governors and their assistant officers might enrich and glorify themselves by robbing and oppressing the common people. The government and the Romish Church, which always accompanied Spain's flag wherever it was hoisted, stood together in all these robberies and oppressions; hence, instead of the church representing to the natives the true spirit of the meek and lowly Jesus, it represented imperialism, intolerance, wealth, and the grossest excesses in the way of the gratification of the the appetites and passions of the flesh by the priests who claimed to be the ministers of Jesus.

All this was the kind of sowing done by Spain. And the harvest has come in her yielding up to freedom and Christian civilization her last foot of territory on the American continent. —Rel. Telescope.

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.]

Mary Ashton.

Who is Mary Ashton? First and last she has raised about eight thousand dollars for the missionary cause. About the year 1885 she became deeply interested in the subject, and felt she must go herself as a missionary. This seemed impossible because of her severe deafness and subsequent lameness. But she carried the matter to God in prayer, and presently was impressed to raise money and send others if she could not go herself.

She first set out to send a Bible reader to China, and finding she could accomplish this, she resolved to send another to India. Her first $100 she raised in a humble way by soliciting pennies from friends and "two cents a week and a prayer" from such as she could interest. But presently she "went into business with the Lord" by making bookmarks, banners, cards, booklets, etc., and selling them, and little by little she has created a market for these and extended her sales, until now she has purchasers from Boston to San Francisco.

She buys her materials wholesale, and has her goods manufactured to her taste, and dedicates the entire profits to the cause of missions. Her correspondence is very great. Her office work has become burdensome. She gives her whole time and attention to it, often working far into the night, with assistance from others, and literally "lives, moves, and has her being" for the humane and holy cause of Christian missions.

The first year (1889) she raised only $50; the next, $100; the next, $260; the next, $610; and soon over $1,000. In 1897 she raised $1,560, and doubtless she will duly increase this to $2,000 a year. In all she has raised $7,830, and expects soon to make this $10,000.

For all this Mary Ashton claims no credit, but holds it is only the sure result of faith and prayer; that she is engaged in the Master's work and God cares for it, as he will care for such work by everybody everywhere, if we are only true to him. Her simple faith and devout work are certainly most beautiful to behold, and her shining example commends itself to pious souls everywhere. She writes, "It looks as if God had not only sent me, but in a measure every one who has aided in the work; and the end is not yet, for God's answers are infinite."—Gospel in All Lands.

—An elderly woman in a Calcutta zenana greeted the missionary with these words: "I am so glad you have come. We never hear anything good, only from your lips;" and unrolling a mat in the center of the floor, she said: "Sit down and tell us about your God, for we like to hear."

—This comes from Calcutta, dated June 28: "The plague we have so dreaded has at last come to our city, and interferes already with our Woman's Foreign Missionary Society work. Humanly speaking, it is almost certain to do worse havoc in Calcutta than in Bombay. We know not what the Lord's will may be, but we are striving to live in the ninety-first Psalm."

—In a mission school in Calcutta a little Hindu girl was asked if she still worshiped idols. She replied: "No, I do not worship idols; neither will you find any idolatrous thing in our house; and when all the children turn out to see the idol carried in procession in the streets on the great festival days, I do not even go to look at the idol in other people's houses or in the streets. I pray to God, and always shall." This testimony was given before an entire school.

—A zenana recluse in Calcutta told the missionary what a life of sorrow hers had been. Married at nine years of age, and taken from her childish plays, she was shut up in a zenana, before fourteen years of age she had upon her the cares of a mother, and over since, with wakeful nights and lonely, monotonous days, her life had been spent in ignorance and hopelessness. She had to see her own little daughter married at seven, and taken away at ten. "It will be sad if there is nothing better for us hereafter." When the story of Jesus had been told eloquent tears added force to the words uttered by heathen lips, "That is just what we want." Prayer and help are needed there.

How It is Done in India.

A MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTION.

There is nothing particularly entertaining about passing the plate or collection box through a congregation at the best, but the monotony of merely dropping in coins is varied in quite a lively way in India, it seems, from an account given in the 'Indian Witness of a meeting at Kasgunj. The writer says: "At a signal, the preaching-table was removed, a space was cleared, and the giving began. With pencil in hand, I took an inventory as rapidly as I could, for all moved on very briskly, and without any western tricks of simulation. Animals were 'put into the hat.' A frisky kid was led up by string and tied to the horns of the altar, or rather leg, of the preaching stand. Then came a fine goat. A cock and hen were added. Then came a brace of whistling chicks. Grain was contributed. Wheat, barley, peas, rice, sheaves, and flour were poured into the area. Clothing and jewellery were piled on the table, and the list runs: Coats, a shawl, stockings, turbans, cotton thread, ribbons, an umbrella, and toe and finger rings. Sundry things flowed in as eggs, sweets, spices, books, a lotah, bread, and a large pile of wood. Two men, apparent brickmakers, reported 500 bricks contributed. Cash pingled down and cowries rattled. Rupees 36 13-6 were counted up, and there were several bits of promissory scrip, which the brace of chicks sent flying as they fluttered about."

A RIVER OF DEATH. — The Yellow River, which has been named the "Sorrow of China," is probably the most destructive stream on the face of the earth. In less than a hundred years it has changed its channel four times, and the point where it empties into the sea has from time to time, been moved up and down the coast a distance of three hundred miles. It runs through a vast alluvial plain, and is fed by streams from a great system of mountains in the north. When the snow melting on this range comes at a time of heavy rains, the result is sure to be a terrible flood. It has been estimated that in the past three centuries over ten million human beings have perished in the floods of the Yellow River. For destructiveness, both of life and property, this stream is unparalleled, and the sobriquet bestowed upon it is amply justified by its history. — St. Louis Globe.

Among Exchanges.

HOW TO VOTE.

When we consider how the will of the Father is done in heaven, and and that we are to pray that it be even so on earth and that he requires no impossibilities, our obligations begin to be understood. Do you so pray? Then vote straight in that direction. No such vote will be lost while God keeps the record.—Baptist Argus.

A GOOD SUGGESTION.

Would it be a bad idea for ministers who leave their calling to engage in business to surrender their credentials and their title? The reputation of those who remain in their calling should not suffer for those false to their profession. Too many men have recently been engaged in swindling schemes with the prefix of "Rev." to their names. The good should not suffer for the "religious devils."—Morning Star.

DISTRACTIONS.

It is a matter of great doubt, whether the attractions presented in many of our churches in these days, are not in the end distractions. They may call a crowd to a particular church. Doing this, some of those who come, may be influenced to accept Christ. But there is an under-current in all this that is dangerous. People as a whole, are trained to expect entertainment. If they do not get it they stay at home. They get a low conception of the church, of religion and of Christ. The solemnity of personal appeal and the importance of salvation, lose their strength and meaning in the midst of so much that is frivolous. The cross is so decorated, that people forget the Crucified, in admiration for the floral display. And too many, in their placid admiration for the pleasant sermon, forget their own ugliness in sin and drift on, content.—Free Baptist.