

Religious Intelligencer.

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

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WHOLE No 2344

Notes and Gleanings.

Spain has more blind men than any other state in western Europe. The proportion is 148 to every 100,000 inhabitants, while in France, Germany, and England it is 84, 85, and 88, respectively.

Probably the largest university in the world, in numbers anyway, if not in influence, is the Mohammedan University in Cairo. Last year there were 7,000 students in attendance. "Ever learning and never able to come to a knowledge of the truth."

The Anglo-Egyptian army, in the hot climate of the Upper Nile Valley, has completed a long and victorious campaign with little loss by sickness and death, because the use of alcoholic intoxicants was absolutely prohibited. Compare that fact with the deplorable sickness and death in our army in our recent war supplied with its army canteen and you have the effects of that monster iniquity.

The police in Denmark have a curious way of dealing with the drunk and incapable found in the streets. They summon a cab and place the patient inside of it; they drive to the station where he gets sober and sad. The agents never leave him till they see him safe in the family bosom. Then the cab man makes his charge, and the police surgeon makes his, and the agents make their own claim for special duty, and this bill is presented to the host of the establishment where the culprit took his last over powering glass.

Though England has 178,000 more spinsters than bachelors the conditions are reversed in the United States, where bachelors, we learn from a Government publication, are 2,200,000 in excess of marriageable maidens. Altogether there are 5,427,767 prospective bridegrooms there, against 2,364,100 in England and Wales. In several parts of the Western States there are ten mates for every maid, and no single State has as many spinsters as bachelors. The State with the largest proportion of spinsters is Massachusetts, but even there 700 marriageable men would be left if every single woman took a husband.

The cities of Tacoma and Seattle are to be supplied with electricity for light and power by a large electric plant which is being constructed at Snoqualmie Falls, in the State of Washington. The falls are twenty-two miles away from these cities. The river at this point has an unbroken fall of two hundred and seventy feet, and a flow equal to thirty thousand horse power when the water is low. This will be increased by the construction of reservoirs to one hundred thousand horse power. The power house, which is two hundred and fifty feet below the top of the falls, is to be hewn out of solid rock.

The Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, Lord Wolseley, has issued an important memorandum, calling the attention of officers to their duty in endeavoring to restrain intemperance and immorality among the troops. He says that probably nothing has done more to debar young men of respectable families from entering the army than a belief that it tends to a loss of character and self-respect. He also desires that in making recommendations for selection for promotion regard should be had to the example set to the soldiers, and that no man, however efficient in some respects, should be considered fit to exercise authority over his comrades, if he is notorious for vicious and intemperate habits.

That a great city need not be a noisy one is proved in Berlin, which is said to be the least noisy city in Europe. Railway engines are not allowed to blow their whistles within the city limits. There is no loud bawling by hucksters, and a man whose wagon goes ring is loose and rattling is subject to a fine. The courts have a large discretion as to fines for noise making. Strange as it may seem, piano playing is regulated in Berlin. Before a certain hour in the day, and after a certain hour in the night, the piano must be silent in that musical city. Even during

playing hours a fine is imposed for mere pounding on the piano. In this way the nerves of the inhabitants are less strained, and nervous breakdowns ought to be less common.

About twenty years ago the Chinese government granted the concession for the building of a tramway to a foreign company. After the tramway was built the company introduced steam on the road, which created distrust upon the part of the Chinese government, and struck terror to the hearts of the people. The result was that the government purchased the railroad, engaged several hundred coolies to tear up the rails and sleepers, which were put on a ship and dumped in a secluded spot off the coast of Formosa. As a sign of the progress that has been made in China in two decades, it is interesting to notice that a railroad over the same ground, from Shanghai to Wusung, is now being completed under the supervision of the government.

Amusements and the Spiritual Life.

A significant article in the North American Review deals with college morals and college discipline, and is good evidence of the stir which the New York Voice has made in its exposure of evil social conditions in and about leading Eastern educational institutions. Incidentally light is thrown upon the influence on college life and character, of minor diversions, sometimes called harmless amusements. From the testimony of a New England college professor in the article, is quoted below what more than bears out the Standard's editorial on "Doubtful Amusements," in the issue of April 2nd. Certain who have been toying with the dance and the card-table may have thought the position taken in the editorial somewhat extreme and puritanical, but however radical its utterances may have been regarded, they are discounted by this teacher, who says:

I think the deterioration in college life is due to changes in the community. Cards and spreads were not countenanced in old times, and the same was true of dancing, smoking, and social evils. I believe cards hurt our students more than all else put together, but even the ministers of to-day are experts at whist, certainly the professors. The country is wealthy, and it is the rich people that bring these evils upon us. It is not that I consider cards, dancing, and smoking wrong, but they take away interest in study.

Let it be noted that these are not the words of a moralist inclined to take a severe view of the amusements in question, but of a teacher who has noted their evil effects on the habits of study and the moral character of students. The professor shows that his sympathies are on what has been termed the liberal side of the amusement question, when he says that he does not consider cards, dancing and smoking as wrong; yet, in spite of his learning to that side, he condemns these practices by their fruits, especially card playing. He classes them with social evils, and declares it is his belief that "cards hurt our students worse than all else put together."

The attention of preachers who apologize for "harmless amusements," and of church officials who refuse to make these godless and time-wasting practices matters of discipline is called here. When a college professor, who has himself been injuriously affected by the spirit of luxury and worldliness which has broken into what were once religious institutions, lifts his voice in warning against the prevalent dissipation, it is time for spiritual teachers and shepherds of Christ's flock to show their loyalty to their Master and their love for young and untaught disciples, the lambs of the fold, by speaking out plainly and with authority against the soul-destroying practices.

The evil already done is too serious to be removed at once, but a course of training should be begun which would first check and then cut out entirely the silly and sinful social customs which have injured the college, and which, if not properly dealt with, will destroy the church. Better thorough preliminary teaching on the iniquitous tendencies of social dissipation, with fewer converts, than so many converts whose pleasure-loving natures were not crucified when they confessed

Christ. The main fault is not with the young people, but with their elders, who have preached a superficial gospel, or lacked the courage to apply the loving but positive discipline taught in the New Testament to which they pledged themselves when they became stewards of the manifold grace of God.

The devil's most desolating work to-day is in gradually obliterating the difference between the church and the world, and reducing the vows of the Christian convert to a mere form of words, and the practice of religion to a priestly superstition. The leaders of the Lord's hosts must meet the subtle adversary on the field of doubtful amusements, and throttle him there, if the church under their guidance is to honor Christ and overcome the world.—The Standard.

The Grain of Mustard Seed.

Rev. J. C. Hoare now English Bishop of Hong Kong narrates, in the Missionary Herald, a remarkable incident, illustrating the way of evangelistic success. There came to the hospital at Ningpo an opium smoker who wished to be cured of his habit. As he was waiting his turn to see the doctor, a native preacher was telling the story of Christ dying as the atonement for our sins.

Suddenly the man cried aloud, "Why, that is exactly what I want!" After further instruction he accepted the Gospel in all its fullness, but before his baptism he said, "I cannot be baptized alone. I have my old father living in the country far away."

He sent for his father, who responded quickly to the Gospel message, and the two were baptized in the church near the hospital. On starting for their home the younger man said, "I cannot tell my friends and neighbors about Christ, but I would like an evangelist to go and help me. Have you one who can go with me?"

Mr. Hoare sent a young native student just out of the training school. Two years after this Mr. Hoare went down to the home of these converts, and was the first European ever to set foot in that city, and there he found these two men and the native preacher who had labored so faithfully that as the result of their labors he baptized thirty seven converts on the first Sunday he was there.

At the present time they have a strong church, numbering over 700 baptized converts, with two native pastors, the people contributing liberally to their support.

Canada's Resources.

It is well known to those who have given the matter consideration, although the significance of the fact is not generally recognized, that within the confines of the Dominion there is a larger acreage of land fit for growing wheat than there is within the whole area of the United States. Gratifying as this fact must be to those who are looking forward with hope and pride to the future of this country, it may be not by virtue of her wheat area that Canada will outrank all other nations, but as a producer of spruce timber, says the Toronto Globe.

A traveler could commence a journey at Hamilton Inlet, on the north east coast of Labrador, and travel south-west around James Bay, and then north-west to the valley of the Yukon River, and never in all that enormous distance be out of the region of spruce forests: or he could begin near the southern boundary of New Brunswick and travel northward to Portland Promontory, more than half-way up the east coast of Hudson Bay, and thence across the country again in an easterly direction to Ungava Bay, and still never be out of a spruce-producing territory.

The use of spruce timber for paper-making is of recent date. In the United States alone there are about 1,200 large pulp mills turning out more than 1,500,000 tons of pulp a year, using about 2,000,000 cords of wood in the process. Being a northern product, it is well known in the United States that it is only in the State of Maine and in the Adirondack region of New York that any considerable quantity of spruce is left to support such a large and yearly increasing business. The pulp mills of the United States are looking to Canada for a supply of raw material. In 1892 they

purchased \$183,312 worth, and in 1897 they took \$677,221.

Now it is to the vast reserves of Canada that those engaged in this very important business must look for future supplies of raw material.

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. JES. McLEOD, FREDERICTON.]

The Home Secretary's Report.

It is always a cause of gratitude, at the close of a year, to find increased zeal in the Master's service, marking the life of an individual or a society. It is therefore with thankfulness that I present this review of the year's work done by our sisters. In most of the Districts there sounds no note of discouragement, but rather the clear, firm tones of cheer, which have vibrated from a purpose to aid in the uplifting of fallen humanity.

FIRST DISTRICT.

Although within its limits is a large number of churches, many of them are in a languishing condition, and have never done anything in this line of work. Only a few churches have societies. The one at Lower Perth, which always does so nobly, contributed thirty-nine dollars towards furnishing the meeting-house, hence give only about half the amount of last year to this Society's work. Its regular meetings are maintained. The society at Bath has done well. A new society was formed at Arthurette. We are unable to give the amount contributed by the different churches. But the total is \$21 68

SECOND DISTRICT.

This district has twenty-six churches, twenty of which have sent contributions, which aggregate a larger amount than in any preceding year. Woodstock comes to the front with the largest sum contributed by any church in the Denomination; it has 42 members, is in a flourishing condition, holds its meetings regularly, and also has a mission band. Waterville and Third Tier hold meetings together, and have undertaken a work in behalf of the children. Hartland holds regular meetings, and, also, do Connel and Tracy's Mills. This District mourns the loss of its Secretary. The vacancy has been supplied by Dr. Secord. The contributions of the several auxiliaries are as follows,—

Woodstock	\$64 61
Tracy's Mills	21 45
Waterville	16 00
Hartland	12 11
Lower Brighton	20 00
Knowlesville	6 30
Victoria	11 00
Lindsay	8 55
Connel	7 35
Pembroke	6 00
Knoxford	6 60
Rockland	8 00
Third Tier	8 85
Upper Brighton	2 25
Charleston	2 70
Somerville	1 00
Windor	3 91
South Wakefield	1 00
Gordonsville	50
The Treasurer of Home Mission	4 50
Half of collection at annual public meeting	2 39
Total	\$215 07

THIRD DISTRICT.

An encouraging report comes from this Society. Only four churches reported last year; this year there are eight. Fredericton holds regular meetings, which are well attended. Marysville holds monthly meetings, and has a membership of 21. The society at Gibson holds monthly meetings, in which great interest is manifested. The society at Keswick promises to establish a prayer-meeting the coming year. Three new societies have been formed this year, and an invitation comes from Douglas for an organization. Contributions as follows,—

Fredericton	\$33 26
Marysville	25 20
Gibson	9 46
Keswick	2 50
Southampton	6 00
Upper Hainesville	5 35

Stanley	3 00
Bloomfield	4 00
Collection at public meeting	4 50
Total	\$93 27

FOURTH DISTRICT.

For some reason this Society has failed to do as well as last year, and reports a deficit of some twenty-six dollars. Surely this is not as it should be, in a work of such importance. An advance should always be made. No prayer meetings are reported. Blissville, as usual, has done nobly; has two new members. The Secretary writes that many of the Societies failed to report; and some that did report showed a lack of interest by the amount raised. Contributions as follows,—

Blissville, 14 members	\$21 60
Fenton Junction, 5 members	8 40
Clarendon	4 75
Mill Settlement	5 47
Lincoln	6 54
Rusagornis	5 58
Tracy	1 85
Gagetown	1 00
Mrs Annie Smith	1 00
Collection at public meeting	3 02
Total	\$58 98

FIFTH DISTRICT.

This District sends about the same as last year, although, three less churches contribute. No prayer-meetings are reported. The Secretary says one great trouble is that the ministers do not talk enough about missions. I fully endorse this statement, and believe it will apply largely to all our societies. How can people be interested in what they know nothing about? and who can teach them on this very important work as well as the minister? Contributions as follows,—

Lower Greenwell	\$1 00
Lower Wickham	3 05
Narrows	4 50
Tennants Cove	1 00
First Johnson	7 25
Central Hampstead	7 75
Upper Hampstead	13 50
Carpenter	4 75
Collection at public meeting	2 50
Total	45 30

Fifth..... 2 25

Total.....\$47 55

SIXTH DISTRICT.

The Secretary of this Society says: "I am glad to report two societies heard from this year that had sent no report for sometime. One Mission Band was established in connection with the Millstream Mountain society. Only two societies hold monthly prayer-meetings, which is a cause for regret; earnest work should be done along this line. The amount received shows a small decrease from last year. This can be accounted for by the fact, that we did not receive a donation of twenty-five dollars from a member who gave it in '97." Contributions are as follows,—

Sussex	\$37 00
Penobscot	11 20
Midland	10 50
Petitcodiac	9 40
Taylor Village	7 00
Corn Hill	17 90
Snider Mountain	4 00
Millstream Mountain	4 79
Millstream Mission Band	15
Coverdale	7 65
Dover	5 75
Erb Settlement	2 75
Lower Millstream	16 00
Lower Millstream Band	6 55
Graves Settlement	2 40
Moncton	8 25
Dutch Valley	5 50
Apohaqui	9 50
Lower Ridge	5 40
Norton	10 25
Lewis Mountain	1 65
Mrs A. S. Seves, Dorchester	1 05
Total	\$184 60

SEVENTH DISTRICT.

The Secretary of this Society reports an increase of interest in mission work. Out of eight societies all are reported except the one at Beaver Harbour. I presume that all or nearly all, those societies maintain their regular prayer-meetings, which accounts for their flourishing condition. The one at Wilson's Beach holds meetings every fortnight, and takes the Missionary Helper which is a great help to them. The Auxiliary at Carleton takes five copies of the Helper which they say

they would not do without; one member of that society gave five dollars towards the Widows Home, which was sent direct to the treasury. Contributions as follows,—

North Head	\$23 00
Grand Harbour	11 45
Seal Cove	4 85
St. John	33 00
St. John West	47 00
St. John North	27 60
Wilson's Beach	21 40
Leonardville, Deer Island	1 00
Fair Haven	3 16
Collection at public meeting	7 18
Total	\$179 64

In each of the District Societies public meetings have been reported in our Missionary column. This will certainly be conducive to a larger interest this year. No person can be interested in what they know nothing of, therefore it is important that the needs of the mission cause be made known. There is no more effective way of doing this than for our ministers to preach missionary sermons to their respective congregations. I would recommend that the sisters request their pastors to do so, at least once in three months. Another important thing is the dissemination of missionary literature, and just here I would remark, that any reader of the Missionary Helper will be deeply interested in this most important work. I believe, I express the feeling, of each of our sisters in saying that we praise God for the privilege of working for God and humanity, and as opportunity presents itself may we be ready ever to go forward as the Master may lead, and "do with our might what our hands find to do."

P. A. HARTT,
H. Sec.

Acknowledgement.

New subscribers for the INTELLIGENCER, one each, have been received from the following members of the W. M. Society: Mrs. J. J. Barnes, Mrs. D. McLeod Vince.

THE SECRETARY.

Half a Nation Out of Work.

A few official figures will show some of the reasons for Spain's present condition as a nation. Of an estimated population of 18,000,000, about one-half have no employment, and more than one-third are unable to read or write. The various educational institutions have a total of nearly 40,000 professors and teachers, and over 1,700,000 pupils. The relation of the number of pupils to the illiterate and the unemployed is most significant. Education is for the nobility and higher classes, not for the mass of the people. Outside of the large cities, both in the peninsula and in the colonies, education is limited to short and more or less irregular periods of religious instruction; hence the percentage of illiteracy is much larger than it should be in comparison with the percentage of pupils.

Popular education, as understood here, is unknown there. There can be no doubt but that ignorance has been the bane of the Spanish life and character for many years. With broader, deeper, and more generally diffused knowledge, there would be far less idleness than now exists, and more of the needful familiarity with the great concerns of the day within and without the country.—Saturday Evening Post.

Among Exchanges.

"BOSH." "Environment!" This word as often used means "bosh." Salvation by "environment" is a poor substitute for salvation through regeneration by the Holy Spirit. "Ye must be born again." We do not underestimate the power of environment. But, then, neither do we overestimate it. Morning Star.

THE KIND NEEDED.

What is needed in every community is people who do not fear to assert their right to speak and act in defence of law and justice whenever occasion requires them to do so. A community that is afraid to offend persons who violate the law in any way is a body of citizens who are living under slavish influence that destroys their manhood and influence for good.—Citizen and Country.